GLOBAL EMERGENCY OVERVIEW
November 2015

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

Humanitarian crisis
Cameroon
Chad
Colombia
Mali
DPRK
Niger
Djibouti
oPt
Ethiopia
Pakistan
Haiti
Kenya
Ukraine

Situation of concern
Bangladesh
Burundi
Dominican Republic
Myanmar
El Salvador
Nepal
Guatemala
PNG
Honduras
Uganda

Snapshot 28 October – 3 November 2015

**Syria:** 1 million more people are in need of humanitarian assistance than a year ago, as the total is now at 13.5 million. 6.6 million people are internally displaced, with 120,000 newly displaced in Aleppo, Hama, and Idlib governorates. Shelter, food, and WASH are reported as priority needs for the newly displaced.

**CAR:** After four members of the UPC political party were killed in an attack in Bangui, three other people were killed in reprisals. Communal violence escalated in the following days. The increase in violence in the country since September has affected food security.

**Iraq:** 26 residents of Camp Hurriya were killed as Al Mukhtar Army, an Iraqi Shia militia, launched 15 rockets on the camp near Baghdad, which houses Iranian exiles. Violence has caused over 18,000 civilian casualties in 2015, according to the UN, and displaced nearly 3.2 million. Heavy rains in late October have compounded the humanitarian situation, flooding areas of Baghdad, Anbar, Salah al Din, and Diyala.

AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

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

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

29-31 October: A series of reprisal attacks and communal violence in Bangui killed six people and injured several more between 29 and 31 October (AFP, Le Monde).

26 October: Four members of the Union for Peace in Central African Republic (UPC) political party were killed in an attack on their delegation in Bangui. They were there to meet with the transitional government and other political and armed groups. An additional three people were reportedly killed in reprisal attacks carried out in PK-5 (AFP).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- The conflict has caused over 6,000 deaths (Enough Project, 02/09/2015).
- Around 2.7 million people, over half of the population, are reported to be in immediate need of humanitarian assistance (The Global Observatory, 11/09/2015).
- 399,020 IDPs, including 44,400 in Bangui (OCHA, 16/10/2015; OCHA, 01/10/2015).
- 476,080 CAR refugees in neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 30/08/2015).
- 1.28 million people are in Crisis and Emergency phases of food insecurity (FAO, 22/09/2015).

**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**

A transitional government and interim President have been in place since August 2014, after the Seleka’s short-lived seizure of power in 2013 and subsequent conflict throughout the country between the ex-Seleka, who are from the north, and anti-balaka. The transitional government’s term was initially due to end 17 August, but has been extended (AFP, 12/08/2015). There has been progress in building a new political system. The 585 participants in the Bangui Peace Forum agreed on a Republican Pact for Peace in May (BBC, 03/05/2015; Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, 12/05/2015). On 30 August, the transitional government adopted a new constitution, which limits future presidents to two terms in office (AFP, 31/08/2015). Members and former members of the transitional government will not be allowed to run for legislative and presidential elections (Mediapart, 30/08/2015).

The political situation is not stable, and elections are expected to trigger further destabilisation (Cordaid, 16/09/2015). The first round of presidential and legislative elections was scheduled for 18 October, but has been postponed given violence in Bangui at the end of September (AFP, 20/10/2015). Interim President Catherine Samba-Panza blamed the violence on supporters of former president Francois Bozizé, who was ousted in 2013. She also called for a more robust mandate for MINUSCA and for a disarmament process for all armed groups (Reuters, 03/10/2015). New elections are scheduled to take place 13 December and a constitutional referendum will be held 6 December (AFP, 31/10/2015).

Even prior to the September clashes, many were concerned that CAR was not ready for...
elections, with many people being prevented from registering to vote because they had lost identity documents in the conflict, and no plan to enable the participation of refugees in the elections (AFP, 29/07/2015; IRIN, 15/09/2015). Voter registration for Central African refugees in Chad took place from 28 September to 11 October, registering 7,511 refugees, or 25% of the refugees eligible to vote in Chad (OCHA, 30/10/2015).

President Samba Panza and the transitional government have set up a national dialogue on the elections over 13–20 October. However, 10 of 50 political parties are refusing to participate, including the Union for Peace, aligned with the ex-Seleka, and the Central African Party for Unity and Development (PCUD), aligned with the anti-balaka (Reuters, 14/10/2015).

Stakeholders

**Boko Haram:** Boko Haram has reportedly penetrated CAR (Cordaid, 16/09/2015).

**Ex-Seleka:** Seleka was an alliance of factions created in 2012, from among parties based in the north of the country. It advanced south and took the capital in March 2013; one of its leaders, Michel Djotodia, took the presidency, and then dissolved Seleka in late 2013. However, many fighters remained and were dubbed ‘ex-Seleka’. Most moved out of the capital but remained in control of much of central and northern CAR in 2014; another 17,114 fighters were confined to three military camps in Bangui (IRIN, 17/09/2014).

Bambari, Ouaka, reportedly became the ex-Seleka headquarters in May 2014. Internal conflict, involving in particular the Front Démocratique du Peuple Centrafricain (Democratic Front of the Central African People, or FDPC), has grown over 2015, weakening the alliance significantly (IRIN, 12/01/2015; international media, 30/09/2014; Enough, 17/06/2015). Fighters associated with the former Seleka are estimated to be in Kemo and Nana-Grébizi prefectures and are thought to be preparing another attempt to reach Bangui (ICG, 21/10/2015, UN, 12/10/2015).

**Anti-balaka:** After the coup and Djotodia’s resignation, many members of the former government army, the FACA, joined the anti-balaka (anti-machete), which formed initially as self-defence militia to counter the Seleka. There are around 75,000 fighters, though the numbers are contested (IRIN, 12/01/2015).

**LRA:** The Lord’s Resistance Army, a faction of Ugandan insurgents, was pushed out of Uganda by the national army, but is reported to be still active in eastern Central African Republic, attacking civilians, looting and abducting people (Stratfor, 26/08/2015; LRA Crisis Tracker, 22/09/2015). LRA is responsible for 31 attacks and 70 abductions in Central African Republic so far in 2015, mostly in the east. This represents the lowest level of violent LRA activity in CAR since 2011 (Invisible Children/Resolve, 30/09/2015).

**UN peacekeeping mission (MINUSCA):** MINUSCA officially took over peacekeeping operations on 14 September 2014. 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). An international NGO reported that UN peacekeepers were responsible for the death of two civilians in Bangui, as well as the rape of a 12-year-old girl, in August. The head of MINUSCA was replaced (UN, 14/08/2015; Reuters, 12/08/2015; Aljazeera, 11/08/2015). On 11 September, seven peacekeepers were repatriated, and nine had their salary suspended (United Nations, 11/09/2015).

**French forces:** The French peacekeeping operation was formally handed over to MINUSCA on 19 May (French Ministry of Defence, 22/05/2015). As of 31 August, around 900 French soldiers were left in the country. France plans to further reduce the number of troops before the end of the year (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

**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 forces:** The US is providing logistical support, special forces, and advisers to African troops operating against the LRA in eastern and southeastern CAR. The Seleka, who are in the same northern parts of the country where US troops are reported, are said to be among the groups US forces are working with (WP, 29/09/2015).

**Conflict developments**

Ceasefires have been agreed by the warring parties, but never accepted by the transitional government nor fully enacted (USAID, 10/04/2015). More than 6,000 people were killed between December 2013 and March 2014 (The Guardian, 21/07/2015; BBC, 07/01/2015). From January 2014 to July 2015, more than 2,054 security incidents have been recorded (OCHA, 10/08/2015). Hotspots for incidents are Ouaka, Ouham, and Nana-Mambéré prefectures (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

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. About a million cattle have been reported killed or stolen, and around 1,000 livestock farmers belonging to Mbororo ethnic group have been killed by anti-balaka. Trade in livestock makes up 10% of GDP (AFP, 02/09/2015).

MISCA African Union forces, 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, MINUSCA took over.
Violence in the capital over 26–30 September, after the murder of a Muslim taxi driver, left at least 79 people dead and injured 512 (OCHA, 16/10/2015). An additional 179 people are reported to be missing (IFRC, 19/10/2015). By 1 October the situation had stabilised, however some smaller outbreaks of violence have occurred since and tensions persist. On 3 October, unidentified armed attackers opened fire on the headquarters of the United Nations Mission (MINUSCA, 03/10/2015). On 15 October at least one person was killed and 10 injured in Bangui’s PK-5 district, after anti-balaka were reported to have killed a Muslim. Thousands reportedly fled for the night (OCHA, 20/10/2015; AFP, 16/10/2015).

Sporadic violence in Bangui killed an estimated 13 people the week of 26 October. On 26 October, an armed group attacked a delegation of the political party Union for Peace in Central African Republic (UPC), killing four of its members. The delegation was in Bangui to meet with the transitional government and other political and armed groups. An additional three people were reportedly killed in reprisal attacks carried out in PK-5 (AFP, 27/10/2015). Four people were killed by mob violence on 29 October, prompting hundreds to flee their homes in the predominately Christian neighbourhoods of Fatima and Nzangoyen and take refuge in the Notre-Dame de Fatima church (Le Monde, 29/10/2015). On 31 October, further clashes killed two people and wounded several more (AFP, 31/10/2015).

In late September, violence related to the clashes in Bangui injured four people in Nana-Grebizi (OCHA, 29/09/2015). June and July saw clashes between herding and farming communities over natural resources (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015; ECHO, 24/08/2015; UNICEF, 08/09/2015). On 12 September, 114 IDPs were evicted from Saint Jean Gabaladja site; 2,700 IDPs in nine other sites are at risk of eviction (UN, 14/09/2015). The government had announced the decision to close Mpoko IDP site by 15 September, in order to enable the building for use as Mpoko international airport. However, the camp still hosts an estimated 18,200 IDPs, 7,200 of whom were displaced at the end of September (OCHA, 10/10/2015; OCHA, 01/10/2015).

Inflation:

Inflation:

Basse-Kotto: Clashes between armed groups were reported 5–6 September in the village of Walago and 8–9 September in Sangba (OCHA, 22/09/2015).

Ouaka: Violence in Bangui in late September spread to Ouaka. At least ten people were wounded in Bambari, and 15–20 houses were reportedly set alight (01/10/2015). Shots were heard on 15 October in Lissara, and two civilians were killed on a boat in Bangbaga (OCHA, 16/10/2015). Tensions have been high since renewed clashes between anti-balaka and ex-Seleka in Bambari on 20 August left 20 people dead and 10 injured, including three Red Cross staff (Enough project, 27/08/2015; ECHO, 24/08/2015; UNICEF, 08/09/2015). (UNHCR, 27/08/2015). Some roads inside the city were closed, as well as the road to the airstrip (ECHO, 24/08/2015).

Ouham and Nana-Grebizi: In late September, violence related to the clashes in Bangui injured four people in Nana-Grebizi (OCHA, 29/09/2015). June and July saw clashes between herding and farming communities over natural resources (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015; OCHA, 21/06/2015; UNHCR, 26/06/2015).

Ombella-Mpoko: On 19 October seven MINUSCA peacekeepers were kidnapped in Ombella-Mpoko prefecture, allegedly by anti-balaka. They were freed the same night (UN, 20/10/2015).

Displacement

399,020 IDPs are estimated to be in CAR as of 16 October, of which about 228,870 are thought to be staying with host families, 167,830 in displacement sites, and 2,320 in the bush (OCHA, 16/10/2015). There are approximately 131,000 IDP returnees, mainly in Ouham-Pende, Ouham, Kemo and Nana-Grebizi (OCHA, 28/05/2015).

IDPs

111,266 IDPs live in 72 sites outside Bangui, the rest are either in the capital or with host families (UNHCR, 29/07/2015). Priorities for IDPs include food security, healthcare, WASH, shelter, and basic household items (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Bangui: As of 16 October, 17,090 people remain displaced by the violence in September – most have returned home (OCHA, 16/10/2015). Bangui already hosted 27,315 IDPs prior to the latest surge in violence. The displaced are spread across 36 sites (OCHA, 16/10/2015).

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Basse-Koto: Fighting in the prefecture led 2,000 people to flee Bianga in September (OCHA, 22/09/2015).

Ouaka: Violence at the end of September displaced an estimated 1,940 people, on top of the 5,200 IDPs already in Bambari (ACTED, 11/10/2015). Clashes in Bambari between anti-balaka and ex-Seleka on 20–30 August 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 formed inside MINUSCA's Bambari compound, hosting about 3,000 people as of 25 August. Conditions at the site were dire, with no sanitation facilities and limited access to water and shelter (UNHCR, 27/08/2015).

Mambere-Kadei: More than 200 displaced households have arrived in Gamboula since mid-July. Most are fleeing clashes between anti-balaka and ex-Seleka further north along the border with Cameroon (Regional Response Mechanism, 13/10/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 30 August, 7,714 refugees are being hosted in CAR (UNHCR, 30/08/2015).

CAR refugees in neighbouring countries

As of 31 August, the number of CAR refugees in neighbouring countries was reported to be 476,076: 253,042 in Cameroon, 101,866 in DRC, 30,114 in Congo, 84,223 in Chad (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). An additional 2,000 CAR refugees fled to DRC between 26-29 September (UNHCR/WFP, 08/10/2015).
Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Humanitarian access is severely limited, particularly for affected communities outside of Bangui, due to armed groups’ control of the roads and threats against humanitarian actors (OCHA, 20/10/2015, 10/10/2015).

Dozens of humanitarian organisations’ offices in Bangui were looted between 26 and 29 September (01/10/2015). Offices in Kaga Bandoro were also looted (OCHA, 29/09/2015). 259 acts of violence were recorded against humanitarian organisations between January and July 2015 (OCHA, 14/07/2015). On 20 August, one Red Cross staff member was reported injured in a targeted attack in Bambari (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

UN, NGO, and private vehicles are becoming regular targets on main roads (IOM, 02/02/2015). Kidnapping of humanitarian workers is also frequent (USAID, 27/04/2015; OCHA, 20/10/2015). On the night of 14 October, an MSF office in Bangassou town was attacked by an unidentified armed group and four staff members were kidnapped. They were soon released. One of the four was seriously injured (OCHA, 16/10/2015). 306 acts of violence against humanitarian organisations have been recorded since January 2014 (OCHA, 20/09/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

As of 15 September, around 30,000 Muslims are trapped in seven besieged communities, targeted by anti-balaka fighters, who regularly carry out attacks and prevent access to the distribution of medical supplies, food, and humanitarian aid (Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, 15/09/2015).

Physical and security constraints

Truck drivers in Cameroon are reportedly refusing to transport food and humanitarian assistance into CAR, despite assurances from the Transportation Minister that convoys would be protected by MINUSCA peacekeepers (VoA, 20/10/2015).

The rainy season, which runs from July to October renders many roads impassable and prevents humanitarian aircraft from landing safely (OCHA, 30/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

On 22 September, 1.28 million people were reported to be food insecure and are predicted to continue to face Crisis and Emergency (ICP Phases 3 and 4) food security outcomes through December 2015, particularly in central and western prefectures (FAO, 22/09/2015; FEWSNET, 31/07/2015; 31/08/2015).

Food security was gradually improving between May and August 2015 as increasing numbers of displaced people returned home to tend to agriculture and livestock. However, the situation has degraded along with new waves of displacement at the end of September (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015).

Food availability

75% of Central Africans rely on agriculture for their food and income, and food crop production in 2014 was 58% below 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). A shortfall in domestic production is likely this year, given the combination of poor rainfall and prolonged insecurity (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015).

Food access

Markets are expected to have below-average stocks for the remainder of 2015 (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015). Displaced populations are dependent on market purchase for 60% of their food. Markets have started charging very high prices in some villages in southern prefectures of Basse-Kotto and Nana-Mambere, with food stocks covering a week or less (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). Food shortages have been reported in Mosquée centrale, Benz-Vi, and Castor IDP camps (IFRC, 19/10/2015).

Livelihoods

Livelihoods are reported to have been severely affected by fighting and looting of livestock, which has caused an increase in food prices and a decrease in household income (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Health

Two million people need access to health services (OCHA, 22/12/2014; 31/08/2015). Nationwide, 28% of health centres are completely or partially destroyed (UNICEF, 28/08/2015). 55% of health facilities are functioning, but only 25% of those offering services have functioning sources of energy, and 21% have access to water (WHO, 27/04/2015; WHO, 31/12/2014).

From June to August, measles outbreaks were reported in Birao (Vakaga prefecture), Bangassou (Mbomou prefecture) and Kaga Bandoro (Nana-Grebizi prefecture). 583 cases and six deaths were reported by the end of July (WHO, 20/10/2015).

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). A SMART survey of enclaves and...
IDP sites in Kaga Bandoro, Bambari, and Batangafo indicate that global acute malnutrition is approaching 9.2%, and SAM is at 2.2% (UNICEF, 08/09/2015).

WASH

At 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). Newly displaced people in sites in Cotonnerie and PK-8 in Bangui have reported difficulties accessing water (ACTED, 07/10/2015; OCHA, 29/09/2015). If displaced people remain in sites, the need for WASH facilities in displacement sites will increase (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

Assessments conducted in Bedaya 2, Bedogo 1, Bembo, and Bedam villages, in Ouham Pendé, indicated that around 17% of households are using non-improved water sources (Danish Refugee Council, 06/08/2015). Around 98% of the population practice open defecation; 2% have access to non-hygienised latrines. Only 5% of households have access to soap (Danish Refugee Council, 06/08/2015).

Shelter

Shelter is a high priority need following the surge in displacement caused by the violent clashes in Bangui in late September (Retuers, 29/09/2015). Shelter conditions are insufficient in most IDP sites. In Site Cotonniere, near Bambari, 79% of the 10,019 IDP households are in abandoned factory buildings and 21% are in straw huts (ACTED, 07/10/2015).

IDPs with host families face lack of space and resulting 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 in conflict areas (Solidarités International, 01/09/2015).

Education

Since 2012, 30% of schools in the country have been attacked and around 8.4% have been used as temporary bases by armed groups. On 10 September 2015, reports indicate that 78–88% of schools are open, however attendance remains low and intermittent (AFP, 10/09/2015; NZ Herald 11/09/2015). Armed groups have attacked, looted, and attempted to use schools as bases (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 10/09/2015).

In Bangui, 15,600 newly displaced children are in need of education (OCHA 12/10/2015). 60% of schools remain closed since the escalation of violence at the end of September. The majority of schools in the 3rd, 4th and 8th districts remain closed. At least two schools were burned down (OCHA, 16/10/2015).

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. (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 04/08/2015). In the week up to 9 September, MINUSCA registered over 50 violations of human rights, with 48 victims, including at least five women and one child (UN, 09/09/2015).

Anti-balaka is listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, and rape and other forms of sexual violence (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 04/08/2015). 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).

On 29 September, Democratic Republic of Congo closed its border to Central Africans seeking asylum in the country (Reuters, 29/09/2015).

Gender

The risks of sexual violence, early and forced marriage, and insufficient gender-based violence (GBV) response are highest in Bambari, Ouaka; Mbres and Kaga-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).

As of 15 September, there are 17 allegations of sexual abuse or exploitation perpetrated by UN personnel (UN, 15/09/2015). At least nine allegations involve minors (AFP, 11/09/2015).

Children

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).

In Bangui, 15,600 newly displaced children are in need of education (OCHA 12/10/2015). 60% of schools remain closed since the escalation of violence at the end of September. The majority of schools in the 3rd, 4th and 8th districts remain closed. At least two schools were burned down (OCHA, 16/10/2015).
There has been an increase in marriage of 12-year old girls (IRC, 17/07/2015).

Documentation

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

Updated: 02/11/2015

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severe humanitarian crisis</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Severe</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>severe</td>
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See the methodology note for details.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

31 October: 14 aid workers were kidnapped in Rutshuru territory, Nord-Kivu, allegedly by FDLR. They were liberated by the FARDC on 1 November (Radio Okapi 01/11/2015; AFP, 02/11/2015).

29 October: FARDC and MONUSCO launched an offensive against ADF in Beni territory, Nord-Kivu. Their target is to destroy ADF positions used for attacking civilians (Radio Okapi).

27 October: Humanitarian access is restricted in the north of Beni territory due to insecurity (OCHA).

27 October: 75% of children in Beni territory, Nord-Kivu, cannot go to school because of insecurity (OCHA).

27 October: 40 cholera cases, including four deaths, were reported last week in the central prison in Kisangani, Tshopo province (Radio Okapi).

27 October: 260,000 people were displaced between July and September due to armed clashes (OCHA, 27/10/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 7 million people need humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

- 1.6 million IDPs (OCHA, 27/10/2015).

- 2.5 million children under five are suffering from severe malnutrition (WHO, 27/09/2015).

- 7.3 million school-aged children are not attending school (Radio Okapi, 10/03/2015).

OVERVIEW

Needs are highest in the conflict-affected regions of Nord-Kivu, Sud-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. Attempts to prolong his presidency beyond the two-term limit were met with violent protests in September 2014 and in January 2015. Violent clashes erupted again between opposition and Kabila supporters in mid-September in Kinshasa, as thousands gathered to protest against prolongation of his presidency (AFP, 15/09/2015). The ruling party is thought to be using the scheduling of elections to extend Kabila’s time in office: 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 (RFI, 10/08/2015).

Meeting the electoral timetable has become increasingly unrealistic, as the necessary legal, logistical, and financial measures are not yet in place. The ruling coalition claims that presidential polls must be delayed by between two or four years (International Peace Institute, 27/10/2015; Reuters, 01/11/2015). The president as well as the vice-president of the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) resigned in October, increasing election-related tensions. Political pressure seems to be a contributing factor to their resignations (Radio Okapi, 31/10/2015).

The decentralisation became official on 16 July 2015 (The National Law Review, 07/10/2015). On 29 October, Kabila appointed special commissioners to administer the newly created provinces until governors are elected (Radio Okapi, 29/10/2015). The opposition party criticises the appointments as anti-constitutional (Radio Okapi,
The opposition party criticises the appointments as anti-constitutional (Radio Okapi, 31/10/2015).

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**DRC–Rwanda**

Rwanda and DRC launched a new round of security talks on 27 September 2015. The two countries have said they are committed to cooperating on the repatriation of FDLR combatants as well as the former members of the armed group M23 (Africa Times, 27/09/2015). Early September, dozens of houses were destroyed in Goma, to define a neutral area between DRC and Rwanda, and to avoid further territorial conflicts (AFP, 06/09/2015).

**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 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 (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, Ituri (former part of 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). Despite an FARDC offensive since January, FDLR’s positions have not been weakened (Radio Okapi, 28/10/2015).

**Mayi-Mayi**: At least 20 Mayi-Mayi groups, formed by local leaders along ethnic lines, are active in Nord-Kivu, Sud-Kivu, and former 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 Nord-Kivu to neutralise the group in January 2015 (Radio Okapi, 07/01/2015). As of October, the operation is still ongoing and clashes continue to be reported (Radio Okapi, 24/09/2015).

**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 Sud-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 risk 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).

**Conflict developments**

**Nord-Kivu**

2.29 million people in Nord-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 in July (Radio Okapi, 20/07/2015; AFP, 26/02/2015). 2,960 incidents were recorded in the first half of 2015 (International NGO Safety Organization, 20/07/2015).

**Beni territory**: On 29 October, FARDC and MONUSCO launched a new offensive against ADF. Their target is to destroy ADF positions used for attacking civilians (Radio Okapi, 29/10/2015). Since mid-October, ADF have been attacking cars passing along the road between Beni and the border with Ituri province. They have kidnapped two people (AFP, 19/10/2015). On 11 October, eight civilians were killed in three separate attacks allegedly by ADF. In 2015, ADF has killed over 400 civilians (Radio Okapi, 13/10/2015).

**Walikale territory**: Intensified clashes have been observed between the Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS) and FARDC in Kashebere since mid-September. They have displaced at least 6,000 people (Radio Okapi, 24/09/2015). Ten people were kidnapped near Busendo village in early October. This was the second kidnapping in one week, and affected the population’s movements (Radio Okapi, 03/10/2015).

**Rutshuru territory**: Insecurity is growing, particularly in the Rutshuru–Kanyabayonga and Rutembo–Beni areas. Several kidnappings and armed attacks have been reported in the last week (Radio Okapi, 22/10/2015).

**Sud-Kivu**
In Shabunda territory, clashes between FARDC and Raiya Mutomboki intensified from mid-August. More than 25,000 people fled their villages (MSF, 02/09/2015; USAID, 30/09/2015). On 17 September, the leader of Raiya Mutomboki turned herself in with other 100 fighters, although this did not lead to de-escalation of violence (UN, 21/10/2015; Radio Okapi, 05/10/2015).

Tanganyika

Pygmies and Luba have agreed to end conflict in Kalemie after several weeks of clashes (Radio Okapi, 10/10/2015). 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).

Haut-Uele

**Niangara territory:** The LRA has been active since the beginning of October, carrying out armed attacks along the Niangara-Namba road (Radio Okapi, 21/10/2015).

Maniema

Since 21 October, armed members of the Kumu community have reportedly been attacking non-Kumu in Lubutu and Zimba territory, Kasongo, Maniema. 60 houses have been burned and 320 families displaced (Radio Okapi, 25/10/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

On 13 September, heavy rains and wind caused severe damage in Kamituga, Sud-Kivu. Three people were injured, and 650 houses were reportedly destroyed. Eight schools were damaged (Radio Okapi, 14/09/2015). On 15 October, heavy rains in Lushebere, Kalehe territory, Sud-Kivu, destroyed 18 houses and two schools (Radio Okapi, 15/10/2015). On 29 October, heavy rains damaged 30 houses in Kalehe territory. Fallen trees blocked the Goma–Bukavu road (Radio Okapi, 29/10/2015). On 17 October, 468 houses were flooded due to torrential rains in Kisangani, Tshopo (formerly part of Orientale) (Radio Okapi, 19/10/2015).

Forest fire

50,000 people were affected by forest fires in Kabambare territory in Maniema province in August. At least 6,000 people were made homeless and living 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 September, 1.6 million IDPs were reported in DRC.** This is 100,000 more than in March. More than half of them are in Nord-Kivu province and the rest are mainly in Sud-Kivu and former Katanga provinces. **More than 90% have been displaced due to armed clashes.** Over the last 18 months, the number of returnees has decreased significantly due to insecurity. More than 1.2 million IDPs live in host families (OCHA, 27/10/2015). In addition, DRC hosts nearly 250,000 refugees (OCHA, 21/10/2015).

**IDPs**

Internal displacement can be short-term, but frequent, depending on the security threats in the regions.

**From July to September, 260,000 people were displaced due to armed clashes; the majority in Nord-Kivu and Ituri (OCHA, 27/10/2015).** 220,000 were displaced between March and June 2015 (OCHA, 20/07/2015).

**Nord-Kivu**

Nord-Kivu hosts 744,000 IDPs as of October. The number of IDPs has been increasing since May, and 166,000 were newly displaced between July and September. 537,000 live with host families. 28,000 IDPs returned home between July and September. The main cause of displacement is armed clashes (OCHA, 05/10/2015).

**Beni:** There were 259,485 displaced people in Beni as of 25 September; nearly 50,000 were displaced in July–September, and almost 13,000 returnees were reported (OCHA, 05/10/2015). 14,000 IDPs, primarily pygmies, are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in Mamove; medical assistance has been limited (Radio Okapi, 26/09/2015).

**Lubero:** 201,100 people were displaced in Lubero as of 25 September, nearly 35,000 were displaced in July-September (OCHA, 05/10/2015). Between 10 September and 7 October, 10,000 people were displaced due to clashes between the FARDC and armed groups in Bukombo, Tonga. They are staying in Kanaba and Kabizo in the east of Rutshuru (OCHA, 07/10/2015).

**Rutshuru:** 92,667 people were displaced in Rutshuru as of 25 September, nearly 8,000 were displaced in July-September (OCHA, 05/10/2015). Between 10 September and 7 October, 10,000 people were displaced due to clashes between the FARDC and armed groups in Bukombo, Tonga. They are staying in Kanaba and Kabizo in the east of Rutshuru (OCHA, 07/10/2015).

**Masisi:** 205,967 people were displaced in Masisi as of 25 September, 22,200 were displaced in July-September (OCHA, 05/10/2015).
Sud-Kivu

As of 30 September, 322,331 IDPs were in Sud-Kivu (OCHA, 13/10/2015). In July-September, 27,000 were newly displaced and 17,000 returned. 310,000 live with host families. The main cause of displacement is armed clashes (OCHA, 09/10/2015). Shabunda hosts 56,391 IDPs, including nearly 3,000 displaced in July-September, 14,641 returned between July and September (OCHA, 09/10/2015). Mwenga hosts 36,505 IDPs, including nearly 11,000 displaced in July-September (OCHA, 09/10/2015). Walungu hosts 21,200 IDPs, including nearly 8,000 displaced in July-September (OCHA, 09/10/2015). Kalehe hosts 109,785, Kabere 26,975, Uvira 19,360, and Fizi 52,115 (OCHA, 09/10/2015).

Since 15 September, 2,400 people, displaced since June 2014, have returned to Muturule, Lubero. Their main needs are shelter and healthcare (OCHA, 22/09/2015).

Ituri

Ituri hosts 146,651 IDPs as of 30 September, 50,760 were displaced between July and September. The most affected territory is Irumu with 34,405 IDPs (OCHA, 27/10/2015).

Since 28 September, inhabitants of Ailinga and Aveba villages have been fleeing FRPI looting and violence (Radio Okapi, 30/09/2015).

Other former parts of Orientale province: Haut-Uele hosts 5,400 IDPs, Bas-Uele 5,460, Tshopo 2,500 (OCHA, 27/10/2015).

Tanganyika

Tanganyika hosts 171,800 IDPs. Nearly 2,000, including more than 1,100 in Moba territory, were displaced between July and September. Nearly 46,000 IDPs returned to their homes over July, August, and September; the majority to Manono territory. Their main needs are shelter, food, and protection; their houses and fields have been burned (OCHA, 27/10/2015; 30/09/2015; USAID, 30/09/2015). IDPs returning to Manono territory are suffering from malnutrition (Radio Okapi, 09/10/2015).

Other former parts of Katanga province: Haut-Lomani hosts 47,100 IDPs, Haut-Katanga 84,140, Lualaba 2,780 (OCHA, 27/10/2015).

Maniema

Maniema hosts 132,370 IDPs as of 30 September, 14,450 were displaced between July and September (OCHA, 27/10/2015).

Nearly 5,000 people, including 3,000 children, have been displaced due to intercommunal clashes in Pangi territory (OCHA, 28/09/2015). In addition, more than 6,000 IDPs, including 2,000 children under five, have arrived in Pangi territory in 2015, fleeing conflict in Shabunda, Sud-Kivu.

Tshuapa

2,000 people from Bongoy, have fled to the bush to escape arbitrary arrests by the police following accusations of witchcraft (Radio Okapi, 05/10/2015). As of 22 October, they have started returning home. However, tens of their houses have been burned (Radio Okapi, 22/10/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

DRC hosts nearly 250,000 refugees. 103,000 are in Nord-Kivu, over 90,000 in Sud-Ubangi, Nord-Ubangi and Mongala. South Kivu hosts over 30,000 refugees (OCHA, 21/10/2015). 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 15 October, there were 97,195 CAR refugees in DRC (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Between 28 September and 13 October, more than 2,700 new refugees from CAR were registered in Zongo, Sud-Ubangi (formerly part of Equateur). They will be moved to Mole refugee camp (Radio Okapi, 13/10/2015; UNHCR, 06/10/2015). They urgently need humanitarian assistance: as of 13 October, only 250 have received assistance (Radio Okapi, 13/10/2015).

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

From Burundi: As of 23 October, 17,359 Burundian refugees have arrived in DRC in 2015 (UNHCR, 23/10/2015). Half are under 12 years old (WFP, 22/09/2015). The majority are in Sud-Kivu; around 1,000 are in Katanga and Maniema. Some 5,600 are staying with host families. Lusenda camp, Fizi territory, has reached full capacity, at 9,700 people (WFP, 21/10/2015). 1,200 more are being transferred to the camp (OCHA, 16/09/2015). A rising number of SGBV incidents has been reported (UNHCR, 23/10/2015). Priority needs are WASH and health (WHO, 15/09/2015). The remaining refugees are in transit centres and temporary sites (WFP, 16/09/2015). 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).

Angola: Between 1 January and May, 29,881 DRC citizens were deported from Angola (Soyo and Cabinda provinces) (OCHA, 04/06/2015; 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 in Ango, Bas-Uele (formerly part of Orientale) (OCHA, 20/08/2015; Reuters, 03/08/2015).

DRC refugees in neighbouring countries

There are over 550,000 DRC refugees in neighbouring countries, mainly in Uganda
There are over 550,000 DRC refugees in neighbouring countries, mainly in Uganda (187,710), Rwanda (73,662), Burundi (53,800), Tanzania (103,401), Congo (23,449), South Sudan (16,467), Angola (12,944), Zambia (19,107), and CAR (5,470) (OCHA, 21/10/2015). The number of DRC refugees has been increasing, in Tanzania it has almost doubled over the past half a year.

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. On 31 October, 14 aid workers were kidnapped in Katwinguru, Rutshuru territory, allegedly by FDLR. They were liberated by the FARDC on 1 November (Radio Okapi 01/11/2015; AFP, 02/11/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Nord-Kivu: 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). There has been an increase in the number of security incidents on the road between Beni and Eringeti, Nord-Kivu, which may restrict access (OCHA, 07/10/2015). Humanitarian access is restricted in the north of Beni territory. 9,000 households have been displaced to Beni-Eringeti area and are unable to obtain assistance (OCHA, 27/10/2015).

Sud-Kivu: Insecurity in mid-2015 prevented humanitarian access in parts of Kalehe and in Lulingu (OCHA, 10/06/2015). 25,000 displaced people in the towns of Shabunda and Katshungu are hard to access because the roads are in a very bad condition. Medical supplies must be brought by cargo plane (MSF, 02/09/2015).

Bas-Uele (formerly part of Orientale): 4,500 IDPs in Bili, Bondo territory, have been without assistance due to access constraints since April (OCHA, 17/09/2015). Movement in the province is very limited due impassable roads and damaged bridges (Caritas Australia, 06/10/2015).

Ituri (formerly part of Orientale): FRPI attacked and robbed four MSF staff near Koni, Walendu Bindi, in October. Five attacks against humanitarian workers have been reported in Ituri since January 2015 (Radio Okapi, 20/10/2015).

Nord-Ubangi (formerly part of Equateur): The road Zongo-Gemena used for the delivery of humanitarian aid is almost impassable due to bad road conditions (Radio Okapi, 13/10/2015). Camps in Zongo, Libenge, and Bosobolo hosting CAR refugees are experiencing pipeline breaks due to heavy rains and bad road conditions (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

6.5 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 (FAO, 30/06/2015).

Irumu (Ituri), Boende (Tshuapa, formerly part of Equateur), Punia (Maniema), Shabunda (Sud-Kivu), Manono (Tanganyika), Mitwaba and Pweto (Haut-Katanga) are all in Emergency phase, representing an increase of 523,000 people in Emergency compared to the last assessment, in December 2014 (FAO, 30/06/2015).

Ituri: Over 130,000 IDPs in southern and western Ituri face difficulties accessing food. The Bogoro–Boga and Komanda–Luna areas are particularly affected (Radio Okapi, 18/10/2015).

Sud-Kivu: As of July, over 45,000 people were in need of food assistance (OCHA, 28/08/2015).

Sud-Ubangi: Following access restrictions to Bangui, CAR, there is a shortage of fuel and food stocks in Zongo, Sud-Ubangi. Prices have been rising sharply for several days. The bad state of roads to Zongo within DRC limits supply of goods via national routes (Radio Okapi, 19/10/2015).

Health

A lack of health services have been mainly reported in the Kivus, and the former Katanga, and Orientale provinces. Measles and cholera outbreaks are ongoing, particularly affecting children who are already weakened by high rates of malaria and malnutrition (NY Times, 14/09/2015). Case fatality rates are high.

In Bili refugee camp, Nord-Ubangi, acute respiratory infections remain the most common cause for refugees seeking medical attention, accounting for 22% of health facility visits (UNHCR, 30/08/2015).

In Lusenda camp, malaria, intestinal parasites, and acute respiratory infections are the most prevalent illnesses (UNHCR, 13/09/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Sud-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 (OCHA, 09/07/2015).

Ituri: 140 health facilities in Bunia are functioning, but without trained health personnel and without adequate medicine (Radio Okapi, 30/06/2015).

Cholera

On 23 September, the Ministry of Public Health declared a cholera epidemic in DRC
965 new cases were reported 28 September–4 October, compared to 1,259 cases 20–27 September. The case fatality rate (CFR) is 1.2% (UNICEF, 29/09/2015). The outbreak is spreading westward from Kindu along the Congo River to Tshopo province via boat passengers (UNICEF, 25/10/2015). The number of cases has been rapidly increasing since mid-August. 13,378 cases of cholera, including 214 deaths, were recorded 1 January–4 October, compared to 14,597 for the same period in 2014.

**Lumumbashi health zone, Haut-Lomami,** lacks chlorine needed for water purification (Radio Okapi, 28/10/2015).

**Maniema:** Cholera cases have been decreasing. 146 new cases were reported between 1 and 3 October (WHO, 19/10/2015).

**Sud-Kivu:** In Uvira and Fizi health zones, cholera cases have been decreasing. Between 11 and 17 October, around 40 cases were reported in each zone, compared to around 60 cases reported in each in the previous week (WHO, 19/10/2015). The CFR is 1.92% (WHO, 24/10/2015). 16 of 34 health zones have been affected (Radio Okapi, 25/10/2015).

**Tshopo:** Since 8 September, 229 cases have been reported in Lowa, Ubundu, and Wanierukula health zones, including eight deaths (CFR 3.5%) (WHO, 19/10/2015). Since 1 October, in Kinsangani, 60 cases were reported, including three deaths (CFR 5%) (WHO, 24/10/2015). **40 cholera cases, including four deaths, were reported last week in the central prison in Kisangani** (Radio Okapi, 27/10/2015).

**Malaria**

Malaria remains the predominant illness in most camps hosting CAR refugees (UNHCR, 30/08/2015).

**Measles**

At least 36,000 measles cases have been reported since the beginning of 2015 in DRC, the majority in Katanga province (now Tanganyika, Haut-Katanga, Lualaba, and Haut-Lomami provinces). The current caseload exceeds the combined number of cases of the past three years. More than 470 people have died. 26 health zones had declared an epidemic by September – up from 11 in May. Only eight affected health zones have been covered by humanitarian response due to geographical and security constraints (OCHA, 14/10/2015; 21/10/2015).

**Rabies**

207 cases of rabies, including 17 deaths, have been reported in Ituri over the last nine months (Radio Okapi, 28/09/2015).

**Nutrition**

As of September, 2.5 million children under five are severely malnourished (WHO, 27/09/2015).

As of 30 August, in Bili refugee camp, Bossobolo territory, Nord-Ubangi (formerly part of Equateur), the SAM rate for children under five is 2.4%, and GAM 6.5% (UNHCR, 30/08/2015).

**WASH**

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

**Sud-Kivu:** 42% of the population (1.9 million people) does not have access to drinking water; 80% of the population (3.7 million people) does not have access to toilets (OCHA, 13/10/2015).

**Bas-Uele (formerly part of Maniema province):** People across the province face drinking water shortages (Caritas Australia, 06/10/2015).

**Water**

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

**CAR refugees:** Water supply in camps is below the minimum standard of 20 L/p/day. 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 (UNHCR, 30/08/2015).

**Burundi refugees:** In Lusenda camp, water supply is 15 L/p/d (UNHCR, 13/09/2015).

**Shelter and NFIs**

As of July, over 70,000 people were in need of shelter in Sud-Kivu (OCHA, 28/08/2015).

5,000 IDPs in Biakato, Ituri (former part of Orientale), are in need of household items (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

**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 Sud-Kivu, and in the former Katanga and Orientale provinces is preventing access to education.

In Beni territory, Nord-Kivu, 75% of children cannot go to school due to insecurity (OCHA, 27/10/2015). In Bas-Uele, 500 children cannot go to school due to LRA attacks (Radio Okapi, 28/10/2015). In Sud-Kivu, on average, 12,300 students cannot access schools every month, due to conflict and natural disasters (OCHA, 10/06/2015).
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 Kanaba, Nord-Kivu, 2,700 displaced households have been threatened with eviction by the local population, because they have been settled in local agricultural zones since June 2015 (OCHA, 22/09/2015).

Gender

Sexual violence is a common element of warfare in eastern DRC.

Ituri: On 13 September, 17 women were raped by suspected Mayi-Mayi in Mambasa territory. Between January and August, 1,198 SGBV cases were reported in Ituri. Anti-SGBV activities have been interrupted due to funding shortfalls (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

Haut-Uele: 110 SGBV incidents were reported in the first three weeks of May, and 138 in April (OCHA, 27/05/2015).

Updated: 02/11/2015

ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 03/11/2015. Last update: 21/09/2015.

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.

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

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

- Torture, arbitrary detention, and indefinite national service are reported (UNHRC, 04/06/2015).

Politics and security

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

Displacement

Refugees

As of August 2015, there were 2,802 Somali refugees in Eritrea (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

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). The high proportion of unaccompanied minors who cross from Eritrea to Ethiopia is a priority concern (UNHCR).

Eritreans constitute the biggest group of migrants arriving in Italy by boat (IOM, 10/10/2015). In 2014, more than 37,000 Eritrean refugees sought refuge in Europe, the vast majority arriving by boat across the Mediterranean (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 119,980 Eritrean refugees (UNHCR, 01/12/2014).

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).
Humanitarian Access

Providing direct humanitarian assistance remains a challenge due to limited access, and absence of assessments and humanitarian space (ECHO, 2009).

Food security

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). Rainfall in June and July was 30–35% below average, and satellite imagery indicates severe drought conditions in coastal pastoral areas (FAO, 19/09/2015).

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, 2009).

Nutrition

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

Protection

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).

Reviewed: 03/11/2015

LIBYA DISPLACEMENT, CIVIL WAR, POLITICAL UNREST

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

30 October: Airstrikes were carried out on Sirte by unidentified planes, targeting areas of Islamic State control. No casualties have been reported (Reuters).

27 October: A helicopter carrying Libya Dawn military commanders was shot down west of Tripoli, killing 19 passengers (NYT, 27/10/2015). The LNA has both claimed and denied responsibility (Libya Herald).

KEY CONCERNS

- 3.08 million people affected (OCHA, 01/10/2015).
- 435,000 IDPs (OCHA, 01/10/2015).
- 250,000 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in need of assistance (OCHA, 01/10/2015).
- Indiscriminate shelling and targeting of civilian areas (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).
- Access is a major concern (OCHA, 01/10/2014).

OVERVIEW

An estimated three 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.

Much of the fighting takes place in urban centres, posing serious security concerns for civilian populations. An estimated 20% of hospitals and 18% of primary healthcare facilities are not functioning. 60% of hospitals were closed or made inaccessible at least once during the six month period from April to October 2015 due to the conflict.
Politics and security

Libya has had two rival parliaments and governments since mid-2014, neither of which currently have an internationally recognised mandate (WP, 20/10/2015). A struggle over resources and a sharp drop in oil production have exacerbated the crisis (Financial Times, 19/03/2015). Militias now exert much control on the ground. Some areas, notably Sabrata and Zuwara towns near the Tunisian border, have been taken over by smugglers, who are making use of official ports for their operations (BBC, 29/04/2015). Furthermore, Islamic State (IS) has exploited the volatile security situation (Asharq Al Awsat 04/05/2015).

The mandate of the House of Representatives government expired on 20 October (WP, 20/10/2015). The House of Representatives (HoR), was voted for in June 2014, and moved to Tobruk in early August (AFP, 12/11/2014). Its government, led by Prime Minister Al Thani, 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).

The Islamist-dominated General National Congress (GNC), which preceded the House of Representatives and never stood down, voted to replace the HoR in August 2014. It is supported by an alliance of groups called Libya Dawn. On 6 November, the Tripoli-based Supreme Court ruled the House of Representatives unconstitutional. 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). Talks resumed in Geneva in August and on 21 September, the UN announced the finalisation of the peace agreement (VOA, 21/09/2015). However, the GNC rejected the deal on 12 October, and the HoR formally rejected it on 19 October (Reuters, 19/10/2015). The deal has been amended and discussions between the two sides are continuing (Reuters, 02/11/2015).

Stakeholders

The conflict in Libya is being fought by between 1,000 and 1,700 armed groups, comprising a complex web of allegiances to the main 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 Gheryan, 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). 40-80% of the supporting forces are thought to be neighbourhood militias (NYT, 02/10/2015). Support also 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 (Reuters, 06/06/2015).

Islamic State and allies

The Shura Council of Islamic Youth, IS’s affiliate in Libya, is not affiliated with either of the rival governments and has warned all governments and militia groups not to interfere with its activities. Territorial gains made by IS between January and March 2015 reportedly dwindled between March and September (ACLED, 19/09/2015). Recent reports indicate that Russian airstrikes in Syria may be pushing IS fighters into Libya (IBT, 19/10/2015).

Abu Salim Martyr’s Brigade

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).

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

UNSMIL was established in 2011 as a political mission mandated to help restore state institutions. In September, its mandate was extended for six months, until 15 March 2016 (UNSC, 11/09/2015).

Regional involvement

Prime Minister Al Thani announced in October 2014 that Egypt would help to train the Libyan army. The Egyptian Air Force carried out airstrikes against IS in February in response to the beheading of 21 Coptic Christians from Egypt. The airstrikes targeted IS training camps and targets, particularly in Derna (Reuters, 23/02/2015).

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**

Over 2,244 deaths have been reported since the beginning of 2015 (ACLED, 19/09/2015). Civilians accounted for an estimated 75% of people injured or killed by explosives in the first half of 2015 (OCHA, 23/09/2015). In 2014, there were 2,383 reported fatalities from battles and remote violence (ACLED, 15/01/2015). The surge in violence since July 2014 has affected more than two million people (UN, 21/09/2015).

**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). Since then, the intensity of violence has reportedly decreased as of early October (ACLED, 09/10/2015). A helicopter carrying Libya Dawn military officials was shot down on 27 October, killing at least 19 passengers (NYT, 27/10/2015). The LNA has both claimed and denied responsibility (Libya Herald, 28/10/2015; ICG, 02/11/2015). After the attack, militias from Zawiya city, which support Libya Dawn, fought militias from Washafana town (Reuters, 27/10/2015).

**Sirte**: On 30 October, airstrikes were carried out by unidentified warplanes on areas of Islamic State control. No known casualties have been reported (Reuters, 30/10/2015). 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, Sirte airport in May, as well as infrastructure supplying water to Libyan cities (NYT, 10/03/2015; BBC, 29/05/2015).

**Benghazi and Eastern Libya**: New fighting between IS and the Libyan National Army broke out 26–27 September in the Saberi district of central Benghazi (Al Arabiya, 28/09/2015). IS appeared to have entered Benghazi in the middle of the year, joining the fight against the LNA (Reuters, 15/06/2015). Fighting between the LNA and IS-aligned armed groups is ongoing (Reuters, 25/10/2015). On 19 October, an attack claimed by IS struck Al Jalaa hospital, killing five people (AFP, 19/10/2015). On 23 October, demonstrators protesting against the proposed peace deal were hit by a missile: 12 were killed and 39 injured (AFP, 25/10/2015).

**Derna**: IS was reportedly pushed out of its stronghold in June by Abu Salim Martyr’s Brigade and the LNA, and in August launched an offensive to retake Derna (Reuters, 13/08/2015; ISS, 02/10/2015). 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**

Libya hosts an estimated 685,000 displaced persons, including IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers, and migrants. Over 40% of IDPs have been displaced multiple times due to conflict, as have 66% of refugees and 30% of migrants (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

**IDPs**

435,000 are estimated to be internally displaced, up from 63,985 in April 2014. The majority live with host families in urban areas but over 100,000 are estimated to live in schools or other public facilities (OCHA, 01/10/2015). 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 83,270 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 Walid, 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

An estimated 100,000 refugees and asylum seekers are in Libya, and 150,000 other migrants (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

Others

Third-country nationals face extreme difficulties leaving the country, as passage through Libya's borders with Egypt and Tunisia is restricted. Migrants continue to embark on unseaworthy vessels to reach Italy. More than 650,000 people have tried to cross the Mediterranean so far in 2015, many of them using Libya as their starting point; 3,138 are believed to have died in the attempt (IOM, 20/10/2015). 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

Since July 2014, most humanitarian agencies have relocated out of Libya, the majority to Tunisia. Armed groups often limit access to the remaining humanitarian agencies. 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 severe (OCHA, 01/10/2015). 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

1.28 million people are thought to be food insecure, including 175,000 IDPs, and the prices of food staples such as flour, rice, and sugar have tripled since May 2014 (OCHA, 01/10/2015).
An estimated 150,000 children are at risk of no longer having access to education (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

Benghazi is particularly affected, with enrolment rates as low as 50%. Only 65 out of 239 schools in the city are functioning, with 110 schools inaccessible due to insecurity, and 64 occupied by IDPs (UNICEF, 02/09/2015; OCHA, 01/10/2015). Many of the schools in the northeast and south are occupied by IDPs (Save the Children, 18/06/2015).

Protection

Much of the fighting takes place in urban centres, posing great protection difficulties for civilian populations. 2.44 million people are estimated to be in need of protection from violence, violation of human rights, and other forms of abuse (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

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 abducted between February 2014 and April 2015, including an estimated 378 whose whereabouts continue to be unknown. 508 were abducted in Benghazi (Amnesty, 04/08/2015). 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). In a June assessment, 57% of informants reported landmines/UXO in their communities (UN, 21/09/2015).

Children

An assessment in May found a high incidence of child recruitment, with over 67% of informants in western Libya reporting recruitment of children from their communities, and 90% of informants in southern Libya (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

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).

Documentation

Over 86% of households reported having lost legal documentation due to conflict and displacement, and 77% reported difficulty registering newborn children, including over 90% of IDPs (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

Updated: 03/11/2015

NIGERIA  CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

31 October: Areas of Borno and Adamawa states have 32.4% GAM and 3.0% SAM. Rural households in areas most affected by violence, and IDPs in greater Maiduguri, will continue to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes through early 2016 (FEWSNET).

KEY CONCERNS

- Around 8,290 deaths from Boko Haram-related violence between January and October 2015, including over 5,200 in violence against civilians (ACLED, 24/10/2015).
- 4.6 million people in need of humanitarian aid, including 2.1 million IDPs (OCHA, 05/06/2015; IOM, 03/09/2015).
- 1.7 million are in need of nutrition assistance, including 461,000 children under five forecast to have SAM in 2015 (OCHA, 17/09/2015).
- 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).

OVERVIEW
Violence has displaced close to 2.2 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 the 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 October 2015, nearly 400 BH-related incidents and 8,250 deaths were reported in Nigeria, the vast majority occurring in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states, but some incidents occurred in surrounding states. Nearly half – 184 incidents – were reported as violence against civilians, which resulted in 5,215 deaths. As of 24 October, 84 suicide attacks had been recorded in 2015, compared to 38 in all 2014 (ACLED, 24/10/2015). Military offensives in 2015 have regained territory from BH, but the group continues to have strongholds in areas that are hard to access, including the Sambisa forest, the Mandera mountains, and the Lake Chad islands (AFP, 23/10/2015).

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 (UNHCR, 22/05/2015).

Presidential handover

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). He has put strategies in place to tackle insecurity, which has led to the liberation of several towns from BH control, and rescues of people abducted by BH (AFP, 19/09/2015; 28/10/2015). Much of the northeast remains dangerous and attacks against civilians continue (AFP, 22/09/2015; 24/09/2015).

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

Recent successes in the fight against BH are reportedly improving morale among Nigerian troops, which had previously been low. Changes in command and deployment of adequate weapons are thought to have increased the army’s capacity (This Day Live, 10/09/2015; Information Nigeria, 24/08/2015).

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; 03/10/2015). The scope and remit of the regional force is unclear. The force will be led by a Nigerian commander (AFP, 11/06/2015; 25/04/2015; 20/03/2015).

Conflict developments

Ongoing military offensives have prompted BH to change their tactics. The 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 sporadically attacked areas that were not previously targeted, including suicide bombings in Abuja in early October, which killed at least 18 people (BBC, 03/10/2015; AFP, 05/10/2015). The increased pressure has resulted in BH adopting guerrilla-style 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 displacement (AFP, 20/07/2015).

In October, at least 548 people died in BH-related violence, including 235 who died in 17 incidents of violence against civilians. The majority of attacks occurred in Borno, followed by Adamawa (ACLED, 24/10/2015). In September, 282 people were killed in 13 BH attacks on civilians (ACLED, 10/10/2015). There are many discrepancies between the number of deaths reported by media and hospitals, and government agencies (AFP, 23/10/2015). Though violence remains widespread in the northeast, the number of attacks and fatalities has decreased somewhat since August. July was the deadliest month since March, with 980 fatalities due to violence. 67% were related to BH; the highest proportion since January (ACLED, 07/08/2015).

Borno state: On 24 October, a suicide bombing in Dala Yazaram neighbourhood of Maiduguri killed three people and injured many others (AFP, 24/10/2015). On 23 October, a
A bomb blast in a mosque in Maiduguri reportedly killed 28 people and injured 20 others (AFP, 23/10/2015). On 21 October, BH fighters pushed out of their camp by the military opened fire on vehicles outside Jingalta village, north of Maiduguri, killing 20 people (AFP, 21/10/2015). On 19 October, five travellers were killed and another injured in a BH attacks outside of nearby Mile 40 village (AFP, 21/10/2015). On 15–16 October, multiple suicide attacks in suburbs of Maiduguri killed 52 people and injured at least 48. Some say more than 60 were killed (ECHO, 17/10/2015; AFP, 16/10/2015). On 13 October, three bomb blasts in Maiduguri killed and injured an unknown number of people (AFP, 13/10/2015). On 7 October, three people were killed in a suicide bombing in Gubia town, north of Maiduguri (AFP, 07/10/2015). On 1 October, up to seven bomb blasts were reported in Maiduguri, some of which were suicide attacks. Several occurred as people fled their homes after the sound of the first explosion. 15 people were killed and more than 35 were injured (AFP, 01/10/2015; OCHA, 06/10/2015). In September, more than 120 people were killed and 100 others injured in suspected BH attacks (AFP, 27/09/2015; BBC, 21/09/2015; AFP, 22/09/2015). In August, village raids, bomb blasts, and road attacks killed at least 141 people (The Guardian, 31/08/2015; The News Nigeria, 16/08/2015; AFP, 12/08/2015; 05/08/2015; 02/08/2015; Reuters, 12/08/2015; 09/08/2015).

Adamawa state: On 23 October, an explosion in a mosque in Yola killed at least 27 people, and injured 116 (AFP, 23/10/2015). On 18 October, at least 11 people were killed in a suspected BH attack on Dar village, close to the border with Borno state. Two female suicide bombers were among residents fleeing into the bush when their bombs detonated (AFP, 18/10/2015). In September, at least 28 people were killed and 21 injured in village raids and explosions in Adamawa, which had been relatively peaceful until mid-September (AFP, 02/10/2015; Reuters; AFP, 11/09/2015; ECHO, 15/09/2015; Reuters, 11/09/2015).

Yobe state: On 7 October, three bomb blasts in Damaturu killed 14 people and injured ten others (AFP, 07/10/2015).

Inter-communal violence

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

In Taraba state, at least seven people were killed in attacks against returning IDPs, after they were told by local authorities to return home and regain their confiscated land. Several other returning IDPs were killed as they were clearing their farmland and rebuilding their houses (UNHCR, 06/10/2015). In Plateau state, daily conflict continues, and causing displacement. 25 villages have been destroyed (UNHCR, 06/10/2015). On 22 September, 35 people were killed in Niger state, by unidentified armed men believed to be Fulani herdsmen. More than 25 houses were set on fire, several people were injured, and many fled into the bush (This Day Live, 24/09/2015). Incidents had fallen in previous months (ACLED, 2014; ICG, 01/10/2014).

Natural disasters

Floods

Adamawa: Since 30 August, 206,000 people have been affected by floods in 15 local government areas, including 42,800 who have been displaced or evacuated (OCHA, 29/09/2015). 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 were killed (TCV News, 13/09/2015). Farmland, houses, and livestock have been lost (Premium Times, 30/08/2015).

Cross River: Over 1,220 families (around 5,000 individuals) were displaced by flooding in coastal communities in early October. 4,500 farms were destroyed. The loss of crops is affecting the farmers’ livelihoods and resilience. The risk of epidemics such as cholera has increased (ECHO, 10/10/2015).

Kebbi: Early October, 25,950 people were affected by floods in 12 local government areas. 70% of farmland in these areas is affected, and nearly 5,500 houses were damaged (AFP, 02/10/2015).

Kaduna: Late September, flooding forced more than 30,000 people to temporarily leave their homes. 2,000 houses were submerged (local media, 21/09/2015).

Displacement

More than two million Nigerians have been displaced by conflict, including more than 2.1 million internally and more than 170,000 abroad.

IDPs

As of early September, more than 2.1 million IDPs have been identified in Adamawa, Baushe, 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 in July, 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 rest 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).

58% of IDPs are children; half are under five. About 67% of IDPs were displaced in 2014, and 31% in 2015 (IOM, 03/09/2015). Many people have been displaced several times (OCHA, 24/09/2015).
IDPs report food as a priority need, followed by shelter and NFIs. 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%) (IOM, 03/09/2015). Conditions in IDP sites are deteriorating, and needs are unmet in WASH, education, health, and shelter (UNHCR, 17/08/2015).

**Returns:** 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. Returnees face sporadic attacks (UNICEF, 01/09/2015).

**Refugees and asylum seekers**

As of October, there were 2,190 refugees and asylum seekers in Nigeria (UNHCR, 29/10/2015).

**Returnees**

11,776 undocumented Nigerian refugees have been forcibly returned from Cameroon, following BH attacks in the country. More than 4,280 have returned to Maiduguri, Borno state; others are staying in camps and with host communities in Adamawa state. The majority of returnees arrived in August (UNHCR, 25/10/2015).

**Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries**

Nearly 170,000 Nigerian refugees are in neighbouring countries. 58,570 registered refugees are in Cameroon and 14,160 are in Chad. More than 94,150 Nigerians have crossed the border into Niger (UNHCR, 31/08/2015; 28/09/2015; Government of Niger, 05/08/2015).

**Humanitarian access**

**Access of relief actors to affected populations**

Humanitarian assistance is very limited in remote areas rural areas and areas that are or were formerly under BH control (UNHCR, 30/06/2015; FEWSNET, 31/10/2015). 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, especially in remote areas (ACF, 30/06/2015).

Media access has also been largely 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**

As of September, an estimated 4.6 million people in the northeast are food insecure, including 3.5 million severely (OCHA, 08/06/2015; WFP, 25/09/2015). From October 2015 to early 2016, rural households in worst-affected areas of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, as will IDPs in informal settlements in greater Maiduguri. Most other areas in the three northeastern states will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015).

Most areas outside the northeast will be facing Minimal (Phase 1) food security outcomes between October and March (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015).

**Food availability**

The harvest for staples in most areas across the country is expected to be average to slightly below-average. But in the northeast, conflict has negatively affected the area planted, and farmers’ ability to look after their crops. The October harvest is expected to be significantly below normal for a third consecutive year, limiting market supply and household stocks (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015).

**Food access**


Staple food prices are much higher on markets in Maiduguri, Borno, and Mubi, Adamawa, than in neighbouring markets. The harvest will improve food access for rural resident households, but limited access will continue for households in worst-affected areas due to significantly below normal household stocks. Community support remains the main source of food for IDPs in Maiduguri (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015).

**Market and trade activities in the northeast remain disrupted. In addition to the conflict’s impact, the government has advised to close some major markets, as they are targets for attacks (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015).**

Cattle rustling and inter-communal conflict in the Middle Belt affects households’
Livelihoods

Business activity is estimated to have decreased by 80% in areas affected by violence (OCHA, 25/09/2015). Communities in northeastern rural areas largely depend on farming for their livelihoods, but families returning from displacement will not be able to support themselves, as staple crops have not been planted (INGO Forum, 17/07/2015). Insecurity prevents those who remain in the northeast from carrying out typical farming activities, limiting their opportunities for wage labour. Fishing and cross-border trade, particularly with Niger, have also fallen due to insecurity (OCHA, 24/09/2015; FEWSNET, 31/10/2015).

Income opportunities for IDPs remain very limited (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015). Only 14% of registered IDPs have a source of income, compared to 66% prior to displacement (IOM, 03/09/2015).

Health

3.5 million people need health support (OCHA, 16/10/2015). Mortality rates are increasing and vaccination programmes are severely hit. There is an increased risk of children dying from malaria, measles, and diarrhoea due to the disruption of health services (Inter Press Service, 26/08/2015).

A nation-wide cholera outbreak is ongoing. Most cases have been reported outside of northeastern states, but several IDP camps in Maiduguri are also affected (ECHO, 18/09/2015; MSF, 17/09/2015). Malaria is the most prevalent health problem among IDPs in camps (IOM, 30/06/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Routine health services, including immunisation and maternal and child care, have been disrupted in areas affected by the insurgency. Many health workers have fled and those who remain are not able to access people in need (UNICEF, 30/09/2015). Most health centres in the northeast remain closed (IRIN, 02/11/2015). Less than 40% of health facilities are operational in areas affected by the conflict (Inter Press Service, 26/08/2015). In Borno state, only half of the local government areas had access to healthcare facilities in May (USAID, 17/06/2015). IDPs lack access to adequate healthcare and medicine, which is resulting in high mortality rates for common illnesses (ECHO, 18/09/2015).

Cholera

A cholera outbreak was reported in September in four IDP camps in Maiduguri and surrounding communities in Borno state. So far, some 1,500 cases have been reported and over 20 deaths (IRIN, 02/11/2015). The number of new cases in the camps is decreasing, but surrounding communities are reporting an increase in new cases (MSF, 02/10/2015). The outbreak is thought to be due to overflowing sewage after heavy rainfall, and inadequate water supply (WHO, 24/09/2015). The majority of IDPs are outside official camps, where access to WASH facilities is severely limited (ECHO, 18/09/2015; MSF, 17/09/2015).

As of early October, 4,542 cholera cases had been reported in Nigeria, with 65 new cases in the first week of October. The CFR is 3.9%, with 176 deaths countrywide (UNICEF, 25/10/2015).

Nutrition

An estimated 461,000 children under five will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2015, in addition to 1.7 million suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

A survey in Chibok, Askira, and Uba in Borno state, and Michika in Adamawa showed 32.4% global acute malnutrition (GAM), which far exceeds the WHO critical threshold, and 3.0% SAM (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015).

Malnutrition is thought to be worse among IDPs in host communities, as they lack access to nutrition services. In May, GAM in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe IDP camps was around 12% among children under five. Food insecurity and a lack of safe water and health services are likely to increase malnutrition in the northeast (OCHA, 19/08/2015).

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). In Gombyo, one of the camps outside Maiduguri, each latrine is shared between around 100 people (IRIN, 02/11/2015).

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 increased 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) were living in self-made tents, while others were staying in public buildings, such as schools and community centres, and government buildings (IOM, 30/06/2015; 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, of whom 60% in the north 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).

Many schools are closed or face major disruption of services; classrooms have been damaged, looted, or occupied. Teachers and students have been deliberately targeted by attacks (UNICEF, 30/09/2015). 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). Reported protection incidents include killing of civilians, forced displacement, destruction of property, and arbitrary detention. Priorities for IDPs are the denial of access to assistance and family separation (UNHCR, 31/08/2015; UN, 29/09/2015).

In Taraba, returning IDPs have been attacked in disputes over land, as land and property had been taken in their absence. In some cases IDPs are facing stigma, discrimination, and isolation (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

IDP camps are facing a significant threat from militant infiltration; cases of BH militants disguised as IDPs have been reported from Maiduguri (UNHCR, 29/05/2015). BH has forcibly recruited young men, and carried out executions (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 kidnapped by BH have experienced physical and psychological abuse, forced marriage and labour, and sexual slavery (OCHA, 24/09/2015). 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 intellectually disabled women to bomb civilian areas (Action on Armed Violence, 10/08/2015).

Children

Nearly 1.2 million children, half of whom are under five, have been forced to flee their homes, and have increased protection needs (UNICEF, 30/09/2015). 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; OCHA, 25/09/2015).

At least 23,000 displaced children in the northeast have been separated from their parents (UNICEF, 30/09/2015).

Updated: 02/11/2015

SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Severe humanitarian crisis</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population in need</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>Severe</td>
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LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

31 October: Pastoral areas in Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed, riverine areas in Middle Shabelle, agropastoral zones in Middle Juba and Hiraan, and Rabdhure district in Bakool continue to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes (FEWSNET).

27 October: Flooding in several areas of the country, particularly along the Shabelle River, have affected more than 40,000 people; at least 13,200 have been displaced (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.1 million IDPs, mainly in the south-central region, with high concentrations in Mogadishu (UNHCR, 11/08/2014).

- 2.75 million people need safe water (OCHA, 29/09/2015).
- 3 million are estimated to need emergency health services (OCHA, 29/09/2015).
- 855,000 people are facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food insecurity outcomes (FSNAU, 02/10/2015).
- Some 214,700 children under five are estimated to be acutely malnourished, mainly in south-central Somalia, including 39,700 severely (FSNAU, 02/10/2015).
- 1.7 million children are out of school (OCHA, 29/09/2015).
- Nearly one million Somali refugees live in neighbouring countries, mostly Kenya, Ethiopia, and Yemen (UNHCR, 06/10/2015).

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 lacks 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. Insecurity and bureaucratic impediments hinder humanitarian access.

Politics and security

Somalia suffers from a chronic fragility of state institutions as a result of two decades of civil war. 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 within the state (UNSC, 25/09/2014; ICG, 01/11/2014). Government and parliament agree that it will not be possible to collect votes from all individuals during the elections planned in 2016 (AFP, 28/07/2015; UNSOM, 03/08/2015).

Armed conflict

Between January and October, more than 935 incidents involving Al Shabaab were reported, causing 3,000 deaths. Nearly 20% of all reported incidents were attacks against civilians. Throughout 2015, an average of 16 attacks against civilians has been reported per month (ACLED, 31/10/2015). However, for many incidents no number of casualties is confirmed.

In the first half of 2015, insurgent attacks and inter-clan conflict had a high impact in southern areas of Lower Juba, south and east Gedo, south and west Bay, Bakool, Lower Shabelle, southern Hiraan, and central Galgaduud (FSNAU, 02/10/2015). Al Shabaab made substantial advances in Lower Shabelle region, taking control over towns that were in the hands of government and AU troops (Horseed media, 18/09/2015; Reuters, 06/09/2015).

Somali armed forces and the African Union launched new offensives against Al Shabaab in the middle of the year, and the number of reported security incidents increased in July and August, as did the number of reported fatalities (ACLED, 26/09/2015). Kenyan troops have reportedly captured an Al Shabaab base in Yantooy, along the Juba River. The base has been used to launch cross-border attacks in Kenya. The attack was meant to disrupt militant supply lines to Jilib, where Al Shabaab has its headquarters (World Bulletin, 26/10/2015; ABC News, 25/10/2015).

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, although a shift in tactics has seen Al Shabaab concentrate attacks on small and remote AU bases in 2015 (CNN, 03/09/2015). 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 a military offensive against Al Shabaab-held areas in March 2014 (OCHA, 05/2014). New offensives began in July, affecting Bay, Gedo, Bakool, Galgaduud, Hiraan, and Lower Shabelle regions (AMISOM, 19/07/2015; OCHA, 20/08/2015).

The government’s inability to pay soldiers threatens to undermine the military gains against Al Shabaab as morale falls. Soldiers may defect or set up checkpoints to extract bribes. Corruption at higher levels of the military is reportedly one of the reasons for non-payment of soldiers (Reuters, 08/10/2015).

Conflict developments

Al Shabaab continues attacks on civilians, humanitarian personnel, and government officials. Bakool, Banadir, Bay, Gedo, Hiraan, and Shabelle regions are all affected by the violence. In October, at least 70 incidents involving Al Shabaab were reported, leading to 191 fatalities. At least six incidents were attacks against civilians. (ACLED, 31/10/2015). In September, the reported death toll was 293, including 184 due to
clashes between Al Shabaab and security forces (ACLED, 31/10/2015). Often, numbers of fatalities are not confirmed and the number of deaths from Al Shabaab-related violence is expected to be much higher.

On 25 October, at least three women were injured in an Al Shabaab attack on an Ethiopian military base in Bardhere airport (local media, 25/10/2015). On 7 October, a suspected Al Shabaab bomb blast killed five people, including three civilians, at a market in Afgoye town, northwest of Mogadishu (Horseed Media, 07/10/2015).

Mogadishu: Al Shabaab attacks in Mogadishu mainly target political figures. On 1 November, at least 15 people were killed in an attack on a hotel popular with government officials (BBC, 01/11/2015). On 7 October, a Ministry official and a relative of the President were killed. Al Shabaab claimed responsibility (Horseed media, 07/10/2015). Several car bomb explosions in September killed and injured a number of people. Government buildings and security forces are among the main targets (AFP, 21/09/2015).

Natural disasters
El Niño

In the coming months a strong El Niño is expected to cause heavy rainfall leading to floods in south-central Somalia, and exacerbate drought in Somaliland. Over 600,000 people are expected to be affected by flooding in south-central Somalia and Puntland, which is likely to lead to displacement, additional health concerns, and restricted access to affected areas. More than 30,000 people could be further affected by drought in Somaliland (ECHO, 20/10/2015).

Floods end of October have affected more than 40,000 people. Affected areas include Balcad, Mahaday, and Jowhar in Middle Shabelle region, where 28,000 people are affected. Burhakaba and Qansahdhere in Bay, Mataban in Hiraan, Jamame and Jilib in Lower Juba, and Mogadishu in Banadir also experienced flooding. IDPs are particularly affected (ECHO, 28/10/2015; OCHA, 27/10/2015; FAO, 23/10/2015).

In the north, flash floods in Buhodle in Togdheer have affected 9,840 people, and in Galgaduud region, the market, hospital, schools and IDP settlements were affected (OCHA, 27/10/2015).

Both the Shabelle and the Juba rivers are forecast to be near or above flood stage early November, due to two weeks of heavy rains (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015). In Galgaduud region, Bali-garas, three settlements in Abudwak town, which host 7,000 people, are likely to be affected by flooding if rains continue (OCHA, 27/10/2015).

IDPs
An estimated 1.1 million Somalis were IDPs in 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). Despite new displacement, overall figures have been stable since December 2014 (OCHA, 04/12/2014).

October floods have displaced at least 13,200 people. IDPs have moved from low-lying areas in and around Mogadishu to less flood-prone areas on the outskirts of the city. In Bay region, 900 people were displaced from several villages to Qansahdhere town, and 4,500 people were displaced to Burhakaba town. In Lower Juba, 6,000 people have been displaced in Jamame and Jilib districts, the former of which remains inaccessible. 1,800 people were displaced in Garbaharey, Gedo (OCHA, 27/10/2015).

Between May and July, about 46,000 people were newly displaced, mainly due to insecurity. 24% were displaced by the military offensives in south-central Somalia, particularly in Lower Shabelle and Bay regions. The majority moved within their region (OCHA, 20/08/2015; 10/08/2015; 16/07/2015; ECHO, 21/07/2015; FSNAU, 02/10/2015).

Returnees
The security and socio-economic situation in large areas of Somalia is not yet right for large-scale returns, but some refugees are eager to come back (UNHCR, 16/10/2015). Between 8 December 2014 and 11 October 2015, 5,171 Somalis returned from Kenya: 2,705 to Kismayo, 1,226 to Mogadishu, 925 to Baidoa, and the remainder to Luuq, Bardhere, Afgoye, and other places (UNHCR, 11/10/2015). More than 4,000 others have signed up to return (UNHCR, 16/10/2015). The original target for voluntary returns from Kenya in 2015 was 10,000 (UNHCR, 08/12/2014). Among those who are not returning, the main reasons cited are the lack of functioning public schools and job opportunities (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).

Returnees and refugees from Yemen
As of 29 October, 29,643 arrivals from Yemen have been registered since April (IOM, 29/10/2015). At least 19,731 have arrived in Bosaso, Puntland, and 9,332 in Berbera, Somaliland. The arrival rate has fallen significantly since August, which is attributed to information on living conditions for new arrivals in Somalia reaching people who intend to leave Yemen, and because the conflict in Yemen is affecting the two main ports of departure to Somalia. Nearly 500 people arrived in August, and 425 people in September, a large decrease from the 9,860 arrivals in July (IOM, 15/10/2015; UNHCR, 05/10/2015; 15/10/2015).

89% of arrivals are Somali returnees, 10% Yemeni refugees, and 1% third-country nationals (IOM, 29/10/2015). 75% of arrivals are women and children (OCHA, 10/08/2015).
Some Yemenis have indicated their intention to return, particularly to Aden (UNHCR, 05/10/2015). More than half of Somali returnees intend to go to Mogadishu (UNHCR, 05/10/2015). Priority needs for new arrivals in Somaliland include shelter support and food (UNHCR, 21/09/2015).

Somali refugees in neighbouring countries

There are 967,046 Somali refugees in neighbouring countries, of whom around 9,170 were registered in 2015. At least 420,199 are in Kenya, 248,894 in Ethiopia, and 246,648 in Yemen, with the remainder in Uganda, Djibouti, Eritrea, and Tanzania (UNHCR, 06/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

Restricted humanitarian access continues to affect aid delivery to affected populations in south-central Somalia. Even in areas where there is no active conflict, illegal checkpoints, banditry, and demands for bribes are common (OCHA, 09/10/2015). The latest SNAF-AMISOM offensive further restricts population movement, trade, and humanitarian access (USAID, 17/08/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

At least 10 aid workers have been killed in Somalia so far in 2015 (OCHA, 29/10/2015). In the first six months of 2015, there were more than 60 security incidents involving aid workers. 14 were injured, five abducted, and 30 arrested or detained (OCHA, 16/07/2015; 20/07/2015). The majority of incidents involving aid workers include shooting (25%) and abduction (20%) (INSO, 09/2015).

Roadblocks in Hudur, Bakool region, have eased somewhat in recent months, facilitating the movement of goods to the town. However, surrounding areas continue to be affected by violent clashes and cannot be accessed by humanitarian organisations (FSNAU, 02/10/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Between January and August 2015, 3,217 security incidents were reported in Somalia. Monthly fluctuations are relatively small, with 360–440 incidents reported every month (INSO, 09/2015). Insecurity on the main roads makes needs assessment and response difficult. Inaccessibility of major supply routes is disrupting markets and livelihoods (OCHA, 10/08/2015).

The latest military offensives have further complicated access to areas in Bakool, Bay, Gedo, and Hiraan. Non-state actors are blocking roads and limiting movement (OCHA, 20/08/2015). Bulu Burde, Hiraan region, is only accessible via an airstrip secured by AMISOM (FSNAU, 02/10/2015).

Access to areas of Middle Shabelle affected by floods is difficult, as roads have become impassable. Flash floods in Belet Weyne, Hiraan, have affected the runway of the airport and infrastructure, in particular the road to Galkayo (OCHA, 27/10/2015). Access to areas along the Juba and Shabelle rivers is expected to deteriorate in the coming months, as heavy flooding is expected to occur due to El Niño. These areas are also the worst affected by other access constraints, including active hostilities, roadblocks, and unauthorised checkpoints (OCHA, 19/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Food insecurity has increased by 17% since February–June, due to below-average production in July and August, followed by the dry season and intensified conflict in much of southern Somalia. Pastoral areas in Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed, riverine areas in Middle Shabelle, agropastoral zones in Middle Juba and Hiraan, and Rabdhure district in Bakool continue to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes. Riverine areas in Middle Juba improved, as well as agropastoral areas in the south, which are now facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015).

855,000 people are facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes November–January. 61,000 people are facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes; more than half are in Banadir, and the majority are IDPs. Overall, IDPs make up 68% of the severely food insecure, rural populations 25%, and urban populations 7% (FSNAU, 02/10/2015).

Areas currently facing Crisis (Phase 3) food security outcomes are likely to remain without significant improvement until early 2016. Flooding in Lower and Middle Juba and Lower Shabelle is likely to deteriorate food security. Poor households may reach Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes November–January. Most agropastoral areas in south-central Somalia are likely to remain under Stressed (IPC Phase 2) conditions through March 2016 (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015).

Food access

In September, most locally produced cereal prices were below last year and the five-year average, increasing poor households’ access to food. However, prices remain high in areas affected by conflict, due to unofficial taxation, and in areas with limited local production (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015).

Prices of essential staple foods in areas affected by trade embargos in Bakool, Gedo, and Hiraan have stabilised due to the delivery of aid, improved seasonal harvest, opening up of secondary supply routes, and adjustments by local traders for food transportation (FSNAU, 02/10/2015).

Livelihoods
Pasture and water availability are average to above-average in most pastoral and agropastoral areas in the northwest, parts of Lower Shabelle, Lower Juba, Middle Juba, and Bay. Rangeland conditions remain poor in Guban pastoral livelihood zone in Somaliland, where unusual livestock deaths are reported, and in Bakool, Gedo, and areas of Lower Shabelle. Livestock body conditions are poor in northeastern and central regions, and in most southern regions.

Land preparation and planting activities are ongoing, which has increased the demand for agricultural labour, resulting in increased incomes for poor riverine and agropastoral households in the south.

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).

Serious crude death rates (CDR of over 0.5 deaths/1000 people/day) were recorded in agropastoral areas of the Shabelle regions, among IDPs and urban populations in Mogadishu, and among IDPs in Dolow and Dhusamareb in Galgaduud. The highest CDR was observed among IDPs in Dhooley (1.18), where, diarrhoea, malaria and pneumonia are the main causes of death for children under five (FSNAU, 16/10/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

1.5 million people are without access to primary or secondary health services, including 300,000 children under five, due to funding shortfalls. Ten hospitals have closed or significantly 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 Dhooley, Galkayo, Jowhar, and Kismayo risk having to suspend services. In 2014, 20 health facilities closed due to limited funding (OCHA, 16/07/2015).

Health facilities outside Hudur, Bakool region, are not functional and humanitarian actors cannot access the areas due to insecurity (FSNAU, 02/10/2015).

Measles

Suspected measles cases continue to be reported in all zones of Somalia, though underreporting is probably underestimating the actual caseload (WHO, 31/08/2015). From January to July, 5,350 cases of measles were reported (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). The measles outbreaks in 2015 and 2014 have each recorded at least double the caseload of 2013 (OCHA, 14/07/2014).

Nutrition

343,400 children are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition from August–December 2015, including 63,400 from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (FSNAU and FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). Nationwide, global acute malnutrition (GAM) is at 13.6%, including 2.3% SAM (FSNAU, 08/09/2015; 16/10/2015).

85% of livelihood areas in south-central and northeast Somalia show a serious or critical nutrition situation, with more than 10% GAM. Priority groups for nutrition, where GAM is more than 15%, are pastoral, agropastoral, and riverine populations in Gedo region; people in Belet Weyne and Mataban districts in Hiraan region; coastal pastoral areas and the cowpea belt in Mudug and Galgaduud regions; Bay region; and IDPs in Dolow, Baidoa, Dhooley, Garowe, and Galkayo (FSNAU, 16/10/2015).

In pastoral areas of northern Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed in Somaliland, GAM is 22.3% as of September, and SAM 5.9%. Children up to 29 months and girls are at higher risk of SAM (FSNAU, 02/10/2015).

20.6% GAM and 15.7% SAM were observed in Hudur, Bakool, in September. Though this is a decrease from the 33% and 19% GAM and SAM, respectively, measured in a MUAC assessment in July, the situation remains very critical. The proportion of severely malnourished out of all acutely malnourished children has dramatically increased to 76%, which poses a problem for response, as current supplies for SAM treatment are already insufficient (FSNAU, 02/10/2015; 27/07/2015).

Bulo Burde, Hiraan, is seeing a continued decline in overall acute malnutrition, although the situation remained very critical in September, with 18% GAM and 14% SAM. The prevalence of SAM has barely decreased since June, and its proportion of overall acute malnutrition is increasing, which indicates an increased risk of mortality (FSNAU, 02/10/2015).

IDPs

Malnutrition among IDPs is particularly critical. In Garowe, Galkayo and Dolow, acute malnutrition has been above 15% over the past two years. Among Dhooley 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; 16/10/2015).

The high malnutrition rates in Dhooley, combined with critical crude death rates, suggest a nutrition emergency, which requires urgent response to prevent more deaths (FSNAU, 16/10/2015).

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).

Wells and pit latrines were destroyed by flooding in Garbaharey, Gedo, and in affected districts of Banadir region (OCHA, 27/10/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

An estimated 937,000 people are in need of shelter. Needs have increased due to forced evictions and conflict (OCHA, 27/08/2015; UNHCR, 07/09/2015). IDPs in Mogadishu are living in makeshift shelters (OCHA, 03/06/2015).

In Banadir region, makeshift shelters and belongings of over 5,100 IDPs were destroyed by flash floods. Shelters and silos were also destroyed in affected areas of Middle Shabelle, and Togdheer in Somaliland (OCHA, 27/10/2015).

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 regarding access to education (OCHA, 02/06/2015).

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 the physical insecurity resulting from the SNAF-AMISOM offensive and inter-clan fighting; SGBV, including cases of sexual violence during inter-clan conflict; child protection violations; separation of children; and forced/secondary eviction (UNHCR Protection Cluster, 10/2014; OCHA, 29/09/2015; UNFPA, 31/08/2015). Protection of civilians living in areas affected by the SNAF-AMISOM offensive remains a key challenge (OCHA, 20/08/2015).

In September, 299 protection incidents were reported among displaced populations, 195 of which were recorded in south-central Somalia. Incidents mainly include physical assault, killing, domestic violence, rape, illegal arrests, and abduction. Most incidents occurred in the area of settlement, but some during displacement (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

AMISOM forces have been accused of killing civilians in their homes on several occasions (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). 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

SGBV is of particular concern for women and girls living in IDP settlements. From January–August, 84% of reported SGBV incidents involved rape, physical and sexual assault. 75% of victims are IDPs and 93% are female (UNFPA, 31/08/2015).

Children

Both Somali national armed forces and Al Shabaab have been accused of killing and recruiting children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 01/09/2015). Nearly 1,300 grave violations were recorded January–June 2015. Grave violations include recruitment or use of children, killing, maiming, rape or other sexual violence, and abduction (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; UNICEF, 31/05/2015; 30/06/2015).

Mental health

In Somaliland, people with mental health conditions are increasingly forced into institutions, where they face serious abuse, particularly in private centres. Patients face punitive and prolonged chaining, confinement, seclusion, and severe restrictions on their movement (Human Rights Watch, 25/10/2015).

Updated: 03/11/2015

SOUTH SUDAN

CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Severe humanitarian crisis = Pre-crisis vulnerability + % population affected + Humanitarian access

Severely: Minimal | Low | Moderate | Severe

See the methodology note for details.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 October–2 November: A barge carrying fuel up the Nile to Malakal was seized.
peacekeepers and 12 contractors working for UNMISS were captured. All were released by 2 November (UN, 29/10/2015; Reuters, 02/11/2015).

30 October: 27 people were killed and 11 injured in cattle raids in Bor county, Jonglei state (Miraya FM, 27/10/2015).

28 October: The relocation of around 1,400 Sudanese refugees from Yei camp to Lasu camp has increased demand for drugs, causing a shortage of essential medicines (UNHCR, 28/10/2015).

28 October: The main hospital in Bentiu has reportedly run out of medical supplies. The hospital has reported as many as 200 malaria cases a day during the peak of seasonal floods (August–October) (Sudan Tribune, 28/10/2015).

28 October: 15,000 children have reportedly been recruited by armed groups since the beginning of 2014 (The Guardian, 28/10/2015).

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).

- 3.9 million people are estimated to be experiencing Crisis (IPC phase 3), Emergency (IPC phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC phase 5) food security outcomes. 30,000 are in Catastrophe (IPC, 22/10/2015).

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

- 1.66 million IDPs since December 2013. 182,200 IDPs are sheltering in six sites on UNMISS bases (UNICEF, 24/09/2015; UNMISS, 12/10/2015).

- 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 has been focused in the oil-rich northeastern states. The frequency of violence has decreased since a ceasefire agreement signed in August, but sporadic clashes continue. 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, NFIs 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. Pockets of extreme food insecurity have caused for calls for immediate humanitarian assistance.

Politics and security

Civil War

President Kiir’s Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA), who are predominantly Dinka and backed by Ugandan troops, have been fighting a loose alliance of military defectors loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar, the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army-In Opposition (SPLA-IO), along with ethnic Nuer militia, since December 2013. Conflict was most intense in the first weeks, and has persisted throughout 2014 and 2015, periodically escalating. By November 2014, 50,000 people were thought to have died, although access restrictions make numbers hard to verify (ICG, 15/11/2014). Fighting is concentrated in Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile states.

In August, Machar and Kiir signed a peace deal, but fighting has continued, and Machar’s support has splintered, further reducing the likelihood of the deal putting a stop to the conflict (Sudan Tribune, 05/08/2015). At least seven ceasefires have been signed and broken since the civil war started (The Daily Star, 29/06/2015).

On 28 October, the Revolutionary Movement for National Salvation (REMNASA), based in Western Equatoria and set up in early 2015, officially merged with the SPLM-IO (Sudan Tribune, 28/10/2015).

Political developments

On 4 October, President Kiir announced the reorganisation of South Sudan into 28 states, from the current ten states, as of November. Breaking up the states may enable the SPLA to reduce the area controlled by supporters of the SPLM-IO. International sponsors of the deal (UK, USA, Norway) and SPLA-IO, have stated that the move may jeopardise the August peace agreement. Some groups aligned with the SPLA-IO have refused to lay down arms unless the division of states is reversed (Sudan Tribune, 01/11/2015; 21/10/2015).
Parliament voted to extend President Kiir’s term by three years in March, until mid-2018, cancelling elections (AFP, 24/03/2015).

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.

Border tensions

On 7 October, Sudanese and South Sudanese officials met to continue negotiations to finalise negotiations on borders and the disputed territory of Abyei (Sudan Tribune, 07/10/2015).

International military presence

The mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) expires on 15 December 2015. As of 28 February 2015, there were 11,669 uniformed UN personnel in the country. On 8 October, UNMISS forces were halted and physically assaulted by SPLA troops outside Wonduruba, Central Equatoria (UNMISS, 08/10/2015).

The Ugandan army, which has been supporting the SPLA, has announced that its forces will leave South Sudan by 1 November, as part of the August ceasefire agreement (BBC, 12/10/2015).

Conflict developments

Government forces have failed to retake any lost territory in Greater Upper Nile since June 2015 (ACLED, 31/08/2015; Small Arms Survey, 01/07/2015).

Clashes intensified in the first months of 2015, with significant escalation in March. In April, the capital of Unity state was transferred from Bentiu to Mankien, Mayom county (UNMISS, 15/04/2015). Violence then subsided in late June–July, as the rainy season reached its peak, and in August, peace talks and a ceasefire agreement kept fighting from intensifying. However, the ceasefire has been repeatedly broken by both sides in Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, and along the White Nile (Protection Cluster, 22/10/2015; IRIN, 09/10/2015; Sudan Tribune, 31/08/2015).

Between April and September, 1,000 civilians were killed in Leer, Mayendit, and Koch in Unity state; 1,600 women and children were abducted. This is more than the number of civilians killed and abducted across the country over more than a year. Witnesses have said the SPLA were the main perpetrators (UNHCR, Protection Cluster, 25/09/2015). On 29 September, the African Union announced the creation of a court to look into suspected war crimes in southern Unity (BBC, 29/09/2015).

Central Equatoria: Clashes are reported in Lainya county between government forces and an unidentified armed group. Vehicles have been attacked in late October. No injuries have been reported (UNHCR, 28/10/2015).

Unity: The SPLM-IO stormed government strongholds in Leer and Koch on 2 October. At least 150 people were displaced and 80 civilians killed. As of 22 October, clashes in Koch and Leer were ongoing (Protection Cluster, 22/10/2015; IRIN, 09/10/2015).

Upper Nile: In October, sporadic fighting and shelling around Malakal continues (IRIN, 12/10/2015). There has been intermittent fighting south of Malakal since 1 September (UNHCR, 18/09/2015).

Western Equatoria: On 12 October, 600 people were displaced from Mundri county, following clashes between the SPLA and an unknown armed militia (Sudan Tribune, 12/10/2015).

Inter-communal violence

Violence between communities is frequent, but underreported. 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 (UNHCR, Protection Cluster, 25/09/2015; IRIN, 15/01/2015). Between July and October, clashes in Unity, Central Equatoria, Lakes, Warrap, and Western Equatoria killed 140 people, and as many as 30,000 were displaced. Inter-communal clashes have also taken place in IDP camps (UNHCR, 08/2015; Sudan Tribune, 07/2015; 08/2015; Radio Tamazuj, 07/2015; 08/2015).

On 16 October, 92 deaths were reported and 144 people injured in fighting in Tonj East, Warrap state. The cause is unclear but cattle raids among Dinka are a likely motivating factor (Sudan Tribune, 16/10/2015). On 30 October, cattle raids in Bor county, Jonglei state killed 27 people and injured 11 (Miraya FM, 27/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

The delivery of aid is restricted by heavy fighting, logistical constraints, and
The delivery of aid is restricted by heavy fighting, logistical constraints, and administrative impediments. The rainy season and insecurity have forced humanitarian organisations to deliver aid via air drops. At least 250,000 people are without direct access to humanitarian assistance, mainly in Unity (Protection Cluster, 22/10/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Assault, burglary, harassment, arrest, and detention have all been reported in 2015. Crime targeting humanitarian actors increased in Juba in September.

On 26 October, a barge carrying fuel up the Nile to Malakal was seized. 20 peace keepers and 12 contractors working for UNMISS were captured. After being held, all were released as of 2 November. None of the fuel which was sized was released (UN, 29/10/2015; Reuters, 02/11/2015).

On 10 September, an aid worker was killed in an armed robbery at an NGO office compound in Juba (OCHA, 18/09/2015). In Unity and Upper Nile, threats against humanitarian staff and facilities are common (UNHCR, 02/10/2015; PI, 11/09/2015). Six have been killed in Unity since May 2015 (UNHCR, Protection Cluster, 25/09/2015). Overall, 34 aid workers have been killed since December 2013 (OCHA, 18/09/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

There reports of armed groups from the SPLA and SPLA-IO actively blocking aid reached people in central Unity (AFP, 30/10/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Flooding: Around 70% of South Sudan is inaccessible during the seasonal floods (August–October) (The Guardian, 27/03/2015). The floods are not expected to recede totally until January 2016, and physical access to Greater Upper Nile will remained restricted until then (FEWSNET, 2015). All roads in Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile are closed.

Roads in Western Equatoria, Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal, and Warrap states remain difficult, and are mainly only passable with the light vehicles. High river waters have blocked the Yambio–Nzara–Tambura road at Bo river post at the border of Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal (Logistics cluster, 01/11/2015).

Insecurity: The security situation in Unity, Jonglei, and Upper Nile remains volatile. A resurgence in fighting in Leer and Koch counties, Unity, and threats against staff have led to all humanitarian organisations have withdrawn as of 3 October. An estimated 250,000 people no longer have access to humanitarian assistance, although airdrops continue (Protection Cluster, 22/10/2015).

Humanitarian staff from several organisations have been evacuated from Katigiri, Central Equatoria (PI, 11/09/2015). In Central Equatoria, vehicles have been attacked in late October along the Yei road. No injuries were reported. May be linked to ongoing between government forces and an unidentified armed group. It is unclear if these attacks were targeted (UNHCR, 28/10/2015).

Insecurity in Western Equatoria in September limited WFP’s movement (WFP, 21/09/2015).

Armed groups blocked transport along the Nile on 26 October (Logistics cluster, 01/11/2015).

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 September 2015, around 2.27 million people have been displaced, both internally and to neighbouring countries, since December 2013 (IOM, 21/09/2015). Fluid displacement patterns and limited access to rural areas make numbers difficult to verify and registration problematic (UNHCR 18/09/2014).

IDPs

As of 22 October, there are an estimated 1.66 million IDPs in South Sudan. Around 877,000 are children (UNICEF, 22/10/2015). This is an increase of over 35,000 since 16 August (OHCA, 15/09/2015). Confirming the location of IDPs is difficult, but reports suggest that at least 463,000 are in Jonglei, 576,170 in Unity, 309,040 in Upper Nile, 120,070 in Lakes, 93,280 in Western Equatoria, 52,930 in Central Equatoria, 24,660 in Western Bahr el Ghazal, 8,910 in Eastern Equatoria, 9,400 in Abyei, and 1,920 in Warrap (OCHA, 08/10/2015).

Western Equatoria: On 12 October, 600 people were displaced by SPLA and opposition forces fighting in Mundri county (Sudan Tribune, 12/10/2015). 150 people were displaced from Leer and Koch in Unity by fighting between SPLA and SPLM-IO on 2 October (09/10/2015).
Unity: 18,000 people arrived at Nyal IDP camp in the first weeks of September, bringing the total camp population to 78,000. The new arrivals require nutrition assistance. 300 unaccompanied children were with the group (OCHA, 18/09/2015). 28,000 people have been displaced to Panyijar county. They are in need of WASH and shelter assistance (Radio Miraya, 29/09/2015).

Central Equatoria: Reports suggest that around 5,600 people have been displaced near Katigiri following fighting in the area in early September (PI, 22/09/2015).

Protection of Civilian sites

As of 12 October, 184,284 people are in UNMISS Protection of Civilian sites (PoCs). 107,649 are in Bentiu, 27,950 in Juba UN House, 45,462 in Malakal, 2,289 in Bor, 700 in Melut, and 234 in Wau (UNMISS, 12/10/2015). Overcrowding in Malakal PoC as resulted in a complete lack of shelter for some IDPs (IOM, 21/09/2015; MSF, 08/09/2015). People are beginning to leave in large numbers, perhaps to harvest crops, and because there has been a slight improvement in security conditions (UN, 14/10/2015).

There has also been a decrease in new arrivals. 95% of those who are still coming reported their displacement was due to food insecurity on 7 October, compared to 63% on 19 September. This may indicate that the displaced do not have land, or that their food stocks and crops have been destroyed or looted. 21% of new arrivals were from Koch county, 16% from Leer, 42% from Rubkona, and 17% from Guit (IOM, 07/10/2015; 21/09/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 30 October 265,700 refugees are in South Sudan (UNHCR, 30/10/2015). 235,000 are from Sudan, 15,500 from DRC, 4,900 from Ethiopia, and 2,040 from CAR. 101,203 refugees are in Unity, 134,435 in Upper Nile, 2,339 in Jonglei, 18,518, in Central Equatoria, and 9,725 in Western Equatoria (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

Most Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile state reside in four refugee camps in Maban county (OCHA, 03/04/2014).

As of 26 September, over 2,100 Sudanese refugees are being relocated to Lasu refugee camp from near Yei town in Central Equatoria. Lasu camp already has a population of 8,300, mostly refugees from DRC (UNHCR, 26/09/2015).

Over 69,919 refugees are in Yida, Unity state, although the number is fluid as people move across the border as safety and needs dictate. 14,589 have arrived since December 2014 from South Kordofan. The rate of new arrivals slowed to 251 in September (UNCHR, 07/10/2015; PI, 03/07/2015). The South Sudan government wants to close Yida camp and relocate refugees further from the border, Ajuong Thok: 15,954 refugees have been relocated since 23 December 2014. Local authorities have banned refugees from leaving camps in the Yida area to fish and farm, after tensions with host communities in June (UNHCR, 14/07/2015). Ajuong Thok’s total population is 31,284. Most live under plastic sheeting, which in many cases has been damaged by recent rainstorms (UNCHR, 16/10/2015; 07/10/2015). 101,203 refugees are in Unity, 134,435 in Upper Nile, 2,339 in Jonglei, 18,518, in Central Equatoria, and 9,725 in Western Equatoria (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

As of 16 October, 197,635 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since December 2013 (UNHCR, 30/10/2015). The Sudanese Government refuses to recognise them and instead considers them to be Sudanese citizens (UNHCR, 03/04/2014). UNHCR declared this constitutes an obstacle to accessing humanitarian assistance.

Ethiopia: 225,145 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 30/10/2015).

Uganda: 169,620 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 30/10/2015).

Kenya: 47,292 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 30/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

As of October, 3.9 million people in South Sudan are estimated to be experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3), Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) food security outcomes. This is a drop from the peak of 4.6 million during the lean season, before the harvests began, but is an 80% increase compared to the same period last year.

Large areas of the conflict-affected states of Unity, Jonglei, and Upper Nile are expected to remain in Emergency throughout the harvest period as food stocks have been depleted (FEWSNET, 27/08/2015). The 30,000 people in Catastrophe are in Unity state, in areas among the worst affected by the civil war. These people are likely to be among those who fled to the bush during the intensification of violence from April. ICRC reported in September that coping mechanisms are completely exhausted in Koch and Mayendit in Leer (ICRC, 12/09/2015). The situation in central Unity is likely to deteriorate without immediate humanitarian assistance (IPC, 22/10/2015). The government of South Sudan, however, asserts that the food security

South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries

-Nearly 90,000 South Sudanese have fled the country since the beginning of 2015, bringing the total of South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries to around 640,400. 68% are under 17 (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).

-Sudan: As of 16 October, 197,635 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since December 2013 (UNHCR, 30/10/2015). The Sudanese Government refuses to recognise them and instead considers them to be Sudanese citizens (UNHCR, 03/04/2014). UNHCR declared this constitutes an obstacle to accessing humanitarian assistance.

-Ethiopia: 225,145 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 30/10/2015).

-Uganda: 169,620 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 30/10/2015).

The government of South Sudan, however, asserts that the food security situation has improved in recent months (Reuters, 22/10/2015). IPC also reports a deterioration in the Greater Equatoria region due to market disruption, economic downturn, insecurity and localised crop failures. It is the first time it has ever reported such poor indicators for the Greater Equatoria region. 30% of the urban poor in South Sudan are also estimated to be in Emergency (IPC, 22/10/2015).

The impact of El Niño on food availability may be negative or positive. Heavy late rains may allow for earlier planting next season, but are also likely to increase post-harvest losses due to poor storage and poor market connectivity (WFP, 30/09/2015).

The lean season is over but high levels of trader uncertainty, fuel shortages, and economic crisis will continue to increase inflation through to November (WFP, 30/09/2015). The consumer price index was 58.7% higher in August 2015 than it was a year ago, and around 7% higher than in July 2015. Fuel costs continue to increase across the country. Bentiu (Unity), Kapoeta (Eastern Equatoria) and Bor (Jonglei) have suffered severe shortages of fuel (WFP, 31/08/2015). In September there was a general reduction in the nominal price of some cereals, mainly white sorghum, due to the effects of the green harvest.

Prices still remain at a five-year high (WFP, 30/09/2015). Compared to the same period in 2014, sorghum prices in Juba were 167% higher at the end of August, and 23% higher than in July. Similarly, maize prices were 158% higher than in 2014, and rice was 217% higher (FAO, 31/08/2015).

Food access

UNHCR reduced rations by 30% in August, starting in Doro and Gendrassa refugee camps (UNHCR, 15/08/2015). The reduction also includes Yida camp. Families hosting refugees are the most vulnerable to these reductions (UNHCR, 28/10/2015).

Due to conflict and erratic rainfall throughout August, planting in Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei (Greater Upper Nile) remains severely limited for the second consecutive year. Significant soil moisture deficits have affected crop yields, pasture is declining, and displacement has greatly reduced the total level of planting. In Western Equatoria, insecurity in June prevented planting. Eastern Equatoria has been affected by below-average levels crop yields due to erratic and poor rains since June (FAO, 29/10/2015; WFP, 30/09/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Malakal and Bentiu PoCs’ health services are overwhelmed and health indicators are deteriorating, largely due to overcrowding. The main hospital in Bentiu has reportedly run out of medical supplies (Sudan Tribune, 28/10/2015).

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 by conflict (international organisation, 24/07/2015). Malaria has reached epidemic proportions and over 40% morbidity (WHO, 11/09/2015).

Cholera

The current cholera outbreak began on 18 May in Juba PoC. 1,818 suspected cases and 47 deaths have been recorded nationwide as of 18 October. 1,622 cases and 45 deaths were in Juba. Incidence seems to be falling, with no new cases being reported 28 September–4 October. The case fatality rate is 2.58% (WHO, 18/10/2015).

Hepatitis E

Reports suggest that coping mechanisms are completely exhausted in Koch and Mayendit in Leer, Unity state (ICRC, 12/09/2015). People are consuming one meal per day compared to the typical two meals (WFP, 30/09/2015).

Livelihoods

Intensive and abnormal migrations have seriously depleted livestock health (FEWSNET 24/06/2015). Greater Equatoria and Greater Bahr el Ghazal have been particularly affected by disease outbreaks and cattle raids (FAO, 15/09/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Malakal and Bentiu PoCs’ health services are overwhelmed and health indicators are deteriorating, largely due to overcrowding. The main hospital in Bentiu has reportedly run out of medical supplies (Sudan Tribune, 28/10/2015).

The relocation of around 1,400 Sudanese refugees from Yei camp to Lasu camp has led to shortages in essential medicines (UNHCR, 28/10/2015).

Cholera

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In 2015, 1,823 cases of hepatitis E, including 22 deaths, have been reported: Bentiu PoC reported 61 cases between 5 and 11 October, bringing the total to 1,571 in Bentiu, including 14 deaths, with a case fatality rate of 1.3% (WHO, 04/10/2015). Bentiu PoC reported a slight increase from the 55 new cases during the week ending 5 October (WHO, 04/10/2015).

Malaria

Malaria has reached epidemic proportions. 46% morbidity was recorded among non-IDP consultations in the week ending 18 October, and 40% in IDP consultations (WHO, 18/10/2015). Bentiu hospital has reported as many as 200 cases of malaria a day at the peak of seasonal flooding (August–October) (Sudan Tribune, 28/10/2015). MSF reported that the total number of cases has tripled in Yida in two weeks, increasing from 200 on 6 September to 700 on 20 September (UNHCR, 01/10/2015). The number of malaria cases recorded per week in Malakal PoC in August was almost triple the figure recorded in June (MSF, 21/08/2015).

Outside 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).

Measles

In 2015, Bentiu PoC has reported 482 measles cases, including 14 deaths (CFR 2.98%), UN House Juba has reported 24 measles cases with no deaths, and Wau county, Western Bahr el Ghazal State has reported one case (WHO, 18/10/2015).

Nutrition

An estimated 4.1 million people are in need of nutrition assistance (OCHA, 15/10/2015). The national severe acute malnutrition rate is above the emergency threshold, at 2.6%. Global acute malnutrition (GAM) is at 13%. Many areas exceed the GAM emergency threshold of 15%. 647,000 children are believed to be acutely malnourished and an estimated 237,000 children severely malnourished (WFP, 24/10/2015; 30/09/2015; UNICEF, 27/10/2015).

Nutrition is a primary concern in the conflict-affected states of Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity. In Upper Nile, screening in September found 9.1% GAM and 2.8% SAM, with 24.8% GAM and 3.9% SAM in Jonglei. In Unity state, UNICEF has found GAM and SAM rates to exceed emergency thresholds throughout 2015. A rapid assessment in October in Mayendit town, Unity, found 22.6% GAM and 2.8% SAM (UNICEF, 22/10/2015; UNICEF, 10/09/2015; WFP, 22/10/2015). Before withdrawing in early October, MSF mobile clinics in Leer reported levels of GAM at 28–34% (MSF, 22/10/2015).

Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap states have recorded 17.6% and 24.2% GAM, respectively (WFP, 30/09/2015).

The worst malnutrition results have been recorded by a SMART survey carried out in Bentiu PoC in August: 34% GAM and 10.5% SAM (WHO, 04/10/2015; 13/09/2015). SAM rates are above the 2% emergency threshold in all PoCs, and GAM was higher than 15% in Malakal PoC (UNHCR, 02/10/2015). Initial reports suggest that new arrivals at Nyal IDP camp in Unity require nutrition assistance (OCHA, 18/09/2015). In Yida refugee camp, Unity state, 9.7% GAM was recorded, as well as 0.9% SAM, in September (UNHCR, 02/10/2015).

Pregnant and lactating women are among the most malnourished group, with an average 26.6% GAM recorded in IDP camps, and 29.8% among in Doro refugee camp (UNHCR, 18/09/2015).

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 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).

Most recent information for Melut, Bentiu, and Malakal PoCs shows water coverage at 11, 12.9, and 9 L/person/day, respectively (IOM, 22/07/2015; UNICEF, 23/10/2015). In Yida refugee camp, crude water coverage was 14 L/p/d. In Ajuong Thok refugee camp, 11.4 L/p/d was recorded (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).

Sanitation

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). In Yida refugee camp, crude water coverage was 14 L/p/d. In Ajuong Thok refugee camp, 11.4 L/p/d was recorded (UNHCR, 29/05/2015).

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).

Protection

Reports of torture, rape, censorship, and targeting of civilians are widespread. 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). In October, 50 cases of rape were reported during fighting in Leer and Koch county (OCHA, 28/10/2015). At least 1,300 women and girls were raped between April and September in Leer, Mayendit, and Koch in Unity state (UNHCR, Protection Cluster, 25/09/2015). Some were burned alive inside their homes after being raped. 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). There are over 900 unaccompanied and separated children in southern Unity (UNHCR, Protection Cluster, 25/09/2015). 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). 15,000 children have reportedly been recruited by armed groups since the beginning of 2014 (The Guardian, 28/10/2015).

Updated: 02/11/2015
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 in 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).

As of 17 October, Sudan has sent troops to join the Arab coalition ground forces in Yemen, currently aligned against the Houthis. The coalition is mainly composed of Saudi Arabian, Bahraini and United Arab Emirates (UAE) soldiers (Sudan Tribune, 17/10/2015).

**Sudan–South Sudan**

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 attacking locations in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile states, where more than 220,000 Sudanese refugees are living (AFP, 14/11/2014).

**Civil conflict**

Extensive military operations aimed to end armed opposition in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile began at the end of 2013.

While the SPLM governs the independent South Sudan, the SPLM-North continues to control areas in Sudan’s Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, which have routinely opposed government rule.

**Clashes between Ma’aliya and Rizeigat tribesmen in East Darfur**

Clashes between Ma’aliya and Rizeigat tribesmen in East Darfur caused more than 700 human fatalities during tribal conflicts in 2014. This year clashes between Rizeigat and Ma’aliya tribesmen have led to the deaths of at least 100 people. Humanitarian organisations reported that 24,000 families became displaced (Radio Dabanga, 27/10/2015).

On 20 August, President Omar al Bashir stated that his regime was willing to offer an amnesty to armed groups in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur who were willing to join the national peace negotiations, in addition to a possible two-month ceasefire. The SPLM-N allegations that government forces bombed their positions in South Kordofan on 13 September (Sudan Tribune, 13/09/2015). As of 18 October, the SRF declared a unilateral ceasefire with government forces. The ceasefire is planned to continue until 19 April 2015 (Sudan Tribune, 18/10/2015).

On 29 October, the SPLM-North clashed with government forces in Blue Nile. There have been sporadic clashes between government forces and SPLM-N since April 2015. It is unclear what impact these clashes have had on the ceasefire agreement signed in October (Dabanga Sudan, 10/10/2015).

**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).

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 gunmen 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).

Early migration of cattle due to poorer pasture in central Sudan means that arable land in Kassala and Blue Nile states is being crossed by livestock, increasing the risk of conflict between pastoralists and cattle farmers (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). Water shortages in the area have also exacerbated tensions (Radio Dabanga, 02/10/2015).

In North and South Darfur, reports of herders raiding farms, physical assault, and attempted rape have become increasingly common since late September. They have burned houses and destroyed crops (Radio Dabanga, 12/10/2015; 07/10/2015; 25/10/2015). In late October, an unknown number of people have been displaced and at least four people killed in clashes between Misseriya and Salamat tribes in Um Dukhun locality, Central Darfur, and another two tribes in Mellit, North Darfur (Radio Dabanga, 25/10/2015; 23/10/2015).

Inhabitants along Sudan–Ethiopia border are calling for a re-demarcation of the border. At least 28 Sudanese farmers have been killed by Ethiopian gunmen in a conflict over pastures situated on the disputed area of land. Ethiopian farmers are now cultivating land previously used by the Sudanese (Dabanga Sudan, 30/10/2015).

Darfur

Security in South Darfur is deteriorating. The frequency of robberies near IDP camps has been increasing (Radio Dabanga, 04/08/2015). On 27 September, UNAMID peacekeepers were attacked near Mellit, North Darfur, by an armed group. One peacekeeper was killed and four were injured (UN, 27/09/2015). On 19 September, an armed group attacked and looted villages in Kutum county, North Darfur, killing four (Sudan Tribune, 19/09/2015).

Natural disasters

Heavy rains and storms

On 25 October, flash floods reportedly affected an estimated 3,900 people in the villages of Shedib, Teljereib and Haya Red Sea state. 650 houses were damaged or destroyed. 100 cattle are reported killed. People are in need of shelter and WASH assistance (Sudan Tribune, 25/10/2015; Radio Dabanga, 26/10/2015).

On 6 October, over 3,000 displaced people were affected when 450 shelters in Deleig camp, Central Darfur, were damaged in heavy rains. Over 1,000 people were affected in the nearby village. Livestock were also killed and 170 farms were reportedly damaged (Radio Dabanga, 06/10/2015).

Throughout September, torrential rain affected 13,000 people in Blue Nile’s Ed Damazin and El Roseires localities (USAID, 30/09/2015). On 29 September, rains and heavy winds injured an unspecified number of people in Ed El Fursan, South Darfur, and destroyed 50 houses (Radio Dabanga, 02/10/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

There are a total of 3.1 million IDPs in Sudan, including 2.5 million in Darfur. 1.5 million of
Since January 2015, over 400,000 people have been displaced in Sudan. 23,000 IDPs have been displaced during 2015 in South Kordofan (IOM, 31/08/2015). As of 31 August, 173,592 IDPs displaced in 2015 were in Darfur (104,098 verified IDPs, 69,494 reported but not verified). 73% of displaced households in 2015 were female headed (IOM, 31/08/2015). Over 50,300 IDPs have reportedly returned to their place of origin in 2015 (OCHA, 31/08/2015). A total of 56,000 people remain displaced in Blue Nile, including new IDPs as well as relocated and recent returnees (OCHA, 31/07/2015). Displacement figures are similar to figures for the previous year, which saw the biggest displacement for a decade (OCHA, 31/12/2014).

IDPs reside in 46 camps and 68 settlements in Darfur (including 82,530 orphans and 52,350 sick and elderly), according to a survey conducted by the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) from December 2013 to April 2014. OCHA reported in June that government policy to prevent the creation of new camps is an obstacle to the verification and registration of IDPs (IRIN, 02/06/2015). The displaced in Darfur report insecurity as a major concern. Other concerns include lack of access to basic services such as water, food, shelter, and medicines (IRIN, 02/06/2015).

Jebel Marra: Up to 38,000 people were displaced between February and May by fighting between the government and armed groups. They have not been provided with any assistance since they were displaced (OCHA, 02/08/2015).

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 (OHCA, 25/08/2015). The displaced are in need of NFIs, shelter, health services, and psychological support (OCHA, 26/07/2015). An unconfirmed number of people were displaced during inter-communal fighting on 22 October in Mellit and by herder raids on Kutum locality (Radio Dabanga, 25/10/2015; 26/10/2015). An assessment found 4,350 IDPs Khor Abeche, South Darfur in need food aid (OCHA, 29/10/2015). There are reports that voluntary return programmes run by the government, targeting around 235,000 protracted IDPs living in Kass IDP camp, are putting pressure on the population to return, prioritising dismantling the camps rather than facilitating returns (Radio Dabanga, 22/09/2015).

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).

Refugees and asylum seekers

There are over 373,000 refugees in Sudan (OCHA, 29/10/2015). Nearly 198,000 are South Sudanese, most of whom have arrived since December 2013. This exceeds the original planning figure of 196,000 South Sudanese refugees (USAID, 16/10/2015). There are at least 112,000 from Eritrea and nearly 10,000 from Chad (UNHCR, 19/08/2015; OCHA, 16/08/2015).

From South Sudan

As of 16 October, 197,942 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since 15 December 2013: around 134,100 are children (UNHCR, 01/10/2015; UNICEF, 31/08/2015). 109,324 South Sudanese refugees live in White Nile (approximately 9,952 in the host community), 34,487 in Khartoum, 25,564 in West Kordofan, 374 in North Kordofan, 24,368 in South Kordofan, 3,661 in Blue Nile, and 164 in East Darfur (UNHCR, 20/10/2015). 91% of households are female-headed (UNHCR, 29/01/2015).

Nearly 5,000 South Sudanese refugees entered Sudan in August. The highest influx was recorded in South Kordofan, with 3,386 new arrivals. 1,158 arrived in West Kordofan, 243 in White Nile and 106 in Khartoum. The figures from South and West Kordofan remain fluid as people move in search of assistance and better livelihood opportunities (UNHCR, 16/10/2015). 7,000 refugees arrived in El Leri locality in September – their place of origin is unclear (18/10/2015). 2,496 displaced South Sudanese are living in the disputed area of
Abyei (UNHCR, 17/09/2015).

Most are women and children, and require food and shelter assistance (OCHA, 27/09/2015). Over 4,800 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Kharasana, West Kordofan (OCHA, 20/09/2015).

Sudanese 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 in Blue Nile state and in South, West and Central Darfur (WFP, 08/10/2015; 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). In 2015, there have been 131 security incidents affecting humanitarian workers in Darfur. These include abductions, armed attacks, carjackings, looting and theft (OCHA, 14/09/2015). 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 on human rights.

Access of affected populations to assistance

Jebel Marra in Darfur has been virtually inaccessible since 2010. This has resulted in approximately 47,600 people without access to assistance, including 1,700 IDPs who have not received any food rations since being displaced between March–June in West Jebel Marra, Central Darfur (OCHA, 20/09/2015; 31/08/2015). 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). Between 90,000 and 250,000 in SPLM–N areas of Blue Nile state and South Kordofan are without access to humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 31/09/2015).

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. Areas with the highest proportion of people in crisis food security outcomes include non-government areas in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and areas of Jebel Marra, as well as the IDP population in South Kordofan and Darfur (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015; OCHA, 27/09/2015). Some areas in North Darfur, South Darfur, Central Darfur and Kassala are in IPC phase 3 (OCHA, 29/10/2015).

WFP in September found 23,000 displaced people who had relocated to Ed Damazin, El Roseires, and Bau localities, Blue Nile state and were in need of food assistance. Food insecurity was cited as the main reason for displacement. In September, they were reported to be receiving food and water from the host community (OCHA, 11/10/2015).

Food availability

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). There is risk of a 30–50% crop loss in some areas (OCHA, 29/10/2015).

Food access

The areas that remain the worst affected by food insecurity are those affected by conflict, which prevents food distribution. Newly displaced households and IDPs without access to humanitarian assistance are facing Crisis food security outcomes (IPC, 01/07/2015). 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).

Conflict has disrupted cultivation and livelihood activities, contributing to the increase in the sorghum price, which rose by 290% in central South Kordofan and 585% in West Jebel Marra between June and July 2015. Access to markets in these areas remains severely constrained (OCHA, 27/09/2015). However, outside of these areas, sorghum and millet remain 29% lower in August 2015 than prices in 2014 (GIEWS, 29/09/2015; FEWSNET,
Communities’ ability to cope has been depleted in South Kordofan, but those frequently affected by conflict and displacement are reportedly pre-positioning supplies in case of displacement or damage by aerial attack. Cross-frontline trading is believed to continue (PI, 03/07/2015).

Health

5.2 million people are in need of health assistance (OCHA, 28/10/2015). There are indications that the health situation in Darfur is deteriorating; many have no access to healthcare, and malaria is a particular concern (Radio Dabanga, 28/07/2015). In White Nile refugee camps, acute respiratory infections and malaria are the main cause of people seeking consultations, together making up nearly half of visits (OCHA, 04/10/2015). As of 7 October, the health ministry has reported an outbreak of 323 suspected cases of whooping cough in El Sireaf locality. The outbreak is believed to have begun in early September (OCHA, 11/10/2015).

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 (OCHA, 30/08/2015).

On 13 October the Minister of Health reported that the maternity mortality rates have increased in Darfur since 2006, due to the rise of urinary fistula cases, particularly in West and South Darfur. A fistula is an abnormal opening between two organs. A urinary fistula results in the constant flow of urine due to an opening between the bladder and vagina. It usually occurs when a woman goes through a obstructed labour without appropriate medical care (Radio Dabanga, 15/10/2015).

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). Deaths recorded in Murnei IDP camp, West Darfur and North Darfur’s Saraf Umra locality have been reported as being linked to a lack of funds to purchase medicines (Radio Dabanga, 29/09/2015; 03/09/2015).

In East Darfur, a health clinic in Labado has no medical staff. This has left 13,500 refugees without any access to health assistance (OCHA, 04/10/2015).

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).

Nutrition

Two million people are in need of nutrition (OCHA, 28/10/2015). 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. GAM rates above 25% are recorded in the three North Darfur localities of El Sireaf, Ailliet, Dar El Salam, and Kalimendo (OCHA, 04/10/2015). 22.7% GAM and 3.4% SAM has been recorded in Kutum locality among host and IDP communities (OCHA, 04/10/2015).

500,000 children are severely malnourished in Darfur, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan
Among localities with IDPs, where 20% of the population face severe consumption 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).

There is no humanitarian access to Thur and Golo in the north Jebel Marra, but nutrition screening of newly displaced children and pregnant and lactating women has found global acute malnutrition (GAM) exceeding emergency thresholds (15%) at 17.3% and SAM exceeding critical thresholds at 3.8% (OCHA, 30/08/2015).

**WASH**

3.8 million people are in need of WASH facilities (OCHA, 28/10/2015). 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 in nine people do not have access to a clean water supply (Kimse Yok Mu, 24/06/2015). 75% of drinking water in South Darfur has been declared unsafe by government officials (Radio Dabanga, 17/09/2015). All refugee camps, except Dabat Bosin, are below the standard of 20L of water per person per day (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

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).

UNICEF and the Government of Sudan have reported that 3,300 IDPs in Mosey camp, in Nyala, South Darfur, have experienced a severe lack of water service since August (OCHA, 11/10/2015).

**Sanitation**

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

**Shelter and NFIs**

Three million people are in need of shelter and NFI assistance (OCHA, 28/10/2015). 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**

3.1 million of 7.9 million children aged 5–13 are out of school in Sudan (OCHA, 27/09/2015). 1.9 million are of primary-school age (UNICEF, 14/04/2015). The highest percentages of non-attendance are in Blue Nile (47%), Kassala (45%), and West Darfur (46%) states (OCHA, 13/09/2015). Schools are frequently used as shelters for IDPs (UNICEF, 30/06/2015). 70% of school closures are due to insecurity on the route to school (Education Cluster, 13/10/2015).

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).

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).

**Protection**

3.5 million people are in need of protection (OCHA, 28/10/2015). 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. 19 victims of abduction and cases of arrest and torture were also reported in the same month (SUDO, 31/07/2015). In October, Sudanese intelligence has been accused of threatening the coordinator of Saraf Umra IDP camps to stop him reporting to local media or UN agencies (Radio Dabanga, 07/10/2015).

**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). Rape of IDPs by pro-government militia was frequently reported by local media in North, South, and Central Darfur and Jebel Marra in 2014. Over the past year, 49 women are reported to have...
been raped in Tabit, North Darfur (Dabanga Sudan, 31/10/2015).

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: 02/11/2015

CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

23 October: Insurgents belonging to Boko Haram briefly seized Kerawa, a town in the Far North region, on the border with Nigeria, of approximately 50,000 inhabitants. The insurgents reportedly withdrew as the Cameroonian army arrived (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- 92,658 IDPs in Cameroon, mostly displaced by Boko Haram attacks in Far North region (UNHCR, 26/10/2015; ECHO 21/10/2015).
- 314,000 refugees (OCHA, 10/10/2015).
- 1.23 million people are reported to be food insecure; 230,000 are in severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or 4) (OCHA, 10/10/2015; 24/09/2015).

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. 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. 1.8 million are in need of the most basic assistance and protection.

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 then the number spiked, with over 120 people killed and 280 injured between 13 July and 11 October (ACLED, 27/07/2015; BBC, 03/09/2015; Amnesty International, 16/09/2015; OCHA 21/10/2015). Amnesty International estimates at least 380 civilians and dozens of security personnel have been killed since January 2015 (Amnesty International, 16/09/2015). On 23 October, Boko Haram briefly seized Kerawa, a town of approximately 50,000 inhabitants in the Far North region, on the border with Nigeria. The insurgents reportedly withdrew as Cameroonian army arrived (AFP 23/10/2015). In the two weeks up to 28 September, BH carried out four attacks in the Far North: in Kolofata, Mora, Kerawa, and Gouzoudou; there have been continuous incursions and an increased frequency of attacks in the departments of Mayo Sava and Logone et Chari (OCHA, 28/09/2015).

National authorities have prohibited public gatherings in Far North region (UNICEF 21/10/2015). 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).

Stakeholders

Boko Haram

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 activity of Boko Haram in Cameroon has intensified in the past months, with an increased number of attacks, killings and kidnappings. As of 16 September, between 3,000 and 4,000 Cameroonians are estimated to have joined the insurgent group (Amnesty International, 16/09/2015).

Cameroonian Army

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). 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).

Multinational Joint Task Force

A proposed Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF), which would bring at least 8,700 forces from Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin under a common command, is yet to be deployed (AFP, 15/10/2015).

United States

On 14 October, the United States announced plans to deploy 300 soldiers to Cameroon to conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations to help counter Boko Haram violence (AFP, 14/10/2015).

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 significant displacement, especially in Logone-et-Chari department (UNHCR, 04/09/2015). On 11 October, a double suicide bombing in Kangaleri village killed 11 people and wounded at least 39 (WHO, 11/10/2015). Suicide attacks in September in the Far North region killed at least 42 and injured over 120 people (OCHA, 12/10/2015).

Central African Republic

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).

Displacement

Cameroon hosts 92,658 IDPs, as well as over 314,000 refugees, mainly from Nigeria and Central African Republic (UNHCR 26/10/2015). 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 all (FAO, 11/12/2014).

IDPs

92,658 people are internally displaced in Cameroon. Of these, around 81,700 were displaced by Boko Haram attacks in Far North region (UNHCR, 26/10/2015; ECHO 21/10/2015). 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.

36,000 IDPs have returned to their place of origin after being affected by flooding in June and July (OCHA, 23/09/2015)

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 10 October, the number of registered refugees in Cameroon is reported to be over 314,000 (OCHA, 10/10/2015).

Central African Republic: 256,255 refugees from CAR are reported to be in Cameroon as of 21 October. The majority are located in the East and Adamawa regions and are still in need of life-saving and protection assistance (UNHCR 21/10/2015; UNICEF 21/10/2015). Over 135,000 have arrived since December 2013, while those arrived in Cameroon before then were 124,958 (UNHCR, 07/09/2015). Many refugees have not been registered. Only 10% of UNHCR’s response plan for CAR refugees in Cameroon was funded as at 13 October (UNHCR, 13/10/2015).

Nigeria: At 26 October, 62,861 Nigerian refugees were registered in Cameroon (UNHCR, 26/10/2015). More than 57,000 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). 11,490 refugees have returned to Nigeria in 2015, mostly in August (UNHCR, 11/10/2015).

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). Cameroon has decided to increase deportations of undocumented migrants, leading to a surge in registration (USAID, 21/08/2015). Cameroon authorities forcibly repatriated around 15,000 Nigerians between the end of July and the end of August (IRIN, 21/08/2015).

Minawao camp (Mayo-Tsanaga), with a planned capacity for only 15,000, is currently hosting 47,009 people (UNHCR, 30/09/2015; 26/10/2015). As of 6 September, 20,088
new arrivals had been recorded in Minawao camp since January (UNHCR, 13/09/2015). Insufficient policing and lack of psycho-social support are reported (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). 15,100 are located in Logone-et-Chari, and 746 in Mayo-Tsanaga. Unknown numbers are in Mayo-Sava and Diamare (UNHCR, 12/10/2015).

Refugee returnees

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

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 (USAID, 21/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Over one month after the usual end of the lean season, 1.27 million people are reported to be food insecure, representing an 18% increase since January. Around 230,283 are in severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or 4) (OCHA, 10/10/2015; 24/09/2015; FAO 27/10/2015).

In Far North region, food insecurity has spiked in recent months, to affect one in three people: WFP estimates that 360,000 people are moderately to severely food insecure, facing Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phases 2 and 3) food security outcomes, in the Lake Chad basin areas of the Far North (UN, 14/09/2015; WFP, 14/10/2015). According to WFP, famine will be unavoidable in 2016 if IDPs cannot go home and cultivate their farmland (UN Human Rights Council, 29/09/2015). Maize prices have increased by 24% since January (FAO 27/10/2015).

Food availability

A recent EFSA assessment found that 32% of displaced people, and 22% of local populations in North and Far North regions, have exhausted their food stocks, with the proportion of households depending on humanitarian assistance rising from 6% in 2014 to 33% in 2015 (FAO 27/10/2015).

Livelihoods

According to an assessment conducted by WFP, security constraints are limiting land access for over 60% of farmers in North and Far North regions (FAO 27/10/2015).

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). In Far North medical facilities lack equipment and qualified personnel to meet needs. 25 health facilities have closed because of increased insecurity, and around 85,500 people are without health services (OCHA, 21/10/2015).

Limited capacities of public health infrastructure around Minawao camp are reported (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

Cholera

New cholera cases and related deaths were reported in the Far North region (UNICEF 21/10/2015).

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). According to UNICEF, global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates exceed 12% in Cameroon (IRIN, 11/09/2015).

As of 30 September, around 69,865 children are reportedly suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (UNICEF 21/10/2015). 840 SAM cases have been reported among Nigerian refugees in Minawao camp, and 8,500 among CAR refugees (OCHA, 05/09/2015; 17/09/2015). 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 Logone et Chari, Far North, 62% of the population has no access to drinking water and an additional 319m³ per day are needed to fill the existing gap. Over 8,000 households throughout the department need WASH kits and NFIs (OCHA, 24/09/2015).

220 water access points and 43 water pumps need repair or replacement across 62 host communities in Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Tsanaga in the Far North (ICRC, 13/10/2015).

As of 31 August, in Minawao camp, the ratio of water provision was 17 litres/person/day. Water trucking provides 58% of the water supply. 2,269 emergency latrines are operational (UNHCR, 24/09/2015).

Education

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

In Minawao camp, there are only 24 classrooms for 18,000 children, so only 50% of primary school-aged children are enrolled. Lack of teachers and non-enrolment in the country of origin are also affecting the school attendance. 6,000 school kits are needed (UNHCR, 24/09/2015; OCHA, 24/09/2015).

Protection

Children

Approximately 1,500 children have been abducted by Boko Haram in Cameroon since late 2014 (AFP, 04/06/2015).

As of July, families hosting IDPs reported to be facing food shortages were using children to find food, which exposed them to dangers such as sexual exploitation and abuse (UN Human Rights Council, 29/09/2015).

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: 28/10/2015

**CHAD FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

20 October: Local authorities are planning to relocate displaced populations from spontaneous sites in Kousseri, Kafia, and Dar es Salaam after Boko Haram suicide attacks hit an IDP camp in Kousseri on 10 October (OCHA).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- At least 52,000 people have been internally displaced in Lac region since 21 July (OCHA, 20/10/2015)
- 378,604 refugees are in Chad, including 296,359 from Sudan, 66,228 from CAR, and 14,163 from Nigeria (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).
- 3.4 million people are food insecure: 403,000 people are severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or 4) (OCHA, 31/08/2015; 17/09/2015).
- 154,000 severely malnourished children (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

**Politics and security**

Conflicts in Nigeria and Central African Republic have affected stability in Chad: hundreds of thousands of refugees have entered the country. Chadian troops have been instrumental in military operations against Boko Haram (BH); the capital Ndjamenaserves as headquarters for a regional anti-Boko Haram force. Chad also hosts 3,000 French troops, deployed to tackle the increasing insecurity in the Sahel region (Reuters, 11/07/2015).

**Boko Haram**

Boko Haram (BH) launched its first cross-border attack in Chad in February and carried out over 14 attacks on civilians and soldiers in Lac region in the months until July (ACLED, 07/2015). Three suicide attacks in Ndjamenaduring June and July killed a total of 39
Displacement across Lac region is characterised by a high level of mobility, making it difficult for humanitarian responders to track populations (OCHA, 20/10/2015). In October, 19 spontaneous IDP sites were identified across Lac region, in Baga Sola, Bol, Daboua and Liwa. Baga Sola hosts the largest population, with around 24,000 IDPs living in eight sites, four of which are official (OCHA, 20/10/2015). WFP has reported significant population movement between sites and home villages for economic reasons (OCHA, 20/10/2015).

The displaced are living in 19 spontaneous sites and face urgent shelter, food, WASH, and health needs (OCHA, 07/10/2015). After one of these sites – Kousseri – was attacked on 10 October, local authorities announced plans to relocate IDPs and refugees from Kousseri, Kafia, and Dar es Salaam sites. The humanitarian community has raised concerns about the plans (OCHA, 20/10/2015).

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).

Recently, 300 Cameroonians were expelled, 60 suspects arrested and a cell was dismantled in N'djamena (ICG, 01/07/2015). Security measures have been reinforced, and 395 people of 14 nationalities were arrested in July (UNHCR, 14/07/2015). Ten BH members were executed at the end of August (The Guardian, 30/08/2015). As of October, continuing Boko Haram attacks and military operations against them continued to induce large-displacement (OCHA, 07/10/2015).

A proposed Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF), which would bring at least 8,700 forces from Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin under a common command, is yet to be deployed (AFP, 15/10/2015).

Recent security incidents

On 10 October, three explosions blamed on BH and reportedly carried out by groups of female suicide bombers killed 43 and wounded 60 in Lac region (OCHA, 12/10/2015). One hit a busy market in central Baga Sola; the other two hit Kousseri refugee camp on the town’s periphery, where 7,300 displaced people live (AFP, 11/10/2015; BBC, 10/10/2015).

The population of 23 villages on islands around Litri were displaced areas near Ngouboua and relocated by the military after successive BH attacks on 22, 23, and 29 September (UNICEF, 30/09/2015).

Two BH attacks in late September on Bikaram village in the southern Lac region resulted in damaged houses, stolen food stocks, and widespread displacement (OCHA, 05/10/2015).

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). Recent displacement is mainly caused by the Boko Haram conflict in the Lac region to the west, and the CAR conflict to the east.

IDPs

Lac region has witnessed two waves of displacement. Between January and June, 11,000 Chadian were internally displaced in Lac region, while over 11,000 returned from Nigeria to escape BH (OCHA, 20/10/2015). In a second wave since 21 July, at least 52,000 people are estimated to have been displaced (OCHA, 20/10/2015).
Large numbers of Chadians have returned from neighbouring countries due to conflict, including around 130,000 from CAR and 100,000 from Libya (OCHA, 27/08/2015). The BH conflict in Nigeria has forced almost 12,000 Chadians to return since January 2015 (OCHA, 20/10/2015). 3,400 returnees from Nigeria are living in Dar al Nahim site, near Dar es Salaam (OCHA, 20/10/2015). Additionally, there are between 5,000 and 15,000 unregistered returnees (ECHO 27/07/2015). As of end August, around 75,000 Chadians had returned to the country since January 2015 (OCHA, 21/08/2015).

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 (Al Jazeera, 13/05/2015). As of September 2015, the border remained closed (US Government, 30/09/2015).

Along the border with Nigeria, Chadian security forces are screening road users and their property (AFP, 30/04/2015). The border remains de facto closed due to BH violence (UNICEF, 23/10/2015). 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 access issues are reported in Lac region. OCHA reports severe access constraints in the north and south of Lac region. Over 8,000 IDPs living in Ngouboua, Daboua, and Liwa in the north, and Nguelea in south, are not accessible to humanitarian actors. 12 sites in Boi and Bagasola were accessible in October, but assistance was suspended after attacks hit Kousseri site on 10 October (OCHA, 20/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Improved food availability since the September harvest began has lifted most of the country into Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity levels (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). At the peak of the lean season, 3.4 million people in Chad were food insecure (OCHA, 31/08/2015), including at least 403,000 severely food insecure people (IPC Phase 3 or 4) nationwide (OCHA, 17/09/2015). Large refugee influxes from Sudan, CAR, and Nigeria put additional pressure on local food supplies (FAO, 13/10/2015).

Refugees from CAR and displaced populations in Lac region remain heavily reliant on food assistance. 40,000 out of at least 52,000 newly displaced in Lac region since July are in urgent need of food assistance, including 20,000 without rations and 20,000 whose rations have been exhausted (OCHA 20/10/2015). 400,000 people affected by displacement in the Lac region are estimated to be moderately to severely food insecure (IPC Phases 2 and 3) (WFP, 14/10/2015).

Food availability

Improving growing conditions after rainfall followed by near-average harvests mean food prices have largely stabilised across the country (GIEWS, 06/10/2015). In Lac region, where conflict and lower seasonal rainfall have weakened harvests, food access has improved to a lesser extent, meaning that overall the area remains in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security (UNICEF, 23/10/2015; FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

Livelihoods

The closure of the Nigerian border due to Boko Haram violence continues to impede trade and livelihoods in western Chad (UNICEF, 23/10/2015). Income generation has suffered as exports have been reduced and cattle prices have fallen (UNICEF, 30/06/2015; OCHA, 29/09/2015). Livelihoods have also been affected by decreased inflows of remittances from family members in Libya due to conflict (IFRC, 30/05/2015).

Health

Due to the influx of refugees, there is a need to strengthen healthcare in host communities and to recruit more qualified medical personnel (UNHCR, 06/03/2015). In Lac region, several new mobile health clinics are needed to provide access to primary healthcare for at least 14,500 people in Koudouboul, Melia Kalidar, Tagal, and Kanembou spontaneous sites. 8,000 newly arrived IDPs in Daboua and Liwa require health assistance (OCHA, 20/10/2015).

Mental health

Mental health needs in the Lac region are reported to be high and rising, due to widespread violence and displacement (MSF, 27/08/2015).

Nutrition

Global acute malnutrition in Chad reached 22.5% in September, in part because of the displacement caused by Boko Haram in Lac region (VOA, 10/09/2015). 154,000 children are estimated to suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in Chad in 2015, with an additional 257,000 facing moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) (OCHA, 17/09/2015). Although improvements in nutrition are expected by November as seasonal food availability increases, the number of hospital admissions due to undernutrition between January and August was 23% higher than the same period last year (UNICEF, 23/10/2015; MSF, 16/10/2015).

112,000 people are food insecure within Mamdi department of Lac region, including 5,300 facing severe acute malnutrition. Chronic malnutrition also is affecting nearby
Kanem and Bahr el Gazel regions of western Chad (OCHA, 20/10/2015). At the beginning of September, 9,503 children were facing severe acute malnutrition in Lac region (OCHA, 07/10/2015). In Dar es Salam site, 12.3% of children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Other spontaneous sites, in Kaya, Koudouboul, Melia Kalidar and Kanembou, remain to be screened (20/10/2015).

WASH

Displaced populations in Lac region are in urgent need of WASH assistance.

Water

As of the end of August, only 5% of displaced people in Lac region are reported to have access to safe drinking water (MSF 20/08/2015; IASC 21/08/2015). At least 27,418 new IDPs have no access to water, including 13,494 in Melida Kaliday and the Kanembou site alone (OCHA, 07/10/2015; 20/10/2015). 49.8 litres/person/day is reported in the Dar es Salam camp at 7 September (UNHCR, 16/09/2015).

Sanitation

Almost 90% of IDPs in Lac region do not have access to latrines and 52% have no access to hygiene promotion activities (OCHA, 20/10/2015). According to UNICEF, more than 1,000 latrines are needed (UNICEF, 30/09/2015). Approximately 38,000 new IDPs are yet to receive from sanitation assistance (OCHA, 20/10/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

90% of IDPs in Lac region have not received shelter support, leaving approximately 50,000 people in need of assistance. Seven inaccessible spontaneous sites in Daboua and Liwa, where some 7,900 IDPs live are in need of essential household items (OCHA, 20/10/2015).

24,000 displaced people are reported to be in need of shelter and essential household items in 16 sites in Bol and Bagasola, and on the Meli-Bol axis (OCHA, 11/09/2015).

Education

In Lac region, 14,000 school aged children are in need of education assistance (OCHA, 20/10/2015).

Protection

Children

73 unaccompanied children and 116 separated children are recorded in Dar es Salaam camp, where almost 8,000 Nigerian refugees are living (OCHA, 20/10/2015).

Gender

A ban on wearing full faced veils has been in place since June attacks in Ndjamena sparked fears that female suicide bombers were concealing explosives under their garments (BBC, 10/10/2015).

Documentation

Profiling and registration of the displaced in Lac region has not yet reached all spontaneous sites, making identification of needs challenging (OCHA, 07/10/2015). There are major registration needs in Dar es Salaam village, where IDPs from the Dar al Nahim site have dispersed (OCHA, 20/10/2015).

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: 29/10/2015

DJIBOUTI DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 26/10/2015. Last update: 16/10/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

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

Displacement

Conflict in Yemen has led to displacement from Yemen to Djibouti since March, in particular to Obock. As of 7 October, 28,389 people have arrived, including 4,095 registered refugees, 1,879 returnees, 14,839 Yemeni nationals and 11,671 third-country nationals (IOM, 09/10/2015; UNHCR, 06/10/2015).
An estimated 12,000 will need humanitarian aid, mainly health assistance, protection and shelter, by the end of 2015 (IOM, 05/10/2015). Djibouti was already hosting more than 27,000 refugees from Somalia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea (UNHCR, 01/01/2015).

Between 29 September and 8 October, 1,844 Yemenis arrived in Obock. This is a huge increase given that the average registration in July and August was between 10 and 20 individuals per week. There is an urgent need for shelter (UNHCR, 09/10/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

4,095 new arrivals from Yemen, of which 3,915 are Yemenis, have been registered as refugees since March (UNHCR, 09/10/2015). 1,540 are in Markazi camp in Obock. The rest live in Obock town or Djibouti city (UNHCR, 12/09/2015; 06/10/2015). Refugees have left Markazi camp because of the poor conditions. It is remote, humanitarian access is limited, the food and health situation is critical, and protection risk factors are present, for instance long distances between dwellings and latrines (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).

As of mid-August, 12,763 refugees and 2,614 asylum seekers from Somalia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea were living in Djibouti, mainly in Ali-Addeh and Holl Holl refugee camps (UNICEF, 13/08/2015).

Other

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).

Food security and livelihoods

As of September, 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 are likely to persist through December (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

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

Limited livelihood opportunities, inadequate humanitarian assistance, and few available coping mechanisms have reduced food access (FEWSNET, 28/08/2015).

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).

Updated: 26/10/2015

ETHIOPIA FOOD INSECURITY

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KEY CONCERNS

- Up to 8.2 million people are estimated in need of food assistance as drought continues. The nutritional situation is deteriorating (ECHO, 09/10/2015).

- 733,000 refugees, mainly from Somalia, South Sudan, Eritrea, and Sudan (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

- Some 303,000 severely malnourished children are thought to require nutritional support; an increase of 14% since February (Government, 24/08/2015). An additional 700,000 moderately malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women are expected to need assistance in the last quarter of 2015 (OCHA, 28/09/2015).

OVERVIEW

The majority of refugee camps have reached full capacity, and main concerns include overcrowding, malnutrition, and critical shortfalls in humanitarian aid. Most of the refugees in Ethiopia have been there for years, but assistance remains necessary.

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. 7.7 million people are estimated in need of food assistance as of September 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**

**El Niño – drought**

This year’s El Niño is causing severe drought in Ethiopia, which is affecting a much larger geographic area and population in northern and central highlands than the 2011 drought (OCHA, 19/10/2015). Far below average rainfall during both the March–May and July–September rainy seasons has led to very dry conditions (FEWSNET, 24/08/2015). Areas affected by drought are seeing water and pasture shortages. They include southern Tigray; eastern Amhara; Afar; Sitti zone of Somali region; eastern SNNPR; and East and West Hararge, Arsi and West Arsi, and Lower Bale zones of Oromia (OCHA, 13/10/2015). Afar region is most severely hit, and pastoralists are particularly affected (WFP, 07/10/2015). Livestock deaths have been reported across north-central and eastern Ethiopia (NOAA, 07/10/2015). At least 211,000 people are affected in Oromia and SNNPR (OCHA, 03/08/2015; FEWSNET, 24/08/2015; All Africa, 29/09/2015).

**El Niño – floods**

Heavy rainfall in southern Ethiopia late October has caused rising water levels in the Shabelle river. Additional forecasted heavy rains increases the risk of flash floods (NOAA, 22/10/2015). Heavy rainfall is likely through January in the south and southeast, and above-normal rainfall could also lead to floods in northern, northeastern, and central areas (government, 09/10/2015).

On 22 October, flooding occurred along the Shabelle river bank in East Imy kebele, displacing 700 households (3,500 people) from Diray kebele to East Imy town (OCHA, 26/10/2015).

**Displacement**

As of June, more than one million people are displaced in Ethiopia, including refugees, IDPs, and returnees. The majority of refugees are from Somalia, South Sudan, and Eritrea, and are mainly staying in camps in Gambella, Dolo Ado in Somali region, and Shire in Tigray. Many have been displaced for more than a year. 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 are mainly displaced by conflict and flooding in Somali, Gambella, and Oromia regions.

**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. 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 September, Ethiopia hosts some 733,000 refugees, mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan. The majority are staying in camps in Gambella, Dolo Ado and Shire (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). 36,733 refugees arrived in the first six months of 2015 (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

**South Sudan:** There are over 287,000 South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR, 09/10/2015). As of October, 28,715 South Sudanese refugees have entered Gambella region since December 2014, bringing the total of South Sudanese refugees in Gambella to 277,696. 67% are children. Women make up 71% of the adult population. 11,174 refugees are in Benishangul-Gumuz region near Assosa (UNHCR, 23/10/2015).

The number of new arrivals continues to decline, with 803 registered in September, compared to 3,760 in August, and 7,260 in July, the highest number so far in 2015 (UNHCR, 23/10/2015). As of mid-October, on average 35 refugees arrived per day, through Pagak, Akobo, and Burbiey entry points (UNHCR, 16/10/2015). The majority are fleeing generalised violence and food insecurity in Jonglei and Upper Nile states.
The majority of South Sudanese are staying in camps: 62,624 are in Pugnido, 52,624 in Tierkidi, 47,825 in Kule, 47,853 in Jewi, and 7,597 in Okugo. 43,486 people are staying with host communities (UNHCR, 23/10/2015). Relocation to a new camp, Pugnido II, has started. The camp is expected to accommodate more than 75,000 people (UNHCR, 21/08/2015). Around 10,000 people who were staying with host communities in Wanbowa woreda have been relocated to Pugnido and Pugnido 2 camps (UNHCR, 14/10/2015).

Somalia: As of 31 August, there are 248,894 Somali refugees in Ethiopia. Most are located in Dolo Ado camps (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Between January and August 2015, 4,394 new refugees arrived. The number of new arrivals reached 525 in August, the highest monthly total since March (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Eritrea: As of July, 139,039 Eritrean refugees are registered in Ethiopia, 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 onward 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).

Yemen: As of 15 October, 3,673 refugees and asylum seekers have arrived from Yemen, including 992 Yemenis, and 2,515 Somalis and several people of other nationalities who were previously registered as refugees in Yemen (UNHCR, 15/10/2015).

Refugee returnees

As of 15 October, 8,114 Ethiopian nationals have returned from Yemen (UNHCR, 15/10/2015). Some people have been injured in the conflict, and many are in need of transport and shelter (IOM, 26/05/2015; 23/07/2015). 55% of returnees and refugees from Yemen are female, and 66% are children (UNHCR, 13/10/2015).

Ethiopian refugees in neighbouring countries

As of 7 July, there were 31,023 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya (UNHCR, 07/07/2015). 4,172 Ethiopian refugees are in South Sudan as of 31 August (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Results of a mid-September assessment indicate the food security situation has deteriorated further, with 8.2 million people estimated to be in need of assistance, compared to 4.5 million in August (ECHO, 09/10/2015). This is a dramatic increase from 2.9 million projected in February (government, 18/08/2015). Due to continued drought related to El Niño, relief food needs are highly likely to double in 2016, to around 15 million (OCHA, 28/09/2015; ECHO, 09/10/2015). The 2016 lean season will start early in many areas, and in some places households could reach Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes in April (FEWSNET, 27/10/2015).

Sitti zone in Somali region, and southern Afar are worst affected, where 954,000 people are facing Crisis or Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes as of September, due to high livestock mortality and reduced food access. Poor milk productivity is leaving poor households without access to milk as a source of food or income (FEWSNET, 23/09/2015).

Even with humanitarian assistance, poor households in belg-dominant areas in SNNPR, northeast Amhara, southern Tigray, and central and eastern Oromia will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes from October to December (FEWSNET, 14/08/2015; 24/08/2015).

Food availability

A delayed belg harvest extended 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).

Crop growing conditions were favourable during the June–September kiremt rains in western Oromia and western Amhara, but a prolonged dry spell in eastern Amhara, eastern Oromia, and Tigray in July had a negative impact on crop development (FAO, 13/10/2015). Many sorghum and maize crops have wilted in eastern Amhara, Tigray and Oromia (FEWSNET, 24/08/2015).

The meher harvest (October–January) is expected to be below average, with up to 89% reduction in areas worst affected by drought, including Kobo woreda of North Wollo, Amhara region (OCHA, 19/10/2015).

Food access

Prices of staple foods such as lentils have increased by up to 73% in Addis Ababa, and livestock prices are decreasing, with declines of 80% reported in Somali region, compared to the same time last year (OCHA, 30/09/2015). Poor households in southeastern and southern pastoral areas do not have enough income to pay for essential non-food expenses. In southern Shebelle and Afder 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

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The poor kiremt rains in June–September have worsened availability of pasture and water in Afar and northern Somali region, and deteriorated livestock body conditions (FAO, 13/10/2015). An estimated 200,000 livestock have died so far in 2015, and this number is expected to double in the coming year (OCHA, 30/09/2015). In Sitti zone, Somali region, 75% of livestock resources have been lost (ECO, 09/10/2015). 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).

Health

Malaria incidence rates are high in all Gambella refugee locations, including entry points and transit centres. Highest rates are reported in Kule (46.8/1,000 persons/day) and Pagak (41.8/1,000 persons/day). The rainy season contributed to an increase in malaria in August (UNHCR, 01/09/2015). Diarrhoea and other water-related diseases have decreased in Gambella after the rainy season subsided in September (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

Nutrition

Acute malnutrition is rapidly increasing. In Sitti zone of Somali region, 40–69% GAM and 9–20% SAM was found among IDPs, in an MoH nutrition screening (ECO, 09/10/2015).

142 ‘priority one’ woredas were identified in August, an increase from 97 in May. 273 additional high-priority woredas risk deterioration if there is no intervention (OCHA, 14/09/2015). The priority areas are mostly in Afar, Oromia and Amhara regions (OCHA, 04/06/2015). As of late August, 42% of the priority one woredas are not covered by nutrition interventions (OCHA, 14/09/2015).

As of August, 302,600 children are expected to suffer from SAM in 2015, a 14% increase from February projections (Government, 18/08/2015). Between January and August 2015, the number of SAM admission was 27% higher than in the same period in 2014 (government, 19/10/2015; OCHA, 19/10/2015). In August, more than 43,000 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases were admitted for treatment across the country, compared to 31,700 in July, which was 50% higher than in July 2014. The number of admissions has reached levels higher than those reported in any month of the 2011 drought (OCHA, 13/10/2015; 07/09/2015; Nutrition Cluster, 17/06/2015). In Oromia, SAM admissions increased dramatically by 68% from July to August. The majority of cases were reported in East and West Hararge and Arsi zones (government, 19/10/2015).

Moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) has also doubled compared to last year, with 374,000 cases admitted into supplementary feeding programmes in the third quarter of 2015. The situation will deteriorate further, with 700,000 MAM cases expected to be in need of assistance in the last three months of 2015 (OCHA, 28/09/2015).

Refugees

In Afar region, the nutrition situation has deteriorated in two camps. In Barahle, GAM is at 22.9%, compared to 16% in 2014. In Aysaita camp, GAM increased from 17.2% in 2014 to 19.8% in 2015 (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

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 trucking activities are ongoing in areas of southern Afar and Sitti zone in Somali region, but many households still do not have adequate access to water sources (FEWSNET, 23/09/2015). Water shortages continue in parts of Oromia region. Many 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).

The water supply in most camps in Gambella is below the UNHCR standard of 20L per person per day: 10L in Jewi, 16L in Tierkidi, Kule, and Pugnido, 18L in Pugnido 2, and 21L in Okugo (UNHCR, 16/10/2015). In Pagak entry point, 20 L/p/d is available; an improvement since early September (UNHCR, 02/10/2015). Water supply in Barahle and Aysaita camp in Afar is at more than 20L per person per day (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

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, 01/09/2015).

Education

Households affected by food insecurity cannot afford to send their children to school, as they are struggling to meet their food needs (OCHA, 05/10/2015).

In Gambella camps, only 45% of the school-aged population is attending school. Attendance rates are worse among girls than boys, at 39% and 50%, respectively. Primary education enrolment averages 66%. Worst attendance rates are reported in Jewi (43%) and Pugnido (54%). Secondary education enrolment averages 11%, and is only reported in Okugo (8%) and in Pugnido (12%) (UNHCR, 01/09/2015).

Protection

Between January and August 2015, an estimated 200,000 livestock have died so far in 2015, and this number is expected to double in the coming year (OCHA, 30/09/2015). In Sitti zone, Somali region, 75% of livestock resources have been lost (ECO, 09/10/2015). 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).
Children

There are more than 73,170 unaccompanied and separated minors in Ethiopia. Unaccompanied Eritrean children in Shire are of particular concern, due to their large numbers (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). 20,982 unaccompanied and separated South Sudanese children are in Gambella (UNHCR, 09/10/2015).

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KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

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LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

22–28 October: Cattle rustling and border conflicts along the Meru–Isiolo border have left at least six people dead. Residents set up road blocks in protest (Kenya Daily Nation).

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).

Conflict developments

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; 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).

In September, Kenya launched a 90-day security operation in Lamu county. It aimed to force Al Shabaab out of Boni forest, from which it has previously launched attacks. Households in the area had to vacate their lands (Kenya Daily Nation, 21/09/2015).

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–November 2014, indicating that the situation has since deteriorated. Reasons for the increase in violence include population growth, of both people and livestock, and the availability of small arms. The northern Rift Valley and northeastern regions are most affected: Turkana, Baringo, Samburu, Marsabit, Meru and Isiolo counties. Conflict occurs particularly between the Pokot and Turkana communities, and the Samburu and Turkana (OCHA, 04/08/2015; 31/11/2014). Scarcity of water and pasture is a key driving force for conflict between

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 challenge stability in a country, where institutions are perceived to be weak.

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Conflict developments

Al Shabaab-related violence

33 incidents of Al Shabaab-related violence have been recorded since January 2015, killing at least 240 people. About half of the events, and the majority of deaths, were incidents of violence against civilians (ACLED, 24/10/2015). 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 Garissa in April 2015, 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; Kenya Daily Nation, 18/08/2015).

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communities in Marsabit, Moyale, Garissa, Isiolo, and Wajir counties (Reuters, 22/09/2015).

Cattle rustling and border conflicts between Meru and Borana communities along the Meru–Isiolo border have left at least six people dead since 22 October. Hundreds of livestock were stolen. People set up roadblocks in protest against the conflict (Kenya Daily Nation, 28/10/2015; 22/10/2015).

In Mandera county, attacks using explosives and grenades continue in Mandera town and Lafey Road. One attack in July killed 14 people and injured 11 (KIRA, 23/09/2015).

Natural disasters

Drought

Dry conditions are reaching into Lake Victoria region in western Kenya. There are concerns about the availability of moisture for pastoral and cropping activities (NOAA, 21/10/2015). There is a high risk of drought across Samburu county, with parts already facing severe drought. Water is scarce, particularly in lowlands, where water sources have dried up. In Meru county, dry conditions in September have led to a significant decrease in river levels, especially in agropastoral livelihood zones. Water shortages in Isiolo are increasing the risk of drought and depleting pasture (government, 30/09/2015).

Displacement

Kenya’s refugee population is among the largest in the Africa, with nearly 600,000 refugees as of 1 September. The large majority have fled conflict in Somalia and South Sudan, and have been living in camps for several years. In 2015, 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).

In Mandera county, 6,275 households (over 50,000 individuals) remain affected by an escalation of inter-clan conflict in March 2014. The majority are living in camps in Mandera North and South. Hosts and IDPs have similar needs, due to the use of negative coping strategies. Priorities are food, water, shelter, and NFIs (KIRA, 23/09/2015).

3,000 people are staying in makeshift camps after leaving their houses due to ongoing security operations in eastern Lamy county (Kenya Daily Nation, 21/09/2015).

As of 1 October, Kenya is hosting 593,530 refugees and asylum seekers. 222,800 are in Dadaab, 182,310 in Kakuma, 126,680 in Alinjugur, and 61,740 in Nairobi (UNHCR, 10/10/2015).

From Somalia: As of 9 September, 420,670 Somali refugees are in Kenya. 6,206 new refugees have been registered since January 2015 (UNHCR, 09/09/2015; 11/09/2015). 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 camps, 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 27 September, 4,339 returnees had arrived in Somalia (UNHCR, 27/09/2015).

From South Sudan: Kenya hosts 91,967 South Sudanese refugees as of 14 October. 46,728 have arrived since mid-December 2013 (UNHCR, 19/10/2015). 5,678 have registered since January 2015 (UNHCR, 29/09/2015). They are mainly living in Kakuma camp. 64% are children (UNICEF, 05/02/2015). The trend of daily arrivals remains low, with the weekly average around 100 (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).

On 19 June, land for a new camp in Kalobeyei, some 20 km 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 was hosting 184,527 refugees as of 25 June, which far exceeds its capacity of 125,000. 50% of Kakuma camp’s residents are South Sudanese (UNHCR, 26/06/2015; Reuters, 20/06/2015).

From other countries: 7,797 refugees from Burundi are mostly living in Kakuma camp. The majority arrived before the electoral violence in Burundi that began in 2015 (UNHCR, 11/09/2015). 23,091 refugees from DRC are in Kenya, including 5,040 who have registered since January 2015 (UNHCR, 11/09/2015; 30/06/2015). 30,832 Ethiopian and 10,328 Sudanese refugees live in Kenya (UNHCR, 11/09/2015).

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).

A threat of kidnapping and hostage-taking persists in certain areas. On 12 October, a local staff member of an NGO was abducted on the road between Dadaab town and Hagadera camp, but rescued several days later from inside Somalia (UNHCR,
Access of affected populations to assistance

More than 3,000 people affected by ongoing security operations in eastern Lamu county had not yet received any assistance as of 21 September. They have vacated their houses and are staying in makeshift camps (Kenya Daily Nation, 21/09/2015).

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

1.1 million people are acutely food insecure. Contributing factors include poor distribution of and below-average rainfall, the cumulative effects of three consecutive poor rainy seasons, high food prices, crop pests, livestock diseases, conflict in pastoral areas, and human-wildlife conflict in areas bordering game reserves. Areas most affected by food insecurity include northwestern and northeastern pastoral areas, and southeast marginal agricultural areas (IPC, 31/08/2015).

In northern Isiolo and western Wajir, drier conditions and low milk production mean households will continue to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes throughout October. The situation will improve by December, as the October–December short rains are forecast to be above average. However, though rangeland resources will increase, most households will still face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) conditions in December. Flooding from October–December could worsen food security conditions, and affected households may reach Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

In most pastoral areas and southeastern and coastal marginal agricultural areas, October–December rains will improve the situation, but the majority of pastoral areas will remain under Stressed (Phase 2) conditions (FEWSNET, 27/08/2015; 27/10/2015).

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, 26/10/2015; 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).

Livelihoods

Little pasture is available in lowlands of Samburu county. Milk production and consumption have decreased. Pasture quality and quantity have also decreased in Meru county, resulting in unseasonal livestock migration and in-migration of livestock from Isiolo county, where livestock body conditions worsened in September compared to August. In Kinna and Kumulawe, livestock deaths have been reported (government, 30/09/2015).

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 ten counties (IFRC, 22/09/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Access to healthcare in counties affected by insecurity is limited by the closure of hundreds of health centres, 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. In Kakuma camp, the number of consultations per clinician is more than 100 per day, far above the Sphere standard of 50 per day (UNHCR, 14/10/2015). In Kambioos and Ifo camps in Dadaab, 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, of which ten still have active transmission (IFRC, 22/09/2015). As of 11 September, 6,529 cases and 131 deaths have been reported since December 2014 (Red Cross, 02/10/2015). 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, with 14 reported cases, including one confirmed, as of 11 September (UNHCR, 11/09/2015).

The need to contain the outbreak is of special concern, because floods are expected in the coming months due to El Niño (ECHO, 20/10/2015).

Nutrition

Nearly 240,000 children were estimated to be acutely malnourished in Kenya as of August, an improvement compared to previous months. Global acute malnutrition (GAM) exceeds the 15% emergency threshold in Mandera, Marsabit, Turkana, and Wajir counties (USAID, 30/09/2015).

Among conflict-affected populations in Mandera, global acute malnutrition was 24% as of late September, and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) 4.1% (KIRA, 23/09/2015).

Malnutrition levels are rising in West Pokot county, 12% GAM is far above the normal 7.5% at this time of the year. Nutritional status is also deteriorating in Kajiado county, with 13.2% GAM in September, compared to 9.8% in July (government, 30/09/2015).

WASH

As of 14 October, Kakuma 4 camp residents have access to an average of 17.3L of water per person per day – below minimum standards. In Dadaab, water supply is at 23.5 L/p/d (UNHCR, 11/09/2015; 14/10/2015).

The latrine:user ratio in Kakuma is at 1:14, which is better than the minimum standard of 1:50 (UNHCR, 11/09/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter

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).

80,000 children are without access to education due to the absence of 1,600 teachers in conflict-affected counties (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 security forces mistreating Somali refugees in operations to confront Al Shabaab (BBC, 01/06/2015).

Gender

In Dadaab, 533 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were reported between January–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

16,442 unaccompanied minors have been registered among the refugee population (UNHCR, 11/09/2015). In Kakuma camp, the number of separated and unaccompanied children is 15,645 (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).

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).

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MALAWI FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
**19 October:** 150 Mozambicans have entered Malawi since mid-October as the conflict over the disputed Mozambican elections intensifies refugees (VOA).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 2.8 million people are estimated at risk of food insecurity between October 2015 and March 2016, owing to the combined effect of floods and drought (Oxfam, 30/09/2015, FEWSNET, 29/09/2015).

- Maize production in the current agricultural season has yielded 2,898,123 metric tons, representing a 28% deficit (VOA, 19/08/2015).

- 100,000 people are living in 131 displacement sites as a result of January floods (UNICEF, 05/08/2015).

**Natural disasters**

**Floods**

A 0.6% decrease in GDP is expected for 2015 because of flood damage at the beginning of the year (Government, 18/06/2015). More than 1.1 million people were affected, and 106,000 remained displaced in October; the southern districts of Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe, and Zomba were most affected (UNICEF, 07/10/2015; ICRC, 17/07/2015). 1,220km of roads and 185 bridges were damaged or destroyed (Government, 18/06/2015).

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

In October, around 106,000 displaced people were still being hosted in temporary sites in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts (UNICEF, 07/10/2015).

**Refugees and asylum seekers**

21,768 refugees and asylum seekers are in Malawi, mostly from DRC, Burundi, and Rwanda. They live in Dzaleka camp in Dowa district in central Malawi, or among host communities (UNHCR, 05/2015). **150 Mozambicans have entered Malawi since mid-October as the conflict over their disputed 2014 elections intensifies. Malawi already hosts around 800 Mozambican refugees. The refugees are staying in Kapise II camp and mainly need health, WASH and NFIs (VOA, 19/10/2015).**

**Food security and livelihoods**

The food crisis is expected to be the most severe in a decade: 2.8 million people are estimated to be at risk of food insecurity between October 2015 and March 2016 as a result of the combined effect of floods and drought (Christian Aid, 30/09/2015; Oxfam, 30/09/2015, FEWSNET, 29/09/2015). 25 of 28 districts are already affected (Red Cross, 05/10/2015; UNICEF, 07/10/2015). Households affected by flooding are considered particularly vulnerable.

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). Maize production in the current agricultural season is at 2.9 million metric tons, representing a deficit of 27.7% (VOA, 19/08/2015; FAO, 13/10/2015). Nut production has reduced by 21%, and rice production by 13% compared to the previous year (Red Cross, 05/10/2015).

**Food access**

Food prices continue to rise as more households rely on purchases for food needs. Average maize prices will be about 50% above the three-year average from October through December (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). 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).

**Health**

The long distance to health facilities (over 3km) is a challenge in more than half of IDP sites (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015).

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 had been admitted for treatment for severe acute malnutrition by July 2015 (UNICEF, 27/09/2015).

**WASH**

Some 2,990 boreholes and six water treatment plants have been damaged or destroyed by
floods (Government, 18/06/2015).

Shelter and NFI

523,350 houses have been damaged or destroyed by floods, making this the largest recovery need (Government, 18/06/2015).

Education

508 schools have been damaged or destroyed by the floods (Government, 18/06/2015).

Protection

Reports of rape and cross-border trafficking between Malawi and Mozambique are a concern (Government/UN, 07/04/2015). 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: 26/10/2015

MALI CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Municipal and regional elections scheduled for 25 October have been delayed, due to insecurity and a lack of administration in northern regions. The elections were meant to reassert the government’s authority in the north – the state lost control of the north in 2012, after Tuareg groups from the northern region known as Azawad began a campaign for greater autonomy, and a separate coup d'état further destabilised the country (AFP, 22/09/2015). The fragile alliance between Tuareg and Islamists was quickly broken, and Islamists took control of key northern cities. Civilian rule was re-established in mid-2013, with the aid of French and African Union troops. A UN mission, MINUSMA, was set up, but Mali continues to face security and political challenges. Limited access to basic social services and the poor capacity of public administration are key drivers of the crisis.

The Algiers peace agreement was signed in May–June by the government and the Azawad Movement Coalition (AMC), which comprises the main Tuareg armed groups operating in the north. Gaps in the agreement regarding the recognition of Azawad territory have been considered a possible risk for future violence, particularly as there are concerns that both parties do not have absolute control over their forces (ACLED, 10/07/2015). The main Islamist armed groups operating in the country were excluded from the peace negotiations.

While the intensity of violence is much lower than at the peak of the insurgency in 2012, sporadic attacks by Islamist militants continue to hamper security, after a spike in attacks following the Algiers peace agreement. Every province has reported at least one attack in 2015. In addition to the northern provinces of Kidal, Gao, and Timbuktu, security incidents have been reported in the central regions of Mopti and Segou since January, and more recently in the south. Trends indicate that violence is increasingly directed at targets in the south, and is mainly targeting security forces and foreigners, including civilians and international forces (ACLED, 10/07/2015).

Stakeholders

Tuareg armed groups

The AMC, comprising the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), the High Council for the Unity of Azawad (HCUA), and the Arab Movement of Azawad (MAA), has been the main actor carrying out attacks in northern and central regions. They strive for more autonomy of the territory they call Azawad, which includes Timbuktu, Gao, Kidal, and parts of Mopti.

Pro-government armed groups

Several mainly ethnic Tuareg armed groups opposing the AMC are organised in the Platform Movement. The government has some, limited, authority over these groups. One of the main actors in the Platform is Gatia, which has been involved in multiple clashes with the AMC in the central and northern regions.
Islamist armed groups

The Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), which split from Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in 2011, and Ansar Dine are among the main Islamist groups active in Mali. Their attacks mainly target pro-government and international forces.

The focus has mostly been in the north, but since June, several attacks have been carried out in the south. Since 2015, the Macina Liberation Front (MLF), a Fulani Islamist group linked to Ansar Dine, has claimed several attacks. Between January and September, around 30 people were killed in central Mali in attacks claimed by the MLF (AFP, 23/09/2015; 08/08/2015; 11/08/2015).

International armed forces

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 increased since mid-August 2014 (AFP, 21/09/2014). 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). Most have been carried out in Gao, but some in Timbuktu, Mopti and Kidal regions. MINUSMA has recorded the highest number of fatalities of any UN peacekeeping mission, since its establishment in 2013 (SIPRI, 28/09/2015).

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

AMC and the Platform Movement signed an agreement on 15 October to cease all hostilities. The ceasefire follows conflict over control of Anefis town in Kidal region, in August and September (MaliWeb, 19/10/2015; 02/09/2015; AFP, 19/09/2015). Following the peace deal, UN peacekeepers have lifted a secure zone around Kidal town it had imposed previously (Reuters, 27/10/2015).

Civilians, as well as international and Malian armed forces, continue to be targeted by armed group attacks. Occasional attacks, sometimes claimed by Islamist armed groups, including Ansar Dine and MLF, continue in northern and central regions. On 24 October, three civilians were killed in an explosion near Tessalit, Kidal region. Two UN peacekeepers were injured in another mine explosion as they approached the site of the incident (UN, 26/10/2015). On 13 October, at least six people were killed in a suspected Islamist attack involving rockets in Tassgilat, Timbuktu region. Two others were wounded. No group has claimed responsibility (AFP, 13/10/2015). On 9 October, three civilians were killed in Dounapen, Mopti, close to the border with Burkina Faso. Several others were injured. The attack was attributed to an Islamist armed group (AFP, 09/10/2015; Le Figaro, 09/10/2015).

Displacement

More than 60,000 people are internally displaced 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 have been displaced since mid-2013, when the number of IDPs and refugees reached its peak. People have gradually returned, particularly IDPs, though increased insecurity brought a new surge in internal displacement in April–May 2015. Those who have returned are often still in need of assistance.

IDPs

There are 61,920 IDPs in Mali as of 17 September; this is a decrease of more than 16,000 since July. Timbuktu region currently hosts 26,500 IDPs, compared to more than 42,000 in July. Goundam district hosts 9,400 IDPs, 5,300, and Gourma Rharous 4,400 (IOM and government, 17/09/2015).

Outside Timbuktu region, IDPs outside are mainly staying in Gao (12,000), Bamako (8,500), and Kidal (5,200) (IOM and government, 17/09/2015).

Nearly 400,000 IDPs have returned home. They are often still in need of assistance, as general conditions in the north have deteriorated. Infrastructure and houses have degraded due to a lack of maintenance (IOM, 03/08/2015; OCHA, 08/10/2015).

Refugees in Mali

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

Returnees

As of 30 September, 16,610 Malian refugees have returned from neighbouring countries. The majority returned in 2014. Since January, around 1,500 people have returned (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

Malian refugees in neighbouring countries

There are 137,319 Malian refugees in neighbouring countries (OCHA, 08/10/2015).

As of October, 52,880 Malian refugees are in Niger, and 51,880 are in Mauritania. Burkina Faso hosts 34,020 refugees (UNHCR, 17/10/2015; 30/09/2015; 31/08/2015).
Humanitarian access

In August and September, nine incidents limiting humanitarian assistance were reported in Mopti, Timbuktu, and Gao. Nearly 80% were related to violence against personnel, goods, and infrastructure (OCHA, 30/09/2015). Up to July, 56 incidents affecting humanitarian access were reported in 2015. 40% were incidents of violence directed at humanitarian personnel or goods and 32% resulted from military operations. The majority (76%) were directed at INGOs, 16% at UN agencies. Most incidents involved armed groups, often unidentified. 22 incidents were reported in the whole of 2014 (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Insecurity due to the presence of armed groups continues to hamper access to populations in need in Segou, Mopti, Gao, and Timbuktu regions. In Segou, localities north of Niono are particularly hard to access. In Gao, Gao–Gossi, Gao–Intillit, Gao–Ansongo–Menaka, and Gao–Bourem–Anefis are most affected by insecurity (OCHA, 15/09/2015).

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).

Food security and livelihoods

Until September, populations in the north were facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes, following increased availability of crops and animal products and stable market prices (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). From October onwards, households in all parts of the country face Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity, thanks to the October harvest (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Livelihoods

Insecurity has led to reduced access to grazing grounds for animals in the north, and a number of farmers have abandoned their farms for fear of attacks by armed groups (IRIN, 04/09/2015).

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, Hausussa in Niafunke (Timbuktu region) and the north of Youwarou (Mopti region), thanks to the presence of humanitarian assistance (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Health

More than 2.2 million people are thought to be in need of health services (OCHA, 08/10/2015).

Malaria

The sharp increase in malaria cases reported in early October has ended. In the week to 22 October, 7,653 cases and two deaths were reported in the northern regions, a significant decline from the 11,369 cases reported the week before. Still, incidence rates remain seasonally high, as the end of the rainy season approaches (government, 22/10/2015; 16/10/2015; ECHO, 07/10/2015).

Nutrition

2015 has seen an increase in SAM cases compared to 2014. As of early October, 96,121 SAM cases had been reported, which is already a more than 30% increase from the planning figure for the whole of 2015. Over 530,000 children are expected to suffer from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). WFP has suspended 50% of its assistance for MAM treatment due to funding shortfalls (ECHO, 06/10/2015).

Higher SAM rates are reported in all regions, but particularly in Timbuktu, Segou, Koulikoro, and Mopti (ECHO, 06/10/2015). A nutrition emergency was declared in Timbuktu in September, with GAM 17.5%. This is a significant increase from the 14.8% reported in the same period in 2014 (OCHA, 30/09/2015).

In Segou region, 106,000 children were acutely malnourished in September, with GAM at 11.2%. In Mopti, GAM is 10% and 85,000 children are malnourished. In Gao, GAM is 11.5%, corresponding to 26,400 children suffering from acute malnutrition (OCHA, 15/09/2015). In Koulikoro, GAM is at 13%, including 2% SAM (MaliWeb, 02/09/2015).

WASH

Water supply

In Timbuktu, 310,000 people do not have regular access to drinking water. 278,000 people lack access to drinking water in Gao, 746,000 in Segou, and more than one million in Mopti (OCHA, 15/09/2015).

Education

281,690 children in Mali are in need of education (OCHA, 10/06/2015).

As of mid-September, 454 schools across 60 communes in Gao, Kidal, Mopti, Segou, and Timbuktu were not operating. Some have been closed since 2012, others closed due to the deterioration of the security situation in 2015. In Kidal, no schools were officially open in the 2014–2015 school year. In conflict-affected areas, teachers were not teaching due to fear of being targeted by violence. In the three northern regions there is a shortage of at least 590 teachers compared to the pre-crisis level (OCHA, 30/09/2015).

Protection
Nearly 550,000 people are estimated to be in need of protection (OCHA, 08/10/2015). The increase in Islamist violence in recent months increases protection concerns. Though national and international security forces are often targeted, transportation for civilians and for commerce purposes also face an increased risk (UNOHCHR, 19/10/2015).

Mines and ERW

The number of casualties from explosive remnants of war (ERW) has decreased considerably in 2015, but improvised explosive device (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). 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).

Politics and security

Insecurity has been rising in Niger and across the region due to crises in Nigeria, Mali, and Libya. Threats from Boko Haram (BH), Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, and the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) are of concern. Authorities in Niger declared a state of emergency for a 15-day period in October, imposing a curfew and restricting movement of goods and people in Diffa region. Similar security measures were in force from February to September (Reuters, 14/10/2015; OCHA, 19/10/2015).

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). A proposed Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF), which would bring at least 8,700 troops from Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin under a common command, is yet to be deployed (AFP, 15/10/2015). Military operations and regular BH attacks across Diffa region have driven frequent evacuations and displacement of populations (UNICEF, 16/07/2015; OCHA, 11/09/2015).

Elections

The first round of presidential elections is scheduled for 21 February 2016, coinciding with legislative elections. Relations between the ruling party and the opposition have been 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). In August, 30 opposition parties, civil society organisations and labour unions formed a coalition, including key rivals of President Issoufou: Hama Amadou (former parliamentary speaker); Seyni Oumarou (former prime minister); and Mahamane Ousmane (former president) (AFP, 18/08/2015). In October, Amadou Boubacar Cissé, leader of the UDR-Tabbat (Union for Democracy and the Republic) party, both a former prime minister and former planning minister in Issoufou’s government, announced his candidacy for presidential elections (RFI, 25/10/2015).
Recent incidents

BH has conducted 57 attacks on civilians in Diffa region since February (Reuters, 14/10/2015). On 28 October, 13 people were killed and three injured in an attack on Ala village (AFP, 28/10/2015). On 4 October, five civilians and a police officer were killed in two explosions (AFP, 04/10/2015). Two attacks in September killed 17 (Reuters, 25/09/2015). In July and August, at least 24 were killed in three separate attacks (Reuters, 27/08/2015; AFP, 18/07/2015, 10/07/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

Floods in seven central and southern regions between late July and September killed 25 people and affected at least 87,037. 6,607 homes have been destroyed. Dosso and Zinder were among the worst affected regions (OCHA, 22/09/2015, 30/09/2015).

Displacement

There are 66,400 IDPs in Niger, at least 94,152 Nigerian refugees, and 52,879 refugees from Mali (Government, 05/08/2015; UNHCR, 30/09/2015). 41,169 people have returned to Niger in the wake of increased BH violence in the region (Government, 05/08/2015; OCHA, 17/09/2015).

Boko Haram crisis

The BH insurgency has triggered large-scale displacement in northeast Nigeria and is increasingly threatening citizens on and around Lake Chad, including in Niger, Chad, and Cameroon (UNHCR, 24/09/2015). At least 94,152 Nigerians were seeking refuge in Niger’s Diffa region in August (Government, 05/08/2015).

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). 457,000 people are estimated to be moderately to severely food insecure after harvests and livelihoods have been disrupted by insecurity (WFP, 14/10/2015).

34,000 people remain displaced from islands around Lake Chad after they left in May. 8,267 are in Kimengaga site in Nguiimi and 3,081 are in Kablewa camp (UNHCR, 17/09/2015; 30/09/2015). An additional 6,289 are at a site in Assaga, and 1,239 are in Sayam Forage camp (UNHCR, 17/09/2015; WFP, 05/09/2015).

Mali crisis

As of 30 September, 52,879 Malian refugees are in Niger (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). 3,612 have arrived in 2015; over half are in camps and a quarter are in reception centres, with the remainder living in urban areas (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). 14,750 Malian refugees are in Intikane camp, and 13,658 in Abala camp in Tillabery region. 62% of refugees are children (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

A curfew and restrictions on movement have been imposed on Diffa after a state of emergency was declared in October (Reuters, 14/10/2015). UN humanitarian staff face restricted movement in Diffa after an increase in insecurity in September (UNICEF, 30/09/2015). Access to displaced populations in Bosso department is restricted, with its southeastern part nearly inaccessible (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). As of September, UNICEF report difficulties accessing health facilities in Bosso department (UNICEF, 30/09/2015). On 17 August, WFP launched air operations to Lake Chad and other hard-to-access areas (WFP, 31/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Niger faces recurrent food insecurity. At the height of the May–September lean season, 2.7 million people were estimated to be food insecure and in need of food assistance (OCHA, 30/09/2015, 10/10/2015). Strong rains since July have eased food insecurity to Minimal and Stressed levels (IPC Phases 1 and 2) across the country, except in Diffa region where insecurity is keeping people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). Overall, the food security situation in October is positive, due to the provision of humanitarian assistance, widespread cereal availability, stable prices, and good prospects for ongoing harvests (Afrique Verte, 21/10/2015).

Food availability

In most agricultural zones of Niger, conditions have improved since July after good rains, although 32 villages in Diffa were unable to sow because of insecurity (OCHA, 30/09/2015). As at 30 September, seasonal rainfall was up to 50% above average, driving an advanced level of growth on key crops, including millets, sorghum and cash crops. Cereal availability is above average across the country, including in Agadez, Zinder, Maradi, Tillabery and Dosso (Afrique Verte, 21/10/2015).

Food access

Insecurity driven by BH continues to limit food access in eastern Niger (FEWSNET, 27/10/2015). In Diffa, 457,000 people are estimated to be facing Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phases 2 and 3) food security outcomes (WFP, 14/10/2015). In the rest of the country, prices on key cereals were generally stable or lower than in 2014 and five-year averages (Afrique Verte, 21/10/2015).
Livelihoods

Niger households face severe depletion of assets and high levels of indebtedness (FAO, 13/10/2015). In Diffa region, insecurity and poor rains in 2014 have particularly affected the livelihoods of households growing pepper and maize in the valleys of Lake Chad and Komadougou Yobe River. Other activities in the south of Diffa, particularly fishing and the sale of fish around Lake Chad, have stopped entirely (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015).

Health

Healthcare availability and access

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 in Diffa town, 45km away (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). Incidences of malaria and diarrhoea were reportedly increasing among the displaced and refugee populations during the rainy season (MSF, 21/08/2015).

Cholera

51 cholera cases have been recorded in 2015 (OCHA, 10/10/2015). There is a risk that cholera outbreaks in Nigeria and Cameroon could spread to Niger (UNICEF, 29/09/2015).

Measles

5,546 measles cases, including at least 14 deaths, have been recorded in 2015 in all eight regions of Niger (OCHA, 10/10/2015). 60% of cases have been in Zinder region (OCHA, 12/08/2015; UNICEF, 31/05/2015).

Nutrition

As at 10 October, 250,123 children have been admitted for SAM treatment in 2015. 368,114 SAM cases are expected by the end of the year (OCHA, 10/10/2015). Tillabery, Maradi, Zinder and Diffa regions are worst affected (UNICEF, 30/09/2015). Admissions are 10% lower than the same period in 2014, although higher than average figures for July and August point to a worrying trend (UNICEF, 30/09/2015). Diffa continues to face poor nutrition outcomes. In September, 13,672 children suffering SAM had been treated out of an expected 2015 caseload of 24,438 (UNICEF, 30/09/2015).

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).

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). In particular, recent arrivals in Assaga camp report a lack of shelter assistance (AFP, 17/09/2015).

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). Results of a WASH gap analysis show that 84 of 110 villages assessed in Diffa lack water points, and that 89 villages are in need of sanitation assistance (latrines and showers) (UNICEF, 30/09/2015).

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 Yobe River, where operations are ongoing (UNHCR, 07/09/2015).

Children

UNHCR has identified 511 unaccompanied or separated minors in Niger (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Niger has the highest percentage of child brides in the world, many of whom sold by families to help cope with drought. According to CARE research, 76% of girls marry before they are 18 years old, and have little access to contraception or reproductive health services (CARE, 09/10/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Migrants face significant protection risks in the transit city of Agadez, where smugglers and traffickers of people, drugs and counterfeit goods take advantage of vulnerable people heading north to or returning from Libya (UNODC, 20/08/2015). IOM estimates up to 120,000 people will transit through Niger in 2015, with between 2,000 and 2,500 passing through Agadez each week (IOM, 15/09/2015). As of 10 October, 7,000 returnees from Libya and Algeria have transited through Niger in 2015 after running out of financial resources (IOM, 22/10/2015).
82% of 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).

Mines and ERW

Landmines are reportedly laid along the border between Niger and Nigeria, especially in areas near the Komadougou Yobe River (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Updated: 28/10/2015

BURUNDI FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, POLITICAL UNREST

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

23 October: Heavy October rains have affected 11 of 18 provinces, killing four people and destroying 400 houses (Burundi Red Cross).

KEY CONCERNS

- 207,167 Burundians fleeing political unrest are registered as refugees in Rwanda, DRC, Tanzania, and Uganda (UNHCR, 27/10/2015)
- In September, over 100,000 people were reliant on food assistance in Kirundo, Makamba, and Bujumbura Mairie (WFP, 23/09/2015; FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).
- Humanitarian contingency plans estimate 500,000 people could be affected by ongoing political violence over the next six months (OCHA, 13/10/2015).

OVERVIEW

The political turmoil is exacerbating a chronic situation of unmet humanitarian need. Over 200,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries since April, and over 100,000 remain in country in need of food assistance. According to humanitarian contingency plans, 500,000 people could be affected as the situation deteriorates over the coming six months, including a further 100,000 displaced to neighbouring countries. Priority areas are Kirundo, Cibitoke, Rumonge, Makamba and Bujumbura Rural provinces, and the city of Bujumbura. Immediate humanitarian needs have been highlighted in protection, food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance, WASH and essential health care services, and education.

Politics and security

High levels of political instability and frequent violence persist, having begun in April, with demonstrations opposing President Nkurunziza’s intention to run for a third term. The security situation deteriorated rapidly after Nkurunziza’s re-election at end July, and risks degenerating into a renewed armed conflict, with possible repercussions in the region and the possibility of mass atrocities (IRIN, 12/10/2015). In October, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights reported that 198 people have been killed since April, including 63 in the first three weeks of October (OHCHR, 23/10/2015).

Political instability

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). 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).

Nkurunziza was re-elected on 24 July, with 69% of the vote. The election was widely declared as not credible (UN, 27/07/2015; AFP, 27/07/2015). The ruling party also won a majority of seats in parliamentary elections on 29 June, which were 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 1 August, opposition leaders met in Addis Ababa to form a coalition, the National Council for the Restoration of the Arusha Accords and the Rule of Law (IRIN, 12/10/2015). On 20 August, President Nkurunziza was sworn in for a third term, ahead of schedule and with short notice (AFP, 20/08/2015). His new cabinet has been criticised as being dominated by loyalists, despite assurances that he would put in place a government of national unity (AFP, 25/08/2015). Despite calls from the influential Catholic Church for dialogue, the Government has categorically ruled out negotiations with the opposition (AFP, 23/09/2015). Instead, indications point to further targeting of dissidents. In September, a commission of inquiry categorised the April protests as an “insurrection” punishable in court and issued arrest warrants for a number of opposition and civil society leaders (AFP, 17/09/2015; 11/09/2015). In October, summary executions of civilians known to oppose the government were reported (UN News, 23/10/2015).
Violence has flared in October. On 1 October, an opposition party official was killed near his home in Muramvya province (News24, 01/10/2015). Attacks on opposition areas in Bujumbura on 3 October, allegedly carried out by the ruling party’s youth wing and police, left at least eight dead (Reuters, 04/10/2015; AFP, 04/10/2015). On 14 October, violence in the opposition neighbourhood of Ngagara in Bujumbura saw a police officer killed and seven civilians shot dead, including a journalist and his family (AFP, 14/10/2015). On 26 October, clashes between gunmen armed with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns and government security forces left one civilian dead and seven people wounded. The same day, a group of 50 gunmen attacked police in Mwanro district, east of the Bujumbura (AFP, 27/10/2015).

In September, the spokesman for and the president of the Union for Peace and Democracy party were assassinated and a further assassination attempt was made on the chief of Burundi’s armed forces (AFP, 08/09/2015; 11/09/2015). A number of figures in government and civil society have been killed since the crisis began (IRIN, 05/10/2015).

International pressure
Burundi’s main opposition coalition has called for international sanctions against the government (AFP, 15/09/2015). On 29 September, the EU announced travel bans and asset freezes against four of President Nkurunziza’s associates (AFP, 29/09/2015). Days later, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution authorising it to scrutinise Burundi’s human rights situation through 2016 (FIDH, 02/10/2015). On 17 October, the African Union (AU) decided to impose sanctions, targeting figures in Burundi allegedly responsible for the violence. The AU also launched an investigation into human rights abuses, involving 100 rights observers and military staff (AU, 17/10/2015). On 26 October, the EU requested Burundi take part in consultations regarding the human rights situation, with a view to achieving a peaceful, political solution to the crisis (Bloomberg, 26/10/2015).

Regional tensions
Instability is growing regionally, particularly with Rwanda. Clashes in July in Kayanza and Cibitoke provinces on the Rwandan border left 31 dead and 221 were captured (OCHA, 16/07/2015). Relations between Burundi and Rwanda, which the Government accuses of backing opposition forces, are souring. On 7 October, Burundi ordered a Rwandan diplomat to leave the country, heightening tensions between the two countries (Jeune Afrique, 13/10/2015). On 23 October, Rwanda’s foreign minister denied the country was meddling in Burundi’s internal affairs (AFP, 23/10/2015).

Economic situation
Tax collection was off target by 25.1% in September because of ongoing political violence, further deteriorating the country’s economic situation (Reuters, 20/10/2015). International partners fund approximately half of Burundi’s national budget (UNHCR/OCHA, 17/09/2015). 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). On 2 October, Belgium announced it would be cutting around USD 55 million in aid (Reuters, 02/10/2015). On 12 October, Burundi asked that the Belgium Ambassador be replaced (Reuters, 12/10/2015).

Natural disasters
Floods
Heavy rains in October induced by El Niño effect have affected 11 of Burundi’s 18 provinces, killing four people and destroying 400 houses. The Burundi Red Cross is preparing for a worst case scenario that could see 250,000 people affected by flooding and related epidemics (Burundi Red Cross, 27/10/2015). Heavy rains are forecast for Burundi in the week to 29 October (FEWSNET, 23/10/2015).

Displacement
The political crisis since April has displaced more than 203,350 Burundians to neighbouring countries; internal displacement has been limited (UNHCR, 15/10/2015). There are 77,600 granting 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
As of January, Burundi had 77,600 protracted IDPs, mostly ethnic Tutsis, living in and around 120 sites in northern and central Burundi (IDMC, 31/01/2015). Internal displacement resulting from current political violence has been limited and difficult to track, with IDPs reluctant to identify themselves for fear of retribution (OCHA, 13/10/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers
As of end July, Burundi is host to 53,977 refugees from DRC, mainly in the border regions of Ngozi, Ruyigi, Muyinga and Cankuzo (UNHCR, 31/07/2015). However, refugees have been requesting relocation since the beginning of the political crisis (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 27 October, 207,167 Burundian refugees fleeing political violence are registered in Rwanda, DRC, Uganda, and Tanzania (UNHCR, 27/10/2015). The majority of refugees are women and children (WFP, 13/07/2015).

Tanzania: 108,916 Burundians fleeing political violence are in Tanzania (UNHCR, 26/10/2015). Arrivals average around 300 per day, although they spiked to 4,490 arrivals during the week ending 2 October (WFP, 23/09/2015; UNHCR 04/10/2015). Almost 100,000 refugees are in Nyarugusu refugee camp, which is overcrowded and where protection, health, and WASH conditions are critical (World Vision, 20/10/2015; UNHCR, 26/10/2015). Refugees have begun to populate Nduta camp since early October, which now accommodates 12,316 out of a planned capacity of 50,000 (UNHCR, 26/10/2015).

Rwanda: 69,856 Burundians fleeing political violence are in Rwanda (UNHCR, 25/10/2015). 44,895 are in Mahama camp – where lack of safe water and latrines is of great concern (UNHCR, 25/10/2015; IFRC, 10/09/2015). Another 21,581 are living in Kigali, and 2,943 are in Huye district. Two reception centres at Bugasera and Nyanza as well as a transit centre in Nyagatare temporarily host small refugee populations (UNHCR, 26/10/2015).

DRC: 17,359 Burundians fleeing political violence have been registered in DRC (UNHCR, 23/10/2015). Refugees are being relocated from host communities, regrouping sites and transit centres to Lusenda refugee site in South Kivu, where 9,759 are now living (UNHCR, 23/10/2015).

Uganda: 15,139 Burundian refugees are in Uganda (UNHCR, 22/10/2015), including 11,427 in the Nakivale refugee settlement in Mbarara and 3,222 urban refugees living in Kampala (UNHCR, 22/10/2015).

Access
UN agencies have reported restricted access during periods of violence (WFP, 30/06/2015). The block out of independent media is hindering aid agencies’ ability to communicate with communities in need of assistance (OCHA, 17/09/2015; IOM, 09/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods
128,130 people in Kirundo, Makamba, and Bujumbura Mairie are reliant on food assistance (WFP, 23/09/2015; FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). In September, WFP announced that food rations would be halved for 100,000 conflict-affected beneficiaries because of funding shortfalls (WFP, 30/09/2015). Poor households are expected to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes through December in the presence of assistance (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015; 27/10/2015).
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 potential 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 a recent cholera outbreak (UNICEF, 29/07/2015; 15/07/2015).

**Education**

In July, school 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, 29/07/2015).

**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 – the youth wing of the ruling party – were documented between April and July (HRW, 06/08/2015). The UN High Commissioner on Human Rights has documented 90 cases of torture since April as well as 704 arrests in September alone (OHCHR, 28/09/2015). Burundians are reporting harassment and disappearance of family members associated with the political opposition (ICG/UNHCR, 17/04/2015). Imbonerakure is accused of severe abuse including torture, threats, and intimidation, including toward refugees (Amnesty, 24/08/2015; Reuters 04/10/2015; AFP, 04/10/2015).

On the road from Rwanda, travellers are frequently searched and detained. The Burundi government accuses Rwanda of hosting dissidents and allowing the formation of a rebel army in its territory. Some 200 Rwandans have been arrested since April; although 50 have been released, 150 remain missing (AFP, 04/10/2015).

Over 15–16 September, more than 100 men were arrested by security forces in Gitega province while trying to leave through the province’s southern border. According to a regional official, the arrests were intended to stop the men from joining opposition movements (AP, 16/09/2015).

Increasing violations and incidents affecting the exercise of public freedoms, including the rights of peaceful assembly, association, and expression, are a major concern (UNSC, 07/07/2015). Independent media remain closed (Voice of America 29/09/2015). Journalists are reportedly facing violence and intimidation from authorities and members of the Imbonerakure (CPU, 26/08/2015; RSF, 30/04/2015; HRW, 22/01/2015). Across the border in South Kivu, DRC, a leading Burundian radio journalist was arrested after being accused of threatening the peace in Burundi (AFP, 14/10/2015). International media outlets Radio France Internationale (RFI) and Agence-France Presse (AFP) filed a torture complaint in Burundi’s Supreme Court following the beating and torture of their correspondent Esdras Ndikumana after he was detained in Bujumbura on 2 August (All Africa, 20/10/2015).

**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: 28/10/2015*

**MADAGASCAR**

**DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY**

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**Situation of concern**

Severity: minimal low moderate severe

**Pre-crisis vulnerability**

**% population affected**

**Humanitarian access**

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**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No new significant developments this week, 27/10/2015. Last update: 30/09/2015.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Currently experiencing the worst drought conditions in six years (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, 15/06/2015; FAO, 11/05/2015).

**Natural Disasters**

**Drought**
The worst drought conditions in six years have led to a three year low for crop production, and early exhaustion of food stocks (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, 15/06/2015; FAO, 11/05/2015). The worst affected regions are Atsimo Andrefana, Androy and Anosy (FEWSNET, 19/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Nearly 2.78 million people are food insecure in the seven southern regions of Madagascar. 579,000 people are severely food insecure, according to a food security assessment, and 200,000 people require immediate food assistance (FEWSNET, 19/08/2015).

The food security situation will deteriorate for many households between August and February, if current drought conditions, low food availability and reduced effectiveness of coping strategies trends continue. 20% of households in these in Tsihombe and Ambovombe districts of Androy are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between September and December 2015 (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food availability

This is the third consecutive annual decrease in production, which is now at a five-year low: 9% less rice has been produced than average, 11% less maize, and 13% less cassava (FAO, WFP, 15/06/2015; FEWSNET, 26/09/2015). Maize production is lowest in Tsihombe and Ambovombe districts of Androy.

Food access

In markets, staple food prices have doubled in the worst-affected regions of Androy and Anosy, and have increased 40% nationally (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

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). This is predicted to worsen as El Nino causes below average rainfall between November and April 2015/16, reduced the crop yield and labour opportunities in the secondary harvest in December–March (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Health

On 17 August, pneumonic plague was recorded in Moramanga district. As of 30 August, 14 cases and ten deaths have been reported, with no additional cases reported as of 6 September (WHO, 06/09/2015). Plague is endemic in Madagascar. The last major outbreak began in August 2014 in Tsiradonamandidy district, peaked in November 2014 and killed 81 people. There were 482 cases in 2014 (WHO, 05/2015).

Protection

Security forces have been accused of conducting summary executions of civilians in the south of the country and violently repressing demonstrations in the capital. On 31 August, police forces violently suppressed a student demonstration at the University Ankats (Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme, 25/09/2015).

Reviewed: 27/10/2015

UGANDA DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 October: Confrontations between police officers and opposition activists are increasing ahead of elections. Two major clashes broke out in the eastern towns of Jinja and Soroti. Some reports indicate that militias and youth brigades are forming (VOA).

26 October: El Nino’s effects on the climate is expected to push up the incidence of both infectious and non-communicable diseases, including malaria, cholera, asthma, and acute respiratory infections, in 33 of 112 districts (New Vision).

KEY CONCERNS

- 206,798 DRC refugees, 192,103 South Sudanese refugees, and 26,331 refugees from Burundi, are in Uganda (UNHCR 26/10/2015; 13/10/2015). Border statistics may not reflect the real number of Burundians in Uganda, as many do not enter at official border points (UNICEF, 12/08/2015).

- Malaria is the leading cause of morbidity among refugees, yet only 23.3% of those requiring treatment receive it (UNHCR, 22/07/2015). In the Gulu 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).

- In Karamoja, GAM rates of 13.4% are the highest recorded in the last five years, while SAM remains above 3% (UNICEF, 23/01/2015).
Politics and security

Presidential and parliamentary elections are due to be held in February 2016. Security forces have been accused of the arbitrary arrest of political activists and opponents of the current regime (HRW, 14/10/2015). Confrontations between police officers and opposition activists have increased. Two major clashes broke out in the eastern towns of Jinja and Soroti. Some reports indicate that militias and youth brigades are forming throughout the country (VOA 26/10/2015).

Natural disasters

Landslides

More than 100,000 people are at risk of landslides in the Mount Elgon and Rwenzori subregions, due to climate effects of El Nino (New Vision 26/10/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of March, Uganda has 30,136 IDPs (OCHA, 19/05/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 30 September, Uganda is hosting over 495,000 refugees and asylum seekers (UNICEF, 22/10/2015). 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 13 October, there are 26,331 refugees from Burundi. 15,139 have arrived since 1 January 2015. Some 50% of those arriving after 1 January are children below age 18 (7,232 individuals), and 2% are elderly. Over 11,427 are hosted in Nakivale, and around 3,222 in Kampala (UNICEF, 30/09/2015; UNHCR, 08/10/2015; 30/09/2015; 13/10/2015; 22/10/2015). 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). Many new arrivals enter the country through Mirama Hills, Kisenyi Police Post, Kagitumba, and the border points at Kikagata. The weekly average of new arrivals has declined from 147 in the week ending 1 October to 69 by 8 October (UNICEF, 30/09/2015; UNHCR, 08/10/2015). As of late August, there were 223 in Kyaka II (Kyenjojo district in Western Uganda), 130 in Oruchinga in Southern Uganda, and 206 in Kisoro Transit Centre in Southwestern Uganda (UNHCR, 27/08/2015). As of 16 September, the response plan revised its total expected refugees from Burundi to arrive by December 2015 from 30,000 to 20,000, because arrival numbers were declining (UNHCR 16/09/2015).

South Sudan: As of 13 October, 169,620 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Uganda since December 2013. 64% are children below 18 years of age (UNHCR, 30/09/2015; 23/09/2015; 13/10/2015). The total number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda is 192,103 and is expected to reach 210,000 by the end of 2015 (WFP, 11/08/2015; UNHCR 28/08/2015; 30/09/2015; 13/10/2015).

4% of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda are identified as people with specific needs, including elderly, disabled, and single women caregivers (UNHCR, UNICEF, et al., 28/08/2015; JOAC, 15/08/2015). Priority needs are NFI, 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). Children account for 104,221 of all the South Sudanese refugees in Uganda (UNICEF, 21/09/2015).

Somalia: As of 2 September, the total number of Somali refugees in Uganda is 29,053 (UNHCR, 02/09/2015).

DRC: As of 13 October, 206,798 refugees were in Uganda: 25,781 of these had arrived since January 2015 (UNHCR 26/10/2015).

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). The law was being debated in parliament as of 1 September (Guardian, 01/09/2015).

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

Food availability is not a major issue in Uganda, however the use of food or food access can be inadequate in some areas.

As of 30 September, inflation in the country is reported to be on the rise, with annual headline inflation having increased to 7.2% compared to 4.8% for the 12 months up to August 2015 (Government, 30/09/2015).

Karamoja is the most food insecure region. 24% of households in Karamoja are in
Karamoja is the most food insecure region. 24% of households in Karamoja are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) as a result of limited purchasing power (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). Poor households do not have sufficient income to maintain adequate food consumption in Kaabong, Moroto, and northern parts of Nakapiripirit (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015). 30% of households were found to be using emergency negative coping strategies in Karamoja (WFP, 31/08/2015).

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

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).

As of August Uganda was expected to face a breakdown in the provision of food and humanitarian assistance after August 2015, but new funding contributions from USAID allowed the service to continue (WFP, 11/08/2015; 06/10/2015).

Health

The effects of El Niño are expected to increase the incidence of infectious and non-communicable diseases, including malaria, cholera, asthma, and acute respiratory infections in 33 of 112 national districts (New Vision 26/10/2015).

Cholera

On 2 October, a suspected cholera case was reported in Kabwoya sub-county in Hoima district. Another 58 suspected cases have been identified as of 9 October (Government, 08/10/2015).

Haemorrhagic fever

On 23 September, Ministry of Health officials reported several cases of a suspected haemorrhagic fever in Buliisa and Hoima districts, in Western Uganda. Of the eight cases identified, none tested positive for any of the known types of haemorrhagic fever, including Ebola, Marburg, Rift Valley Fever, and Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever. Four deaths were recorded in Buliisa, and two in Hoima. Contact tracing was done, with no additional cases reported (Government, 05/10/2015).

Malaria

On 12 September, the number of malaria cases reported is still higher than average, with a 12% increase at a national level, but the current high level is probably due to an increase in the reporting rate. The most affected districts are Gulu (8021 cases), Arua (7048), Agago (4514), Kitgum (4514) and Yumbe (4023) (Government, 12/09/2015).

In 2014, there were 1.5 million malaria cases in Uganda (WHO, 2014).

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

Between 7 and 13 September, the number of suspected measles cases decreased slightly compared to the beginning of the outbreak in July. Nine districts have reported more than five suspected cases: Kampala (17), Kalangala (9), Ibanda (9), Buikwe (7), Mbarara (7), Lira (6), Kiruhura (6), Rakai (6) and Kamwenge (5) (Government, 12/09/2015; 20/07/2015).

Nutrition

GAM is at critical levels (above 15%) in four out of seven districts in Karamoja and above 10% in the whole region (WFP, 30/06/2015).

As of 28 August, SAM among Burundian refugee children in Kabazana refugee reception centre is 2.3%, and GAM 6.4%. In the previous week, GAM was 14.2% and SAM 3.5% (UNHCR, 27/08/2015).

WASH

Four villages out of 10 that are hosting Burundians have water shortages. Nyarugugu has only 14 litres of water/person/day, below the emergency levels of 15L/p/d (UNHCR, 08/10/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Urgent food, NFI, and shelter needs have been identified within the new Mahiga site in Rwamwanja refugee settlement, Kamwenge district. There were 11,200 refugees in Mahiga in June, with new arrivals continuing 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). Only 61% of the 5,368 Burundian children in Uganda are enrolled in school, because of long distances and an average of 203 children per class (UNHCR, 22/10/2015).

58% of South Sudanese child 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

The Ugandan security forces have been accused of using extreme force and live ammunition when confronting protests, as well as arbitrary detention for political activists (HRW, 14/10/2015).

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).

At Nakivale reception centre, where men, women, and youth share shelter space, adolescent girls reported being sexually harassed in their sleep (UNICEF, 12/08/2015).

On 24 September, the International Criminal Court reported 60 new charges against the deputy leader of Lord’s Resistance Army, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, as well as the use of sex slaves (AFP, 24/09/2015).

Updated: 28/10/2015
The Afghan Government faces internal and external challenges to its capacity, legitimacy, and stability. The security environment is highly volatile and has deteriorated since the end of the ISAF mission and the withdrawal of most international forces. The outflow of people from Afghanistan has significantly increased in 2015, despite calls from the Government to stay and contribute to the reconstruction of the country.

Politics and security

A steep surge in violent attacks was recorded in the first months of 2015, making it the most violent year since the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was set up in 2001 (Brookings, 26/05/2015; Talk Radio News Service, 22/06/2015). ISAF withdrew in December 2014, and only around 12,000 NATO personnel remain in Afghanistan to provide training and equipment to the Afghan security forces. Concerns have been raised regarding the capacity of Afghan forces to keep the country secure, as the Taliban remains present in a number of areas, and the government struggles to maintain unity.

President Ashraf Ghani and Prime Minister Abdullah Abdullah were sworn in 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 (Reuters, 19/06/2015; local media, 01/04/2015). In September, President Ghani promised that a date would be set in the “immediate future” (1tvnews Afghanistan, 05/09/2015; Tolo News 17/09/2015).

Peace talks

Afghan officials and Taliban met in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 8 July for a first round of peace talks (AFP, 08/07/2015). The Taliban pulled out at the end of the month, likely to deal with uncertainty about new leadership after the public announcement that Mullah Omar had died in 2013 (AFP, 24/07/2015; The Telegraph, 30/07/2015; The Age, 31/07/2015). The current Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour is considered to be in favour of peace talks, although some factions remain opposed (BBC, 30/07/2015; The Telegraph, 30/07/2015).

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Conflict developments

The total reported number of conflict-related casualties from January until July 2015 is 4,921 (1,592 dead, 3,329 injured), 90% 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, including Kunduz, Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Faryab, Baghlan, and Nuristan (Cordaid, 07/07/2015; RSF, 07/07/2015; local media, 16/07/2015). Remote parts of southern and southeastern Afghanistan, near the border with Pakistan, remain under Taliban control.

As of 12 October, the Taliban are reportedly increasing the number of districts under their control in Farah and Faryab, and have captured areas in Badakhshan, Takhar, and Baghlan (UNSC, 02/02/2015; ECHO 12/10/2015). The Taliban said their forces had withdrawn from Kunduz, and as of 18 October, only sporadic fighting was reported, on the outskirts of the city (CNN, 14/10/2015; OCHA, 13/10/2015). President Ashraf Ghani has appointed a commission to investigate the bombing of the hospital run by MSF that killed at least 22 and wounded 37 (Real Time News, 10/10/2015). The commander of the US forces in Afghanistan has stated they were called in to provide air support to Afghan forces under attack from the Taliban (MSF, 05/10/2015; CNN, 05/10/2015; CNN 05/10/2015; BBC 05/10/15).

Kabul: On 5 October two armed men attacked the house of a tribal elder and a building belonging to a Helmand politician. The same day a suicide attack was carried out against an intelligence centre, also in the capital (Reuters, 05/10/2015). On 8 October, two people about to carry out a suicide attack were reportedly shot dead by Afghan police before they could detonate their bombs (Daily Mail, 08/10/2015). On 11 October, a suicide attack targeting a convoy of foreign military personnel caused the toppling of an armoured vehicle, injuring three civilians (Reuters, 11/10/2015).

Kunduz: As of 18 October, only sporadic fighting is reported on the outskirts of Kunduz city (OCHA, 13/10/2015). The Taliban have said they have withdrawn, after storming and taking control of most of the city on 28 September (CNN, 14/10/2015). This was the first major Afghan city to fall to the Taliban since the war began (Belfast
Other incidents: At least six people were killed and four injured when a rocket, reportedly launched by IS insurgents, hit a mosque in Achin district of Nangarhar province, on 31 October (DAWN, 31/10/2015). On 21 October, Taliban fighters attacked the city of Lashkar Gah, capital of Helmand province, but were pushed back by the US–Afghan coalition forces (AFP, 21/10/2015). In Nangarhar province, hundreds of insurgents reportedly belonging to IS attacked Afghan forces at a checkpoint in Achin district at the end of September. At least three Afghan police were killed (VOA, 27/09/2015).

Afghan National Security Forces

The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) are composed of around 350,000 personnel, including soldiers, police, and air forces personnel.

Pro-government militias

In Khanabad district, Kunduz province, the membership of U.S. funded pro-government militias, also known as Afghan local police, has grown to 3,000 this year, 1,000 more than last year, according to the district governor Hayatullah Amiri. This militia force was founded with the purpose of mobilising rural communities against the Taliban. However, in recent months, civilians have reported a rise in abuse by these groups, including extortion, theft, and assault (Daily Mail, 03/06/2015; IRIN, 07/09/2015).

Natural disasters

Earthquake

A 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India on 26 October. The epicentre was in Jurm, Badakhshan province, in the Hindu Kush mountains, in northern Afghanistan. The most affected areas are sparsely populated rural districts, with some damage also reported in Fayzabad (The Guardian, 26/10/2015). More than 40 aftershocks were recorded as of 30 October (Australian Red Cross, 30/10/2015). As of 2 November, the death toll is reported to be 126 in Afghanistan. An additional 489 people were injured, 6,284 houses were damaged and 4,665 were destroyed over 15 provinces in the country, with the highest number of destroyed and damaged houses recorded in Badakhshan, Baghlan and Nangarhar. Afghanistan’s provinces with the most fatalities were Kunar, Takhar, and Nangarhar, with 36, 28, and 23 deaths recorded so far, respectively (OCHA, 02/11/2015). Landslides have occurred in several places and access to remote rural areas is severely hindered. Telecommunications and electricity networks have been affected (ECHO, 27/10/2015). As of 2 November, 78,853 people are in need of humanitarian assistance, and in particular of shelter and food (OCHA, 02/11/2015).

Displacement

As of October 2015, nearly 1.2 million people are reported internally displaced because of conflict in Afghanistan (ECHO, 13/10/2015).
destroyed over 4,600 houses leaving many families displaced and exposed to severe winter temperatures (OCHA, 02/11/2015).

IDPs

Increasing insecurity has led to a rise in internal displacement. As of July, 139,000 people were reported displaced by conflict in 2015, with a surge in Kunduz and Helmand (OCHA, 31/07/2015). By the end of 2015, an additional 324,000 are estimated to become displaced because of conflict (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

As of 12 October, another 100,000–140,000 people were reported to have been displaced in the northeast since late September, fleeing violence that began in Kunduz (ECHO, 12/10/2015). Their critical needs are food and shelter. They also need NFIs, health, WASH and protection (OCHA, 18/10/2015). An estimated 9,500 displaced families (an estimated 34,200 individuals) were reported in Taloqan, Takhar province, mostly staying in camps about 20km from the city centre. Between 1,400 and 2,000 families found refuge in Kabul (OCHA, 07/10/2015; 12/10/2015; 13/10/2015, 18/10/2015). On 26 October, reports indicated that IDPs have started returning home, despite security concerns in northeast and central regions. 41,200 of the over 100,000 people displaced by the conflict in the northeastern regions remain displaced and are in critical need of food and shelter (OCHA, 26/10/2015).

Displacement in 2015 is expected to exceed 2014 numbers, 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).

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 13 October, these provinces were hosting around 227,880 refugees from Pakistan, the majority in Khost (including 10,210 families in Gulan camp) (UNHCR, 11/06/2015; ECHO 13/10/2015). There are concerns about the host communities’ ability to support the refugee population, particularly in terms of food, shelter, and education (UNHCR, 15/06/2015).

Refugee returnees

As of 16 October, around 334,600 undocumented Afghan refugees have returned from Pakistan in 2015 (USAID, 16/10/2015). Numbers began to rise after security incidents in Pakistan, particularly the December 2014 Taliban attack in Peshawar. Some 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).

Refugees from Afghanistan in other countries

As of 24 September, an estimated 10,000 Afghans are reported to be applying for passports each day, up from a daily average of 7,000 reported at 7 September. In Afghanistan the passport is used primarily as a document for travel (VOA, 24/09/2015; 07/09/2015).

Pakistan: As of October, around 3 million Afghan refugees are reported to be in Pakistan. Over 1.4 million of these are unregistered (ECHO, 13/10/2015). In Sindh, only 67,000 of an estimated one million Afghan refugees are registered (DAWN, 31/08/2015).

Some Afghan refugees have reported harassment in Pakistan, and not feeling any safer than in Afghanistan. The deterioration in relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan is being highlighted by the reported increase in issues with Afghan refugees (Thomson Reuters Foundation, 03/09/2015). According to UNHCR estimates, between 100,000 and 150,000 Afghans might voluntarily repatriate in 2016 (UNHCR, 06/10/2015). 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). As of October, the Pakistani government remains undecided over the extension of their stay (New York Times, 17/10/2015).

Iran: Around 950,000 registered and 1.5 million unregistered Afghan refugees are reported (ECHO, 13/10/2015).

Europe: Tens of thousands of Afghan refugees have crossed into Europe in 2015, most via Greece, where 59,938 Afghan asylum seekers are reported to have entered in 2015 (ECHO, 13/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

On 3 October, a hospital run by MSF in Kunduz was hit by a US airstrike. As of 26
October, the death toll is still rising, with at least 30 people reported dead. At least 37 were injured. (Reuters 05/10/2015; MSF, 09/10/2015; 26/10/2015; BBC, 05/10/2015.). The International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission has been activated for the first time ever, to investigate the attack, and is awaiting the agreement of the Afghanistan and US governments to proceed (MSF, 14/10/2015).

Some reports indicate that the Taliban accessed offices of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) in Kunduz while taking the city. They have reportedly been able to gather access to addresses, phone numbers and photos of NGO staff, security operators and government officials (Amnesty International, 01/10/2015).

Between January and 24 October, 67 aid workers were reported to have been victims of attacks in the country: 33 national aid workers were killed, 21 were wounded, and nine were kidnapped. Four international aid workers were also kidnapped (Aid Workers Security Database, 31/10/2015). In 2014, 57 aid workers were killed in Afghanistan (Reuters, 17/08/2015).

Security and physical constraints

As of 15 October, access to Kunduz city was still restricted, hindering the delivery of assistance. IEDs were the main threat (UN, 15/10/2015; OCHA, 15/10/2015).

Deteriorated security conditions in Helmand significantly hamper the delivery of assistance (OCHA, 15/07/2015). Journalists have had to withdraw from Badakhshan and Nangarhar (RSF, 07/07/2015).

Security has made roads inaccessible between Mazar-e-Sharif and Taloqan, Sher Khan Bander and Baghlan, and Baghlan and Mazar-e-Sharif (OCHA, 18/10/2015).

The 26 October earthquake caused many remote areas to be isolated, primarily because of landslides disabling infrastructure, and because of the topography of the affected areas. As of 31 October, it still takes two to three days of walking for the assessment teams to reach the most remote areas (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Between September and November, an estimated 2.5 million people in Afghanistan will experience Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity. The majority of food-insecure people reside in Badakhshan, Badghis, Ghor, Nuristan, and Samangan provinces (USAID, 16/10/2015). As of 13 October 2015, 2.1 million people are reported suffering from severe food insecurity, compared to around 1.2 million in 2014. 7.3 million people are moderately food insecure (FAO, 10/09/2015; 13/10/2015). The food security situation for IDPs is worsening, with around 200,000 people in need of immediate assistance (FAO, 10/09/2015). Newly displaced people, which will likely number 324,000 by the end of 2015, are projected to be in Crisis in the months up to March 2016 (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

Food security has deteriorated among urban households. During a May–June seasonal food security assessment, 13% of households indicated food insecurity as a primary issue, compared to 3% in 2014 (Food Security Cluster, 31/08/2015). Additionally, female-headed households are 50% more likely to be food insecure than others, due largely to lower incomes and consequent poorer diet (FAO, 10/09/2015).

Food availability

The wheat and fruit harvests this year have been more favourable, compared to 2014, with improvements in market and household stocks. However, wheat harvest generally remained below the five-year average (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015).

Food access

As of 11 October, civilians in Kunduz reportedly have been left without food since 28 September, when the Taliban took control of most of the city (ToloNews, 11/10/2015).

The prices for wheat and rice are reported to be generally lower than last year, but higher than the last 5-year average (WFP, 22/09/2015).

Livelihoods

As of 31 October, projections up to March 2016 indicate that in eastern Afghanistan wages will remain stable throughout the winter, also thanks to good production of fruit and vegetables, which will moderate the effects of a below-average maize harvest. In southern Afghanistan production and prices are likely to remain near-average up to the first months of next year. In the northwestern provinces, poor farming households had an above-average harvest, however the labour wages remained below the five-year average. In the northeast, wages have remained near-average, while the harvest has still been below average, but better than 2014 (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015).

Health

The increase in insecurity and civilian casualties have impacted the work of health organisations and NGOs. High incidence of trauma, caused by widespread conflict, is making specialised trauma-care essential, especially for the remotest and most inaccessible areas of the country. Gaps in health services include lack of maternal
care and problems in the delivery of treatment to victims of GBV (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

There is a shortage of trained surgeons, anaesthetists, and trauma capacity in conflict-affected areas (OCHA, 25/11/2014).

Hundreds were wounded in Kunduz after the Taliban’s offensive, but the only public trauma care facility, run by MSF, was bombed and MSF withdrew. The Taliban seized a 200-bed government-run hospital in the city (MSF, 28/09/2015; Reuters, 28/09/2015).

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). The Afghan Ministry of Public Health has confirmed 12 outbreaks so far in 2015 (SalamWatandar, 25/07/2015). In 2014, the measles vaccination coverage of children between 12 and 23 months of age was 66%; in 2013 it was 60% (World Bank, 2014).

Polio

12 cases have been recorded so far in 2015 with the last case reported on 6 September (Polio Eradication Initiative, 07/10/2015). 28 cases were reported altogether in 2014, mostly in conflict-affected areas (WHO, 26/04/2015).

Nutrition

As of 21 September, 1.2 million children are reported to be acutely malnourished (IMMAP, 21/09/2015). 48,000 children under five die of malnutrition each year (Government, 04/08/2015).

WASH

In Afghanistan, only 27% of the population is reported to have access to an improved water source. The percentage goes down to 20% in rural areas, the lowest level in the world. Only 5% of people nationwide, and 1% in rural areas, have access to improved sanitation facilities (ATN News, 16/09/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter is one of the main needs identified among IDPs in Faryab and Kabul, with people living in makeshift shelters, and overcrowded conditions (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

Education

A large number of children cannot access education and significant obstacles remain in terms of gender equality (UNHCR, 15/09/2015).

Schools have closed because of fighting and insecurity. Following fighting in the northeast, all schools in Kunduz province have been closed (OCHA, 13/10/2015). As of 2 September, 30 schools are reported to be closed in Baghlan as intense fighting continues, with the Afghan national forces trying to reclaim strategic areas in Faryab (Salamwatandar, 02/09/2015).

The 26 October earthquake completely destroyed 13 schools and caused damage to 28 schools in Badakshan province, according to preliminary assessment results (OCHA, 02/11/2015).

Protection

UNAMA reported a 23% increase in casualties among women and a 13% increase among children over the first half of 2015, compared to the same period in 2014 (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

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).

During the first three days of Taliban control over Kunduz, from 28 September to 1 October, mass murder, gang rapes and house-to-house searches performed by insurgent squads have been reported (Amnesty International, 01/10/2015).

Mines and ERW

22% of civilian casualties over January-June were caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) (US Ministry of Defense, 04/09/2015). An average of 98 civilians per month are recorded to be victims of mines or ERWs (MAPA, 14/09/2015). During August and September, 5 civilians were reported to have been casualties of ERWs (UN, MAPA, 30/09/2015).

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 is reported (UNMAS/MAPA, 30/06/2015). On 16 September, MAPA reported a decrease in funding that might jeopardize its long-term objective of a mine-free Afghanistan by 2023. As of 16 September, still 4,266 hazardous areas
exist in 1,603 communities, over 255 districts of 33 provinces (MAPA, 16/09/2015).

Gender

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). UNAMA registered 44 cases of sexual violence between January 2014 and January 2015 (UN Security Council, 15/04/2015). Sexual violence is underreported because of resulting social stigma as well as lack of access to Taliban-controlled areas.

During the fighting in Kunduz, women were particularly targeted, and experienced rape and harassment (AFP, 17/10/2015).

Children

40 reports of sexual violence against children, affecting 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). Children have been used as suicide bombers: 20 boys were killed carrying out suicide attacks between September 2010 and December 2014 (UNSC, 15/05/2015; UNAMA, 24/08/2015).

Vulnerable groups

When taking control of Kunduz the Taliban has reportedly targeted media workers, occupying the headquarters of some news agencies. Several media workers are missing. The Taliban has also torched and destroyed equipment (RSF, 29/09/2015).

Updated: 02/11/2015

IRAQ CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

30 October: Cholera outbreak has recorded 2,171 confirmed cases across 15 governorates since 15 September (WHO).

29 October: At least 26 residents were killed when a rocket attack launched by Al Mukhtar Army, an Iraqi Shia militia, hit Camp Hurriya near Baghdad International Airport, where over 2,100 unarmed Iranian exiles are living (Amnesty International, UN)

KEY CONCERNS

- 559 civilians were killed and 1,067 injured in conflict-related violence in October, bringing total civilian casualties to 18,639 for 2015 (UNAMI, 01/11/2015).

- 8.6 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 3.2 million IDPs (OCHA, 29/09/2015).

- Access continues to be severely constrained in large parts of Anbar, Salah al Din, Diyala, Kirkuk, and Ninewa (OCHA, 26/07/2015).

- 245,585 registered Syrian refugees are in Iraq; 42% are children (UNHCR, 15/10/2015).

OVERVIEW

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

Since advancing into Iraq in January 2014 and seizing the country’s second largest city, Mosul, in less than 24 hours in June 2015, Islamic State (IS) have gained control over swathes of Anbar, Ninewa, and Salah al Din governorates. Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), Shia Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF), and Kurdish fights have all responded to IS advances. The conflict has left 8.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, induced the displacement of 3.2 million Iraqis, and inflicted high civilian casualties (OCHA, 29/09/2015).
2014 saw more than 35,400 recorded casualties, including 12,280 deaths, in the worst violence since 2006–2007 (OHCHR, 13/07/2015; UNAMI, 01/01/2015). More than 18,639 conflict-related civilian casualties have been recorded in 2015, including 559 killed and 1,067 injured in October (UNAMI, 01/11/2015).

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 regional and international support. A unity government, led by Prime Minister Abadi and with former President Maliki as Vice President, was formed in September 2014 (UNAMI, 22/07/2015). Initial support for Abadi has waned, particularly after announcing unilateral cuts to public sector salary scales in October (ISW, 02/11/2015). While trying to balance sectarian tensions inside the country, Abadi has been seeking international support in the fight against Islamic State (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). However, Prime Minister Abadi’s ability to see through reforms was curbed on 2 November when the Council of Representatives voted that new laws must first be passed through its chamber (ISW, 02/11/2015). Weekly demonstrations have continued in Babil, Baghdad, Basra, Dhi Qar, Diwaniya, Karbala, Maysan, Muthanna, and Wasit, with clashes recorded in Karbala and Diwaniya (ISW, 15/10/2015).

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 Kurdish 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). In October, four people were killed in protests over unpaid salaries that turned to demands for President Barzani’s removal (AFP, 10/10/2015). In a reshuffle on 13 October, Barzani sacked multiple cabinet members including the Peshmerga, finance, and religious affairs ministers (ICG, 01/11/2015). The growing instability is negatively impacting the economy: unemployment is rising and property prices are falling (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

Stakeholders

Islamic State (IS): In June 2014, IS declared the establishment of a Sunni caliphate, covering the area between Aleppo in northern Syria and Diwala in eastern Iraq. Abu Bakr al Baghadi was declared caliph and leader for Muslims worldwide. IS now controls nearly 300,000 square kilometers of territory in Syria and Iraq (AFP, 01/06/2015). It has attracted up to 30,000 foreign fighters (Reuters, 29/09/2015). IS has repeatedly demonstrated an ability to pressure ISF, PMF and Peshmerga forces on multiple fronts, offsetting losses in one area with gains in another (ISW, 02/11/2015).

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).

Shia 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: Since August 2014, a US-led coalition against IS, which brings over 30 countries under a Combined Joint Task Force, has been conducting airstrikes against IS locations in support of Iraqi government forces (BBC, 21/10/2015, Business Insider, 09/12/2014). The US intensified its support on 31 October (ISW, 02/11/2015). In late July 2015, Turkey joined the coalition, but also stepped up airstrikes in northern-Iraq against the PKK – who oppose IS (The Economist, 01/08/2015). 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). Prime Minister Abadi is reportedly under domestic pressure to call on Russia for air support (Independent, 21/10/2015). Russia has begun airstrikes in Syria, but has denied any plans to expand air raids to Iraq (Anadolu, 01/10/2015).

Conflict developments

Violent clashes are ongoing, particularly in Anbar providence, where IS is battling to take Haditha, and ISF is fighting to regain control of Ramadi and Falluja (ISW, 14/09/2015; IBT, 01/09/2015). ISF and Peshmerga forces regained territory in early 2015, taking populated areas of Diyala in January, and Al Baghadi in Anbar early March (AFP, 26/01/2015; 08/03/2015). Peshmerga forces are fighting IS in Kirkuk.

Baghdad: Frequent attacks continued to hit Baghdad in September and October. On 29 October, at least 26 residents were killed when 15 rockets launched by Al Mukhtar
Army, an Iraqi Shia militia, hit Camp Hurriya near Baghdad International Airport, where over 2,100 unarmed Iranian exiles are living (Amnesty International, 30/10/2015; UN, 30/10/2015). Earlier in October, multiple attacks including on Shia populations celebrating the Ashura holy day, killed at least 55 and wounded 129. In September, attacks killed at least 56 and wounded 123 across Baghdad.

**Anbar:** RS is remains dominant in Falluja and remains in control of Ramadi, despite two major efforts by ISF and the US-led coalition to retake the city (AP, 16/08/2015). In October, ISF forces advanced, crossing the Albu Faraj Bridge into central Ramadi on 1 November. ISF is moving towards IS’s Anbar operational headquarters, north of Ramadi (ISW, 02/11/2015).

**Basra:** At least ten died and 24 were wounded in a car bomb attack in Zubayr, southwest of Basra city, on 5 October. IS claimed responsibility (AFP, 05/10/2015).

**Diyala:** Attacks – most often bombings – are frequent, as IS is growing stronger in the area (ISW, 05/10/2015). Between 27 and 35 reportedly died in mortar attacks on the capital Baquba on 8 October, while over 45 were left wounded (Reuters, 08/10/2015; AP, 09/10/2015). At least 40 were killed in bombings in the Shia-majority town of Khalis on 5 October (BBC, 05/10/2015).

**Kirkuk:** Peshmerga and PMF have been conducting operations to dislodge IS from areas of southwestern Kirkuk since February, with Peshmerga advances in late August (ISW, 18/03/2015, ISW, 05/10/2015; IOM, 13/09/2015). Peshmerga and US forces freed 70 hostages from IS control in Hawijal on 22 October. The same day, an IS bombing killed one and wounded 30 at a mosque in Tuz Khurmatu, south Kirkuk. Popular Mobilisation Forces retaliated with a security crackdown, detaining at least 170 civilians (ISW, 26/10/2015).

**KR-I:** Airstrikes and cross-border clashes between Turkish security forces and members of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) killed at least 60 on 29 September (AP, 29/09/2015). On 2 August, ten civilians were reportedly killed in Turkish airstrike targeting members of the PKK in Zarkel village (AFP, 02/08/2015).

**Nineawa:** Is enjoys support in swathes of Nineawa 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). Coalition airstrikes targeted areas around Mosul over 21–25 September (ISW, 25/09/2015). ISF and allied militia forces have reportedly advanced towards Mosul after making key gains against IS territory near Baiji (AFP, 17/10/2015).

**Salah al Din:** Baiji town and its nearby oil refinery are fiercely contested and highly strategic targets. ISF, supported by coalition airstrikes and Popular Mobilisation Forces, recaptured Baiji city and oil refinery from IS on 21 October after months of clashes (ISW, 26/10/2015). Fighting continued north of Baiji and west of Samarra in the last week of October (ISW, 02/11/2015).

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**Natural disasters**

**Floods**

Heavy rains lashed Iraq in late October, causing flooding across large areas of Baghdad, Anbar, and Diyala. At least 1,400 people were evacuated from four IDP camps in Baghdad. In Anbar, 1,000 families in camps near the Bzibz Bridge were evacuated. Rains blocked roads to affected villages and farms in rural Diyala, near the Iraq–Iran border (Iraqi Red Crescent, 02/11/2015). Prime Minister Abadi declared an emergency in flooded areas, with more rains predicted in the first week of November (AFP, 01/11/2015).

**Displacement**

There are more than 3.2 million IDPs and over 245,000 Syrian refugees. Internal displacement has been ongoing since January 2014 as IS advances and military operations to repel them have affected large areas across the country. In October, an escalation in operations near Baiji, as well as armed clashes in Hawija and Shirqat, have displaced thousands in Salah al Din (OCHA, 20/10/2015).

**IDPs**

As of 29 September, there are over 3.2 million IDPs in almost 3,500 locations in Iraq. Displacement has occurred in multiple waves: 22% were displaced between June and July 2014; 26% were displaced in August 2014; 17% were displaced between September 2014 and March 2015, and 19% have been displaced since April 2015 (IOM, 29/09/2015).

In the month to 29 September, overall displacement increased by approximately 24,000. Anbar currently hosts around 583,000 IDPs, Baghdad 578,000, Dahuk 427,000 and Kirkuk 401,000. 87% of IDPs have fled three governorates: Anbar, Ninewa and Salah al Din. Over 500,000 have fled Anbar since April 2015 (IOM, 29/09/2015). 69% of IDPs are living in private settings. 20% are in critical shelter arrangements while 8% live in camps. In Dahuk, 29% of IDPs are living in critical shelter arrangements, while 54% live in camps. In Anbar, 26% of IDPs are in critical shelter conditions (IOM, 29/09/2015). The number and spread of IDPs pose a major challenge to needs assessment and assistance.

**IDP returnees:** As of 29 September, 403,000 IDPs have returned to their locations of origin, predominantly to areas in Salah al Din and Tikrit since mid-June (IOM, 29/09/2015). Many returnees find their homes have been destroyed by armed conflict, including 20,000 who returned to Salah al Din over 22–29 September (OCHA, 29/09/2015). Heavily disrupted basic services and infrastructure, mines, insecurity, and lost documentation increase risks for returnees (OCHA, 29/09/2015; UNHCR, 15/04/2015). 98% of displaced families intend to return to their place of origin, with only 51% feeling safe in their current
Syrian refugees: KR-I hosts an estimated 97% of all Syrian refugees, with 111,945 in Erbil, 95,609 in Duhok, and 29,337 in Sulaymaniyah. 4,510 were last known to be in Anbar and 1,588 in Ninewa (UNHCR, 27/10/2015).

38% of refugees live in nine camps; nearly half are in Domiz camp in Duhok (46,999), 10,094 in Kawergosk, and 10,381 in Darashakran in Erbil (UNHCR, 27/10/2015). 1,519 Syrian refugees were last reported in Al Obaidy camp, in IS-controlled Al Qa'im in Anbar, but access constraints limit information (UNHCR, 27/10/2015). Information on the fate of some 2,800 urban refugees in Al Qa'im is also lacking (UNHCR, 15/03/2015).

The number of Syrian refugees registered in Iraq has decreased by approximately 2,000 per month since peaking at over 251,000 in July (UNHCR, 27/10/2015). Over 15,500 Syrian refugees have returned to Syria in 2015 – including 3,127 in September – in part because of the high cost of living and lack of employment opportunities in KR-I (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). Syrian refugees are also leaving Iraq for Europe via Syria and/or Turkey (UNHCR, 31/10/2015).

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). As of 31 October, 51,499 Iraqis were registered in Jordan (UNHCR, 31/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access to the estimated five million people in areas under armed opposition groups’ control is limited (OCHA, 12/08/2015; 04/10/2015). 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). Road closures are blocking supply lines and raising food prices, especially in Anbar, Kirkuk, Salah al Din, and Ninewa governorates (OCHA, 04/10/2015).

Anbar remains largely inaccessible due to ongoing military operations. Only two UN agencies and eight other humanitarian organisations are operating, excluding government and the Red Crescent actors (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Ninewa: 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

Baghdad, Babylon, Kirkuk, and Diyala have implemented strict security policies, affecting IDPs’ movements. An estimated 71,000 IDPs returned to Diyala in August, despite ongoing insecurity. An unknown number of these returns are thought to have been coerced (OCHA, 01/08/2015). IDPs attempting to enter KR-I by land require a local guarantor (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, 31/10/2015). Movement across the Ibrahim Khalil border crossing to Turkey is unpredictable, although officials have reported the crossing open as of 13 September (OCHA, 15/09/2015). 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). In mid-October, the Bzibz bridge to Baghdad was intermittently closed (OCHA, 20/10/2015). An estimated 50 families remain stranded on the Anbar side of the crossing. While Sadr al Yusufiya camp on the Baghdad side was opened in September and hosts 2,000 IDPs, another three camps with a capacity to host at least 6,000 IDPs are situated on the Anbar side, vulnerable to access restrictions (UNHCR, 20/10/2015). 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, 20/10/2015).

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 (WFP, 01/10/2015). Funding shortfalls mean WFP has been forced to reduce its assistance to IDPs and refugees on multiple occasions in 2015. Only 1.5 million people received assistance in August (OCHA, 04/10/2015). In September, rations were reduced for IDPs in camps and non-camp settings in all provinces except Anbar, Baghdad, and Salah al Din, where 370,000 camp-based IDPs...
continued to receive full rations (WFP, 01/10/2015; 22/10/2015). According to a multi-
cluster needs assessment, 72% of displaced households reported food as their top 
priority (REACH, 30/09/2015).

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 (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). Lack of water supply and agricultural inputs are reported to be the biggest 
constraints on production (OCHA, 04/10/2015).

Food access

Household food consumption has deteriorated due to ongoing conflict, despite a temporary 
improvement in July associated with Ramadan. Overall, 4.3% of households reported 
inadequate food consumption in August. The situation is worse among IDPs, for whom 
inadequate food consumption doubled from 8% in July to 17% in August (WFP, 
08/10/2015). 68% of IDP households outside of camps are relying on less expensive 
food, 29% limiting mealtime portions, and 18% limiting the number of meals at least 
once per week. 89% of households in debt cited food expenses as the main reason 
(REACH, 30/09/2015).

Food prices are particularly high in Anbar, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Salah al Din, and Dahuk due to 
conflict and blocked supply lines. September wheat prices were 30–50% higher in 
Anbar than in Baghdad (WFP, 30/10/2015). The average cost of a food basket rose in 
Anbar, Salah al Din, and Sulaymaniyah in August, but remained stable in Ninewa, Diyala, 
and Kirkuk, and decreased by 11% in Baghdad (WFP, 08/10/2015).

Refugees: Vulnerability-based assistance to Syrian refugees was introduced in August: 
50,000 refugees no longer receive food vouchers; the monthly voucher value was reduced to 
USD 10 per person for over 49,000 moderately vulnerable refugees, while 1,000 
considered the most vulnerable continue to receive USD 19 (WFP, 30/09/2015).

Livelihoods

3.4 million people are in need of emergency livelihood support, compared to 800,000 end 
February (OCHA/UNCT, 04/06/2015; UN, 18/02/2015). 72% of IDPs report access to 
employment among their top three needs, while 22% are unable to afford basic needs 
(OCHA, 04/10/2015). 17% of IDPs outside camps are without a source of income, and 
44% rely on seasonal and low skilled labour to generate income (REACH, 
30/09/2015). Overall, 80% of IDPs reported resorting to some form of coping 
mechanism (REACH, 30/09/2015).

Health

More than 7.8 million people need health support, 89% of whom are in critical need 
(WHO/GoI, 07/09/2015). Dozens of health projects have closed due to funding shortfalls 
(WHO, 13/10/2015).

Key concerns include the lack of specialised services; shortages of essential supplies; 
disruption of treatment for chronic illnesses; mental health support, and the risk posed by 
communicable diseases (OCHA, 04/08/2015; WHO, 04/06/2015).

For 25% of IDP households, medical care was among the top three priority needs 
(REACH, 30/09/2015). The leading causes of morbidity in refugee and IDP camps are 
acute respiratory infections, acute diarrhoea, and skin diseases. The prevalence of skin 
diseases in particular increased at a rate of 6% since the beginning of June due to poor 
WASH conditions (WHO/GoI, 11/09/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Across Iraq, 14 major hospitals and more than 170 other health facilities are non-functional 
or destroyed, and 45% of health staff have been displaced (WHO, 13/10/2015). 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). Departures 
of health staff to Europe pose major challenges (UNHCR, 31/10/2015).

Anbar: Health capacities are severely strained in Haditha city and al Baghdadi 
district, 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 
infrasture 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
Iraq’s health ministry declared a cholera outbreak on 15 September after the illness was detected in Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad. As of end October, 2,171 laboratory-tested cases had been confirmed in 15 of the country’s 18 governorates (WHO, 30/10/2015). Pilgrimages in October and December pose an additional transmission risk (WHO, 20/10/2015). Broken water supply systems as well as the use of unsafe water sources for drinking and farming contributed to the outbreak (OCHA, 29/09/2015; Reuters, 23/09/2015).

WASH

7.1 million people need WASH support, including 4.1 million in critical need (OCHA, 14/07/2015). 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 needs are reported for IDPs near Bzibz bridge and Ameriyat al Falluja in Anbar; and for new IDPs in Laylan camp in Kirkuk (OCHA, 04/10/2015). Purification material is lacking or unavailable in Anbar, Salah al Din, Baghdad and Najaf (OCHA, 15/09/2015). 4,000 displaced students in Abu Ghraib are in urgent need of WASH support (OCHA, 25/09/2015).

Refugees: Camps continued to face critical WASH needs (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). Transition to safe water supply and sanitation in Qushtapa, Kawergosk, Darashakran, and Basirma camps is ongoing, but challenged by funding constraints (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. Although heavy rains in October are replenishing water supplies, sewage and rainwater have mixed as drainage systems run over capacity (Iraqi Red Crescent, 02/11/2015). Defects in Khalidiya’s water network in Anbar have been reported (OCHA, 18/08/2015). 88% of households surveyed in Kirkuk do not have consistent access to water and 67% reported their main water source as partially functioning or worse (NRC, 30/09/2015).

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). 659,256 IDPs are living in critical shelter conditions, including in informal settlements, religious buildings, schools, unfinished and abandoned buildings (IOM, 29/09/2015). 20% of non-camp IDPs living in critical shelter conditions are in need of winterisation assistance (Shelter Cluster, 17/08/2015). 132,000 Syrian refugees and 585,000 Iraqi IDPs in need of winter assistance have been targeted (UNHCR, 01/10/2015).

Approximately 340,000 IDPs are currently living in 86 formal settlements, with plans for the construction of a further ten settlements with capacity to shelter 352,000 IDPs. 222,000 of the IDPs living in settlements are in KR-I, while 118,000 are in central and southern regions. Arbat IDP camp in Sulaymaniya is severely overcrowded, hosting over 11,000 people instead of the planned 4,800 (CCCM, 06/10/2015).

8,750 Yazidis on Mount Sinjar are in particular need of shelter and winterisation assistance, having escaped IS advances in August 2014, (IRIN, 30/09/2015).

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; UNICEF 31/08/2015). 3,604 new or improved shelter plots are required in Gawilan, Kawergosk, Basirma and Qushtapa camps, and a further 719 shelter units are required in Erbil (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). Non-camp refugee populations require urgent shelter upgrading and community infrastructure support (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). In September, 60% of Syrian refugees living outside camps were found to be in need of financial support for rent (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). Underfunding of winterisation assistance means only 30% of refugees will be reached in 2015–16 UNHCR, 31/10/2015).

Education

As a new academic year begins in Iraq, more than two million children are out of school, and 1.2 million aged 5–14 risk dropping out. 70% of displaced school-aged children have lost a full year of education. Over 5,300 schools have been destroyed, damaged or converted for shelter or military purposes, including 1,500 in Anbar province (UNICEF, 30/10/2015; AFP, 03/08/2015). Shortages of space and resources remain major learning barriers (UNHCR, 30/09/2015; OCHA, 29/09/2015). Many schools continue to operate at least two shifts per day (UNICEF, 30/09/2015).

Refugees: 76% of school-aged refugee children in camps and 63% outside camps are attending school (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). Schooling challenges in camps include overcrowded classrooms, and shortages of teachers and support personnel (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). Refugees also face multiple barriers to education in host communities in KR-I (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). Lack of space blunted the effectiveness of an August 2015 agreement between the Ministry of Education and UNHCR to allow Syrian parents to register children in Kurdish schools (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). At least 50% of Syrian teachers were unpaid between April and August, due to KR-I’s limited budget (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). By September, the KR-I government was reportedly no longer able to pay teacher salaries (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). Only 5% of 15-17 year old refugees attend formal education (UNHCR, 31/10/2015).
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). On 27 October in Mosul, IS reportedly executed 30 civilians for treason (ISW, 02/11/2015). As many as 3,700, predominantly from the Yazidi community and other ethnic and religious groups, remain in IS captivity (Reuters, 09/10/2015). ISF and associated militias have allegedly carried out looting, killing, torture, and abduction during their counter-offensive against IS (Reuters, 04/04/2015; 21/03/2015; Amnesty, 02/04/2015). Reports of possible use of chemical weapons by IS against Kurdish forces in August are a serious concern (Reuters, 07/10/2015). IS reportedly extorts money from Iraqis who need to leave IS territory to seek medical assistance (IRIN, 29/10/2015).

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). There are also reports of security forces and unidentified gunmen threatening journalists covering the protests across Iraq (ISW, 14/09/2015; Reporters without Borders, 12/10/2015). UNESCO has reported a culture of impunity for crimes committed against journalists (UNESCO, 01/11/2015).

Eviction and threats of eviction of displaced people living in public buildings, apartments and houses in Anbar, Babylon and Baghdad have been reported in September (OCHA, 15/09/2015).

Refugees: In August, humanitarian agencies received increasing reports of people smugglers operating in camps in Iraq to facilitate departures of heads of households to Turkey and Europe (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). Some refugees already in the resettlement process are reportedly opting to travel to Europe independently due to delays in processing (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). Refugees in Al Obaidi camp face major protection challenges since assistance was suspended in June 2014. Information is extremely limited due to access constraints. In September, UNHCR reported that medical patients were leaving the camp for Syria to seek treatment (UNHCR, 31/10/2015).

Children are reportedly being arrested for begging on the streets in Erbil (UNICEF, 30/09/2015).

Refugees: Child labour is affecting an estimated 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: Complex and lengthy procedures make it difficult for refugee in KR-I to access residency permits (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). Conversion of 15-day visas into asylum-seeker claims is no longer possible at the Peshkabour border, where most Syrians arrive (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). Refugees who had previously returned to Syria and de-activated their cases now report difficulties in accessing documentation and residency permits upon returning to KR-I (UNHCR, 31/10/2015).

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). Early marriage is a predominant SGBV concern in KR-I (UNHCR, 31/10/2015).

Mines and ERW

The Government estimates there are approximately 25 million landmines in Iraq (UN, 26/10/2015). IS is reportedly planting more (MAG, 07/2015). Landmines present a major danger to people returning to homes that have been affected by conflict (OCHA, 04/10/2015).

Updated: 03/11/2015

SYRIA DISPLACEMENT, CIVIL WAR
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

31 October: 13.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance: one million more than in 2014. Of these, 6.6 million are internally displaced (OCHA).

30 October: The US, Russian, Turkish, Iranian, and Saudi Arabian foreign ministers met in Vienna to discuss the Syrian conflict (The Guardian).

28 October: IS is advancing in Aleppo governorate, cutting off a stretch of the government’s main supply route into Aleppo city (ISW).

24 October: 120,000 people became newly displaced in Aleppo, Hama and Idlib governorates in October: shelter, food and WASH reported as priority needs (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS

- 11,000 people were killed in the first six months of 2015 (SNHR, 01/07/2015). Over 250,000 deaths documented March 2011–October 2015, including over 74,000 civilians, 12,000 of them children (SOHR, 16/10/2015).

- 13.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

- 6.6 million IDPs (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

- 4.8 million people live in hard-to-reach areas (OCHA, 12/2014).

- 4.2 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 15/10/2015).

OVERVIEW

13.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including 6.6 million IDPs.

The conflict has killed over 250,000 people and caused large-scale displacement. Protection concerns are widespread. WASH and access to food are high priorities, as well as access to health services. Humanitarian needs in areas under prolonged and ongoing siege are particularly high because access is obstructed.

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. 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).

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). 1,771 people were reported killed in October; 39% of these were women and children. These figures do not include casualties among government or IS forces (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 01/11/2015).

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 250,000 people have been killed since fighting began in March 2011 and more than one million people have been wounded or suffered permanent disability (SOHR, 15/10/2015; UNICEF, 03/2015).

The Iranian, Russian, Turkish, US and Saudi Arabian foreign ministers met in Vienna on 30 October to discuss the Syrian conflict. Further talks are expected mid-November (The Guardian, 30/10/2015; AFP, 30/10/2015; 25/10/2015).

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 (ISW, 14/09/2015).

Islamic State (IS, formerly the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant): Ar-Raqqa governorate is IS’s stronghold in Syria, and under IS control since October 2014. IS holds significant swathes of territory in Aleppo, Al Hasakeh, Homs and Deir-ez-Zor governorates (ISW, 14/09/2015).

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 Raqq, and Aleppo governorates (ISW, 14/09/2015).
**Other armed groups** include the Al Qaeda-affiliated Jabhat al Nusra (JAN), which controls areas in Idlib governorate (ISW, 19/06/2015). In some governorates, JAN and other armed groups, including Ahrar al Sham and Jaysh al Islam, have joined forces in so-called Operations Rooms, including the Jaysh al Fatah Operations Room in Idlib, the Ansar al Sharia Operations Room in Aleppo governorate, and Aleppo Conquest Operations Room active in Aleppo, Hama and Idlib governorates (BBC, 02/07/2015; ISW, 20/05/2015; 28/04/2015).

**International intervention:** Hezbollah forces are present in government-held areas bordering Lebanon and have been a key actor in military operations against armed groups in the border areas (ISW, 14/09/2015). In early September, Russia confirmed it had delivered military equipment and advisers to Syria (SOHR, 13/09/2015; Reuters, 10/09/2015). According to US officials, several hundred Iranian troops were deployed to Syria in late September (ISW, 01/10/2015; Reuters, 01/10/2015).

A US-led coalition began airstrikes on IS and JAN military installations in September 2014. Turkey began airstrikes in Syria in July 2015 (BBC, 24/07/2015). Russia launched its first airstrikes in Syria on 30 September. Russian airstrikes have reportedly mainly targeted opposition-held territory in Aleppo, Idlib, and Homs governorates, in addition to IS targets in Ar-Raqqa governorate (ISW, 19/10/2015; BBC, 12/10/2015). Russian ships have also been deployed to the Caspian Sea (ISW, 07/10/2015). In late October, US and Russia agreed on measures to ensure air safety over Syria (AFP, 21/10/2015).

**Conflict developments**

Since mid-September, fighting and airstrikes have intensified in almost all governorates over recent months, and frontlines continue to shift (UNHCR, 08/09/2015). Over October, government forces have launched renewed military offensives in Aleppo, Idlib, Homs, Hama, and Lattakia governorates, supported by Russian airstrikes (ECHO, 19/10/2015; BBC, 15/10/2015; ISW, 14/10/2015).

In late September, a six-month ceasefire was agreed in Zabadani town (Rural Damascus), and al Foua and Kafraya towns – the two last government-held areas in Idlib. The ceasefire will allow for 10,000 civilians to be evacuated from the besieged Idlib towns (AFP, 24/09/2015).

**Ar-Raqqa:** An alliance of armed groups called the Democratic Forces of Syria, which includes YPG, are reportedly planning to launch an offensive on Ar-Raqqa city, IS’s stronghold in Syria (BBC, 12/10/2015).

**Aleppo:** Both IS and government forces have been advancing in Aleppo governorate over October, while opposition groups are losing territory (ISW, 24/10/2015). Government forces, supported by Russian airstrikes and reportedly Hezbollah and Iranian ground forces, launched an offensive in southern Aleppo governorate on 15 October. Government forces have reportedly regained control over at least five villages (AFP, 21/10/2015). In late October, IS forces cut off a stretch of the government’s main supply route to Aleppo city, south of Khanasser (AFP, 29/10/2015). IS is advancing towards Safira, southeast of Aleppo city, a strategically important town (ISW, 28/10/2015).

Reports indicate that close to 35,000 people have become displaced in the governorate since the beginning of the offensives (AFP, 21/10/2015).

**Hama:** Ground fighting and airstrikes continue in northern Hama, but government forces are reportedly yet to make significant gains (ISW, 14/10/2015). Government forces launched a ground offensive with the support of Russian airstrikes in early October along the strategically important M5 highway, which connects Hama and Aleppo cities (ISW, 07/10/2015).

**Homs:** Fighting has intensified following a renewed government offensive in mid-October, leading to a spike in displacement (ECHO, 19/10/2015; BBC 15/10/2015). Clashes between government and IS forces in the Shaer gas field intensified late September, coupled with intensified government airstrikes in the governorate (AFP, 31/09/2015). In early September, IS forces seized Jazal oil field, the last oil field under government control (SOHR, 07/09/2015).

**Idlib:** Extensive shelling and fighting was reported in Idlib mid-October, following a government offensive that began earlier in the month (ECHO, 19/10/2015). In early September, Jaysh al Fatah Operations Room seized Abu Duhur airbase from the government (ICG, 01/10/2015). Government airstrikes targeting Jaysh al Fatah Operations Room intensified mid-September (BBC, 19/09/2015).

**Lattakia:** As of mid-October, government forces have renewed operations in northern Lattakia governorate, in an attempt to regain control of the whole governorate (BBC, 19/10/2015; AFP, 17/10/2015).

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

There are 6.6 million IDPs within Syria, with the largest numbers reported in Rural Damascus, Aleppo, and Idlib governorates (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

As of 22 September, an estimated 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, 22/09/2015). The largest numbers of newly displaced IDPs are reported in Idlib, Ar-Raqqa, Al Hasakeh, and Dar’a governorates (OCHA, 22/09/2015).

As a result of renewed military offensives in Aleppo, Hama, Idlib governorates, a spike in displacement has been reported. An estimated 120,000 people were newly
displaced in the governorates between 5 and 22 October (OCHA, 24/10/2015). Urgent needs include shelter, NFIs, food, and WASH services (OCHA, 24/10/2015).

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 who remain within Syria are dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 31/08/2015).


Returnees

73,500 Syrian refugees in Turkey have returned to Kurdish-controlled areas in northern Syria so far in 2015 (OCHA, 22/09/2015). Syrian refugees in Jordan are also increasingly returning to Syria, as funding shortfalls have led to a worsened humanitarian situation for refugees. Almost 4,000 Syrian refugees returned from Jordan in August (AP, 05/10/2015).

Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries

Almost 4.2 million Syrians are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries as of 4 October; a million more than in September 2014 (UNHCR, 19/10/2015). Since the war began, more than 500,000 Syrian asylum seekers have been registered in Europe – more than 180,000 asylum applications were registered between July and September 2015 (UNHCR, 13/10/2015).

Turkey: 2,072,290 registered refugees (UNHCR, 02/10/2015).

Lebanon: 1,078,338 refugees (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

Jordan: 630,776 refugees (UNHCR, 02/11/2015).

Iraq: 245,134 refugees (UNHCR, 27/10/2015).

Egypt: 128,019 refugees (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

PRS: 42,000 Palestinians previously registered as refugees in Syria have been recorded with UNRWA in Lebanon, 14,348 in Jordan and 860 in Gaza. Around 4,000 are reportedly in Egypt (UNRWA, 02/03/2015; 28/10/2014).

Humanitarian access

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).

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 UN has removed Yarmouk from its list of besieged areas, despite UNRWA not having been able to deliver aid within the camp since March (UNRWA, 01/10/2015; 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).
Rural Damascus: 40,000 people are in urgent need of basic services in Moadamiyah 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). As of September, the siege of Moadamiyah has tightened: humanitarian assistance cannot reach the town, and people cannot enter or leave (MSF, 10/09/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Humanitarian access has become further affected by the escalation of fighting following the first Russian airstrikes in late September – increased aerial bombardment from all parties is making supply routes more dangerous (AFP, 16/10/2015).

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 the north, fuel shortages are severely limiting transportation (MSF, 22/06/2015). Since January 2014, prices of diesel have increased by 110%, and petrol prices by 65% (Logistics Cluster, 25/09/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

8.7 million people require food assistance, of which 6.3 million – one in three Syrians – are food insecure (WFP, 27/10/2015).

Food availability

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). Government-controlled areas are suffering a shortage of wheat, as government forces have lost control over many wheat-producing areas, and insecurity causes losses during transportation (Reuters, 23/09/2015).

Crop production has been adversely affected by the lack or the high price 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 (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015; FAO, 17/06/2015).

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/AFP, 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 shortages of staff, equipment, and supplies, or damaged infrastructure (UNICEF, 31/07/2015). Health services in Aleppo, Da’ar, Homs, Hama, Idlib 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 60% and many lifesaving treatments are not available (Health Cluster, 30/09/2015). A shortage of ambulances is also reported (Health Cluster, 30/09/2015).

Populations living in hard-to-reach or besieged areas have very limited access to healthcare. In rural areas, access to healthcare is adversely impacted by shortage of medicines, medical supplies and sufficient numbers of medical personnel. Health facilities in urban areas are overwhelmed by large numbers of IDPs (Health Cluster, 30/09/2015). An estimated 150,000 children in hard-to-reach areas have not received any vaccinations this year (UNICEF, 10/10/2015).

Since 2011, 654 medical personnel have been killed (Health Cluster, 30/09/2015). Physicians for Human Rights has recorded 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

Water shortages have led to a significant increase in waterborne diseases, including typhoid and diarrhoea. Aleppo, Rural Damascus, and Deir-ez-Zor are the most affected (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). 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, a typhoid outbreak was 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 availability of clean drinking water is estimated to be less than one-third of pre-crisis levels (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). 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). In Aleppo and As Salamia, Hama, water availability is 80% lower than pre-crisis levels; many people are receiving less than 5% of pre-crisis levels of water (UNICEF, 10/10/2015).

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). In recent months, five million people in Aleppo, Rural Damascus, and Dar’a governorates have been affected by long and deliberate water cuts (UNICEF, 10/10/2015). Water pumping stations in Idlib governorate are operating only two hours a day (UNICEF 10/07/2015).

On average, the population of Aleppo has access to running water for only half of the month (Reuters, 15/10/2015).

**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 NFI**

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**

Extremely limited information is available on shelter needs of the 7.6 million IDPs (IOM, 31/08/2015; Shelter Cluster, 29/07/2015).

98% of IDPs live in unofficial settlements and/or in host communities; 2% live in communal shelters, (IOM, 31/08/2015). Buildings are often overcrowded and IDPs lack access to basic services (UNHCR, 02/09/2015; IOM, 31/08/2015).

More than one million houses have been damaged, 400,000 of which have been totally destroyed (UNHCR, 02/09/2015).

**Education**

2.7 million children are currently out of school – approximately half of all school-aged children (UNICEF, 01/10/2015; Education Cluster, 22/09/2015). Another one million children are at risk of dropping out as a result of insecurity and displacement (Education Cluster, 22/09/2015; UNICEF, 15/09/2015). In areas of prolonged active conflict, education enrolment is estimated to be around 6% (Save the Children, 03/2015).

Attendance levels have further dropped in Homs, Idlib, Hama, and Aleppo governorates following increased airstrikes and ground fighting since late September (UNICEF, 10/2015).

52,000 teachers are no longer teaching (UNICEF, 01/10/2015). Other obstacles to education include the lack of safe learning spaces and learning material, and lack of adequate WASH facilities (Education Cluster, 22/09/2015).

Schools are frequently deliberately targeted. One in four has been damaged, destroyed, occupied, or is used as shelter by IDPs (Education Cluster, 22/09/2015).

**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 (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). Forced displacement and demolitions have been reported in YPG-controlled areas in northern Syria (Amnesty International, 13/10/2015).

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, 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). More than 12,000 children have been killed since 2011 (NRC, 06/10/2015). Rates of child marriage and child labour have increased as a result of increasing poverty (UNICEF, 10/10/2015).

Updated: 02/11/2015

YEMEN COMPLEX, CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

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. 21 of Yemen’s 22 governorates are directly affected by airstrikes, armed clashes, and shelling (OCHA, 27/08/2015). Conflict between Houthi and government forces began to escalate significantly from late March 2015, and several ceasefires have failed to hold (AFP, 27/07/2015; 13/07/2015). 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 was expected to begin in mid-September, but the Hadi government will only join if the Houthis withdraw their forces from all the territory they seized during the conflict (AFP, 14/09/2015; 10/09/2015). On 7 October, Houthi representatives announced they would accept the UN Security Council resolution that calls for this (BBC, 07/10/2105; AFP, 07/10/2015). On 18 October, government representatives announced their decision to join UN-brokered peace talks (Reuters, 18/10/2015). Talks are expected to begin mid-November (Reuters, 01/11/2015).

Houthi forces took control of the capital in September 2014. 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; he was reported to have returned to Aden on 22 September (AFP, 22/09/2015). On 25 March, a Saudi-led coalition began airstrikes in support of pro-government forces. Islamist groups, including AQAP, Ansar al Sharia and Islamic State (IS), have exploited the power vacuum to take control of large areas in southeastern Yemen (ICG, 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 remain strong in northern governorates (ECHO, 17/08/2015; ICG, 12/08/2015).

By 26 October, 5,604 conflict-related deaths and 26,703 injuries had been registered since WHO, (26/10/2015). Civilians account for almost half of those killed – 2,577 deaths as of late October (OHCHR, 23/10/2015). These numbers are expected to be much higher due to underreporting (OHCHR, 01/09/2015).

Stakeholders

Pro-government forces, supported by Saudi-led coalition airstrikes, aim to regain control over Houthi- and AQAP-controlled areas. President Hadi has been in command of government forces. However, 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). Factions in the Yemeni army who are allied with the Houthis include 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).

Islamic State (IS) has carried out several attacks on Shi’ite mosques in Sanaa over 2015. In October, IS attacked the temporary government headquarters and a military installation belonging to the Saudi-led coalition in Aden, the first IS attack during the conflict targeting government and military targets (AFP, 07/10/2015; BBC, 06/10/2015).

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 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

As of mid-October, the governorates most affected by conflict are Sanaa, Sa’ada, Hajjah, Marib, Hodeidah, Al Dhalee, Ibb, Taizz, and Abyan (IOM, 15/10/2015). Pro-government forces have regained control over Aden, Abyan, Shabwah, Lahj, and Al Dhalee governorates (WFP, 21/08/2015). Houthi forces had reportedly lost all the territory they held in southern governorates by mid-August (ECHO, 17/08/2015; ICG, 12/08/2015). 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: On 17 October, hundreds of Sudanese troops – part of the Saudi-led coalition – arrived in Aden to secure the governorate following an escalation of violence (AP, 17/10/2015). On 6 October, the temporary government headquarters in Aden city were targeted by two bomb attacks claimed by IS – two guards were killed and several ministers were lightly wounded. On the same day, IS also claimed two bomb attacks targeting military installations used by the Saudi-led coalition. This was the first IS attack on government and military targets (AFP, 07/10/2015; BBC, 06/10/2015).

Marib: In late September, Saudi-led coalition ground forces began advancing west from eastern Marib; heavy fighting is reported between coalition and Houthi forces (ICG, 01/10/2015; ECHO, 21/09/2015).

Sa’ada: Intensified airstrikes and continuous shelling were reported in September, causing frequent electricity shortages and damage to infrastructure (OCHA, 29/09/2015; ECHO, 14/09/2015).

Sanaa: Saudi-led coalition airstrikes have increased in Sanaa and other northern governorates since early September (Logistics Cluster, 28/09/2015; ECHO, 21/09/2015). IS has in recent months claimed responsibility for several bombings targeting Shi’ite mosques in the capital (AFP, 03/09/2015). On 6 October, seven people were killed in another bombing outside a Shi’ite mosque (AFP, 07/10/2015).

Taizz: Indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas is in Taizz city is reported late October. Houthi forces have established checkpoints around the city, which has led to a de facto blockade (OHCHR, 23/10/2015; ICRC, 21/10/2015). Government forces have reportedly made gains in southwestern Taizz city (Reuters, 25/10/2015). Intense conflict is also reported between Bab al Mandab and Mokha (AP, 04/10/2015).

Natural disasters

Tropical Cyclone Chapala

Tropical Cyclone Chapala made landfall in eastern Yemen as a Category 1 cyclone on 26/03/2015).
Tropical Cyclone Chapala made landfall in eastern Yemen as a Category 1 cyclone on 3 November, after having reached Socotra governorate (an island off the southern coast) on 1 November. In Socotra, at least two people were killed by floods caused by heavy rainfall, and an estimated 200 people were injured. Around 100 houses were damaged. 9,000 people were evacuated by local authorities (Al Jazeera, 02/11/2015; AFP, 02/11/2015).

Floods are reported in Mukalla city in Hadramaut governorate, but the extent of the damage is yet to be assessed (BBC, 03/11/2015). Mukalla city is under AQAP control.

**Displacement**

It is difficult to estimate displacement figures and needs due to several waves of conflict, lack of access, and the fluidity of displacement. 2.3 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, 14/10/2015; OCHA, 12/06/2015).

**IDPs**

As of October, 2.3 million people have been internally displaced since the escalation of conflict, almost 900,000 more than in August. The increase in number is partially explained by better data collection, however continued insecurity has also led to increased displacement (Protection Cluster, 14/10/2015). More than 1.3 million of the IDPs (57%) originate from the five most conflict-affected governorates: Abyan, Aden, Al Dhalee, Hajjah and Taizz (Protection Cluster, 14/10/2015).

Most IDPs are staying with friends and family (OCHA, 19/06/2015; OCHA, 10/06/2015). IDPs and host communities are in need of food, shelter, health services, and fuel (IOM, 23/07/2015).

In Taizz governorate, IDPs are in immediate need of food, shelter, health, and WASH services (Protection Cluster, 22/09/2015).

**Refugees and asylum seekers**

As of 15 September, 263,933 registered refugees are living in Yemen: most are Somali (249,583), and 6,067 are Ethiopian (UNHCR, 15/09/2015). Since the escalation of conflict in March, more than 25,000 Somalis and 4,000 Ethiopians have returned to their countries of origin (IOM, 17/09/2015; 11/09/2015).

Conflict in areas close to refugee-hosting sites has resulted in further displacement of refugees and asylum seekers, loss of livelihoods, and a breakdown in basic services (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Insecurity is limiting access to Kharaz refugee camp in Lahj governorate, which has a population of 17,000 (UNHCR, 15/09/2015).

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).

Ethiopians make up the vast majority of the 18,000 people who have arrived in Yemen since March; the rest are from Somalia (UNHCR, 01/10/2015; 14/07/2015). Almost 50,000 new arrivals have been registered in Yemen in 2015, a 50% reduction compared to 2014 (UNHCR, 01/10/2015). Most of the new arrivals are Ethiopians transiting through Yemen (UNHCR, 27/10/2015).

**Arrivals from Yemen in other countries**

Since March 2015, more than 121,000 people, consisting of Yemenis, returnees, and third-country nationals (TCNs) have left Yemen (UNHCR, 20/10/2015). As of 29 October, 29,621 have arrived in Djibouti and 29,643 in Somalia (UNHCR, 29/10/2015). 12,000 arrivals have been recorded in Ethiopia, 5,500 in Sudan, and 5,000 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, 01/10/2015; 27/08/2015; IOM, 17/09/2015).

**Humanitarian access**

Checkpoints, insecurity, and the reluctance of transporters to access volatile areas are hampering the delivery of assistance by 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 also significantly impact the supply of humanitarian relief (OHCHR, 29/09/2015; 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, 07/07/2015). As of October, humanitarian access to Taizz governorate is extremely limited due to fighting (Logistics Cluster, 19/10/2015; OCHA, 31/08/2015).

**Access of relief actors to affected populations**

On 30 September, two Yemen Red Crescent Society volunteers were killed in an airstrike in Taizz. Eight Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers have been killed since March (ICRC, 30/09/2015). Humanitarian workers in Taizz governorate are increasingly being targeted, harassed, and abducted by armed groups (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

**Access of affected populations to assistance**

A de facto siege has been in place in Taizz city since the beginning of September, with little to no humanitarian assistance reaching the 240,000 people in the city. The food supply of humanitarian relief (OHCHR, 29/09/2015; OCHA, 27/08/2015).
situation is particularly critical, as no food assistance has reached the city since late September (WFP, 29/10/2015; ECHO, 26/10/2015; OCHA, 24/10/2015).

Security and physical constraints

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, 15/09/2015).

The Hadi government has formally banned ships from entering the country’s waters without prior inspection (IRIN, 17/04/2015). Few shipping companies are willing to operate in Yemen due to insecurity (OCHA, 16/09/2015). The Saudi-led coalition has declared the Red Sea coastline from Mokha to Hodeidah and Salif ports a “restricted area”, further limiting imports (ECHO, 12/10/2015). Administrative hurdles continue to hamper access to Hodeidah port (Logistics Cluster, 28/09/2015). As of late October, insecurity hinders access to Aden port (Logistics Cluster, 26/10/2015). Bridges and roads are frequently damaged in airstrikes (ECHO, 26/10/2015).

Yemen imports 70% of its fuel, but in September, fuel imports reached only 1% of Yemen’s monthly needs (OCHA, 11/10/2015). Fuel prices have increased by 250% compared to pre-crisis levels: fuel prices in Sanaa and Taizz have increased by 400% (WFP, 30/09/2015). 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 (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 Hodeidah, Taizz, Lahj, Al Dhale, and Al Bayda. 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).

More than 40% of the population are estimated to have poor or borderline food consumption, and almost 55% of IDPs -governorates in the northwest and centre-south are worst affected (WFP, 07/10/2015). Since August, food security has particularly deteriorated in Al Mahwit, Ibb, and Dhamar governorates (WFP, 07/10/2015).

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 (FAO, 01/10/2015; OCHA, 29/05/2015). Cooking gas is only sparsely available in the worst conflict-affected governorates (OCHA, 13/07/2015).

Wheat and meat products are only sparsely available in 15 governorates (FEWSNET, 18/08/2015; MSF, 29/07/2015; OCHA, 13/07/2015). 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). The main mills in Hodeidah and Salif port cities are facing severe fuel shortages, while the mill in Aden is working at only 20–40% capacity (OCHA, 11/10/2015).

A 30% reduction in the 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 cropping season has been disrupted by conflict, malfunctioning markets, the high cost of fuel and other inputs, high operating costs for irrigation, and below-average rainfall during the planting season (FAO, 01/10/2015; 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

Taizz city has not been reached by food assistance since late September (WFP, 29/10/2015).

Staple food prices have increased by 40–160% since the start of the crisis, with the highest prices in southwestern governorates (FAO, 01/10/2015; 08/07/2015). Food prices in September were 28% higher than in August (OCHA, 11/10/2015).

The average national price of a food basket has increased by more than 30%, compared to pre-crisis levels (WFP, 07/10/2015). Wheat prices have increased by 45%, and by more than 100% in Taizz (WFP, 07/10/2015).

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 3% of businesses were reported to be functioning normally in May (FEWSNET, 18/08/2015). An assessment in Hodeidah governorate found that 70% of households had lost some or all of their monthly income since March (UNICEF, 25/08/2015).

In areas affected by ground conflict, many people have not received public salaries since...
March (FEWSNET, 18/08/2015). Aden, Taizz, Lahj, Al Dhalee, Abyan, Hajjah, and Sa’ada are most affected (FAO, 31/08/2015). The Social Welfare Fund, which provides financial assistance to poor households, has stopped functioning (ECHO, 22/09/2015).

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).

**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).

Qualified medical staff were already in short supply before the crisis: health staff are increasingly unable to report to work, and non-Yemeni health staff, who made up at least 25% of health workers, have been evacuated (WHO, 27/04/2015). Health professionals who continue working have not been paid in months (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

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). Yemen’s national blood transfusion centre in Sanaa is operating at a minimum, due to fuel shortages and shortage of essential supplies (WHO, 27/09/2015).

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).

Taizz governorate’s health system has collapsed, affecting 3.2 million people. Only six of Taizz’s 20 hospitals continue to function, often only partially (MSF, 25/10/2015). Most health facilities in rural areas have closed, due to a lack of staff, fuel, and essential medicines (MSF, 25/10/2015; WHO 20/10/2015). Humanitarian organisations are struggling to deliver medical and surgical supplies due to insecurity (WHO, 20/10/2015).

On 26 October, an MSF field hospital in Haydan, Sa’ada governorate, was hit by airstrikes, leaving 200,000 people in the area without access to healthcare (MSF, 27/10/2015).

Electricity shortages in Sanaa are posing a major threat to the functioning of health facilities (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

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).

**Nutrition**

Around 1.7 million children are likely to suffer from malnutrition in Yemen in 2015 – one million more than in 2014. Of these, a projected 537,000 are at risk of severe acute malnutrition, compared to 160,000 in 2014 (UNICEF, 02/10/2015).

There was a 150% increase in hospital admissions for malnutrition between March and June (WHO, 19/06/2015).

An assessment in Hodeidah governorate found global acute malnutrition (GAM) to be at 31% among children under five, 9% of whom have SAM – a significant increase from 18% GAM in the governorate in 2014 (UNICEF, 25/08/2015). An August assessment in Aden found 19.2% GAM in the governorate (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). In Hajjah governorate the GAM is above the emergency threshold of 15%, and SAM is at 3.8% (OCHA, 15/10/2015).

**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).

**Water**

Lack of power combined with damaged water pumps have forced people to resort to water collection from unprotected and abandoned wells. Access to water trucks is limited as fuel shortages are hindering 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). In some areas, running water is only available for 30 minutes a day (Thomson Reuters Foundation, 21/10/2015).

The water network in Taizz city, which previously served 300,000 people, has been closed since 18 August, as insecurity makes transportation of fuel to the water pumps too
dangerous (UNICEF, 15/09/2015; OCHA, 02/09/2015). The price of water in Taizz city has increased by 300% since mid-October (OHCHR, 23/10/2015).

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 people (IOM, 22/05/2015). The availability of housing for rent is becoming increasingly limited and costly; in some areas rental prices have tripled (Shelter Cluster, 31/08/2015).

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, 15/10/2015).

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, 12/06/2015).

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).

At least seven journalists have been killed in Yemen so far this year. Media agencies are frequently raided, and journalists targeted and harassed (OCHA, 14/09/2015).

Mines and ERW

At least 13 governorates are contaminated by unexploded ordnance (UXO) and landmines due to previous insecurity and the ongoing conflict. Lack of access to contaminated areas is hampering mine action response (OCHA, 14/09/2015). Cluster munitions have been used by Saudi-led coalition forces (Cluster Munition Monitor, 03/09/2015).

Children

7.3 million children are in need of protection assistance (Save the Children, 19/06/2015). As of 20 October, 573 children have been reported killed and 846 injured (UNICEF, 20/10/2015).

601 children have been recruited by armed groups since the escalation of the conflict (UNICEF, 20/10/2015). Houthis, Ansar al Sharia, AQAP and government 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 (about 10% of the population) have greater humanitarian needs than the average population (International Dalit Solidarity Network, 01/10/2015; UNICEF, 20/02/2015).

Updated: 03/11/2015

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
No new significant developments this week, 27/10/2015. Last update: 09/09/2015.

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 in August after a landmine at the border injured two South Korean soldiers (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
Floods
In August, 22,000 people were affected by floods caused by seasonal rains and Tropical Cyclone Goni, and an estimated 14,500 people were displaced (OCHA, 07/10/2015).

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). 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 (OCHA, 31/08/2015). The government rations in July and August were below the three-year average, and substantially below the rations in the same period in 2013 and 2014, most likely due to the reduction in the output of early season crops (FAO, 09/09/2015).

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 (FAO, 09/09/2015). Maize output is expected to be 15% lower than last year. 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, 07/07/2015).

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).

Nutrition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanitarian crisis</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missing data</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>Severe</td>
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</table>

DPRK is categorised as a humanitarian crisis, based on the number of people affected and level of humanitarian access. Lack of information prevents inclusion of pre-crisis vulnerability.
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).

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
DPRK has been found to be responsible for widespread human rights violations against its citizens, including abductions, arbitrary detention, torture, extrajudicially executions, and forced labour (UN General Assembly 08/09/2015; Human Rights Watch, 08/06/2015; UN, 17/03/2014).

KEY CONCERNS
-1,078,338 Syrians are registered as refugees in Lebanon (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).
- The government instructed the temporary suspension of refugee registration with UNHCR on 6 May 2015, leaving thousands of Syrians with uncertain status (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, as Parliament has failed to elect one 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. The government of Syria sporadically conducts cross-border air raids (UN Security Council, 22/04/2015). Longstanding tensions between Lebanon and Israel have flared occasionally in the context of the Syrian civil war.

Fighting between the Lebanese Armed Forces and Jabat Al Nusra has been ongoing in northern Lebanon, along the border with Syria, since August 2014. Violence broke out first in the town of Arsal, which has been a flashpoint for clashes since. On 19 October, eight people were killed and several injured during Lebanese military operations along the border near Arsal. Reports indicate that one of the informal Syrian refugee camps was hit (AFP, 19/10/2015).

Civil unrest
Following the closure of Beirut’s main landfill, and the subsequent build-up of solid

LEBANON DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
23 October: 975,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon are in need of NFI and shelter assistance for the winter (UNHCR).
Following the closure of Beirut's main landfill, and the subsequent build-up of solid waste in the street, rioting broke out in Beirut in August, mainly outside government buildings. At least one protester has been killed, dozens 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, which is organising the protests, and both have called for the current government to resign (AFP, 25/08/2015). Protests have continued into October (Middle East Monitor, 8/10/2015).

Palestinian refugee camps: A Palestinian joint security force has been deployed to two camps (Daily Star, 24/03/2015). Tensions between Fatah and Islamist groups have been increasing in Ain al Hilweh camp, where up to four people were killed and more than 15 wounded in clashes between 22 and 27 August. This was 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).

Refugees

On 6 May, refugee registration was suspended; refugee who registered after 5 January have also been deregistered. The number of Syrian refugees recorded has been steadily decreasing. The drop may partly be due to people obtaining work in Syria losing their status. The number of Syrians in Lebanon not registered with UNHCR is unknown. As of 30 September, 1,079,338 Syrian refugees are registered in Lebanon, a slight decrease from the peak of 1,185,250 million registered in May 2015 (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). Bekaa is hosting 373,429; Beirut 29,264; Mount Lebanon 287,752; North Lebanon 161,085; and South Lebanon and El Nabatieh Governorates 125,742 (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

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).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: 43,375 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) reside in Lebanon (OCHA, 16/10/2015). PRS entry to Lebanon is now almost entirely limited to those transiting to a third country. An estimated 85.7% of PRS remain in Lebanon illegally, and face an array of protection concerns (OCHA 16/10/2015).

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

Humanitarian actors are blocked from certain areas due to insecurity and entry restrictions. In Akkar governorate, access to Wadi Khaled, by the border with Syria, is limited. In Baalbek-Hermel governorate, UN agencies have been blocked from accessing Aarsal since December 2014, but have been able to get some assistance in through local partners (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

Lebanon formally decided to stop welcoming displaced people in October 2014, barring exceptional cases, and the suspension of registration raises serious protection concerns (UNHCR, AFP 24/10/2014; UNHCR 07/2014; UNHCR, 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, 31/07/2015; UNHCR, 06/05/2015). In July, 24.5% of people were in moderate to severe food insecurity, compared to 12.8% in 2014 (WFP, 07/07/2015). Among the Syrian refugee population, approximately 26% are in moderate to severe food insecurity (UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF, 23/10/2015). Levels are highest in North Lebanon (Akkar) and the Bekaa Valley (WFP, 01/07/2015).

Starting in September, WFP capped assistance at five members per household because of a funding shortfall (OCHA, 21/08/2015). Currently, WFP estimates that it is providing assistance at 80% of vulnerable households’ needs (WFP, 16/10/2015).

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).

Reduced assistance to Syrian refugees due to funding shortfalls has caused families to adopt negative coping strategies (WFP, 16/06/2015). 67% of Syrian refugee
households in Lebanon have reported severe and crisis coping strategies, up from 28% last year (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

Health

3.3 million people are in need of healthcare (WHO/UNHCR, 31/01/2015; 06/05/2015). In the Bekaa Valley, there was 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). According to a recent assessment, 39% of Syrian refugee households do not have access to safe drinking water (UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF, 23/10/2015). WASH conditions are often below standards in Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut (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). 10% of Syrian refugees do not have access to bathroom facilities (UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF, 23/10/2015).

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 (Shelter Sector, 31/07/2015). 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). 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).

The numerous informal tented settlements (ITS) are usually substandard. Humanitarian agencies are unable to make substantial improvements, as the sites are on private land (UNHCR, 09/06/2015).

An estimated 975,000 Syrian refugees are in need of NFIs and shelter assistance for the winter (UNHCR, 23/10/2015). In Beirut, many Syrian refugees have settled in Palestinian refugee camps, 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, 31/07/2015, 06/05/2015). One in five households with school-aged children have withdrawn their children from school due to increased food insecurity (WFP, 02/06/2015).

On 21 September, the Lebanese Minister of Education announced free education up to grade nine for both Lebanese and non-Lebanese children (UNHCR, 31/09/2015).

Protection

Main protection concerns include the presence of ERW; child labour; and lack of documentation for refugees, impacting their ability to access services and move
freely; and forced evictions.

Mines and ERW

Lebanon has nearly 1,400 confirmed minefields and 520 cluster munitions strike areas: 15.23 km² is contaminated by ERW. In 2015, 19 incidents of ERW-related injury or death had been recorded as of August, compared to 24 in all of 2014. The increase may be related to the presence of refugees in contaminated areas (Al Jazeera, 13/08/2015). 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. Rental agreements are required to obtain legal residence, however only about 15% of refugees have rental contracts (NRC, 18/06/2015). Undocumented refugees may not be able to move freely and access services, and face an increased risk of abuse and harassment (ECHO 20/06/2015; NRC, 18/06/2015).

Forced evictions: 18,000 people are thought to have been evicted from 115 informal tented settlements since the beginning of the year, approximately 51% of whom (an estimated 9,276 individuals) were evicted in Bekka governorate. 39% of the evictions (8,720 individuals) were in Akkar governorate, and 10% (1,699 individuals) in North governorate. An additional 150 families are thought to be at risk of eviction in Ouzai collective shelter in Mount Lebanon governorate and 50 families in Ghazieh in South governorate. (UNHCR, 15/10/2015).

Documentation

De-registration of refugees: Refugees who entered after 5 January and have been subsequently registered should be deregistered, according to government regulations. As of 31 May, 2,626 people have fallen into this category. In May, the Ministry of Social Affairs further notified UNHCR that all new registrations must be suspended until a mechanism to deal with those who seek registration is established (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

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). Syrian Kurds who were denaturalised in Syria in 1962 are also stateless in Lebanon.

Updated: 29/10/2015

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Comprehensive, Food Insecurity, Insecurity

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

13–19 October: At least 223 children were injured in clashes with Israeli forces (OCHA, 19/10/2015).

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 population, 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

Following an escalation of violence in October across oPt and Israel, Israeli authorities have implemented new security measures including the deployment of 300 more soldiers, additional checkpoints, restricted access to Jerusalem, longer
On 2 October, Mahmoud Abbas, head of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Fatah, stated that the PA was considering ending two decades of security cooperation with Israel. This would represent a severe deterioration in relations between the PA and Israel (AFP, 02/10/2015). The Palestinian unity government, made up of members of both Hamas and Fatah, never fulfilled its mandate to arrange a general election, and resigned in June. Hamas governs the Gaza Strip and Fatah the West Bank (Al Jazeera, 17/06/2015).

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 the 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).

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 its military wing, the Izzeddine al Qassam Brigades, fights Israel. In 2006 Hamas won political office in Gaza. Tensions with its secular rival Fatah erupted 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 or the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (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. 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 has occupied the West Bank and east Jerusalem since 1967. It 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 have been involved in three major conflicts in 2008, 2012 and 2014. In each, Israel has been accused of the disproportionate use of force.

Conflict developments

Incidents between Palestinians and Israeli security forces and Israeli settlers dramatically increased during the third quarter of 2015. In the West Bank, a series of stabbing of Israeli civilians and security forces, tensions inside the holy sites of Jerusalem, and settler attacks on Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, finally erupted into widespread violence across oPt and parts of Israel. As of 27 October, the Palestinian Red Crescent and international media are reporting that 56 Palestinians and eight Israelis have been killed since October 1. Some 2,000–4,000 Palestinians and over 83 Israeli civilians are reported to have been injured (OCHA, 19/10/2015; Al Jazeera, 27/10/2015; AFP, 08/10/2015).

Gaza

People are frequently injured in the Access Restricted Area (ARA), as Israeli forces open fire on people accused of entering it. Palestinian armed groups continue to fire rockets towards Israel and test-fire rockets into the sea. On 9 October, two Palestinians, including a child under 10 were killed when Israel responded with airstrikes to rocket fire (AFP, 12/10/2015). There has been an increase in rockets fired by groups other than Hamas (UNRWA, 04/08/2015).

On 15 October, three Palestinians using smuggling tunnels southeast of Rafah were shot and injured by Egyptian forces (OCHA, 19/10/2015). On 16 October, five Palestinians died and more than 100 others were injured when Israeli security forces opened fire on protesters approaching the border fence in Gaza (Al Jazeera, 16/10/2015; Telegraph, 16/10/2015).

West Bank and East Jerusalem

Clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces erupted in late September, in response to Jewish groups’ repeated attempts to access the Al Aqsa Mosque compound and restrictions placed on Palestinian men under 50 entering the compound (OCHA, 08/10/2015; Al Jazeera, 29/09/2015). Violence escalated further on 1 October, after Palestinian gunmen killed two Israeli settlers and wounded two children (AFP, 01/10/2015). In the following days, protests and isolated attacks on both Palestinian and Israeli citizens have taken place across the West Bank, the Gaza...
strip, Jerusalem and other parts of Israel. Over 30 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank. This is the highest number recorded for October since 2005 (OCHA, 19/10/2015).

Settler-related violence

In 2015, there has been on average two Israeli settler attacks a week resulting in damage to Palestinian property. 143 incidents of settler-related violence have resulted in Palestinian casualties or property damage in 2015, less than in 2014 (OCHA, 14/09/2015).

As of 14 September, 449 structures have been demolished in 2015, with 514 people displaced. If the current trend continues, the demolitions will roughly match the number recorded in 2014 (OCHA, 14/09/2015).

Displacement

263,600 people were displaced in oPt as of July 2015 (IDMC). 141,500 are in the West Bank and are mostly in protracted displacement. Up to 122,000 are in Gaza, around 100,000 of whom were displaced by the July–August 2014 conflict. Around 12,500 Palestinians were demolished between 2009 and early April 2015 after evictions, demolitions or pressure from settlers in Hebron (IDMC, 28/09/2015). In September, 139 structures were demolished, displacing 208 people in the West Bank (OCHA, 04/10/2015). The escalation of tensions and violence since October has resulted in the increased speed and use of punitive housing demolitions. This is likely to result in an increased displacement of Palestinians.

Many IDPs are believed to be staying within the host community, but their exact location, shelter requirements and other needs are unclear (UNRWA, 19/06/2015; IFRC, 06/03/2015; OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Humanitarian access

Egyptian authorities have flooded many of the smuggling tunnels which connect Gaza to Egypt along the border near Rafah. These tunnels have been a valuable route for supplies into Gaza. Fuel availability has been particularly affected (Al Jazeera, 20/09/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

The Palestinian Red Crescent has reported 151 attacks against the organisation since 3 October. It also said that Israeli authorities have restricted the movement of ambulances (PRCS, 21/10/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

Rafah Crossing was open for five days in September, allowing over 2,000 Palestinians to cross. This was mainly for pilgrimage to Mecca. Rafah was open on 15 October, allowing 1,814 Palestinians to return. 7,504 Palestinians exited the Gaza Strip in the first half of 2015 compared to 19,806 in the same time period in 2014. 32% fewer people crossed through Erez in September compared to August, but this was still 45% more than in September 2014 (OCHA, 19/10/2015; 12/10/2015).

Since the escalation of violence in the West Bank and Jerusalem in October, all Palestinians, except residents and shopkeepers, have been barred entry from the Old City in Jerusalem (BBC, 06/10/2015). Recent road closures to 10 Palestinian neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem and delays at checkpoints are restricting access to emergency medical assistance (HRW, 22/10/2015). These closures affect approximately 138,000 people, or 45% of the Palestinian population of East Jerusalem (OCHA, 20/10/2015).

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). Electricity shortages have impacted food production and refrigeration. Delays at crossings are complicating deliveries. Destruction of tunnels bringing inexpensive goods has also impacted access to food and supplies.

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). Patients requiring medical assistance regularly have to be referred to services in either Egypt or Israel. In August, 27% of applications to pass into Israel for medical reasons through the Erez border crossing were denied (WHO, 28/09/2015).

Mental health

There are indications that the rate of suicide has increased since Operation Protective Edge. Social stigmatisation of the surviving family members due to the religious condemnation and cultural view of suicide prevents accurate reporting (AFP, 30/09/2015).

Since the latest outbreak of violence on 1 October, MSF reports treating five times the usual number of patients for mental health problems in Hebron (MSF, 22/10/2015).

WASH

1.4 million people require 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 2–4 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.

Shelter

An estimated 500,000 Palestinians are in need of shelter assistance (OCHA, 31/03/2015). As of 28 September, 12,580 housing units remain totally destroyed since the 2014 war. 7,200 families, or around 43,000 individuals, are yet to begin reconstitution on their shelters. As of 20 October 13,163 families (around 79,000 individuals) remain in need of improved temporary shelter (UNRWA, 20/09/2015).

NFIs

There is a 55% energy deficit in Gaza (OCHA, 06/07/2015). Rolling power cuts across Gaza are in affected between 12–16 hours per day. This has been exacerbated due to supply lines with Egypt and a lack of fuel impacting the Gaza Power Plant (OCHA, 14/09/2015).

Education

In the previous academic year, 90% of the 252 UNRWA schools in Gaza ran on a double-shift system, with 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 without trial, including children, forcibly displacing communities, 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 (the areas directly controlled by occupying Israeli forces) in the West Bank (HRW 24/08/2015). Both Israeli and Palestinian armed groups have been reported as targeting civilians (HRW, 2015). Housing demolition has been recorded as a punitive measure against individuals considered to have committed a criminal act (OCHA, 12/10/2015).

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). There is evidence that journalists have been targeted. On 6 October, a Human Rights Watch research assistant wearing a press tag was shot and wounded by Israeli forces (HRW, 06/10/2015). Palestinian rights groups report that as many as 20 journalists, including citizen journalists, have been injured in October (Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, 17/10/2015).

On 16 January 2015, the International Criminal Court (ICC) launched an examination of the events of the 50-day war in 2014 (ICC, 16/01/2015). 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 against its enemies during the conflict (Amnesty, 29/07/2015; 27/05/2015). Investigations are ongoing.

Mines and ERW

Palestinian civilians and security forces continue to be killed and injured by explosive remnants of war (ERW). Over 5,000 UXO are estimated to remain in Gaza as a result of the 2014 hostilities (OCHA, 28/09/2015).

On 8 September, one Palestinian was injured by UXO in Gaza city (OCHA, 28/09/2015). On 6 August, an ERW exploded, killing four people and injuring more than 40 in Rafah. Ten houses were damaged (Guardian, 06/08/2015).

Children

Hundreds of children have been injured in clashes with Israeli forces since violence escalated in October. At least 223 were injured between 13–19 October (OCHA, 19/10/2015). The Israeli army continues to arrest or detain Palestinian children as young as 11 (HRW, 20/07/2015).
Four Bedouin communities in Area C of the West Bank are threatened with forced displacement. They are part of around 7,450 Palestinian Bedouins and herders, 60% of them children, who have demolition orders pending against their homes. Over 85% are not connected 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).

Updated: 27/10/2015

PAKISTAN CONFLICT, DROUGHT, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

29 October: 2,900 dengue cases have been reported in Rawalpindi cases in 2015. Between 28 and 29 October 124 new cases were admitted to different hospitals (Al Hasan).

29 October: A tribal elder and seven other people were killed in a landmine and rocket attack in Marwar, 40km from Quetta (DAWN).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.2 million IDPs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA (OCHA, 08/10/2015).
- 1.5 million Afghan refugees, the majority in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (UNHCR, 08/10/2015).
- 1,781 civilians were killed in conflict-related violence in 2014; 783 civilians have been killed so far in 2015 (SATP, 18/10/2015).

OVERVIEW

Conflict, drought, and displacement are ongoing challenges in Pakistan. The government has been accused of not doing enough to prevent militant groups using its territory to plan and organise attacks. Sectarian violence continues, particularly in Sindh and Balochistan. Relations with Afghanistan have long been strained and recently deteriorated. The conflict with India over Kashmir continues, with violence flaring in August.

Politics and security

As of 18 October, 783 civilians have been killed in conflict-related violence in 2015 (SATP, 18/10/2015). 1,781 civilians were killed in conflict-related violence 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.

Relations with Afghanistan have long been strained and recently deteriorated. The government of Pakistan has accused Afghanistan of not doing enough to prevent militant groups using its territory to plan and organise attacks on Pakistan. The latest was a Taliban attack on a Pakistan air force base on 18 September, which killed 29 (International Crisis Group, 01/10/2015).

Punjab

On 14 October, at least seven people were killed in a suspected suicide bomb attack in the office of a local official in Taunsa town, southern Punjab. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack (AFP, 14/10/2015).

On 13 September, at least nine people were killed and 42 were injured in an explosion in Multan (AFP, 13/09/2015). 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. No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks (AFP, 16/08/2015).

Kashmir

Indian, Pakistani, 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 increased in August, when shelling killed at least twenty civilians on both sides of the Line of Control (AFP, 17/09/2015; 29/08/2015; 16/08/2015).
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. Over 8,000 suspected militants have been arrested and 204 killed in 2015, according to the home secretary of the province (ICG, 01/10/2015). At least 15 police officers have been killed in targeted attacks in Quetta since June. The latest occurred on 20 October, when a police officer was killed by unknown gunmen (DAWN, 20/10/2015; 27/07/2015; 14/07/2015; 11/06/2015; 06/06/2015).

On 22 October, a suicide attack on a mosque in Kachhi district killed at least 10 people, and wounded 12 (Tribune Pakistan, 22/10/2015). On 19 October, at least 11 people were killed and 22 injured in a bomb explosion on a bus in Quetta – no one has claimed responsibility (DAWN, 19/10/2015; AFP, 19/10/2015).

On 22 October, a suicide attack on a mosque in Kachhi district killed at least 10 people, and wounded 12 (Tribune Pakistan, 22/10/2015). On 19 October, at least 11 people were killed and 22 injured in a bomb explosion on a bus in Quetta – no one has claimed responsibility (DAWN, 19/10/2015; AFP, 19/10/2015).

Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

On 18 September, at least 29 people were killed in a Taliban attack on Badaber air force base, outside Peshawar. According to Pakistani officials, the attack was planned from Afghanistan (CNN, 18/09/2015; Express Tribune, 18/10/2015). 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).

On 29 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).

The government carried out operations against the Taliban in North Waziristan and Khyber Agency between June 2014 and July 2015, after the Taliban vowed to start all-out war on the government (Al Hasan Systems, 22/07/2015; DAWN, 30/03/2015; 23/03/2015).

Sindh

On 29 October, a tribal elder and seven other people were killed in a landmine and rocket attack in Marwar, 40km from Quetta (DAWN, 30/10/2015). On 23 October, at least 24 people were killed in a suicide bombing that targeted a Shi’a mosque in Jacobabad, Sindh province (AFP, 24/10/2015). A report from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan indicates that the death toll from violence in Sindh fell 34% in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 (DAWN, 21/04/2015).

Natural disasters

Drought

Drought conditions in western Balochistan have worsened, in particular in Dalbandin, Nokundi, Musakhel, and Kharan (Al Hasan, 31/10/2015).

Earthquake

On 26 October a 7.5 magnitude earthquake with its epicentre in Afghanistan also affected Pakistan and India (The Guardian, 26/10/2015). As of 31 October, over 74 aftershocks had been recorded in Pakistan (NDMA 31/10/2015). 271 people died in Pakistan, 2,148 were reported injured, and 35,785 houses were damaged or destroyed. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was most affected, with 225 dead, 1,756 injured, and 25,636 houses damaged or destroyed. FATA, Gilgit Baltistan, and Punjab were also affected (Government, 02/11/2015). Immediate humanitarian needs included emergency shelter, winterisation supplies, food, water, and sanitation. The restoration of main electricity and transportation infrastructure is also a priority (OCHA 30/10/2015).

Floods

Between June and September, 1.6 million people were reported affected by monsoon-related floods. Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh were most affected. More than 10,000 houses were damaged in the floods, and hundreds of thousands of standing crops destroyed (OCHA, 29/09/2015; DAWN, 10/08/2015).

Displacement

1.2 million IDPs and 1.6 million Afghan refugees are registered in Pakistan. The number of unregistered Afghan refugees may be as high as one million, according to Pakistan authorities.

IDPs

As of October, around 1.2 million people remain displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA. 1% are in camps, and 99% in host communities. The largest IDP populations are located in Bannu, Peshawar, and Dera Ismail Khan (OCHA, 08/10/2015; UNHCR, 30/09/2015). An estimated 75% of the displaced are women and children (OCHA, 30/09/2015).

The phased return of IDPs in FATA started mid-March. As of 15 October, more than 730,000 people (105,385 families) have returned: 63,989 families to Khyber Agency, 38,266 to North Waziristan, 10,923 to South Waziristan, 3,041 to Kurram, and 796 to Orazkai (OCHA, 15/10/2015). Key priorities are food, water, and shelter (OCHA, 02/10/2015; 14/09/2015).

Refugees in Pakistan

Drought conditions in western Balochistan have worsened, in particular in Dalbandin, Nokundi, Musakhel, and Kharan (Al Hasan, 31/10/2015).
1.5 million registered Afghan refugees live in Pakistan, as of 8 October (UNHCR, 08/10/2015).

The registration of undocumented Afghan refugees, which was due to begin in July, has yet to start (Pajhwok, 24/09/2015). According to Pakistani officials, about a million unregistered Afghan refugees live in Pakistan (DAWN, 20/06/2015). Many have been returning home following security incidents in Pakistan, particularly the Taliban attack on a school in Peshawar in December 2014, as 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).

Pakistani refugees in neighbouring countries

As of June, Khost and Paktika provinces in Afghanistan are hosting 205,434 refugees from Pakistan (UNHCR, 11/06/2015).

Humanitarian access

Several security incidents involving aid workers have been reported so far in 2015. Four peace volunteers have been killed: one in Mohmand Agency in May, and three in Khyber Agency in February (DAWN, 11/05/2015; 03/02/2015; 06/04/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

An estimated 58% of households in Pakistan are food insecure (OCHA, 30/09/2015). As of July, four districts were facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes and 29 districts were facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes. 56 districts were facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes (Food Security Cluster, 03/09/2015).

Health

1.1 million IDPs are in need of basic health and quality maternal and child health services (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF)

Suspected CCHF caused the death of a patient in Multan, Punjab, on 16 September (AlHasan, 21/09/2015). In October, 12 cases of CCHF have been reported in Quetta. So far in 2015, 80 people have been diagnosed with CCHF in the area; 15 have died (DAWN, 08/10/2015). Six cases of CCHF have been recorded in Karachi so far in 2015, including two deaths in early October (DAWN, 14/10/2015).

Dengue

Overall, a rise in dengue cases has been recorded in several parts of Pakistan throughout 2015, including Sindh and Punjab (AlHasan, 29/09/2015). In the week up to 29 September, 155 cases of dengue were reported in Karachi, Sindh province, bringing the total caseload to 1,169 in 2015. After eight cases on 29 September in the district of Umerkot, in Sindh, residents reported a lack of adequate treatment facilities in the hospital (Al Hasan, 29/09/2015; DAWN, 01/10/2015). A steep rise in cases of dengue fever was registered in Multan district, Punjab, compared to last year. As of 23 October, in 2015 397 suspected and 217 confirmed cases of dengue have been recorded in the district, including one death (Al Hasan, 29/09/2015; Frontier Post 23/10/2015). In Rawalpindi, 2,900 cases have been reported: between 28 and 29 October 124 new cases were admitted to different hospitals (Al Hasan, 29/10/2015).

Polio

On 8 October a new polio case was recorded in Karachi, Sindh, and another one reported in Chakwal district, Punjab. These are the first cases recorded in the regions in 2015. The total 2015 caseload is now 38 nationwide, compared to 224 in the same period of 2014 (Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 15/10/2015; DAWN, 04/10/2015; 09/10/2015). According to government officials, the decrease in cases is explained by increased security for health personnel and improved social mobilisation in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Refusals of polio vaccinations are, however, still recorded in many provinces (DAWN, 19/10/2015; 17/09/2015).

Nutrition

In South Waziristan agency, global acute malnutrition rates among IDPs are above the WHO emergency threshold of 14% (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

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).

Reports indicate that at least 30% of public primary schools operate with only one teacher in the staff (DAWN, 17/09/2015).

In Balochistan, schools reportedly lack basic facilities such as drinking water and toilets. Teachers are 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).

Updated: 02/11/2015

BANGLADESH FLOODS

As of 30 September, more than 1.8 million people were reported to be affected by floods and landslides, caused by periods of heavy rain in September in 17 districts, particularly in Bogra, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Kurigram Naogaon, Jhalokathi, Faridpur and Noakhali districts. At least four people were killed in two separate landslides on 1 and 21 September in Narsingdi and Chittagong. Over a thousand houses were destroyed and around 50,000 people were marooned and cut off from access during September. Many roads and thousands of hectares of farmland have been affected by the flood waters, disrupting access and damaging livelihoods (Nirapad, 30/09/2015). Around 1.3 million people were reported in dire need of humanitarian assistance (ECHO, 07/09/2015). Over 30,000 houses have been destroyed in September (Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, 14/09/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

Over 320,000 people have been displaced by this year’s floods, mostly in Cox’s Bazar, Chittagong, and Bandarban (ECHO, 07/09/2015). At least 431,000 people were reported displaced in January 2015 due to conflict, while 543,000 were displaced due to disasters (IDMC, 31/01/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of October, around 30,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees live in two camps in Cox’s Bazar run by the Bangladeshi government. Around 200,000 are estimated to be unregistered and living in unofficial camps (The Diplomat, 14/10/2015).

Politics and security

Protests and political violence have been frequent over recent years. Between January and February 2015, after new political strikes (hartals) were launched to force the government to early elections, Khaleda Zia, leader of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, and 55 other people were charged with instigating violence resulting in an arson attack on a bus and the death of seven people (BBC, 04/02/2015).
affected by floods. Mid-term food security was also a concern, considering that in many cases the food stocks of affected families was destroyed (IFRC, 16/09/2015).

**Health**

**Dengue**

In the two days up to 23 September at least 108 cases of dengue were recorded in Dhaka city, bringing the 2015 total caseload to 1,507. 375 cases were recorded in 2014. High temperatures and intermittent rainfall are likely to have contributed to the steep rise in dengue incidence in the highly urbanised capital (ECHO, 22/09/2015; 23/09/2015).

**Nutrition**

An estimated 500,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition annually (ECHO, 08/2015).

**WASH**

**Water**

Following heavy flooding, high levels of displacement and overcrowding and lack of sanitation for the affected population, is causing a higher risk of water contamination (Bangladesh Red Crescent, 26/08/2015).

**Sanitation**

Lack of sanitation for the population affected by the floods may lead to widespread open defecation practices, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases (Bangladesh Red Crescent, 26/08/2015).

**Shelter and NFIs**

Shelter is a priority for populations affected by the floods; material for the construction of emergency shelter is a priority for the displaced population (ECHO, 07/09/2015; ECHO, 04/08/2015).

**Protection**

The absence of legal status makes the Rohingya easy targets for abuse and exploitation (ECHO, 17/11/2014).

There are concerns that religious extremists are posing a threat to civilians. As of 21 September, four bloggers had been killed in 2015, probably because of their secularist views (CBC, 21/09/2015).

**Political and security**

Concerns over the crises in Iraq and Syria and extremist infiltration have increased since Jordan joined the US-led airstrikes against Islamic State (IS) in September 2014 (ISW, 19/02/2015; Al Jazeera, 12/02/2015). Ramtha, a town of 120,000 located 90km north of Amman, has been hit by multiple shells resulting from unstable security conditions on the Syrian side of the border. On 7 October, one shell damaged a house. On 13 August, a shell injured six people, and on 25 June, one person was killed and another four injured (The Jordan Times, 07/10/2015).

**Displacement**

629,152 refugees are registered with UNHCR in Jordan (UNHCR, 15/10/2015). The average number of Syrians entering Jordan dropped considerably after an initial influx in 2013, but arrival rates have again been climbing since July 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 (RRP6, 2014–2015; IOM, 2014).

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; Chatham House, 21/09/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

Syrian refugees

As of 15 October, there are 629,152 Syrian refugees in Jordan (UNHCR, 15/10/2015). The government of Jordan claims that the actual number of Syrian refugees hosted in Jordan is around 1.5 million (AFP, 25/08/2015). Jordan’s first national household census since 2004 will be conducted in November (The Jordan Times, 04/10/2015).

By mid-October, 30,821 Syrians had arrived in 2015 (UNHCR, 15/10/2015). Arrivals have been increasing since July after advocacy efforts in Syria on the availability of protection services in Jordan were stepped up. Average daily arrival rates have grown from 36 in July, to 50 in August, and 64 in September (UNHCR, 13/10/2015). NRC reported 340 arrivals in a single day in mid-September (NRC, 06/10/2015). Returns to Syria, however, outpace arrivals (UNHCR, 13/10/2015).

50.7% of registered refugees are female. 51.8% are below 18 years of age, 44.6% are between 18 and 59, and 3.5% are older than 60 years (UNHCR, 15/10/2015). About 86% of refugees in urban and rural areas outside of camps live below the Jordanian poverty line of USD 3.2 per person per day (Inter-agency, 30/09/2015).

519,129 refugees (82.5%) are reported to be hosted in urban areas, while 110,023 (17.5%) are in camps. 175,873 refugees live in Amman governorate, 141,717 in Irbid governorate, 76,681 in Mafraq governorate, and 49,950 in Zarqa governorate (UNHCR, 15/10/2015).

While the majority of refugees live among host communities, there has been a pattern of refugees returning to camps, mainly due to increased economic vulnerability. In August, more Syrian refugees arrived in Azraq camp, Zarqa, from host communities than from Syria (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). Some 24,396 Syrian refugees live in Azraq camp – more than double the number in January (UNHCR, 31/08/2015; 15/10/2015). However, Syrians have been reluctant to move to Azraq camp because of its remote desert location and harsh weather conditions, including sandstorms (AccuWeather, 25/10/2015). There are a further 79,291 Syrian refugees in Zaatari camp, Jordan’s biggest, as well as 6,336 in the Emirati Jordan Camp (UNHCR, 15/10/2015).

Returnees to Syria

Returns from Jordan to Syria have strongly increased since July. Average daily return rates are as follows: 66 in July, 129 in August, and 103 in September (UNHCR, 13/10/2015). Reasons for return include reunion with family members, increasing vulnerability given reduced aid – especially cuts to WFP food assistance – and lack of livelihood opportunities in Jordan, and a desire to continue education (UNHCR, 31/08/2015; 13/10/2015). While returns among camp-based refugees have decreased, returns among people living in host communities were 17% higher in September than in August (WFP, 30/09/2015). A UNHCR intentions survey found that 66% of Syrian refugee respondents will consider spontaneous return to Syria if faced with further cuts in WFP or UNHCR assistance, or reduced earning and employment opportunities (UNHCR, 13/10/2015). WFP argues that recent cuts to food and cash assistance represent the last straw, pushing people back to Syria or on to Europe (WFP, 30/09/2015).

Third-country migration

Increasing numbers of young Syrian men from Jordan’s camps and host communities are reportedly selling their land in Syria to pay people smugglers to help them travel to Europe (New York Times, 22/09/2015). Departures of Syrians from Amman airport to Istanbul – a common transit point – have increased sharply in recent months (NRC, 06/10/2015). In October, 18% of survey respondents revealed plans to fly to Turkey in the next three months (UNHCR, 13/10/2015).

Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)

UNRWA has 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 vulnerable (UNRWA, 03/12/2014; 15/05/2015). 20,000 are forecast to be in Jordan by the end of 2015 (ECHO, 09/10/2015).

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 reported 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

At the end of August, almost 58,000 Iraqi, Somali, Sudanese and Yemeni refugees were registered with UNHCR in Jordan (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). The majority are Iraqi, nearly 90% of whom live in Amman. As of 15 October, there are 51,105 registered Iraqi refugees in Jordan. 48.4% are female. 33.8% of refugees are below 18 years of age, 56.7% are between 18 and 59, 9.4% are over 60 years of age (UNHCR, 15/10/2015). It is widely understood that many more Iraqis are living in Jordan unregistered, often under poor
conditions and in dire need of humanitarian assistance (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).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

International NGOs working in Jordan are required to get all projects approved by the government though an online approval portal (Government, 25/08/2015). 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). The government has previously blocked urban shelter projects. Although the latest suspension was lifted in July, the sector faces significant challenges to meet assistance targets (3RP, 31/08/2015).

**Food security and livelihoods**

Food insecurity among refugees in the country has risen in 2015. As of August, 85% of refugees are food insecure, compared to 48% in 2014 (NRC, 03/08/2015). Cuts to food and cash assistance in September are associated with major deteriorations in vulnerability levels – the proportion of families with poor or borderline food consumption tripled from 18% to 61% after WFP cuts (WFP, 30/09/2015).

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. In June, 67% of households reported using negative coping strategies, a 32% increase since 2014 (WFP, 30/06/2015). Following September cuts to WFP assistance, 75% of families reported an increase in the frequency or severity of coping strategies: 34% have withdrawn children from school; 29% are now sending under-age children to work (WFP, 30/09/2015). **WFP food assistance is reported to have resumed in October and will continue through January (AFP, 27/10/2015; The Jordan Times, 27/10/2015).**

Jordan’s agricultural industry has been negatively impacted by neighbouring conflicts. Border closures impeding exports to Syria and Iraq have cost approximately USD 707 million in 2015 (Bloomberg, 26/10/2015).

Livelihoods

With scarce livelihood opportunities, 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 (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Refugees in Jordan are heavily reliant on cash assistance to support their livelihoods, without which increasing numbers are resorting to begging, dropping out of school and reducing food intake. Some 20% of children have dropped out of school in order to work (UNHCR, 24/09/2015). 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).

Funding shortfalls mean that cash assistance to some 30,000 families in Jordan will have to be cut over the winter, exacerbating conditions (UNHCR, 16/09/2015).

The unemployment rate among active Syrian refugees is as high as 57%, and has increased from 15% to 22% for Jordanians since the onset of the crisis (ILO, 11/05/2015). As refugees are not officially allowed to work in Jordan, 99% of employed Syrian refugees work informally (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

**Health**

**Healthcare availability and access**

The Government decision to halt free access to health services for Syrian refugees in November 2014 led to a reduction in the number of Syrians accessing public healthcare. In response, Syrian refugees are increasingly entering camps to receive medical attention, straining already limited resources (ECHO, 19/08/2015). In mid-August, the health ministry announced that some 50,000 Iraqi refugees would no longer be eligible for subsidised healthcare, and would have to pay higher rates applied for foreigners (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Nearly 30% of refugees in Jordan suffer from non-communicable diseases, including hypertension and diabetes (3RP, 31/08/2015). Reports indicate that, in 2015, 58% of adults with chronic conditions in Jordan were not able to receive medicines and adequate health services, sharply up from 24% in 2014 (UNHCR, 14/09/2015).

8% of refugees suffer from conflict-related injuries (WHO, 30/06/2015). Since September 2013, over 1,850 Syrian war-wounded have required emergency treatment in Ramtha hospital, near Jordan’s northern border with Syria (MSF, 14/10/2015).
Maternal health

Maternal health is of particular concern. Rates of delivery in government facilities have dropped to 44% in 2015 from 66% of 2014 (UNHCR, 14/09/2015). 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; UNHCR, 02/09/2015).

WASH

Water

Reports suggest that the public water system is under significant strain in areas where there are high concentrations of Syrians (Government, 17/03/2015). Local water shortages continue to increase (Chatham House, 21/09/2015).

Sanitation

Municipal sewage and garbage removal services are under stress (REACH, 12/11/2014, Chatham House, 21/09/2015). 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

Shelter

Lack of adequate shelter is the main concern for Syrian refugees, especially among the 83% who live among host communities in Amman and the northwestern governorates (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). Available shelter is often inadequate, unaffordable or insecure (NRC, 17/06/2015). An assessment in northern Jordan showed that one refugee household in five lives 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. Threat of eviction is another concern (NRC, 17/06/2015). A housing assessment in Zaatari camp found 185 households in need of shelter upgrades (UNCHR, 31/08/2015). Shelter activities ahead of winter are stepping up, but as of September, only 14% of Syrians in need of winterisation assistance had received shelter support (UNHRC, 30/09/2015).

NFIs

Refugees are also in need of NFIs, including for cooking and heating, with needs increasing as winter approaches. UNHCR is targeting 229,400 Syrian and 29,937 Iraqi refugees with winterisation assistance (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

Education

66% of the 90,000 Syrians of school age are not engaged in formal education, with the other third engaged in informal education (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). Up to 30% have never attended formal education (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Over 65% of all school-aged children in Zaatari camp attend school, while 43% of children in Azraq camp are 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 needing to work for household income (UNHCR, 31/03/2015; REACH, 03/2015). While access to schooling remains a major challenge, annual enrolment improved by 10% at the start of the new school year in September 2015 (UNICEF, 30/09/2015).

Protection

Protection space for refugees in Jordan has shrunk since 2014 (ECHO, 09/10/2015). Refugees report a waiting period of up to two months for registration, 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 (Reuters, 01/10/2015). 32.7% of all marriages were child marriages in 2014: in 2013, 13% of marriages involved girls younger than 18. In 2014, 51% 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 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.
In July 2015, Jordan was reported to have suspended all the projects for the sheltering of Syrian refugees in urban areas of the country (Huffington Post, 07/07/2015). Since early 2014, the Government appeared to have been implementing a more rigorous approach to its encampment policy of Syrian refugees. Significant numbers of refugees were forcibly returned to camps in the last months of 2014 (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 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; ECHO, 09/10/2015).

An urban verification exercise, which requires biometric registration of all Syrians outside camps, has been ongoing since February. The government has instructed humanitarian agencies not to provide assistance to Syrians who do not have Service Cards, which entitle refugees to access certain services. As of end September, a total of 206,856 Service Cards had been issued. Approximately 30% of registered Syrian refugees have received Service Cards. Refugees now only need to provide a UNHCR statement of address for registration, rather than a certified lease agreement, removing a major barrier to registration (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

Many Syrians remain without personal documents after having been required to hand them over to authorities on arrival to Jordan. A document return process is underway, with a 50% increase in document returns since September 2015 (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

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).

Updated: 28/10/2015

MYANMAR

INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

21 October: Ongoing violence in northern Shan is likely to disrupt elections and prevent 50,000 eligible voters from taking part in the elections (Radio Free Asia, 21/10/2015).

21 October: Some 10,000 of the 1.6 million people displaced at the peak of flooding remain displaced in October (ECHO, 21/10/2015; 11/09/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- Cyclone Komen-related flooding from 26 July-10 August has affected 1,615,000 people, displaced up to 385,000 households at its peak, and killed 132 people. 12 out of 14 states and regions have been affected (ECHO, 23/08/2015).

- Repeated bloodshed between Buddhists and Muslims in Rakhine state since 2012, with human rights abuses reported against the Muslim minority (UN).

- 660,000 IDPs resulting from years of internal conflict, including 140,000 mainly Rohingya Muslim IDPs in Rakhine state (OCHA, 16/06/2015; USAID, 16/06/2015).

Politics and security

Myanmar’s first democratic election in 25 years will take place on 8 November 2015 (Myanmar Times, 08/07/2015). Elections have been cancelled in areas in the northeast border region of Shan state, areas across Kachin, and large parts of Kayin. The majority of these areas did not hold elections in 2010. The cancellations are mainly due to conflict (MIMU, 16/10/2015). Ongoing violence in northern Shan is likely to disrupt elections and prevent 50,000 eligible voters from taking part in the elections (Radio Free Asia, 21/10/2015). 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
On 15 October, a national ceasefire agreement was signed by eight of the 18 ethnic armed armies in Myanmar. Those not signing include the three armed groups (Ta-ang National Liberation Army, the Arakan Army, and armed ethnic groups in Kokang) still in conflict with the Government in the Kokang border area, Shan state and excluded from participating in negotiations. Their exclusion is largely attributed as the main reason other armed ethnic groups refused to sign. Groups most active against the Government are among those who did not sign (AFP, 15/10/2015; BBC, 15/10/2015; Bangkok Post, 30/09/2015).

The security situation remains tense in parts of Myanmar. 41 armed clashes were recorded in September compared to 14 in August. Most were in Shan and Kachin states. The increase is likely due to the greater mobility of armed groups after heavy rains subsided, and heightened tensions due to stalled peace talks. September recorded the highest frequency of clashes since April (Myanmar Peace Monitor, 30/09/2015; 31/08/2015). Between February and May, 554 people were killed in violence between separatist groups and Myanmar forces. Shan state saw 281 fatalities in March and April (ACLED, 16/06/2015).

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 KIA between the towns of Bhamo and Shwegu. Fighting was ongoing as of 9 September (Democratic Voice of Burma, 10/09/2015). Fighting continues around Sumpa 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).

Natural Disasters

The monsoon season continues until October, though tropical storms can be expected until November (HEWS).

Flooding

Since June, 182 people have been killed by flooding and landslides. 132 died during the floods caused by Cyclone Komen, which began on 26 July. Some 10,000 of the 1.6 million people displaced at the peak of flooding remain displaced in October (ECHO, 21/10/2015; 19/09/2015).

Continued heavy rains in early September have brought further flooding for Sagaing, Mandalay, and Irrawaddy. As of 13 September, nearly 9,000 people have been evacuated in Mandalay and nearly 1,500 have been displaced. On 7 September, the Government reported that 1,050 new IDPS had arrived in camps in Sagaing (Government, 16/09/2015; 08/09/2015). The dam in Ngathaingchaung Township, Irrawaddy, has reached danger levels. Reports indicate that people have also been evacuated to higher ground in parts of Irrawaddy (ECHO, 11/09/2015; New Light of Myanmar, 07/09/2015). 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).

IDPs

The 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).

On 11 October, 17 people were killed and a further six are missing and presumed dead after a landslide in Hpa-saung township, Kayah state. 53 houses were destroyed and 360 people displaced to temporary shelters at schools and Lokhao Station Hospital. On 8 October a flash flood in Kalaywa township, Sagaing region, killed two people and left 14 missing (New Light of Myanmar, 13/10/2015; 19/10/2015). On 23 September, one person was killed and several injured in a landslide and flooding in Kanbauk, Tenasserim Division (Democratic Voice of Burma, 23/09/2015).

Displacement

1.6 million people were displaced at one point during flooding in August, mainly from Rakhine, Chin, Magway and Sagaing, but an IOM assessment shows that most have returned to their area of origin. 10,000 people remain displaced (ECHO, 21/10/2015; IOM, 09/2015).

Prior to July and August flooding, 662,400 people were estimated to be in protracted displacement nationwide, primarily due to conflict. About 20,000 people were newly displaced in 2015, mainly in Kachin and northern Shan (OCHA, 16/06/2015). More than 500 people were displaced by conflict in September (Myanmar Peace Monitor, 30/09/2015).

Magway: On 13 September, flooding of the Ayeyarwaddy River led to the evacuation of 830 people and the displacement of around 1,500 (Government, 16/09/2015).

Rakhine: 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). 70% of all IDPs in Rakhine, around 99,000 people, live in IDP camps in Sittwe township (USAID, 08/10/2015).

Shan and Kachin: As of September, around 100,000 people are in protracted displacement in Shan and Kachin states due to ongoing fighting (USAID, 09/10/2015).

Fighting broke out on 6 October in Mong Hsu township, Shan state, between the Myanmar Army and Shan State Army-North. Over 3,700 people have been displaced from six villages after more than a week of clashes. The exact locations of the displaced are not precisely known, with local media providing different accounts. Hundreds are reported to be in Mong Hsu town, and over a thousand are sheltering in nearby monasteries. They are reported to be in need of shelter and food assistance (Irrawaddy, 16/10/2015; 14/10/2015).

Five civilians were injured by a roadside bomb on 21 Oct near Mong Hsu (Radio Asia, 21/10/2015).

At 28 September, reports indicate that at least 200 people are displaced by fighting that began 10 days earlier between government forces and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) around Mansi township. The majority are sheltering less than a mile away from the fighting. The elderly and disabled have been unable to flee the fighting (Irrawaddy, 21/09/2015; 28/09/2015).

Myanmar Refugees in neighbouring countries

According to UNHCR, as of late March, over 415,000 refugees originate from Myanmar (AFP, 30/11/2014).

China: As of 16 October, 8,000 refugees remain in China of the 60,000 who arrived between January and February 2015. Refugees move back and forth across the border to seek shelter, food, and employment, according to aid agencies (OCHA, 16/10/2015).

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 Rohingyas 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. Rohingyas are frequently kept in smugglers’ camps along the border, where they are held for ransom, tortured, and raped (AFP, 30/11/2014: international media, 30/12/2015, Reuters, 01/06/2015).

Thailand: In July, biometric verification recorded around 110,000 refugees from Myanmar in nine camps along the border in Thailand, (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). Other sources place the number as high as 150,000 (US Government, 2015). Authorities have pledged to send about 100,000 refugees back to Myanmar. Thai officials have been accused of tugging boats carrying Rohingyas out to sea, away from their coast (CNN, 20/05/2015; UNHCR, 01/2015). Rohingyas are subject to human trafficking. Many are held for ransom and abused (international media, 01/06/2015; 02/06/2015).

Rohingyas 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). 31,000 Rohingyas and Bangladeshi migrants have attempted to cross the Bay of Bengal in 2015. As of 6 October an estimated at least 570 have died during the journey (IOM, 06/10/2015). Over 5,300 people have arrived in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand in 2015 (IOM, 16/06/2015). Nearly 2,800 remain in detention centres (IOM, 14/09/2015). 1,000 people remain unaccounted for and may have disembarked unofficially (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Humanitarian access

In Myanmar’s highland areas access is restricted by difficult terrain and poor infrastructure, and further limited during the monsoon season (May–October). Frequent conflict, predominately in Kachin and Shan states, prevents access to people in need. Access to areas affected by recent flooding and landslides is severely restricted.

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Some reports suggest armed groups are actively denying access to humanitarian groups (Irrawaddy, 21/08/2015; 20/07/2015). Fighting around Hpakant and Sumprabum (Kachin state) has prevented access to around 1,400 people who have reportedly been inaccessible since 11 July (Irrawaddy, 21/08/2015).

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

Kachin state: Active conflict between the Myanmar army and Kachin Independence Army (KIA) between the towns of Bhamo and Shwegu was ongoing as of 9 September (Democratic Voice of Burma, 10/09/2015).

Kayah state: Heavy rains in October caused flooding and landslides in Mawchi, in Bawlake district, damaging bridges and affecting road movement (New Light of Myanmar, 14/10/2015).

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 MNDA. 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 farmland was 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. In total, 89% of crops have been damaged. This is expected to reduce production by up to 30% in 2015 compared to 2014 (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). Only patients in the most critical condition tend to reach hospital.

Healthcare availability and access

July and early August flooding damaged health facilities and further diminished access to healthcare nationally. 242 health facilities were damaged or destroyed in July and August and drug stocks have been lost in some areas (UNICEF, 20/08/2015; ECHO, 17/08/2015).

Cholera

At least 12 people have died in a cholera outbreak in Kyainseikgyi town, Kayah state. The outbreak is reported to have been ongoing for two months, and has infected up to 200 people (Democratic Voice of Burma, 27/10/2015).

Dengue fever

As of 27 September, the number of dengue fever cases in 2015 has reached 36,000, causing at least 120 deaths – more than double the number during the same period in 2014 and 78% higher than the last significant outbreak in 2013. Around 6,500 cases have been reported in the most affected area, Ayeyarwady Region. At least 5,000 additional cases have been reported in Mon state and around 6,000 cases in Sagaing Region (Reuters, 21/10/2015; Myanmar Time, 01/10/2015).

Nutrition

In Rakhine state, GAM is above 20% in some areas (UNICEF, 01/02/2015).

WASH

Water

People from Rakhine and Chin states and Sagaing and Magway regions are reportedly without access to safe drinking water due to July and August flooding (Democratic Voice of Burma, 18/08/2015). 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 (Democratic Voice of Burma, 18/08/2015).

Sanitation

In Pwint Phyu Township in Magway, one of the heaviest hit by flooding, 50–60%
In Pwint Phyu Township in Magway, one of the heaviest hit by flooding, 50–60% of latrines have been destroyed (Peace Winds Japan, 15/09/2015). 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).

Shelter and NFIs

21,000–39,000 homes were completely destroyed in July and August flooding. 10,000 were in Rakhine alone. The government reports that 490,000 additional homes were damaged (ECHO, 23/08/2015; 16/08/2015; Government, 08/10/2015). Six neighbourhoods in Hakka, Chin state, need to be entirely relocated due to damage. 500–1,000 people in Hakka are still in temporary shelter (Democratic Voice of Burma, 24/09/2015).

Shelter

On 11 October, 60 houses were destroyed and 360 people were displaced to temporary shelters at schools and at Lokhalo Station Hospital after landslides hit Hpa-saung Township, Kayah state (New Light of Myanmar, 13/10/2015).

Prior to the major flooding in August, 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 had limited access to cooking fuel and energy prior to the flooding. 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, though schools have now reopened in the Ayeyarwady region (OHCA, 14/09/2015; UNICEF, 20/08/2015). 3,500 schools have been damaged, and around 600 destroyed by flooding (OCHA, 16/09/2015).

Protection

The KIA and KNU continue to forcibly recruit people from villages in Shan state and Kayin state, respectively (Democratic Voice of Burma, 08/10/2015; 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 Myanmar Government has a record of arbitrary detention of people opposing the government and the violent suppression of protests, particularly student protests (Asian Human Rights Commission, 01/10/2015). 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).

On 5 October, two people were injured by mines in Mohnyin township, Kachin state (New Light of Myanmar, 07/10/2015). One man was killed and another injured by mines in Kachin in two separate incidents in September (New Light of Myanmar, 23/09/2015). 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 used repeatedly as a weapon by armed groups, including the Myanmar army. In 2014, the Women’s League of Burma released a report documenting 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

Between 12–17 July, 646 former child soldiers were released (UN, 20/07/2015). 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.

Vulnerable groups

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).

Disabled and Elderly: Older and disabled people are reportedly unable to flee fighting between government forces and armed groups. Most recently, 22 people were trapped in Mansi township, Kachin, after fighting broke out between the KIA and government forces on 18 September (Irrawaddy, 24/09/2015).

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. Further, the damage to shelters resulting from the flooding in July and August may have destroyed Rohingya documentation.

Updated: 27/10/2015

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

23 October: The UN agencies received permission to continue their relief activities in Luhansk region. Other foreign aid organisations have not been allowed to operate since 24 September (OCHA, 31/10/2015; Ukraine Today 28/10/2015).

28 October: All artillery systems of less than 100mm calibre have been withdrawn from the contact line (International Business Times).

29 October: The fighting has decreased since the renewal of the ceasefire on 1 September but casualties are still being reported (Ukraine Today, 29/10/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 5.2 million people are affected by the crisis, including two million in non-government areas and two million along the contact line (OCHA, 07/10/2015).
- More than 1.5 million people have been displaced internally and nearly 1.1 million externally (OCHA, 05/10/2015).
- Conflict, administrative and logistical constraints are impeding access and response. Access to food, health, and WASH are also key concerns (OCHA, 17/08/2015).

Politics and security

Nearly 8,000 people have been killed and over 17,800 injured in the conflict since April
Despite a ceasefire agreed in February, casualties continue to be reported, although fighting has fallen to some of the lowest levels seen in the 18-month conflict. The ceasefire was renewed on 1 September (Ukraine Today, 17/09/2015). On 8 September, government leaders and separatists began new peace talks (AFP, 07/09/2015).

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). Fighting nonetheless escalated in May, and then again in mid-August along the Donetsk–Mariupol corridor in Donetsk region, as well as in northwest Luhansk (AFP, 25/08/2015; 03/08/2015; AFP, 25/08/2015; OSCE, 17/08/2015; AFP, 17/08/2015). On 29 September, the warring sides agreed to withdraw tanks and weapons of less than 100mm calibre from the buffer zone. Full withdrawal of weapons to at least 15km from the line of demarcation should be completed within 41 days (Ukraine Today, 5/10/2015; OSCE, 29/09/2015; AFP, 3/10/2015; Radio Liberty, 3/10/2015). As of 28 October, all artillery systems of less than 100mm calibre have been withdrawn. The authorities of the separatist Donetsk region announced the drawback of mortars of less than 120mm calibre would begin on 6 November (International Business Times, 28/10/2015).

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). The government has halted budgetary payments to areas it considers to be out of its control (OCHA, 01/05/2015; international media, 15/11/2014; UN, 15/12/2014). Separatist forces reportedly number around 35,000–40,000 (AFP, 23/03/2015).

End July, Ukraine’s highest court allowed parliament to vote on constitutional amendments that would give pro-Russian insurgents in Donetsk and Luhansk three years of partial autonomy. As of September, this amendment has not been passed by parliament (BBC, 31/08/2015; AFP, 31/07/2015). 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 were injured in clashes between Ukrainian nationalists and security forces (AFP, 01/09/2015).

The conflict is having a significant effect 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).

Elections

Local elections took place on 25 October. Voting did not take place in Crimea, or in the separatist Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Voting was cancelled in Mariupol due to problems with ballot papers (Ukraine Today, 26/10/2015; Reuters, 25/10/2015). The leaders of the separatist Donetsk and Luhansk regions have agreed not to hold separate elections yet (AFP, 03/10/2015). The leader of Donetsk region has rescheduled elections for 20 March 2016 (Ukraine Today, 10/10/2015).

Conflict developments

The fighting has decreased since 1 September but casualties are still being reported. Five Ukrainian soldiers have been killed over the last two months (Ukraine Today, 29/10/2015). One person was killed and three others wounded on 10 October in the first serious incident in Donetsk since the ceasefire was renewed on 1 September (AFP, 10/10/2015; OSCE, 11/10/2015).

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 affected populations to assistance

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 are not easy to acquire and corruption is reported. In early September, restrictions eased, and humanitarian cargo was able to enter non-government areas (UNHCR, 07/09/2015; 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 Volnovakha (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).

On 23 October, UN agencies received permission to continue relief activities in Luhansk region. Other foreign aid organisations have not been allowed to operate since 24 September (OCHA, 31/10/2015; Ukraine Today 28/10/2015). In Donetsk region, most humanitarian relief operations have been suspended since end July with no indication of when the authorities would make a final determination on agencies’ accreditation status (USAID, 30/09/2015). On 19 October, MSF was ordered to halt its activities in Donetsk region (MSF, 23/10/2015; The Guardian, 24/10/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance
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 cannot process large numbers of requests quickly; civilians wait for hours at checkpoints with no access to basic services, at risk as checkpoints have previously been 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. As of March, 500,000 people were living in underground shelters in conflict areas, with little or no access to aid (OCHA, 16/03/2015).

Security and physical constraints

The Government has halted public transport between government and non-government areas. 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).

Luhansk region is difficult to access due to deteriorated roads and bridges, unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices (OSCE, 15/09/2015; OCHA, 27/02/2015). As of 16 October, the bridges at Luhanske, Horlivka, and Rizhishne are destroyed. Rain may make bypasses impassable. Roads leading from Luhansk to Starytsya Luhanska, Shchastya and Popasna are closed. Roads leading from Donetsk to Selidove, Kurakhove and Kostyantynivka are closed. The main road between Debaltseve and Artemivsk is also closed (Logistics Cluster, 16/10/2015).

Since 20 September, Tatars from the Crimea have been blockading roads connecting the peninsula to Ukraine, with the objective of raising awareness of alleged discrimination against Tatars in Crimea (Ukraine Today, 30/09/2015). As of 12 October, protestors have cut key electricity lines in the peninsula (Ukraine Today, 12/10/2015).

Displacement

More than 2.4 million Ukrainians have been displaced by the conflict, including 1.5 million IDPs. Many who have left the country are not seeking asylum and have not been registered as refugees. Registration for IDPs who do not have access to government areas is problematic. This can restrict their access to assistance and may lead to underreporting (IDMC, 07/09/2015).

IDPs

As of 6 October, an estimated 1.5 million IDPs have registered in eastern Ukraine since March 2014, including 190,000 children. 59% are elderly and 4% people with disabilities (UNHCR, 06/10/2015; OCHA, 28/08/2015). Key reception areas are areas under government control in Donetsk (539,500) and Luhansk regions (206,100), and Kharkiv (102,000), Kyiv (106,000), Zaporizhzhya (99,800), and Dnipropetrovsk regions (72,400) (UNICEF, 24/09/2015, UNHCR, 26/08/2015). 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; this is contributing to displacement and confusing overall IDP numbers (UNHCR 31/12/2014; 23/01/2015). There are concerns that military-age men are not registering as IDPs for fear of being drafted to the army (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

25.5% of IDP households in August reported having temporary returned to their area of origin (Shelter Cluster, 31/08/2015).

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, 126,450 in Belarus and 71,300 in Poland; the number has almost doubled since early January (UNHCR, 07/09/2015).

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).
Insecurity, damaged infrastructure, landmines, and lack of resources are delaying agricultural activities in many conflict areas (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

Food access

As a result of the ban imposed on humanitarian organisations at the end of September, 150,000 people are no longer receiving food support in Luhansk (UNICEF, 30/09/2015; OCHA, 07/10/2015).

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). As of July, 25% of female-headed households in Luhansk are at borderline food consumption (WFP, 31/07/2015).

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 the east, 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). 500,000 children do not have access to polio vaccination and 60,000 people cannot receive medicines for chronic diseases since humanitarian organisations were banned from the region (UNICEF, 30/09/2015; OCHA, 07/10/2015).

HIV/AIDS: HIV-related needs are a concern in eastern Ukraine, with some 8,000 people on 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). 30,000 people are no longer receiving psychological support in Luhansk after the ban on humanitarian organisations (OCHA, 07/10/2015).

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 (OCHA, 05/10/2015). On 20 October, Ukraine launched polio vaccination with the aim to reach 4.7 million children (AFP, 19/10/2015; Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 21/10/2015; WHO, 22/10/2015).

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-resistant TB are insufficient and further shortages are expected (Global Fund, 24/07/2015).

WASH

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, 05/10/2015, 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). ERW and mines restrict residents in some areas from accessing wells or receiving water supply by trucks (OSCE, 18/09/2015).

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).

The lack of piped water is of particular concern as winter approaches, when it will be required as a source of heat (OSCE, 18/09/2015). 60,000 have lost access to hygiene kits since humanitarian organisations were banned (UNICEF, 30/09/2015; OCHA, 07/10/2015).

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).

An estimated 554,800 IDPs (38%) live in inadequate or poor shelter (Shelter Cluster, 31/08/2015). The majority of IDPs are staying with host families or 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).

98,000–186,000 registered IDPs, including 50,000–100,000 IDPs in non-government controlled areas, need winterisation assistance. They lack mainly shoes and blankets (Shelter Cluster, 28/09/2015; OCHA, 31/10/2015). 30,000 people will not receive shelter and NFI kits due to humanitarian access restrictions (UNICEF, 30/09/2015; OCHA, 07/10/2015).

Education

Up to 25,000 children have had their education disrupted by the conflict (UNICEF, 11/06/2015). Insecurity, overcrowding, damaged facilities and teachers having fled non-government areas are main barriers to education.

82 schools remain closed in non-government areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions (UNICEF, 11/06/2015). 523 facilities need repair in Donetsk region. Lack of transportation, mines, and overcrowding are also barriers to school attendance (OSCE, 22/04/2015; UNICEF, 20/03/2015).

50% of teachers are thought to have left non-government areas, including 35% in Luhansk (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). 9% of school-aged children living along the contact line and in areas of high IDP concentration are not attending school (OCHA, 31/10/2015). School certificates issued in Luhansk and Donetsk regions are not recognised by Ukraine (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

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). The ceasefire renewed on 1 September led to a 55% reduction in deaths and injuries among civilians in Donetsk region (RT, 31/10/2015). 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). Over 40 journalists have been banned from the country (VOA, 17/09/2015).

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 (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).

Nearly 95,000 of the country’s 8 million children have been abandoned. Orphanages in Ukraine are overcrowded and depend on volunteer initiatives to provide nearly 60% of their food supply (Ukraine Today, 18/10/2015).

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, 07/09/2015). On 22 September, the government presented a draft law to improve recording of births and deaths in non-government-controlled areas (Protection Cluster, 30/09/2015).

Ambiguity in legislation excludes minors who have fled the violence with relatives who are not their parents 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: 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, is of concern. Anti-Roma sentiment has also apparently increased (Euronews, 21/09/2015; 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. 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 (IRIN, 29/09/2015).

**Mines and ERW**

Landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) incidents continue to be reported in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, especially near conflict areas (OSCE, 19/09/2015; OCHA, 10/07/2015). 30,000 hectares of land along the frontline in Novoazovskyi and Artemivskyi districts in Donetsk region are reportedly contaminated (OCHA, 31/10/2015). 310 of 575 civilian casualties between 16 February and 15 August were related to ERW or improvised explosive devices (OCHA, 05/10/2015). 43 civilian casualties, including nine deaths and 34 injured, were reported in September. 80% were caused by ERW or IEDs (Protection Cluster, 30/09/2015).

**Updated:** 02/11/2015

**NORTH AMERICA**

**HAITI** FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**25 October:** Presidential and parliamentary elections took place without major incident, although tensions and incidents of fraud were reported in a few locations (Guardian).

**19 October:** 10–15 people were killed during election-related violence in Port-au-Prince (AP).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Erratic rains since January have led to 3 million food insecure including 180,000 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (OCHA, 31/08/2015; local media, 15/06/2015; ECHO, 27/05/2015).
- Continued cholera incidence, with 21,666 suspected cases and 192 deaths between January and September 2015 (OCHA 9/10/2015).
- 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**

The political situation is tense. 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). 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). 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).

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).

Protests against a presidential decree to re-zone the communes in Arcahaie in Ouest department lasted three days (local media, 04/09/2015).

Presidential and parliamentary elections took place on 25 October without major incident, although incidents of fraud were reported in a few locations (Guardian, 26/10/2015). Some incidents of violence were reported beforehand, most notably in the Cité Soleil district in Port-au-Prince, where 10–15 people were killed in violence that local officials claim was politically motivated (AP, 19/10/2015). Election results are expected in early November (Guardian, 26/10/2015).

Local elections, previously scheduled to coincide with presidential ones, are now scheduled for 27 December 2015 (local media, 24/09/2015).

Natural disasters

Tropical storm

Tropical storm Erika killed four people and injured 12 on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince and in Léogâne on 29 August (AlterPresse, 29/08/2015). 18,800 people are estimated to have been affected (OCHA, 10/09/2015).

Hurricane Joaquin, which passed over Haiti on 1 and 2 October, affected an estimated 900 families in Artibonite, Nippes, Nord-Ouest and Sud departments. The road to Anse-Rouge was blocked (CDEMA, 09/10/2015).

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% of households are in Delmas (27,340 individuals), 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).

Arrivals from Dominican Republic

IOM monitors have documented 31,595 Haitians and people of Haitian descent crossing the border between 16 June and 20 October, including 436 unaccompanied minors. 18,941 people report that they crossed spontaneously, and 7,468 claim to have been deported. 5,186 have been officially deported, in a sharp increase from 2,974 at 25 September (IOM, 20/10/2015). Many of those who crossed spontaneously cited fear of being deported without their family members or belongings (IOM, 19/09/2015). 19.6% of arrivals were born in the Dominican Republic (IOM, 20/10/2015). According to the Dominican government 65,927 Haitian nationals returned to Haiti between 18 June and 2 August 2015 (Haiti Libre, 10/08/2015).

5,570 people were expelled or repatriated from the Dominican Republic in the whole of 2014 (Alter Press, 08/05/2015).

Some of the deportees and returnees are thought to be settling with relatives or in places of origin, but many are in spontaneous camps in the south of the country. The majority are in Ouanaminthe (Nord-Est) and Belladère (Centre) communes (GARR, 20/08/2015; IOM, 11/08/2015; Alter Press, 26/06/2015). 2,833 people in six spontaneous sites in Anse-à-Pitres are in urgent need of food, WASH, and shelter assistance (Haiti Sentinel, 28/10/2015; OCHA, 30/09/2015).

On 14 October, the governments of Haiti and the Dominican Republic agreed to reopen negotiations to resolve the migration crisis (AFP, 14/10/2015).
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 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 (OCHA, 31/08/2015; 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 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

Overall agricultural production for this year is estimated to be 50% lower than last year (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015, 17/08/2015). 60–80% of the main local crops and vegetables have been lost in parts of the country. 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 is likely to lead to a second below-average output for the August–December 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). 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 the jobs available in the agricultural sector, which is estimated to provide 50% of all employment in Haiti (Reuters, 26/08/2015; OCHA, 27/07/2015). Livestock has been severely affected by the drought and fishing was also impacted in May and June due to unusually rough seas (Haitilibre, 11/09/2015; ECHO, 27/05/2015). In Anse-à-Pitres, farmers have launched an appeal to state authorities to help them cope with the substantial seed loss (AlterPresse, 14/10/2015).

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

The 2010 earthquake destroyed an estimated 60% of Haiti’s health system and a number of hospitals have still not been fully rehabilitated. Others lack staff and essential medical equipment (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 9 October, 21,666 suspected cholera cases and 192 deaths have been reported in 2015, up nearly 150% from the same period in 2014. Most cases are from Ouest, Centre, and Artibonite departments. The persistence of cholera can be attributed to weak water and sanitation infrastructure and limited health access (OCHA, 09/10/2015).

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, and in several areas of Port-au-Prince, lacked access to safe drinking water for the first six months of 2015, mainly due to drought. This has caused children to miss school and increased 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 (a third of the total population; 47% of the rural population) (UN, 30/09/2014). 40% of schools 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, four in Croix des Bouquets, and 11 in Léogâne. 40% of IDP sites are tents and makeshift shelters, while 47% are 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 (a 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 a 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

Many people arriving from the Dominican Republic 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). 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). Violence against Haitians and people of Haitian descent has been reported in Monte Cristi province of the Dominican Republic and raids targeting Haitians have been reported in Santiago de los Caballeros (AlterPresse, 24/08/2015; local media, 25/08/2015). 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).

Updated 29/10/2015

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DROUGHT, EPIDEMIC

No new significant developments this week, 28/10/2015. Last update: 22/10/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.6 million people affected by drought (RedHum, 02/09/2015).
- 5,222 cases of dengue in 2015, including 57 deaths (RedHum, 19/09/2015).

Politics and security

The relationship between Haiti and the Dominican Republic is tense: commercial activities between the countries were suspended on 11 October, after the Dominican decision to remove all undocumented migrants from its territory, which includes
many Haitian nationals (Atlanta Black Star, 27/09/2015). On 13 October, the Presidents of the Dominican Republic and Haiti agreed to reopen negotiations (AFP, 14/10/2015). Commercial activities between the two countries resumed on 19 October (Groupe d’Appui aux Rapatriés & Réfugiés, 20/10/2015).

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 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, reducing it to 75 million gallons daily, from the average 325–400 million (Dominican Today, 23/07/2015). On 10 September, prolonged dryness is 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 particularly affect the Jiguey and Valdesia dams in San Cristobal province and consequently is reducing water provision to Santo Domingo, San Cristobal, and Bani. Rice production in Montecristi has been severely affected: over 8,614 hectares of rice-cultivated land has been lost, causing economic damage worth tens of millions of dollars, and affecting hundreds of people (RedHum, 22/08/2015).

Floods

Santiago and Cibao were struck by floods from heavy rain that fell in the week up to 24 September. Around 50 households were affected (RedHum, 26/09/2015). Urban floods were also recorded in Hoya del Calmito (Red Hum 28/09/2015).

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).

In 2013, the article guaranteeing citizenship to people born in the Dominican Republic was removed from the Constitution, and applied retroactively to all those born after 1929 (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 “regularisation plan” for foreigners (CNN, 21/06/2015). 78,000 people who applied for documentation but did not meet the requirements are at risk of deportation as of September (CWSGlobal, 19/09/2015).

Over 31,000 Haitians were reported by IOM to have crossed the border into Haiti between 16 June and 20 October. Around 7,400 claimed to have been deported, while over 5,100 were officially repatriated by the government of Dominican Republic (IOM 20/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Drought is affecting crop production, causing livestock deaths. Rainfall deficits remain severe in coastal areas of the country, particularly on the eastern and northern sides (FEWSNET, 18/09/2015).

Health

Dengue

On 19 September, national health authorities issued an epidemiologic alert for dengue. The number of deaths from dengue in 2015 has reached 95, which is 55 more than in all 2014. In the four weeks up to 19 September, 1,172 new suspected dengue cases were registered, bringing the 2015 total to 5,222. On 25 September, 34 new cases of dengue were reported at the Robert Reid Cabral Children’s Hospital in the capital Santo Domingo, including three severe cases and one person admitted to intensive care (RedHum, 26/09/2015). There were 4,428 cases of dengue in 2014 (RedHum, 19/09/2015; 30/09/2015).

Protection

Documentation

As of 1 September, 84,000 Haitian nationals, including many born in the Dominican Republic, had reportedly received work permits, and another 110,000 were ready to be claimed throughout the country. 78,000 who did not meet requirements are at risk of deportation (CWSGlobal, 19/09/2015).

Deportations to Haiti put people 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).
EL SALVADOR DROUGHT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
No new significant developments this week, 28/10/2015. Last update: 21/10/2015.

KEY CONCERNS
-156,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes (FEWSNET, 08/2015).

Natural disasters
Drought
A prolonged dry spell associated with the El Niño phenomenon has resulted in significant crop losses during the May-September primera season (FAO, 14/09/2015). An estimated 800,000 people are affected by the drought, including 192,000 people in urgent need of food assistance (OCHA, 06/10/2015). 57 municipalities have been affected: San Miguel, Morazán, La Unión, La Paz, and San Vicente are the most affected departments (WFP, 26/09/2015).

El Niño conditions are expected to last until March 2016, and it is therefore unlikely that the crop losses can be recovered during the August-December postrera season (FAO, 14/09/2015).

Floods
On 16 October, heavy rainfall caused floods and landslides across the country. Four people were killed in the floods; more than 200 houses were damaged (AFP, 19/10/2015; Diario El Mundo, 19/10/2015). 200 people were temporarily evacuated, the majority preemptively (La Prensa Gráfica, 19/10/2015).

Humanitarian access
Insecurity, in particular the presence of Maras (criminal groups), hampers the delivery of humanitarian assistance (WFP, 30/06/2015).

Food security and livelihoods
An estimated 156,000 people (39,000 households), mainly in the eastern and western regions, are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, due to the prolonged dry spell (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). With the exception of the southern fishing region and San Salvador and La Libertad departments, which are less dependent on crop production, the rest of El Salvador's departments are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes resulting from crop losses, lack of food reserves after two consecutive crop failures, and limited rural labour opportunities (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food availability
88,000 hectares of maize crops were affected during the primera season, affected areas have lost more than 60% (FAO, 14/09/2015). Of the 3,000 hectares planted to beans, more than 80% of the crop is forecast to be lost. At least 102,000 farmers are estimated to be affected by crop loss (FAO, 14/09/2015). The availability of seeds will be significantly reduced in the postrera season due to the primera season losses. FAO forecasts an 18% reduction in maize production for 2015 compared to 2014 (FAO, 14/09/2015).

Food access
Seasonal maize prices are above-average due to the prolonged dry spell and the second consecutive year of adversely affected harvest. Maize prices across the region are 14–20% higher than this time last year (FEWSNET, 08/2015). Due to limited opportunities for seasonal work, crop losses, and high prices, poor households are struggling to afford food (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Livelihoods
The coffee rust epidemic (a fungus that attacks the leaves of coffee plants) means that day labourers can no longer depend on seasonal labour opportunities in coffee production (Reuters, 14/08/2015). The livelihoods of small-scale coffee growers have also been affected (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). Coffee production is expected to be 35-40% lower than last year, due to a combination of coffee rust and drought (Diario El Mundo, 26/09/2015).

More than 50% of affected households are resorting to negative coping mechanisms, including selling productive assets, reducing number and portion sizes of meals, and spending their savings (WFP, 26/09/2015).

Health
Dengue
Dengue cases have increased by 82% compared to the same period last year; 5,607 cases have been confirmed so far this year compared to 3,087 this time last year (Diario El Mundo, 25/09/2015).
The acute malnutrition rate is at 2%, and has increased due to the coffee rust epidemic and prolonged dry spell (WFP, 30/06/2015).

Reviewed: 28/10/2015

GUATEMALA DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**21 October:** Flash floods occurred in Alta Verapaz, Escuintla, Izabal, Peten, Santa Rosa and Suchitepequez affecting 70,926 people and destroying 422 houses. Several roads are inaccessible (OCHA, 20/10/2015; Redhum, 19/10/2015; 21/10/2015, Government, 20/10/2015).

### KEY CONCERNS

- 1.3 million people affected by drought (OCHA, 06/10/2015)
- 720,000 people are moderately or severely food insecure due to drought (WFP, 24/09/2015).
- Severe acute malnutrition in children under five is between 3.3% and 5.7% country-wide (OCHA, 06/10/2015). 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). As of 6 October, 1.3 million people are affected (OCHA, 06/10/2015). This year has seen more consecutive days without rain than 2014 and smaller amounts of cumulative rainfall. In August, rainfall was 95% below average in the departments of El Progreso, Zacapa, Baja Verapaz, and some areas of Chiquimula and Jalapa (FEWSNET, 08/2015).

On 1 October, Guatemala declared a state of emergency due to drought and food insecurity (Oxfam, 01/10/2015). The most affected departments are Baja Verapaz, El Progreso, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Jalapa, Quiche, Huehuetenango, Totonicapán, Retalhuleu, Santa Rosa and Escuintla (WFP, 24/09/2015).

According to forecasts, the drought will continue until the end of the postrera season in November (FEWSNET, 08/2015). The dry spell is expected to continue through March 2016, drastically reducing harvests as staple crops are destroyed (Reuters, 14/08/2015; FEWSNET, 08/2015).

Guatemala is reported to be the most affected by the regional drought, followed by Honduras and El Salvador (OCHA, 25/08/2015).

#### Floods

Flash floods occurred in Alta Verapaz, Escuintla, Izabal, Peten, Santa Rosa and Suchitepequez affecting 70,926 people and destroying 422 houses (OCHA, 20/10/2015; Redhum, 19/10/2015; 21/10/2015). Landslides have damaged parts of the Inter-American road (Government, 20/10/2015). Bailey bridge in the village of El Bomillio, Dolores municipality, Peten province collapsed as a result of floods (Redhum, 21/10/2015). El Chapeton in Chiquimulilla municipality, Santa Rosa, is inaccessible because heavy rains have destroyed the only access road (Redhum, 21/10/2015). On 1 October, a landslide hit El Cambray II, a village on the outskirts of Guatemala City. At least 274 people are reported dead, and the search for 353 missing has been called off (OCHA, 13/10/2015; AFP, 13/10/2015).

#### Food security and livelihoods

720,000 people are moderately or severely food insecure, as drought has led to a third consecutive year of decreased harvest (WFP, 24/09/2015). Food insecurity will continue to deteriorate until December/January when the postrera harvest should alleviate the lack of access to food (WFP, 24/09/2015). As of October, households in the western plateau are in Crisis phase of food insecurity (IPC 3) due to drought (FEWSNET, 31/09/2015). 500,000 people across the dry corridor in Central America are facing severe food insecurity, in addition to 1.3 million people facing moderate food insecurity (OCHA, 07/09/2015).

#### Food availability

900,000 people have no food reserves left (Reuters, 14/08/2015). The unusually long dry spell has caused a 75–100% loss of subsistence production in the dry corridor (FEWSNET, 08/2015).

#### 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). An estimated 154,000 families (677,000 individuals) are impacted by crop losses due to the drought. Crop production shortfalls of up to 20% are expected this year (WFP, 01/09/2015). Between 50% and 100% losses are expected for maize and beans (WFP, 26/09/2015; Oxfam 1/10/2015). Eastern and western Guatemala are the most affected (FEWSNET, 16/10/2015). It is unlikely that maize and bean losses will be compensated by good output in the second harvest season, as unfavourable weather conditions are predicted (FAO, 14/09/2015).

Nutrition

There are indications that the nutrition situation is deteriorating in areas affected by a rain deficit. SAM in children under five is between 3.3% and 5.7% country-wide (OCHA, 06/10/2015). In some communities in the dry corridor, GAM reaches 13%. Health systems in rural areas have limited resources and might not be able to deal with the increasing malnutrition (OCHA, 07/09/2015).

Chronic malnutrition is reportedly increasing due to consecutive years of extended dry spells (Reuters, 14/08/2015).

Updated: 26/10/2015

HONDURAS DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

OVERVIEW

Yearly droughts have deteriorated the food security situation in Honduras, affecting crop

Food availability

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

1.4 million people are affected by drought in Honduras, in 146 municipalities - 81 of the municipalities are considered severely affected (OCHA, 06/10/2015). 91% of municipalities in the ‘Dry Corridor’ in the southeast of the country are affected. La Paz, Lempira, Intibucá, Choluteca, Valle, Francisco Morazán, and El Paraíso are the most-affected departments (WFP, 26/09/2015).

As of 14 September, 250,000 people are reported to be in immediate need of food assistance. Priorities are food security, WASH, and nutrition (OCHA, 14/09/2015). A state of emergency has been declared in twelve departments. El Niño, which has decreased the amount of precipitation, is expected to continue until early 2016 (OCHA, 04/07/2015; El Heraldo, 03/07/2015).

In 2014, 930,000 people in 165 departments were affected by drought (Government, 13/01/2015). Choluteca, Valle, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán, Intibuca, and Lempira departments were most affected (ECHO, 20/08/2014).

Floods

On 17 October, heavy rainfall caused floods and mudslides across the country, affecting almost 3,000 people. Nine people were killed in the floods, while 1,250 people had to move to temporary shelters. Damage to infrastructure is reported, with several villages cut off. In Comayagua department, in central Honduras, a bridge collapsed, leaving two municipalities isolated. No victims were reported (OCHA, 20/10/2015; Government, 19/10/2015; RedHum 22/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

The poorest households who were severely affected by drought-related crop losses in the primera season, are expected to facing Stressed (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes from September. The absence of food stocks, lack of labour opportunities, and an increase in the seasonal grain prices have also led to a deterioration in the food security situation (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). Maize prices have increased by 20% in some areas, compared to 2014 levels (FAO, 14/09/2015).
The ongoing drought is expected to result in damage or complete loss of crops in the primera, postrera, and apante harvests (FEWSNET, 06/2015). A 96% loss in maize, 87% loss in beans, and a 19% decrease in the amount of sorghum were recorded in the Dry Corridor in the southeast of Honduras in the primera season. At a national level these correspond to a 15% loss for maize, 12% for beans, and 50% for sorghum (WFP, 26/09/2015).

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). 99% of households are reported to use emergency coping mechanisms, such as consuming seed stocks that were being conserved for next year, and selling farming animals (WFP, 26/09/2015).

Updated: 28/10/2015

PAPUA NEW GUINEA DROUGHT

<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>Severe</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Papua New Guinea has been categorised as 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

23 October: Papua New Guinea is to begin resettling the 1,000 asylum seekers on Manus Island within Papua New Guinea (BBC).
Natural disasters

Frost and drought

The impact of several months of drought and frost in recent weeks has reached 2.4 million people across the country: 1.3 million are living in the most severely affected areas in the Highlands region (Government, 30/09/2015; 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). Drought conditions are expected to last for another eight–ten months (IFRC, 15/09/2015).

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). An increase in bushfires has been reported in several drought-affected areas (Radio New Zealand, 25/09/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Frost and drought have destroyed crops, in particular sweet potato – the staple food of the affected areas. Livelihoods have been affected, and food prices have increased.

Food availability

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). An increase in bushfires has been reported in several drought-affected areas (Radio New Zealand, 25/09/2015).

In the Highlands, frost has also destroyed wild plants (known as bush food) that are usually eaten in periods of food shortages, leaving the population with limited coping mechanisms (government, 27/10/2015).

Food access

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). Food prices have increased in areas where the population has access to markets, as vegetable supply has decreased (ECHO, 14/09/2015).

Livelihoods

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). Food for livestock is limited (ECHO, 14/09/2015). Damage to food gardens means families cannot rely on selling their surplus to purchase food or essential NFIs (CARE, 15/10/2015).

Affected families are resorting to negative coping mechanisms, including limiting number of meals (CARE, 15/10/2015).

Health

Water shortages have caused hospitals and health centres in the affected provinces to scale down operations (ECHO, 14/09/2015; UNDP, 26/08/2015). Inadequate hygiene practices are a result of attempts to limit water usage, and an increase in diarrhoea, dysentery, typhoid, and skin disease cases have been reported across the country (CARE, 15/10/2015; Government, 30/09/2015).

Rural health centres lack the capacity to deal with any potential large disease outbreaks (IOM, 04/09/2015).

WASH

WASH is reported as a priority need (Government, 15/09/2015).

With water sources drying up, the population has resorted to using less reliable water sources, including potentially contaminated rivers (CHO, 14/09/2015; ABC, 18/08/2015). Water sources traditionally used for washing and bathing are now also being used for drinking water (IFRC, 15/09/2015). Distances to collect water have increased, and the time spent collecting water has doubled in many affected areas (CARE, 15/10/2015; ECHO, 14/09/2015).

Open defecation is widely practised in the affected areas, and may lead to contamination of water sources (Government, 15/09/2015).

Education

Water shortages have caused several schools in the affected provinces to close or keep shorter hours (CARE, 15/10/2015; ECHO, 14/09/2015; OCHA, 24/08/2015).

Updated: 27/10/2015
SOUTH AMERICA

COLOMBIA CONFLICT, DROUGHT, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

27 October: ELN killed 11 security officials and one police officer in Boyacá (AFP).

25 October: During local elections one soldier was killed by ELN in Anori, Uraba (Colombia Reports).

30 September: In September, an estimated 57,000 people were affected by access and mobility constraints (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS

- 4.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 10/05/2015).
- 6.3 million IDPs, including 224,300 newly displaced in 2014 (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).
- In the first half of 2015, around 2 million people suffered limitations in humanitarian access or mobility, due to conflicts, disasters due to natural hazards, or mass protests (OCHA, 03/08/2015).
- Approximately 1.3 million people are affected by natural disasters (floods, heat wave, droughts) every year (OCHA, 24/02/2015).

OVERVIEW

4.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Colombia. 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, restricted movement due to armed group activity limits access to basic health services, crops and labour markets, especially in the Pacific region. On 1 October, Colombia declared a state of emergency due to drought, which is expected to affect the country until March 2016.

Politics and security

Colombia’s armed conflict has spanned five decades, pitting the central government, right-wing paramilitaries, and left-wing guerrilla groups such as the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP) and the National Liberation Army (ELN) against one another. Paramilitary groups underwent a partially successful process of disarmament and demobilisation between 2003 and 2006, however many post-demobilised armed groups remain active.

The latest FARC-EP–Government peace negotiations began in November 2012 in Havana, Cuba, with the newest round beginning on 20 August (Reuters, 18/08/2015). On 23 September, FARC-EP and the Colombian government agreed on a six-month deadline for a peace deal, which means it must be signed before 23 March 2016 (BBC, 24/09/2015). On 10 October, the head of FARC ordered a halt to recruitment (El Espectador, 10/10/2015).

The intensity of the armed conflict has decreased substantially since the peace negotiations began. The FARC-EP’s unilateral ceasefire began on 20 July, with the government suspension of air raids thereafter, and military activity between the two parties has almost completely ceased (Colombia Reports, 22/09/2015). The Colombian Centre for Conflict Analysis (CERAC) recently reported the lowest levels of FARC attacks, and government attacks against guerrilla groups, in 40 years (Colombia Reports, 21/10/2015).

The ELN has been involved in informal peace talks with the government since June 2014, and in late August 2015 the parties were reportedly close to reaching an agreement on formal talks (Colombia Reports, 25/08/2015).

Elections

Local elections were held on 25 October. ELN killed one soldier in Anori, Uraba; otherwise the election process was largely peaceful (Colombia Reports, 25/10/2015).

Venezuela–Colombia relations

On 19 August, Venezuela closed its border to Colombia after an attack at the border injured four Venezuelan border guards (AFP, 22/08/2015). The Colombian and Venezuelan Presidents met on 20 September, and agreed to restore diplomatic ties (Colombia Reports, 24/09/2015; AFP, 22/09/2015). On 29 September, the Venezuelan government agreed to let more than 1,600 deported Colombians return to Venezuela and legalise their status (Voice
of America, 29/09/2015).

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 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’s strategies to combat non-state armed groups have been closely linked to eliminating the cultivation of illicit crops in the country, which finances the armed groups.

BACRIM and post-demobilised armed groups: Criminal gangs (bandas criminales, or BACRIM) under the names Black Eagles, and Erpac, among others, are generally made up of former paramilitary fighters. They are involved in drug trafficking and extortion throughout Colombia, as well as 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

In the northwest, conflict over control of drug-trafficking routes continues between the Urabeños post-demobilised armed group, FARC, and ELN (Colombia Reports, 22/10/2015).

On 27 October, ELN killed 11 soldiers and one police officer in Boyacá. President Santos has warned that the government might intensify military operations against the ELN (AFP, 20/10/2015).

FARC-EP has allegedly violated its ceasefire on three occasions. The group 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, in turn, has carried out airstrikes, however this has not been verified by observers (Colombia Reports, 17/08/2015).

Since the FARC-EP ceasefire, the military has reportedly focused its operations on other armed groups, including the Popular Liberation Army (EPL) in the northeast, and the drug trafficking paramilitary group, Urabeños (Colombia Reports, 21/08/2015).

Natural disasters

The El Niño phenomenon is considered the strongest in 18 years and due to last through December, causing both drought and flooding (OCHA, 30/09/2015; ECHO, 08/08/2015).

Drought and wildfires

On 1 October, Colombia declared a state of emergency due to drought, which is expected to affect the country until March 2016 (Oxfam, 01/10/2015; OCHA, 21/09/2015). As a result of El Niño, river levels across the country are well below average (Colombia Reports, 22/09/2015). The most drought-affected departments include La Guajira, Bolivar, and Magdalena in the north, Valle del Cauca on the Pacific coast, Boyacá and Cundinamarca in the centre, and Tolima and Quindio in the west (Colombia Reports, 22/09/2015).

More than 77,000 hectares of agricultural land have been destroyed in wildfires, including in Boyacá and Cundinamarca (RCN Radio, 16/09/2015). On the average, 70 wildfires per day were reported in Colombia in September (El Espectador, 05/10/2015).

Floods

As of 29 September, 1,100 people have been affected by floods in Cauca (Pan American Health Organization, 30/09/2015). Floods since 4 October have affected 1,483 people in Tierralta, Córdoba, who mainly need food, nutrition support, WASH, and shelter (OCHA, 13/10/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

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). In September, 1,074 people became newly displaced due to insecurity (OCHA, 30/10/2015).

As a result of clashes between armed groups and security forces, or as an anticipatory measure due to fear of potential clashes, communities in regions affected by armed conflict are frequently temporarily or permanently displaced. This particularly affects indigenous groups in Antioquia, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, and Norte de Santander departments (OCHA, 28/08/2015; 21/08/2015; 13/08/2015; 14/07/2015). 432 members of the Embara Eyabida indigenous group in Urrao, Antioquia, are unable to move for fear of the presence of armed groups. There is a need for food supplies, shelter,
WASH, and health facilities. OCHA warns of limited access to the area (OCHA, 19/10/2015; 30/09/2015). 159 people displaced by clashes on 17 October in the Bajo Atrato area in the northwest are staying in makeshift camps (Colombia Reports, 22/10/2015).

Returnees

1,950 Colombians were deported from Venezuela between 21 August and 15 October, following tension at the Colombia–Venezuela border (OCHA, 15/10/2015). More than 22,000 Colombians are believed to have returned voluntarily during the same period, due to fear of persecution by Venezuelan security forces (OCHA, 15/10/2015). An estimated 7,750 children are believed to be among the returnees (UNICEF, 15/09/2015).

90% of returnees are staying in Norte de Santander, while the departments of La Guajira, Arauca, and Vichada are also hosting returnees (OCHA, 15/09/2015). Immediate needs include shelter, protection, and education support for children no longer able to attend school in Venezuela (OCHA, 15/09/2015). More than 70% of the returnees in Norte de Santander are staying outside official displacement sites, and risk not being reached by assistance (OCHA, 11/09/2015).

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). In August, an estimated 22,000 people across Colombia suffered restrictions of movement due to insecurity (OCHA, 31/08/2015). In September an estimated 57,075 people were affected by access and mobility constraints due to insecurity (OCHA, 30/09/2015).

10,000 residents are experiencing restricted movement due to the presence of armed groups in the Bajo Atrato area in the northwest (Colombia Reports, 22/10/2015).

As of October, Venezuela stated it will keep its border with Colombia closed indefinitely because the number of violent attacks along the border has fallen (Colombia Reports, 13/10/2015). Venezuela closed several border crossings on 21 August after an attack at the border injured three Venezuelan guards (AFP, 22/08/2015). Indigenous groups in La Guajira are particularly vulnerable to the border closure, as many live and work on both sides. Although they are being permitted to cross, further restrictions may impact their food security and livelihood situation (OCHA, 15/09/2015). Fuel shortages are reported in the border departments as almost all fuel in the region is imported from Venezuela (Colombia Reports, 24/09/2015).

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). At least 184,000 people in the department of Guajira are in need of immediate food and water assistance due to a severe lack of rain and the border crisis with Venezuelan (OCHA, 30/09/2015).

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).

238 of Colombia’s 1,123 municipalities are facing severe water shortages due to drought. La Guajira, Bolívar, Valle del Cauca, Caldas, Cundinamarca, Cauca, Magdalena, Boyacá, Cesar, Huila, and Tolima are among the most affected. Water is being stored in unsafe facilities, causing an increase in the likelihood of the spread of mosquito-borne diseases (OCHA, 30/09/2015). 85% of water sources in Cundinamarca are in critical condition; 60 areas in Facatativá municipality, Cundinamarca, have had a severe lack of water since mid-September (Pan American Health Organization, 02/10/2015; El Espectador, 05/10/2015).

Water sources have dried up due to wildfire, affecting 4,800 people in the municipalities of Dichó, Boyacá department, and San Martín, Meta department (Pan American Health Organization, 30/09/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

916,000 people needed shelter in early 2015 (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 Atlántico and Magdalena in the north, though some claimants have received threats from paramilitary groups (Amnesty, 23/01/2015).
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). There have been frequent reports of landmine explosions involving both civilians and security personnel in Cauca and Caquetá (BBC, 17/06/2015; Government, 03/06/2015). Landmines have been planted in at least half (550) of Colombia’s municipalities (La Prensa, 18/01/2015). In March, the Colombian government and FARC-EP agreed to remove landmines and explosives, aiming to complete demining by 2025 (Reuters, 09/03/2015).

Children

There are approximately 2,000 underage fighters in FARC (Reuters, 15/04/2015).

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).

Colombia has reported a significant increase in the number of attacks against human rights activists in 2015. 399 attacks were reported in the first half of the year, compared to the 194 attacks reported in the same period in 2014. The vast majority of attacks are carried out by post-demobilised armed groups (ABColombia, 01/09/2015).

Updated: 27/10/2015
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.

Disclaimer

While ACAPS has defined a methodology striving to ensure accuracy, the information provided is indicative and should not be used in isolation from alternative sources of information for any decision making. ACAPS is not responsible for any damage or loss resulting from the use of the information presented on this website.