GLOBAL EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

September 2015

Severe humanitarian crisis
- Afghanistan
- CAR
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- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Eritrea
- Sudan
- Syria
- Libya
- Yemen

Humanitarian crisis
- Cameroon
- Chad
- Colombia
- Malawi
- Mauritania
- DPRK
- Myanmar
- Djibouti
- Nepal
- Ethiopia
- oPt
- Gambia
- Pakistan
- Haiti
- Senegal
- Kenya
- Sierra Leone
- Lebanon
- Uganda

Situation of concern
- Bangladesh
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Dominican Republic
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Honduras
- India
- Jordan
- Madagascar
- PNG
- Uganda

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Snapshot 23–29 September 2015

**El Salvador:** More than 100,000 farmers are estimated to be affected by crop losses due to a prolonged dry-spell. Up to 60% of the total maize crop has been lost in the affected areas. An estimated 156,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, mainly in eastern and western regions.

**Afghanistan:** Taliban forces have stormed and taken control of most of the city of Kunduz – the first major city to fall to the Taliban since the beginning of the war. Large numbers of wounded have been reported. In Nangarhar, hundreds of fighters reportedly belonging to Islamic State attacked security forces at a checkpoint.

**Central African Republic:** An escalation of violence in Bangui has led to the deaths of more than 20 people and injured 100. Protests against the government and UN peacekeepers have been taking place near the presidential palace. The increase in tensions is affecting movement in the city.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

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

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

28 September: Three people were shot and killed during protests near the presidential palace in Bangui. MINUSCA is seeking to verify accusations that peacekeepers opened fire on protesters (AFP).

26 September: Clashes following the murder of a Muslim taxi driver in Bangui have killed over 20 people and injured an estimated 100. Displacement, some of which may be short-lived, was reported in response to the violence (AFP).

22 September: An estimated 10,000 people have been displaced in Ouaka prefecture as violence has escalated since the beginning of the month (OCHA).

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).
- 378,425 IDPs, including 27,315 in Bangui (IOM, 25/09/2015; UNHCR, 21/08/2015).
- 476,076 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).
- Only 55% of health facilities are functioning (WHO, 27/04/2015).
- Less than 25% of the population is reported to have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

OVERVIEW

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

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

Politics and security

The transitional government’s term has been extended until 30 December 2015; it had been due to end 17 August (AFP, 12/08/2015). The government was formed in August 2014, but was rejected by the ex-Seleka, which had proclaimed a de facto, independent, secular state in northeastern CAR in July (IRIN 23/09/2014; Government, 24/07/2014). On 28 September, the current transitional President, Catherine Samba-Panza left the UN General Assembly in New York early to return to CAR due to new outbreak of violence in Bangui (Reuters, 28/09/2015).

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 in October (Mediapart, 30/08/2015). A constitutional referendum will be held on 4 October.

Upcoming elections are considered a potential catalyst for further instability (Cordaid, 16/09/2015). The first round of presidential and legislative elections will take place on 18 October, and the second round on 22 November (AFP, 19/06/2015). Many are concerned that CAR is not ready for elections, considering authorities have not created a representative voter roll: voter registration took place 26 June–27 July, but thousands of people lost identity documents during the conflict, which complicated the process (AFP, 29/07/2015; UNHCR, 24/07/2015). It was only in August that the National Transitional
Council authorised refugees to vote, and, as of 15 September, there is no plan to enable their participation in the election (AFP, 20/08/2015; IRIN, 15/09/2015).

**Stakeholders**

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

**Seleka:** Seleka was an alliance of factions created in 2012 and dissolved by President Djotodia in late 2013. Many fighters remained active after the dissolution, and were dubbed ‘ex-Seleka’. Most moved out of the capital and by January 2014 controlled much of central and northern CAR; 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. Between 10 and 15 commanders oversee 1,500–3,750 soldiers each, including Muslims from the northeast, and Sudanese and Chadians (IRIN, 12/01/2015; international media, 30/09/2014; Enough, 17/06/2015). There are reports of internal conflict among members of the alliance, involving in particular the Front Démocratique du Peuple Centrafricain (Democratic Front of the Central African People, or FDPC).

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

**LRA:** Lord’s Resistance Army, faction of Ugandan insurgents, was pushed out of Uganda by the national army, but is reported to be still active in Central African Republic, attacking civilians, looting and abducting people (Stratfor, 26/08/2015; LRA Crisis Tracker, 22/09/2015).

**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:** On 19 May, the French peacekeeping operation was formally handed over to MINUSCA (French Ministry of Defence, 22/05/2015). As of 31 August, around 900 French soldiers were left in the country, from the 2,000 that were present in May. 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 military assistance:** The US is providing logistical support, special forces, and advisers to African troops operating against the LRA in eastern and southeastern CAR.

**Conflict developments**

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). Since January 2014, more than 2,054 security incidents have been recorded, more than 96% of them from January to the end of July 2015 (OCHA, 10/08/2015; 24/07/2015). Peaks of violence were reached in March 2014, with 196 incidents, and have since fallen, although there are indications that violence has escalated again in September. 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, the UN peacekeeping force took over.

**Bangui:** Clashes following the murder of a Muslim taxi driver on 26 September led to over 20 dead and 100 injured. Three protesters demonstrating against UN peacekeepers and President Panza were later shot and killed on 28 September. MINUSCA is seeking to verify accusations that peacekeepers opened fire on protesters (AFP, 28/09/2015). On 9 September, two people were killed in as many grenade attacks in Petèvo and Fatima neighbourhoods (AFP, 10/09/2015). A MINUSCA operation in PK5 district in August, to arrest a former ex-Seleka leader, caused an unknown number of casualties and displacement (ECHO, 03/08/2015). A UN peacekeeper was killed north of Bangui during clashes with armed groups on 2 August (OCHA, 04/08/2015).

**Basse-Kotto:** Clashes between armed groups were reported 5–6 September in the
village of Walago and 8–9 September in Sangba (OCHA, 22/09/2015). Over 2–4 August, fighting in Malegbassa between ex-Seleka and Fulaini left up to 12 dead and several wounded (Reuters, 06/08/2015).

**Ouaka:** Tensions remain high since renewed clashes on 20 August between anti-balaka and ex-Seleka in Bambari 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). WFP was forced to suspend food distribution and other activities the week of 24 August (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). As of 4 September, 40,000 IDPs were reported in Bambari since the violence in late August (ICRC, 04/09/2015). Some roads inside the city are closed, as well as the road to the airstrip. Negotiations with armed groups are underway (ECHO, 24/08/2015).

On 8 September, a “weapon-free” zone in Bambari was announced by the UN Under Secretary General in charge of peacekeeping (United Nations, 08/09/2015).

**Ouham and Nana-Grebizi:** Clashes in June and July between herding and farming communities over natural resources caused displacement in parts of Ouham and Nana-Grebizi (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015; OCHA, 21/06/2015; UNHCR, 26/06/2015). On 28 July, 26 people were killed as armed groups clashed over control of Markounda (03/08/2015).

**Displacement**

About 378,425 IDPs have been reported in CAR as of late September (IOM, 25/09/2015). Approximately 131,000 IDP returnees are 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 the end of September, IDP numbers in Bangui had fallen to 27,315 in 30 sites, from 30,150 in August and 33,070 in May (UN, 27/09/2015; UNHCR, 30/08/2015). 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).

On 28 August, the government announced the decision to close Mpoko IDP site by 15 September, in order to enable the building for use as Mpoko international airport. However, as of 27 September, the camp remains open (MSF, 27/09/2015). As of early September, Mpoko site was hosting 2,210 families (UN, 02/09/2015; ECHO, 04/09/2015). 93% of households have been de-registered from the site and 90% registered to return to neighbourhoods in Bangui (UNICEF, 11/08/2015).

Basse-Koto: Fighting in the prefecture have led 2,000 people to flee from Bianga since 9 September (OCHA, 22/09/2015).

**Ouaka:** An increase in violence between armed groups since the beginning of September has reportedly led to the displacement of an estimated 10,000 people (OCHA, 22/09/2015). Clashes in Bambari between anti-balaka and ex-Seleka over 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 has formed inside MINUSCA’s Bambari compound, hosting about 3,000 people as of 25 August. Conditions are dire at the site, with no sanitation facilities and limited access to water and shelter (UNHCR, 27/08/2015).

**Refugees and asylum seekers**

As of 30 August, 7,714 refugees are being hosted in CAR (UNHCR, 30/08/2015). 1,859 Sudanese in Pladama Ouaka refugee camp, 12km from Bambari, are trapped and at risk of violence, because of the fighting in Bambari end August (UNHCR, 27/08/2015; UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

**Refugee returnees**

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

**CAR refugees in neighbouring countries**

As of 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).

**Humanitarian access**

Around 2.7 million people, over half of the 4.6 million living in the country, are reported to be in immediate need of humanitarian assistance (The Global Observatory, 11/09/2015).

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

**Access of relief actors to affected populations**

259 acts of violence have been recorded against humanitarian organisations between January and July 2015. And in August, incidents involving humanitarian actors are reported to have remained high (OCHA, 14/07/2015; 09/09/2015). On 20 August, one Red Cross staff member was reported injured in a targeted attack in Bambari (OCHA,
Incidents include theft of humanitarian assets and facilities as well as threats to staff. Kidnappings are also frequent (USAID, 27/04/2015; OCHA, 09/09/2015). UN, NGO, and private vehicles are becoming regular targets on main roads (IOM, 02/02/2015). 18 humanitarian workers were killed and six wounded in 142 incidents in 2014 (OCHA, 04/12/2014; USAID, 19/12/2014).

Truck drivers delivering food and supplies from Douala in Cameroon to Bangui have resumed work after having halted in protest at the killing of 18 of their colleagues on the Cameroon–CAR border (VoA, 21/08/2015). It could take some time before all the trucks are able to reach CAR again (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Ouaka: All humanitarian activities in Bambari have been temporarily suspended (OCHA, 25/08/2015). On 20 August, two humanitarian workers were injured in Bambari during ex-Seleka and anti-balaka clashes (AFP, 22/08/2015).

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).

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 assistance needs are higher than the five-year average, but the same as last year (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015).

Food availability

75% of Central Africans rely on agriculture for their food and income, and food crop production in 2014 was 58% below pre-crisis levels in 2012, as a result of insecurity, looting, and the killing of livestock, but 11% higher than 2013 (FAO, 29/07/2015; OCHA, 04/03/2015). A new shortfall in domestic production is likely, given the combination of poor rainfall and prolonged insecurity. The supply on grain markets is in decline. Local rice is unavailable due to low production and imports from Cameroon are affected by insecurity (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015).

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 from for 60% of their food, because they have no food stocks. Markets have started charging very high prices in some villages in southern prefectures of Basse-Kotto and Nana-Mambéré, with food stocks covering a week or less (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Livelihoods

Livelihoods are reported to have been severely affected by fighting and looting, 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). 55% of health facilities are functioning (WHO, 27/04/2015). Only 25% of those offering services have functioning sources of energy, and 21% have access to water (WHO, 31/12/2014). Nationwide, 28% of health centres are completely or partially destroyed (UNICEF, 28/08/2015).

Malaria

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

Nutrition

As of 28 August, more than 12,000 children under five currently 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, indicated that global acute malnutrition is approaching 9.2%, and rates of severe acute malnutrition are at 2.2% (UNICEF, 08/09/2015).

WASH

As of April–May, 1.4 million people were targeted for WASH assistance in 2015 but lack of funding was reported to be a significant constraint on infrastructure support (OCHA, 29/04/2015; 28/05/2015). 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).

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...
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**

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

**NFIs**

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

**Education**

Since 2012, 30% of schools in Central African Republic 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).

**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, 04/11/2014). Only 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 are listed for child recruitment, and killing and maiming (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 04/11/2014). On 8 January, the UN Commission of Inquiry into human rights concluded that violence towards Muslims by anti-balaka in 2014 constitutes ethnic cleansing (Government, 20/01/2015).

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

**Gender**

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

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: 28/09/2015**

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

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<th>Severe humanitarian crisis</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>10%</td>
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#### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**25 September:** More than 6,000 people have left their villages since 19 September due to clashes between APCLS and FARDC in Kashebere, Walikale territory, North Kivu (Radio Okapi).

**23 September:** The Ministry of Public Health declared a cholera epidemic in DRC (Radio Okapi).

**22 September:** In Kanaba, North Kivu, 2,700 displaced households were threatened...
with eviction by the local population. They have been living in local agricultural zones since late June 2015 (OCHA).

**22 September:** Since 15 September, 2,400 people have returned to Mutarule, South Kivu, after being displaced since June 2014 (OCHA).

**2 September:** Since mid-August, more than 25,000 people have fled their villages in Shabunda territory, South Kivu, due intensified clashes between FARDC and other armed groups (MSF).

### KEY CONCERNS

- 7 million people need humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 30/04/2015).
- 2.6 million IDPs (OCHA, 01/06/2015; 17/06/2015).
- Over 2 million children under five are suffering from acute malnutrition (Radio Okapi, 04/11/2014).
- 7.3 million school-aged children are not attending school (Radio Okapi, 10/03/2015).

### OVERVIEW

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

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

### Politics and security

President Kabila’s second full term ends in November 2016. Attempts to prolong his presidency beyond the two-term limit were met with violent protests in September 2014 and in January. Violent clashes erupted again between opposition and Kabila supporters on 15 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). Local elections should take place on 25 October 2015 (local media, 11/08/2015).

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

### DRC–Rwanda

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). On 23 April, Rwandan soldiers reportedly crossed the border into Rutshuru as tensions between the two countries rose (News Central, 23/04/2015).

### Stakeholders

At least 40 armed groups are operating in the east of the country (ECHO, 13/08/2015). They range from local militias set up initially as self-defence groups (among them many Mayi-Mayi groups), to secessionist groups, and forces first set up by fighters from 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, Orientale, in 2015, after a failed disarmament programme at the end of 2014 (OCHA, 19/04/2015). The FRPI was reportedly neutralised by the FARDC and MONUSCO in late June (AFP, 24/06/2015).

### Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR)

are mainly Hutu Rwandans who were allegedly linked to the genocide. An estimated 1,400 fighters are active, primarily in the Kivu regions (Reuters, 22/03/2015).

### Mayi-Mayi:

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

### Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU)

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

### Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA)

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

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

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

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

Conflict developments

North Kivu

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

Beni territory: On 15 September, three civilians were killed by suspected ADF in Kokola town (Radio Okapi, 16/09/2015). At least nine people were killed in ADF attacks on two villages on 5 and 6 September (Irin, 06/09/2015; Africa Time, 07/09/2015). 300 people were killed by ADF militants in Beni territory between March and July (Radio Okapi, 16/07/2015).

Walikale 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).

South Kivu

In Shabunda territory, clashes between FARDC and other armed groups have intensified since mid-August. More than 25,000 people have fled their villages (MSF, 02/09/2015).

Orientale

FRPI have reportedly carried out several attacks on IDP sites in 2015, the latest being reported on 16 July (OCHA, 22/07/2015). 35 people died, 52 were wounded and 36 captured alive in three weeks of FARDC–MONUSCO operations in June (AFP, 24/06/2015).

Katanga

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

Natural disasters

Floods

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

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

Forest fire

Forest fires in Kolongo, Katanga, have left 6,000 people without shelter (OCHA, 16/09/2015).

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

Displacement

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

IDPs

At 30 June, there were 1.5 million IDPs in DRC, a decrease of one million due to data cleaning (OCHA, 20/07/2015). Displacement can be short-term, but repetitive, depending on the security threats in the regions.
From March to June, 220,000 people were displaced due to insecurity in Beni, Rutshuru and Walikale territories (North Kivu), southern Irumu (Orientale), Kalehe (South Kivu), and Kalemie, Manono, and Pweto (Katanga) (OCHA, 20/07/2015). 121,000 were displaced between January and March 2015 (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

North Kivu

North Kivu hosts 624,277 IDPs as of August (OCHA, 22/09/2015). 26,880 were newly displaced in June due to violence in Beni, Rutshuru, and Walikale territories (UNHCR, 14/07/2015). 67% live with host families (OCHA, 15/07/2015). As of 25 August, approximately 178,000 live in IDP sites in North Kivu (CCCM Cluster, 06/09/2015). Near Goma, four sites host more than 16,000 IDPs: most people have relocated to Masisi, Nyirangongo, and Rutshuru territories (ECHO, 29/05/2015; OCHA, 31/05/2015). 32,000 IDPs in Tongo (Rutshuru) and Bukombo (Masisi) are in need of WASH, health, NFIs, and shelter assistance. They were displaced due to clashes between the FARDC and the FDLR/Nyatura FPC coalition (OCHA, 21/07/2015). 286,039 IDPs returned home over the last 18 months (OCHA, 22/09/2015).

Beni: 14,000 IDPs, primarily pygmies, are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in Mamove; medical assistance has been limited (Radio Okapi, 26/09/2015). There were 152,270 displaced people in Beni as of 25 June (OCHA, 15/07/2015).

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

Walikale: There are 76,030 IDPs in Walikale as of 25 June (UNHCR, 15/07/2015). Hundreds of households are seeking refuge with host families, and lack food, clothes, and access to healthcare (Radio Okapi, 10/08/2015; 06/08/2015). 1,500 people returned to Ntoto after fleeing Mayi-Mayi clashes in December 2014 and are in need of assistance (Caritas, 21/08/2015). More than 6,000 people have left their villages since 19 September due to clashes between APCLS and FARDC in Kashebere. They are staying in a local health centre and the surrounding bush. Their humanitarian situation has been worsening and they urgently need food assistance (Radio Okapi, 25/09/2015).

South Kivu

At 30 June, 317,960 IDPs were in South Kivu, a 53% decrease since end March due to a purging of data that is awaiting verification (OCHA, 10/07/2015). More than 64,000 IDPs and former IDPs need assistance in northern Shabunda territory (OCHA, 21/08/2015). Since mid-August, renewed clashes between FARDC and other armed groups displaced more than 25,000 people. IDPs seek refuge in the towns of Shabunda and Katshungu and in the surrounding bush. Due to a lack of clean water, cholera has broken out in the area (MSF, 02/09/2015).

After returning to their homes on 15 August, 1,960 inhabitants of Mutarule, north Uvira territory, were re-displaced on 19 August due to a Mayi-Mayi attack (OCHA, 21/08/2015). Since 15 September, an additional 2,400 people, displaced since June 2014, have returned to Mutarule. Their main needs are shelter and healthcare (OCHA, 22/09/2015). In western Walungu territory, approximately 8,500 people fleeing Raiya Mutomboki attacks were registered from 6-15 July (local media, 06/08/2015).

Orientale

As of end June, there were 130,850 IDPs in Orientale province (OCHA, 20/07/2015).

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

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

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

Katanga

Katanga hosts 316,875 IDPs as of end June (OCHA, 20/07/2015). 45,130 IDPs were displaced between April and June 2015 due to clashes between Luba and pygmies in Tanganyika district (OCHA, 29/07/2015).

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

Maniema

Maniema hosts 121,525 IDPs as of 24 June (UNHCR, 20/07/2015). 24,950 of these are from South Kivu, and fled violence between April and June (OCHA, 20/07/2015). More than 6,000 IDPs, including 2,000 children under five, have arrived in Pangui territory in 2015, fleeing conflict in Shabunda, South Kivu. They are not currently receiving humanitarian assistance. Pangui territory also hosts approximately 25,000 former IDPs who need access to land and household items, as well as support to develop livelihoods (OCHA, 18/08/2015). 5,000 people displaced in Kasongo territory following intercommunal violence are staying with host families in villages near Mungomba and need assistance (OCHA, 22/07/2015; Caritas, 03/08/2015).
DRC hosts more than 225,020 refugees (OCHA, 30/04/2015). DRC provincial authorities insist that assistance should only be delivered within camps, making it difficult to support refugees in host communities.

From CAR: As of 31 August, there are 101,866 CAR refugees in DRC (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Approximately 3,000 are in four camps in Equateur and Orientale provinces. The newest camp, Bili, in Bosobolo territory, Equateur province, currently hosts 7,000 refugees (WFP, 06/08/2015). From 9–16 September, more than 3,000 new refugees arrived in northern DRC, fleeing renewed clashes (AFP, 16/09/2015). Many are women and children, and are staying with host families and in churches (Caritas, 14/09/2015).

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

From Burundi: As of 13 September, 14,995 new Burundian refugees have arrived in DRC in 2015 (UNHCR, 13/09/2015). 50% of them are under 12 years old (WFP, 22/09/2015). The majority are in South Kivu, 680 are in Katanga, and 230 are in Maniema. Some 6,300 are staying with host families. Lusenda camp, Fizi territory has reached full capacity, at 8,043 people (WFP, 16/09/2015). 1,200 asylum seekers are being transferred to the camp (OCHA, 16/09/2015). 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).

Refugee returnees

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 district in Orientale (OCHA, 20/08/2015; Reuters, 03/08/2015).

DRC refugees in neighbouring countries

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

Humanitarian access

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

Access of relief actors to affected population

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

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

Orientale: 4,500 IDPs in Bili, Bondo territory, have been without assistance due to access constraints since April (OCHA, 17/09/2015). Humanitarian activities have slowed in the south of Irumu territory (Bunia, Gety, Aveba and Bukiring) due to insecurity (OCHA, 03/06/2015). Since 16 May, five NGOs have suspended activities (OCHA, 10/06/2015). An INGO vehicle was attacked south of Bunia on 13 July (USAID, 21/07/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Equateur: 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 (Orientale), Boende (Equateur), Punia (Maniema), Shabunda (South Kivu), Manono, Mitwaba, and Pweto (Katanga) are all in Emergency phase, representing an increase of 523,000 people in IPC Phase 4 compared to the last assessment, in December 2014 (FAO, 30/06/2015).

Food availability

Food production is estimated at 20–40% below national consumption needs (USAID, 21/07/2015).

Health

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

In Bili refugee camp, 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

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

Orientale: The health situation in Dungu, Haut-Uele, has worsened since Medair and MSF left in 2014. Since May 2015, routine vaccination is not on schedule in ten health facilities, due to a lack of fuel for the cold chain (OCHA, 22/07/2015). 140 health facilities in Bunia are functioning, but without trained health personnel and without adequate medicine (Radio Okapi, 30/06/2015).

Cholera

8,028 cases of cholera, including 71 deaths, were recorded 1 January–9 August, compared to 10,945 for the same period in 2014 (UNICEF, 10/08/2015). On 23 September, the Ministry of Public Health declared a cholera epidemic in DRC (Radio Okapi, 23/09/2015).

Maniema: Cholera is prevalent in several health zones, including Lowa and Ubundu. In the three weeks to 15 September, at least 39 people died of suspected cholera (Radio Okapi, 15/09/2015).

Orientale: In Tchomia health zone, Ituri district, 180 cholera cases were reported 31 August–14 September, including two deaths (OCHA, 17/09/2015). Local media report new cases are decreasing, with three new cases reported on 16 September, compared to an average of 40 new cases per day in August (Radio Okapi, 18/09/2015).

Cholera

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

Orientale: 12,600 IDPs in Badengayido, Orientale, lack access to WASH because the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) has opposed it (OCHA, 15/07/2015).

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

5,000 IDPs in Biakato, Orientale, are in need of household items after fleeing clashes...
between FARDC and Mayi-Mayi (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 South Kivu, Katanga, and Orientale is preventing access to education.

Access and learning environment

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

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

Teaching and learning

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

Protection

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

193 ex-FDLR militants and 601 of their families have accused the DRC government of not providing them with food, so that they return to Rwanda (AFP, 20/08/2015). MONUSCO has announced it will stop providing food to 7,000 ex-fighters from September, sparking fears of renewed clashes (AFP, 26/08/2015).

In Kanaba, North 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).

Children

567 children were freed from the FDLR between January and June 2015 (RFI, 06/08/2015). 207 children left armed groups in Orientale province January–June 2015 (OCHA, 22/07/2015; 20/08/2015).

Gender

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

Orientale: 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 district. Anti-SGBV activities have been interrupted due to funding shortfalls (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

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

Updated: 28/09/2015

ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 28/09/2015. 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.

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

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

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

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

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). Eritreans constitute the second biggest group of migrants arriving in Italy by boat, after Syrians (Guardian, 17/08/2015; Reuters, 24/03/2015). In 2014, more than 37,000 Eritrean refugees sought refuge in Europe, the vast majority arriving by boat across the Mediterranean (UNHCR).

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).

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).

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: 28/09/2015

LIBYA DISPLACEMENT, CIVIL WAR, POLITICAL UNREST

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**Humanitarian crisis**

![Severity level](image)

Severities: Minimal, Low, Moderate, Severe

Pre-crisis vulnerability: 47.7%

% population affected: 47.7%

Humanitarian access: Severe

See the methodology note for details.
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

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

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

Benghazi, in the northeast, Ghat, Ubari and Sabha in the south, and Warshafana, Ziltan and Nalut in the northwest have the highest needs. Priorities are health, protection and education for the northwest and northeast, and health, food security, and shelter for the south.

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

Politics and security
Libya has had two rival parliaments and governments since mid-2014. 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 Aawsat 04/05/2015).

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

Prime Minister Al Thani’s government, from the House of Representatives, was sworn in in September. In October, the House of Representatives officially endorsed former General Haftar and his Operation Dignity (now known as the Libyan National Army). On 6 November, 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). In August, talks resumed in Geneva (IRIN, 17/08/2015). On 21 September the UN announced the finalisation of the peace agreement, now awaiting signature from both parties (VOA, 21/09/2015).

Stakeholders

Libya Dawn
The Libya Shield brigades, tied to the city of Misrata, are allied to Islamist political forces, as are the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries, a Benghazi-based alliance including Ansar al Sharia, Libya Shield units and other armed groups. Together with insurgents from Tripoli and other towns including al Zawiya and 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). Support comes from the Al Qa'qa' and Al Sawaiq brigades, allied with the city of Zintan, and fighters from the Warshefana region west of Tripoli. The House of Representatives has repeatedly appealed to the international community for more weapons (AFP, 05/01/2014).
Islamic State and allies

The 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).

Abu Salim Martyr’s Brigade

Abu Salim Martyr’s 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

Egypt

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

The surge in violence since July 2014 has affected more than two million people (UN, 21/09/2015). Over 2,244 deaths have been reported since the beginning of 2015 (ACLED, 19/09/2015). In 2014, there were 2,383 reported fatalities from battles and remote violence (ACLED, 15/01/2015).

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

Sirte: On 12 August, clashes broke out between IS and armed residents trying to push back against the group. IS reportedly shelled parts of the city and beheaded 12 opponents (ALJ, 17/08/2015). IS, backed by local militias and militias from Misrata reportedly seized control of Sirte in March, 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).

Derna: IS was reportedly pushed out of its stronghold in June by Abu Salim Martyr’s Brigade, and in August launched an offensive to retake Derna (Reuters, 13/08/2015). On 9 August, a car bomb killed three people and wounded 13 (Reuters 09/08/2015). Derna has been hit by airstrikes several times, both by pro-HoR and Egyptian planes (Reuters, 05/05/2015; 23/02/2015).

Inter-communal violence

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

Economic crisis

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

Displacement

IDPs

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

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

Tripoli and its surroundings hosted 269,000 IDPs at end March (IDMC, 30/03/2015). Near Tripoli, an estimated 83,270 people are living in settlements, schools and abandoned
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 Walied, Tarhuna and Benghazi (UNICEF, 01/06/2015).

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

Refugees and asylum seekers

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

Others

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

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

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

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

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

Security and physical constraints

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

Food security and livelihoods

Food availability

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

Food access

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

Health

Healthcare availability and access

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

In a June assessment, 24% of households reported having no available health facilities (UN, 31/07/2015). In particular, many IDPs and migrants do not have access to health services (Save the Children, 18/06/2015). Access to health services has become a major concern mainly in Benghazi. Fighting restricts movement for people and health workers in conflict areas (WHO, 24/11/2014).

WASH

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

Education

Access of relief actors to affected populations

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Fuel shortages are further limiting access (AFP, 19/05/2015).
Half of the children in Libya are without education. At December 2014, 21% of IDP school-aged children were not attending school due to insecurity, closed school and lack of space (UNICEF, 03/2015).

In Benghazi, 75% of children have no access to education (Save the Children, 18/06/2015). Only 65 out of 239 schools in the city are functioning (UNICEF, 02/09/2015). Many of the schools in the northeast and south are occupied by IDPs (Save the Children, 18/06/2015).

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

626 people are reported to have been 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). Civilian accounted for an estimated 75% of people injured or killed by explosives in the first half of 2015 (OCHA, 23/09/2015).

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).

Updated: 29/09/2015

NIGER FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
25 September: Boko Haram (BH) attacked the village of N’Gourtoua in Diffa region, killing 15 civilians (Reuters).

22 September: Flooding in central and southern Niger has affected 87,037 people since the end of July (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS
- 3.6 million people forecast to be food insecure, including 2.7 million severely food insecure, during the June–September lean season (WFP/FAO/Food cluster, 12/08/2015; OCHA, 31/05/2015).
- 205,339 children have been admitted with SAM in 2015. SAM rate projections expect 368,000 cases by the end of the year (OCHA, 18/09/2015).
- At least 94,000 Nigerian refugees are in Diffa region (Government, 05/08/2015).

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

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

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

Elections
The first round of presidential elections are scheduled to take place 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).

Recent incidents

BH continues to regularly attack civilians in Diffa region. On 25 September, BH killed 15 civilians in an attack in the village of N’Gourtoua as residents celebrated Eid al Adha (Reuters, 25/09/2015). Two civilians were reportedly killed in the village of Dagaya, in early September (UNHCR, 07/09/2015). A separate BH attack in Dagaya killed five civilians on 10 July (AFP, 10/07/2015). An overnight attack on Abadam village killed three on 27 August (Reuters, 27/08/2015). 16 people were killed and four injured in BH attacks near Bosso town in Diffa region on 15 July (AFP, 18/07/2015). Multiple BH attacks and raids on villages in Diffa in June killed 53 people, injured 16, and affected at least 7,000 people (OCHA, 03/07/2015; 26/06/2015; 19/06/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

Floods since end July in seven central and southern regions have killed 25 people and affected 87,037. 6,607 homes have been destroyed. Dosso is the worst-affected region, and Niamey is at particular risk of further flooding (OCHA, 22/09/2015).

Displacement

There are 66,400 IDPs in Niger, at least 94,152 Nigerian refugees, and 52,445 refugees from Mali (Government, 05/08/2015; OCHA, 18/09/2015). Another 41,169 Nigeriens have returned to their country in the wake of increased BH violence in the region (Government, 05/08/2015; OCHA, 17/09/2015).

Between 80,000 and 120,000 refugees and migrants are expected to pass through the major transit point of Agadez this year, four times more than initial estimates (IOM, 15/09/2015; OCHA, 18/09/2015).

Boko Haram crisis

BH insurgency has triggered widespread displacement in northeast Nigeria and is increasingly threatening citizens on and around Lake Chad, including in Niger, Chad and Cameroon (UNHCR, 24/09/2015). While estimates vary, at least 94,152 Nigerians were seeking refuge in Niger’s Diffa region in August (Government, 05/08/2015). An estimated 130,000 Nigerian refugees could be in Niger by the end of 2015 (OCHA, 09/09/2015; UNHCR, 01/07/2015).

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

An estimated 10,000 Nigerians arrived in Gagamari and Che tamari areas, following the withdrawal of Chadian and Nigerian forces from the formerly BH-controlled town of Damasak in late July (UNICEF, 18/08/2015). Tchongourma town in Diffa is reported to have received an additional 3,990 Nigerian refugees, but the area is inaccessible to UN agencies (UNHCR, 17/08/2015).

34,000 people remain displaced from islands around Lake Chad after they left in May. 8,267 are in Kimengaga site in Nguigmi and 2,501 are in Kablewa camp (UNHCR, 17/09/2015). 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). Priority needs are for NFIs, WASH, shelter, and protection (OCHA, 14/07/2015).

3,770 people fled villages surrounding Assaga in July (UNICEF, 18/08/2015; OCHA, 14/07/2015).

Mali crisis

As of 18 September, 52,445 Malian refugees are in Niger (OCHA, 18/09/2015). 55% of the 3,612 new arrivals in 2015 are in camps, 26% in reception centres, and 18% in urban areas (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). 14,580 Malian refugees are in Intikane camp, and 13,450 in Abala camp in Tillabery region. 62% of refugees are children (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Movement within Diffa, and northern parts of Zinder, Tahoua, and Tillabery regions, is possible only with military escorts (OCHA, 16/02/2015). Access to displaced populations in Bosso department is still restricted, with its southeastern part nearly inaccessible (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). On 17 August, WFP launched air operations to Lake Chad and other hard-to-access areas (WFP, 31/08/2015).

Security and physical constraints

The presence of landmines along the border between Niger and Nigeria, especially around Komadougou River, is preventing access to certain areas (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

A peak in the rainy season has made some roads inaccessible, impacting humanitarian access, particularly in the Tazalit refugee hosting site in Tahoua region (WFP, 04/09/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Around 3.6 million people are food insecure during the May–September lean season, including 2.7 million severely food insecure. 457,000 severely food insecure in Diffa region
are targeted for monthly assistance, of which 53% (251,000 people) are currently being reached (UNHCR/WFP/ACTED, 08/09/2015). **Crisis (IPC Phase 3)** is predicted for Niger in March 2016 (FEWSNET, 26/09/2015).

At least 200,000 people in Diffa region are likely to continue facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes until December (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015). Other areas of concern are Tillabery, Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi, and Niamey regions (OCHA, 14/08/2015; 31/05/2015; WFP/FAO/Food Cluster, 12/08/2015).

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

**Food availability**

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

Insecurity in Diffa region is significantly hampering land preparation activities. As of May, 68% of villages in Diffa had a cereal deficit (OCHA, 20/05/2015).

In agropastoral areas of south Diffa, insecurity is disrupting production but also trade and food supply on markets due to access constraints; poor households will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes until December in the presence of assistance (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015).

**Food access**

Insecurity driven by BH continues to limit food access in eastern Niger (FEWSNET, 26/09/2015). 63% of displaced are estimated to have insufficient access to food, while the majority are deprived of livelihood means (FEWSNET, 28/05/2015; ACTED, 01/06/2015).

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

**Livelihoods**

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

**Health**

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

**Cholera**

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

**Measles**

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

**Meningitis**

As of 12 August, 8,520 suspected cases of meningitis, including more than 573 deaths, have been recorded in 2015; 2,182 new cases were recorded over 4–10 May, but incidence has since decreased (OCHA, 12/08/2015; WHO, 08/07/2015).

**Mental health**

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

**Nutrition**

205,339 children have been admitted with SAM up to September 2015. 368,000 SAM cases are expected by the end of the year (OCHA, 18/09/2015). SAM admissions rose by 22% in Dosso and 129% in Diffa between 2014 and 2015 (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

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).

An increase in children hospitalised due to malnutrition has been reported in August, particularly in Zinder region (PI, 19/09/2015).

**Shelter**

Healthcare availability and access

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An increase in children hospitalised due to malnutrition has been reported in August, particularly in Zinder region (PI, 19/09/2015).
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 to 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). 43% of recently displaced populations from Lake Chad are estimated to have insufficient access to water sources (ACTED, 01/06/2015).

**Education**

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

**Protection**

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

**Children**

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

**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 migrants heading north to or returning from Libya (UNODC, 20/08/2015). IOM estimates up to 120,000 migrants will transit through Niger in 2015, with between 2,000 and 2,500 passing through Agadez each week (IOM, 15/09/2015).

**Documentation**

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

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For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

Politics and security

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

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

Regional forces

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

Conflict developments

11 confirmed and suspected BH-related security incidents have been reported so far in September, leading to around 130 deaths. This shows a continued decrease since August, when 21 incidents caused at least 224 fatalities (ACLED, 22/08/2015). Borno state continues to be most affected, but new attacks were reported in Adamawa after several months of relative calm (ACLED, 19/09/2015). 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).

BH has been using guerilla tactics including village raids, abductions, bombings and suicide attacks, increasingly targeting civilians (AFP, 23/03/2015; US Institute of Peace, 09/01/2015). Recent military operations are pushing insurgents further east and south in Borno state, and towards neighbouring Gombe, Yobe, and Adamawa (UNHCR, 17/08/2015). 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).

Borno state: On 27 September, suspected BH militants killed nine people and injured ten in an attack on Mailari village (AFP, 27/09/2015). On 20 September, at least 117 people were killed in three explosions in Maiduguri, the deadliest attacks in one day this year. At least 90 others were injured (BBC, 21/09/2015; AFP, 22/09/2015). In August, at least 141 people were killed in village raids, bomb blasts, and road attacks carried out by BH. Many people fled, and homes were destroyed (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: Adamawa state had been relatively peaceful until mid-September. On 11 September, 12 people were killed and 21 injured in an explosion at the Malkohi IDP camp outside of the state capital Yola (Reuters; AFP, 11/09/2015; ECHO, 15/09/2015). On the
same day, a suicide bomber on a bus stop in Madagali, northwestern Adamawa, killed five people (Reuters, 11/09/2015).

**Yobe state:** In August, at least 230 people were killed in suicide attacks and village raids by BH (AFP, 25/08/2015; 06/08/2015; OCHA, 17/08/2015; ECHO, 20/08/2015).

**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).

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). On 17 September, at least five people were killed and several houses burned in Kadunung, Plateau state. Local media reported up to 18 killed and 150 houses burned. The attack is thought to be part of religious conflict as the state falls on the dividing line between the Christian south and the mainly Muslim north (AFP, 17/09/2015). In recent weeks, inter-communal violence and attacks against IDP returnees have been reported in Taraba state (UNHCR, 14/09/2015). **As of late August, daily attacks continued in Plateau state, resulting in fatalities and injury, particularly in parts of Riyom, Barkin, Ladi, Wase, Langtan South and Shadem (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).** Incidents had fallen in previous months. In 2014, around 1,700 people died in inter-communal violence (ACLED, 2014; ICG, 01/10/2014).

**Natural disasters**

**Floods**

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

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

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

Heavy rains have also caused flooding in Benue, Cross River, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Kwara, Sokoto, and Yobe states. Over 15–16 August, more than 260 houses were destroyed and livestock drowned in Sokoto. In Yobe, at least 200 houses were destroyed; 100 were flooded in Benue (ECHO, 19/08/2015; FEWSNET, 27/08/2015).

**Displacement**

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

**IDPs**

As of early September, more than 2.1 million IDPs have been identified in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe states, a drastic increase (58%) from 1.4 million IDPs in June (IOM, 03/09/2015). The increase is a result of increased Boko Haram attacks 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 remaining are staying in 59 camps and camp-like sites. More than 1.6 million (77%) are in Borno, which is the state of origin for 81% of IDPs. 195,900 are in Yobe (9%) and 118,000 in Adamawa (5%). People displaced by inter-communal violence are mostly in Taraba and Nasarawa states (IOM, 03/09/2015).

About 67% of IDPs were displaced in 2014, and 31% in 2015. 58% of IDPs are children; half are under five (IOM, 03/09/2015). Many people have been displaced several times (OCHA, 24/09/2015).

IDPs report food as a priority need, followed by shelter and NFIAs. 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. The returnees continue to face protection issues as sporadic attacks continue in the returnee areas (UNICEF, 01/09/2015). The majority of IDPs are not yet returning to other areas, as insecurity remains widespread (AFP, 24/09/2015).

**Refugees and asylum seekers**

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

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

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 that are or were formerly under BH control (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). Host communities receive very little assistance, as access remains difficult and needs are hard to assess (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

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

Security and physical constraints

The security situation in the northeast continues to impair access to affected populations. Those humanitarian actors who are present have difficulty accessing populations and assessing the extent of needs in remote areas (ACF, 30/06/2015).

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

Food security and livelihoods

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

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

Most areas outside the northeast will be facing Minimal (Phase 1) food security outcomes through December (FEWSNET, 07/08/2015).

Food availability

The October harvest will somewhat improve food security outcomes, but much of Borno and parts of Yobe and Adamawa will continue to face Crisis outcomes between October and December (FEWSNET, 07/08/2015). The main harvest in October is expected to be well below average for a third consecutive year, limiting market supply and availability of household production stocks (FEWSNET, 07/08/2015). For households most affected by conflict, food stocks will be exhausted much earlier than usual (FEWSNET, 26/09/2015).

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

Food access

Major urban markets, such as Maiduguri, Potiskum, Yola and Mubi, continue to operate, but are functioning at reduced levels due to limited demand and production, and disrupted trade routes. Some markets in areas not directly affected by the conflict are also negatively affected (FEWSNET, 07/08/2015). Access to markets is restricted for households affected by conflict (FEWSNET, 26/09/2015).

Lack of access to IDPs for food distribution, mostly in urban areas, is a concern (FEWSNET, 20/05/2015). Lack of access to food has been reported in 11 out of 42 displacement sites. Borno state is most affected, with 10 sites lacking access to food (IOM, 30/06/2015). Livelihoods

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). Business activity is estimated to have decreased by 80% in areas affected by violence (OCHA, 25/09/2015).

Insecurity prevents those who remain in the northeast from carrying out typical farming activities (FEWSNET, 25/06/2015; 07/08/2015). Fishing and cross-border trade,
particularly with Niger, have also fallen due to insecurity (OCHA, 24/09/2015).

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, 09/07/2015). Mortality rates are increasing and vaccination programmes are severely hit. There is an increased risk of malaria, measles, and diarrhoea due to the disruption of health services (Inter Press Service, 26/08/2015).

A cholera outbreak is affecting 13 of 16 states. 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

Less than 40% of health facilities are operational in areas affected by the conflict (Inter Press Service, 26/08/2015). 75 health facilities had been destroyed in Borno state as of May. Only half of the local government areas have access to healthcare facilities (USAID, 17/06/2015). IDPs lack access to adequate healthcare and medicine, which is resulting in high mortality rates for common illnesses (ECHO, 18/09/2015).

Victims of BH attacks are dying needlessly of their injuries, as they face difficulty accessing treatment, particularly due to financial barriers (IRIN, 23/09/2015).

Cholera

A cholera outbreak has been reported in four IDP camps in Maiduguri, Borno state, and surrounding communities. As of 24 September, at least 408 cases and 16 deaths had been reported. The number of new cases has begun decreasing since government and other agencies have responded to the outbreak, which is thought to be due to overflowing sewage after heavy rainfall and inadequate water supply (WHO, 24/09/2015). A risk of the disease spreading remains, as camps are overcrowded and healthcare is insufficient.

The majority of IDPs are staying outside official camps, where access to WASH facilities is severely limited. In September 2014, more than 4,000 IDPs in Borno state were treated for cholera (ECHO, 18/09/2015; MSF, 17/09/2015).

Mental health

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

Nutrition

An estimated 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).

Food insecurity and a lack of safe water and health services are likely to cause an increase in malnutrition in the northeast (OCHA, 19/08/2015). In May, GAM in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe IDP camps was around 12% among children under five. Malnutrition is thought to be worse among IDPs in host communities, as they lack access to nutrition services. In April, a nutrition assessment found 29% GAM among IDPs under five in Borno state (USAID, 23/07/2015).

WASH

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

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

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

Shelter and NFI

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

Shelter

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

The rains are affecting living conditions in IDP camps, particularly in Maiduguri (OCHA,
Education

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

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).

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; some cases of BH militants disguised as IDPs have been reported from Maiduguri (UNHCR, 29/05/2015). Young men are being forcibly recruited and executed (Amnesty, 13/04/2015).

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

Gender

Women and girls 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, 18/09/2015). 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).

Updated: 29/09/2015

SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 September: So far this month, 74 Al Shabaab-related violent incidents have been reported, leading to more than 200 fatalities. This is a decrease compared to July and August. At least 15 incidents were violent attacks against civilians (ACLED).

24 September: Nearly 30,000 returnees and refugees from Yemen have arrived in Somalia. Priority needs include food and shelter support (IOM, 24/09/2015; UNHCR, 21/09/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- Widespread violence and insecurity, particularly in south-central Somalia.
- Insecurity and bureaucratic impediments continue to hinder humanitarian access.
- 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, 27/08/2015).
- 3 million are estimated to need emergency health services (OCHA, 27/08/2015).
- 855,000 people are facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food insecurity outcomes (FSNAU and FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).
- Some 214,700 children under five are estimated to be acutely malnourished, mainly in
Al Shabaab

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

SNAF-AMISOM offensive

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

Conflict developments

New offensives by SNAF-AMISOM since July and parallel operations by Ethiopian and Kenyan defence forces have affected areas of Bakool, Bay, Galgaduud, Gedo, Hiraan, and Lower Shabelle, leading to new displacement (OCHA, 20/08/2015). In the past few months, Al Shabaab has 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). A shift in Al Shabaab’s tactics has seen it concentrate attacks on small and remote AU bases (CNN, 03/09/2015).

Nonetheless, Al Shabaab continues attacks on civilians, humanitarian personnel, and government officials. So far in September, at least 74 incidents involving Al Shabaab have been reported, leading to 214 fatalities. At least 15 incidents were attacks against civilians. Throughout 2015, an average of 16 attacks against civilians has been reported per month (ACLED, 26/09/2015). However, for many incidents no number of casualties is confirmed. The number of deaths from Al Shabaab-related violence is thus expected to be much higher (ACLED, 11/07/2015).

On 26 September, a bomb blast in a restaurant in Kismayo by suspected Al Shabaab killed four people, including three civilians, and wounded several others (Xinhua, 27/09/2015). On 18 September, local media reported Al Shabaab had taken control of Janaale town in Lower Shabelle, southwest of Mogadishu, after AU troops withdrew (Horseed Media, 18/09/2015). Al Shabaab attacked the AMISOM base in Janaale on 1 September (01/09/2015). On 5 September, Al Shabaab captured two towns on the road between Mogadishu and Barawe in Lower Shabelle (Reuters, 06/09/2015). On 26 August,
dozens of government forces and personnel were killed in an Al Shabaab attack on a convoy in Gedo region near the Kenyan border (01/09/2015).

**Mogadishu:** Al Shabaab attacks in Mogadishu mainly target political figures. On 21 September, at least seven people were killed and ten injured when a car bomb exploded near the presidential palace in Mogadishu. The majority of the victims were civilians. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. The same day, four civilians were killed in a car bomb explosion near a police station (AFP, 21/09/2015). In July and August, several car bomb attacks were reported, killing at least 17 and injuring dozens more (AFP, 22/08/2015; 27/07/2015; BBC, 26/07/2015).

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

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

Conflict continues to cause displacement. An estimated 18,000 people have been displaced since mid-July due to the new military offensive in South-Central Somalia, particularly in Lower Shabelle and Bay regions (OCHA, 10/06/2015; 16/07/2015; ECHO, 21/07/2015). The majority have moved to safer places within the affected regions, others have moved to Lower Juba and Mogadishu. Many are staying in settlements, particularly in Baidoa, Elwak, Luuq, and Mogadishu, while others are staying in host communities. Priority needs are protection, food, safe water, shelter, household items, and healthcare (OCHA, 20/08/2015).

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

**Returnees**

Between 8 December and 20 September, 4,217 Somalis returned from Kenya: 2,488 to Kismayo, 858 to Baidoa, 703 to Mogadishu, and 103 to Luuq (UNHCR, 20/09/2015). Agfoye, Balcad, Belet Weyne, Jawhar, and Wanaa Weyne have been identified as new areas for return (OCHA, 20/07/2015). The original target for voluntary return of Somali refugees from Kenya was 10,000 in 2015 (UNHCR, 08/12/2014).

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

**Returnees and refugees from Yemen**

The number of new arrivals from Yemen has increased significantly since April. As of 24 September, 29,268 have been registered: at least 19,731 have arrived in Bosaso, Puntland, and 9,282 in Berbera, Somaliland. As information on living conditions of new arrivals in Somalia reaches people who intend to leave Yemen, fewer people are coming to Somalia. Nearly 500 people arrived in August, and 338 people have arrived so far in September, a large decrease from the 9,860 arrivals in July (IOM, 24/09/2015; 01/09/2015; UNHCR, 21/09/2015).

89% of arrivals are Somali returnees, 10% Yemeni refugees, and 1% third-country nationals (IOM, 24/09/2015). 75% of arrivals are women and children (OCHA, 10/08/2015). More than half of returnees intend to continue to Mogadishu (UNHCR, 21/09/2015). People in Mogadishu and Hargeisa are reportedly staying in IDP settlements (UNHCR, 14/07/2015; 14/09/2015). **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 5,000 were registered in 2015; at least 420,199 in Kenya, 248,894 in Ethiopia, and 246,648 in Yemen, with the remainder in Uganda, Djibouti, Eritrea, and Tanzania (UNHCR, 11/08/2015; 31/08/2015; 09/09/2015).

**Humanitarian access**

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

**Access of relief actors to affected populations**

Over 20 incidents of violence against aid workers were reported in May and June. In the first six months of 2015, there were more than 60 security incidents involving aid workers. Eight people were killed, 14 injured, five abducted, and 30 arrested or detained (OCHA, 16/07/2015; 20/07/2015). **The majority of incidents involving aid workers include shooting (25%) and abduction (20%)** (INSO, 09/2015). A 400-strong UN military unit was deployed in Mogadishu with a mandate to protect aid workers in May 2014 (UN).

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

Security and physical constraints

Between January and August 2015, 3,217 security incidents were reported in Somalia. Monthly fluctuations of reports are relatively small, with 360–440 incidents reported every month (INSO, 09/2015). Insecurity on the main roads makes needs assessment, delivery of humanitarian supplies, and response difficult. Inaccessibility of major supply routes is disrupting markets and livelihoods (OCHA, 10/08/2015). The new military offensives have further complicated access to areas in Bakool, Bay, Gedo, and Hiraan. Non-state actors are blocking roads and limiting movement, as they are staying close to areas that have come under control of pro-government forces. Humanitarian actors and commercial transporters have suspended movement in affected areas, including in Waajid and Hudur (OCHA, 20/08/2015). Access to some areas in Bay region is extremely limited (OCHA, 20/07/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Food insecurity has increased by 17% since February, with 855,000 people facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes through December. The increase is attributed to below-average cereal harvests, poor rainfall in agropastoral and pastoral areas in the north, trade disruption due to insurgent activities, and continued displacement Waajid (FSNAU and FEWSNET, 31/08/2015; FSNAU, 08/09/2015). 240,000 people in Somaliland are severely food insecure due to drought (Somalia NGO Consortium, 17/09/2015).

At least 61,000 people are facing Emergency outcomes as of July, of whom 75% are IDPs. IDPs make up around 80% of severely food insecure people. An additional 2.3 million people are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes and are highly vulnerable to shocks. Most affected are Banadir, South Mudug, Bari, Awdal, Lower Juba, Woqooyi Galbeed, and North Mudug regions, and populations in areas affected by trade disruption due to insurgency in Bulo Burde, Hudur, and Waajid (FSNAU and FEWSNET, 31/08/2015; FSNAU, 08/09/2015).

Food availability

Food security deteriorated in agropastoral areas in Awdal, Hiraan, Middle Juba, and Woqooyi Galbeed regions, following poor gu rains (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015). Households in northwest agropastoral zones will have to reduce food consumption between July and the next karan harvest in October due to poor crop yields (FEWSNET, 16/06/2015; FAO, 27/07/2015). In Somaliland, the main food-producing regions of Awdal, Maroodijeeh, and Gbiley are worst affected by drought (Somalia NGO consortium, 17/09/2015).

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

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

Food access

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

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

Livelihoods

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

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

Health

Around 3 million people are in need of emergency health services, particularly in Bay, Bakool, Galgaduud, Middle Juba, and parts of Gedo. Children under five are a priority group (OCHA, 27/08/2015; UNICEF, 31/08/2015). In August, leading causes of morbidity
were diarrhoeal diseases, influenza-like illnesses, confirmed malaria, and suspected measles. Alerts of acute watery diarrhoea are increasing in Juba and Shabelle regions (WHO, 31/08/2015).

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

Healthcare availability and access

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

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 caseloads of 2013 (OCHA, 14/07/2014). Most cases in 2015 come from the south-central region. Banadir, Middle Shabelle, and Lower Shabelle reported the highest number of cases. This reflects high measles transmission due to low vaccination coverage (UNICEF, 30/06/2015). At least 500,000 children are estimated to be unvaccinated due to insecurity (WHO, 31/08/2015).

Nutrition

343,400 children are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2015, and 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).

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

IDPs

Malnutrition among IDPs is particularly critical. A May–June nutrition assessment found a significant deterioration among IDPs in Kismayo and Dhobley in south-central Somalia. Five sites have over 15% GAM: Baidoa, Dhobley, Garowe, Galkayo and Dolow. In the last three sites, acute malnutrition has been above the critical threshold over the past two years. Among Dhobley IDPs, GAM has nearly doubled since the last assessment (October–December 2014), from 11% to 20.7%. SAM levels are above 4% in Baidoa, Galkayo, and Dolow (FSNAU, 08/09/2015).

Serious malnutrition levels (10%–15% GAM) were reported among IDPs in Mogadishu, Qardho, Bossaso, Kismayo, Dhusamareb and Hargeisa. Alert levels (5%–10% GAM) were only seen in the northwest, in Berbera and Burao (FSNAU, 06/2015).

WASH

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

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter

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

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

Education

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

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

Teaching and learning

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

Protection

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

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

Forced evictions

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

Gender

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

Children

167 grave child rights violations were recorded in June, compared to 125 in May. The majority of cases were related to abduction (UNICEF, 31/05/2015; 30/06/2015). Both Somali forces and Al Shabaab have been accused of recruiting children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 01/09/2015). More than 1,000 grave violations were recorded January–April 2015. Grave violations include recruitment or use of children, killing, maiming, rape or other sexual violence (UNICEF). Boys are more affected than girls. 291 cases of child recruitment into armed groups and the national army were reported in the first four months of 2015 and 75 cases of sexual violence against children, compared to 370 and 30, respectively, during the same period in 2014 (OCHA, 03/06/2015).
assisted by the end of 2015 (OCHA, 08/01/2015; UN, 12/06/2015).

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

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

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

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

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

OVERVIEW

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

Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity are priority states of humanitarian need, and the priority sectors are food security and livelihoods, health, 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.

Politics and security

Sudan–South Sudan

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

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

Border tensions

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

Civil War

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

At least seven ceasefires have been signed and broken since the civil war started (The Daily Star, 29/06/2015). In August, first Machar and then Kiir signed a peace deal, but fighting has continued, and Machar has lost allies (Sudan Tribune, 05/08/2015). The government also appears to have reservations about the agreement (AFP, 25/08/2015).

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

Presidential elections were scheduled for June 2015, but Parliament voted to extend President Kiir’s term by three years in March, cancelling the elections (AFP, 24/03/2015).

International military presence

The mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) expires on 30 November 2015. As of 28 February 2015, there were 11,669 uniformed UN personnel in the country.

Conflict developments

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

Between 23 August and 21 September, SPLM-IO and SPLM forces reportedly broke the ceasefire in Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria and along the White Nile (Sudan Tribune, 23/08/2015; 28/08/2015; 31/08/2015).

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

Unity: On 21 September, clashes were reported in Leer (Sudan Tribune, 21/09/2015). Clashes were reported in Nihaldiu and Payinjier end August (Sudan Tribune, 23/08/2015; 28/08/2015). Opposition forces accused government forces of killed 200 civilians in Leer county in July (Sudan Tribune, 12/08/2015). Sporadic clashes continue to be reported around Bentiu (IOM, 07/09/2015; PI, 11/09/2015).

Upper Nile: There has been intermittent fighting south of Malakal since 1 September (UNHCR, 18/09/2015). On 30 August, SPLM and SPLM-IO reportedly clashed near Malakal (Sudan Tribune, 30/08/2015).

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

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 (IRIN, 15/01/2015). In July and August, clashes were reported in Unity, Central Equatoria, Lakes, Warrap, and Western Equatoria: over 50 people were killed 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).

Humanitarian access

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

34 aid workers have been killed since December 2013 (OCHA, 18/09/2015). On 10 September, an aid worker was killed in an armed robbery at an NGO office compound in Juba (OCHA, 18/09/2015). Two aid workers were killed in two separate attacks in Wulu village and Payak, Leer, Unity, in the last week of August (MSF, 25/08/2015).

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

Access of affected populations to assistance

Some organisations are returning to sites in Unity and Upper Nile state as the intensity of fighting has fallen. UNICEF and WFP resumed operations in Malakal in August (OCHA, 31/08/2015; UNHCR, 15/07/2015). On 25 July, WFP was able to resume activities briefly in Dablual, Unity state, before skirmishes in the area forced them to withdraw (WFP, 31/07/2015).

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

Security and physical constraints

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

Armed attacks on vehicles on the Juba–Yei road are hampering humanitarian access, particularly to Lasu refugee camp. Reports of attacks in Lainya, situated along the road, as well as clashes between government forces and armed opposition groups along the road, led some humanitarian organisations to evacuate their staff to Yei (PI, 24/08/2015).

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

Natural disasters
Floods

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

Displacement

As of June 2015, around 2.5 million people have been displaced, both internally and to neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 11/06/2015). Fluid displacement patterns and limited access to rural areas make numbers difficult to verify and registration problematic (UNHCR 18/09/2014).

IDPs

As of 3 September, there are an estimated 1.64 million IDPs in South Sudan. This is an increase of nearly 35,000 (2%) since August 16 (OHCA, 15/09/2015). There are approximately 452,000 in Jonglei, 555,000 in Unity, 51,000 in Central Equatoria, 293,000 in Upper Nile, 114,000 in Lakes, Western, 5,000 in Eastern Equatoria, 25,000 in Western Bahr el Ghazal, 2,000 in Warrap, and 9,000 in Abyei (OHCA, 15/09/2015).

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

18,000 people have arrived at Nyial IDP camp, Unity state, so far in September, bringing the total to 78,000. The new arrivals require nutrition assistance. 300 unaccompanied children were with the group (OCHA, 18/09/2015).

While the majority of IDPs are sheltering outside Protection of Civilians sites (PoCs), as of 31 August, 201,911 are in six PoCs on UNMISS bases, including 121,194 in Bentiu, 28,663 in Juba UN House, 48,640 in Malakal, 2,289 in Bor, 723 in Melut, and 202 in Wau (UNMISS, 31/08/2015). Nearly 100,000 more people are seeking shelter in PoCs in 2015 than in 2014. There has been a decrease in new arrivals in Bentiu, from a total of 2,155 between 21 and 28 August to 1,237 the following week. 56% of new arrivals are women. This may be due to a fall in the number of violent clashes in northern Unity. 59% reported their displacement was due to food insecurity. 29% of new arrivals were from Koch county, 27% from Leer, 25% from Rubkona, and 15% from Guit (IOM, 07/09/2015).

43,000 people arrived in July and August, driven by frontlines shifting northward from Leer towards Bentiu (MSF, 08/09/2015, UNMISS, 19/08/2015). 18,000 people arrived at Malakal PoC in the same period, mainly from within Upper Nile state. Most are women and children. None have shelter (MSF, 08/09/2015, UNMISS, 19/08/2015).

Food security

Acute food insecurity in South Sudan peaked in June and July (FEWSNET, 18/09/2015). 265,235 refugees are in South Sudan: around 235,000 are from Sudan, 15,500 from DRC, 4,900 from Ethiopia, and 2,040 from CAR. There are 100,894 refugees in Unity, 134,435 in Upper Nile, 2,339 in Jonglei, 18,484 in Central Equatoria, 18,484 and 9,083 in Western Equatoria (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

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

70,007 refugees are in Yida, Unity state, although the number is fluid as people move across the border and safety and needs dictate (UNHCR, 30/06/2015; PI, 03/07/2015). They have cited aerial bombardments, ground attacks and lack of livelihood and education opportunities as reasons for leaving Sudan (OCHA, 21/02/2015; UNHCR, 30/01/2015). The South Sudan government wants to close Yida camp and relocate refugees further from the border.

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).

South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries

65,000 South Sudanese have fled the country since the beginning of 2015, bringing the total of South Sudanese refugees arriving in neighbouring countries since December 2013 to 620,762. 68% of South Sudanese refugees are under 17 (UNHCR, 07/08/2015; 21/08/2015).

Sudan: As of 10 July, 192,281 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since December 2013 (UNHCR, 18/09/2015). The Sudanese Government refuses to recognise South Sudanese nationals as refugees and instead considers them to be Sudanese citizens (UNHCR, 03/04/2014). UNHCR declared this constitutes an obstacle to accessing humanitarian assistance.

Ethiopia: 223,584 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 18/09/2015).

Uganda: 165,612 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 18/09/2015).

Kenya: 46,588 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 18/09/2015).

Acute food insecurity in South Sudan peaked in June and July (FEWSNET, 18/09/2015).
Acute food insecurity in South Sudan peaked in June and July (FEWSNET, 11/08/2015). 3.6 million and 1 million people were projected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes, respectively, by end July (FEWSNET, 11/08/2015). Deteriorating macroeconomic conditions and access restrictions mean the situation may be worse than predicted (FEWSNET, 24/06/2015). Any improvement in food security in Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei will be shortlived as food stocks have been depleted (FEWSNET, 27/08/2015). Populations in Unity who fled to the bush during the intensification of violence from April have lost food stocks, further decreasing food security (FAO, 15/09/2015).

Food availability

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

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

Food stocks are depleting in Bentiu PoC camp, owing to rapid population increase. Significant interruptions to the delivery of food assistance are expected after September due to funding constraints (WFP, 08/08/2015). 26,000 IDPs in Melut PoC are in dire need of food assistance (UNHCR, 15/08/2015).

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

Food access

The effects of the lean season, high level of trader uncertainty, fuel shortages and economic crisis continue to increase inflation. The consumer price index is 51.9% higher in July than the same month in 2014. There has been a dramatic increase in fuel costs (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015).

Compared to the same period in 2014, sorghum prices were 66% and 82% higher in Juba and Torit, respectively, and has more than doubled in Wau and Aweil (FEWSNET, 11/08/2015). Food prices are expected to continue increasing faster than normal (WFP, 31/08/2015). Most households spend 80–85% of their income on food (FAO, 02/07/2015; IPC, 27/05/2015).

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

Food use

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

Livelihoods

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

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

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).

Healthcare availability and access

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

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

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

Malaria

In mid-July, the case fatality rate for malaria was at 28.9%, compared to 18.3% in the same week of 2014 (WHO, 19/07/2015). As of 16 August, 117,314 cases and 59 deaths were reported from all IDP camps, compared to 87,778 cases and 49 deaths over the same period in 2014. Outside of camps, there were approximately 989,400 cases of malaria and 445 deaths from January to August 2015, compared to nearly 744,200 cases and 303 deaths during the same period in 2014 (OCHA, 31/08/2015). The number of malaria cases recorded per week in Malakal PoC in August was almost triple the figures recorded in June (MSF, 21/08/2015).

In the week ending 6 September, 34 children under age five died in Benitu PoC, exceeding the emergency under-five mortality threshold of 2 deaths per 10,000 people per day. Malaria continues to be the main cause of death (OCHA, 18/09/2015).

Cholera

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

Hepatitis E

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

Nutrition

An estimated 5–8% of citizens have severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (FEWSNET, 24/06/2015). An estimated 250,000 children are severely malnourished, according to an OCHA representative (OCHA, 16/09/2015). GAM is above 15% in most parts of the country. Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei, Warrap and Northern el Ghazal are the worst affected (WFP, 09/09/2015). Malnutrition is particularly high among pregnant and lactating women, with an average GAM rate of 26.6% recorded for PLW in IDP camps, and 29.8% among in Doro refugee camp (UNHCR, 18/09/2015, UNHCR, 26/06/2015).

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

Initial reports suggest that the new arrivals at Nyal IDP camp un Unity are suffering from malnutrition and require assistance (OCHA, 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 a lack of access to clean water (OCHA, 01/07/2015). Due to the increasing cost of fuel, the price of water has dramatically increased, causing more people to resort to drinking water from unsafe sources (OXFAM, 31/07/2015).

Water coverage slightly deteriorated in the PoCs in July. In Melut, Bentiu, and Malakal PoCs 11, 9.4, and 12 L/person/day were available, respectively (IOM, 22/07/2015; 25/06/2015). In Yida refugee camp, crude water coverage was 14 L/p/d (UNHCR, 22/06/2015). In Ajuong Thok refugee camp 12 L/p/d was recorded (UNHCR, 18/09/2015).

Sanitation

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

Education

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

In Ajuong Thok, Napere and Makpandu refugee camps, the pupil: teacher ratio is 72:1, 52:1 and 43:1. All fall short of the UNHCR standard of 40:1 (UNHCR, 24/07/2015; 14/07/2015). There has been a 37% drop in educational attendance between August–September (UNHCR, 18/09/2015).
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). An UNMISS report on 30 June accused SPLM troops of abducting at least 172 women and girls and raping an additional 79 during their April–May campaign in Unity state. Some were burned alive inside their homes after being raped (Al Jazeera, 30/06/2015; Radio Tamazuj 30/06/2015; Dabanga, 30/06/2015). Human Rights Watch has published evidence of rape and violence in Unity state by government and government-aligned forces (HRW, 21/07/2015). The abduction of IDP women from outside PoCs continues to be reported (UNHCR, 12/06/2015).

Early and forced marriage, rape, and domestic violence have been reported in and around PoCs (MSF, 08/09/2015). In Melut (Upper Nile), firewood collection remains a major safety concern for women and girls, with reports of GBV (OCHA, 26/10/2014). It is difficult to obtain SGBV figures as people collecting information on SGBV face intimidation and threats. This was most recently reported in Central Equatoria (UNHCR, 14/07/2015).

Children

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

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

Updated: 22/09/2015
malnutrition, lack of access to basic services, and recurrent natural disasters. Humanitarian access to conflict zones is severely restricted.

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

Politics and security

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

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

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

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

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

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 an insurgency in Sudan’s Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, which have routinely opposed government rule. Talks between Khartoum and the SPLM-N have repeatedly failed.

On 20 September, the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) announced willingness to declare a six-month ceasefire in Blue Nile, South Kordofan and Darfur, if Khartoum accepts the dialogue process proposed by the SRF (Sudan Tribune, 20/09/2015). 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 willing to join the national peace negotiations, in addition to a possible two-month ceasefire if they. The SPLM-N alleges that, on 13 September, government forces bombed their positions in South Kordofan (Sudan Tribune, 13/09/2015). The government intends for talks to commence on 10 October (Sudan Tribune, 26/08/2015; ICG, 01/09/2015).

Stakeholders

Sudan Revolutionary Front

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

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

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).
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).

Darfur
Security in South Darfur is deteriorating. The frequency of robberies taking place near the IDP camps has been increasing (Radio Dabanga, 04/08/2015). On 19 September, an armed group attacked and looted villages in Kutum county, North Darfur, killing four (Sudan Tribune, 19/09/2015). On 13 August, clashes broke out between the Fellata and Salamat tribes in Buram locality, South Darfur. At least seven have reportedly been killed (Sudan Tribune, 13/08/2015; Radio Dabanga, 14/08/2015).

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

South Kordofan
The SPLM-N alleges that, on 13 September, government forces bombed their positions (Sudan Tribune, 13/09/2015).

Natural disasters
Heavy rains and storms

Since it began in June, heavy rainfall has destroyed or damaged over 1,000 shelters. In August, more than 20 people died, mainly as houses collapsed (Radio Dabanga, 11/08/2015). On 14 August, 2,600 people were affected or displaced in Tadamon locality, Blue Nile, when heavy rain damaged their shelters. An additional 13,300 people have been affected by rains throughout Ed Damazine and El Roseires localities in Blue Nile state since June (OCHA, 16/08/2015).

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

Displacement
IDPs
There are a total of 3.1 million IDPs in Sudan: 2.55 million are in Darfur (OCHA, 31/07/2015). 60% of the displaced are children (UNICEF, 31/08/2015).

Since January 2015, over to 400,000 people have been displaced in Sudan. 36,000 IDPs have been reported in South Kordofan (OCHA, 31/07/2015) as of 31 August, there 173,592 IDPs in Darfur (104,098 verified IDPs, 69,494 reported but not verified). 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). These are similar to figures for the previous year, which saw the biggest displacement for a decade (OCHA, 31/12/2014).

2.4 million 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 (OCHA, 25/08/2015). Reports suggest the fighting has now ended. The displaced are in need of NFI, shelter, health services, and psychological support (OCHA, 26/07/2015). IDPs' conditions in North Darfur remain poor due to lack of basic services (Radio Dabanga, 27/07/2015).

On 16 September, 18 girls were injured when a school building collapsed in Al Salam IDP camp, North Darfur (Radio Dabanga, 18/09/2015).

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

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

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

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

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 310,000 refugees in Sudan (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). More than 192,000 are South Sudanese, most of whom have arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR, 17/09/2015). At least 112,000 are from Eritrea and nearly 10,000 are from Chad (UNHCR, 19/08/2015; OCHA, 16/08/2015).

As of 17 September, 192,281 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since 15 December 2013: around 134,100 are children (UNHCR, 17/09/2015; UNICEF, 31/08/2015). 108,313 South Sudanese refugees live in White Nile (approximate 9,952 in the host community), 34,381 in Khartoum, 24,406 in West Kordofan, 374 in North Kordofan, 20,982 in South Kordofan, 3,661 in Blue Nile, and 164 in East Darfur (UNHCR, 17/09/2015). 91% of households are female-headed (UNHCR, 29/01/2015).

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

2,496 displaced South Sudanese are living in the disputed area of Abyei (UNHCR, 17/09/2015).

Returnees
As of 9 September, 9,000 displaced people have returned to their homes in Tawila locality, North Darfur. They are in need of health, education, livelihood and agricultural assistance (OCHA, 13/09/2015).

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 South, West and Central Darfur (OCHA, 09/08/2015). Access to areas of active conflict in Darfur remains largely denied (Radio Dabanga, 10/09/2015). The government has banned humanitarian access to areas controlled by opposition groups (IRIN, 02/06/2015).

**Access of relief actors to affected populations**

An increase in carjacking incidents targeting aid organisations has been reported in 2015 (OCHA, 24/05/2015). 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 for human rights.

**Access of affected populations to assistance**

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

**Security and physical constraints**

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

**Food security and livelihoods**

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

**Food availability**

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

**Food access**

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

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

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

**Food use**

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

**Health**

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

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

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

**Healthcare availability and access**

In Darfur, 12 functioning health facilities are inaccessible as of late August. Another 190 facilities in Darfur lack essential staff and are operating at severely reduced capacity (WHO, 27/08/2015). A strike over pay in Nyial hospital in South Darfur was ongoing as of 17 September (Radio Dabanga, 17/09/2015).

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

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

**Measles**

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

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

**Nutrition**

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

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

**WASH**

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

**Water**

Across Sudan, approximately one person in nine does not have access to a clean water supply (Kimse Yok Mu, 24/06/2015). 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).

20 water pumps have stopped working in El Salam camp, South Darfur, in the past five months, affecting 80,000 people (Radio Dabanga, 04/05/2015). Kassab IDP camp in Kutum has been suffering from a severe shortage of drinking water since the beginning of May. Reports suggest that 11 of the 20 water pumps at the camp are non-operational (local media, 25/05/2015).

Reports suggest there has been no regular maintenance of hand pumps in South Kordofan for up to four years (PI, 03/07/2015).

**Sanitation**

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

**Shelter and NFIs**

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

**Education**

3.1 million children aged 5–13 are out of school in Sudan out of a possible 7.9 million (OCHA, 13/09/2015). 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).

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

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

Protection

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

Mines and ERW

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

Gender

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

Vulnerable groups

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

Documentation

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

Updated: 22/09/2015
attacks in Cameroon in December 2014 (ECHO, 06/01/2015). At least 37 BH attacks took place in northern Cameroon between January and end July, and in the period since July up to the beginning of September, a spike in attacks has been recorded. In that period the insurgent group conducted over twenty attacks (ACLED, 27/07/2015; BBC, 03/09/2015; Amnesty International, 16/09/2015). 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 intensified in the last 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 ranks of 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).

Five Nations Army

The deployment of a military force of 8,700 from Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon, and Benin started on 26 August (Maritime First, 26/08/2015).

Recent security incidents

On 20 September, at least three people were killed in a suicide attack in the town of Mora, Far North region (AFP, 20/09/2015). In the same region, seven people were killed, and at least 20 injured, in two suicide attacks in Kolofata, on 13 September (AFP, 13/09/2015). 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). Two suicide attacks in Kerawa on 3 September killed at least 30 people and injured over 100. One attack struck an infantry camp, and the other a market (IBI Times, 03/09/2015).

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

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

Central African Republic

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

Natural disasters

Floods

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

Displacement

IDPs

Around 81,700 people are internally displaced in the Far North due to BH attacks (OCHA, 17/09/2015). 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. 35,960 people have returned to their place of origin (IOM/UNHCR, 29/06/2015; OCHA, 16/06/2015).
As of 17 September, the number of registered refugees in Cameroon is reported to be over 314,000 (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

Central African Republic: 253,042 refugees from CAR are reported to be in Cameroon, as of 7 September. 135,294 of these have arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR, 07/09/2015). As of December 2014 the number of CAR refugees in Cameroon was reported to be 124,958 (UNHCR, 07/09/2015). Many refugees have not been registered.

Around 60,000 live in seven UNHCR camps, while the remaining are scattered among host communities (IRIN, 14/09/2015). More than 8,000 have settled in Timangolo, which previously had a population of 13,000; the influx is causing severe strain on food stocks (IRIN, 11/08/2015).

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

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

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

Minawao camp is currently hosting 45,617 people, while 11,257 are located in Logone-et-Chari, 756 in Mayo-Tsanaga, 420 in Mayo-Sava, and 54 in Diamare (UNHCR, 07/09/2015). As of 6 September, 20,088 new arrivals were recorded in Minawao camp since January (UNHCR, 13/09/2015). The allocation of new space is being discussed, due to the risk of overcrowding (UNHCR, 07/09/2015).

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

Host communities

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

Humanitarian access

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

Security and physical constraints

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

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

Food security and livelihoods

919,100 people are reported to be food insecure, and around 196,000 are in severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or 4 (OCHA, 06/09/2015; 17/09/2015)). In Far North region, food insecurity has spiked in recent months, to affect one in three people (UN, 14/09/2015).

Health

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

Healthcare availability and access

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

In Minawao camp, due to overcrowding and poor water and sanitation conditions, more than 100 people died in a cholera outbreak in April (IRIN, 10/08/2015). A cholera epidemic is reportedly ongoing since 14 July, in Far North and North regions. Cases were first registered in the Mogodé district in Far North region, which is also the worst hit. As of 17 September, 23 cases were recorded, including two deaths: 19 cases and no deaths in Far North, four cases and two deaths in North region (WHO, 17/09/2015).

Nutrition

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

Approximately 70,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), including 840 in Minawao camp, and 8,500 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 Minawao refugee camp, there are less than 30 borehole hand pumps and only 280 latrines. Overcrowding and the lack of water and sanitation increase the risk of disease. Cholera represents a significant risk;

Education

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

151,831 children have suffered from interruption or disruption in education. In the Far North, 39,950 children are either out of school, or forced to attend a school outside of their own community (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

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

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

Protection

Children

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

Vulnerable groups

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

Updated: 23/09/2015

CHAD FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

17 September: 403,000 people are reported to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or 4) (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS

- 3 million affected by humanitarian crisis (OCHA, 16/06/2015).
- 435,164 refugees are reported in Chad, including 327,237 from Sudan, 91,054 from CAR, and 13,956 from Nigeria (OCHA, 27/08/2015; UNHCR, 30/08/2015).
Politics and security

Conflicts in Nigeria and Central African Republic have affected stability in Chad: hundreds of thousands of refugees have entered the country. Chad’s military is involved in the ongoing military actions to contrast the rise of violence in the two neighbouring countries.

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

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

Boko Haram

Boko Haram (BH) launched its first cross-border attack in Chad in February and has since carried out 14 attacks on civilians and soldiers in the Lake Chad region (ACLED, 07/2015). Three suicide bomb attacks in Ndjamen during June and July killed a total of 39 people and injured 181 (AFP, 15/06/2015; Reuters, 11/07/2015). On 26 August, two suspected Boko Haram insurgents conducted a suicide attack in Kaiga Ngouboua, near Lake Chad, at the entrance of a military base (Janes HIS, 13/09/2015).

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

IDPs

As of early September, 48,120 people have been displaced in the Lac Region since 21 July, and found refuge in 18 spontaneous sites (OCHA, 11/09/2015). Of these, around 10,000 were displaced from the town of Koulikime in Bagasola, and 6,717 from Bol (ECHO & UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Tens of thousands were evacuated from 65 villages, according to a government announcement of 5 August (ECHO, 05/08/2015). In July, 21,300 new IDPS, displaced by the ongoing conflict between the government and Boko Haram, spontaneously settled in 13 small sites in Bagasola, Bol, and surrounding areas, in the Lake Chad region.
These people are reported to be in severe need of shelter, NFIs, WASH and food assistance (UNICEF, 25/08/2015).

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

Refugees and asylum seekers

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

Central African Republic (CAR): As of 30 August 2015, there are 91,054 refugees from CAR (UNHCR, 30/08/2015). 84,030 live in sites in Amboko, Belom, Dosseye, Doholo, Gondje and Moyo (UNHCR, 01/05/2015; 15/05/2015). 6,690 live in host communities (UNHCR, 03/04/2015).

Nigeria: As of 31 August, 14,163 Nigerian refugees are in Chad (UNHCR, 27/08/2015). 7,199 were registered in Dar es Salam site (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Estimates indicate that by December 2015 the number of Nigerian refugees could increase to 30,000 (UNHCR, 22/07/2015). Resources are limited for both refugees and host communities, especially food, shelter, and essential household items (OCHA, 12/01/2015).

Sudan: As of 28 August, since 2003, 327,237 refugees from Sudan are estimated to live in Chad, most of them staying in 12 camps in the east. Since many of these Sudanese have been living in Chad for several years, the camps have evolved almost into ‘villages’ (WFP, 04/09/2015; 28/08/2015; OCHA, 27/08/2015; UNHCR, 30/08/2015). On 11 September, movement restrictions were reported by Sudanese refugees living in Touloum and Ardemi camps, with freedom to reach only within 5km from the camps. WFP reported it has been forced to reduce the rations provided to the refugees, due to lack of funding (DabangaSudan, 11/09/2015).

Refugee returnees

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

As of end August, around 75,000 Chadians have returned to the country since January 2015 (OCHA, 13/08/2015; 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. The government deployed additional security forces to the border, after expressing concern that armed fighters might be infiltrating refugee populations in the area.

Along the border with Nigeria, Chadian security forces are screening road users and their property. Navigation on the Chari River and its tributary, the Logone, which flow along the border of Chad and Cameroon, has been halted (AFP, 30/04/2015). Severe issues reaching people in need of food assistance, including on islands, were reported end July–beginning August (WFP, 04/08/2015). On 7 September, curfews on the movement of vehicles after 1800 hours and of pedestrians after 2200 hours in Bagasola prefecture were still in place (UNHCR, 16/09/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

The food security situation is worsening. 3.4 million people in Chad are food insecure (OCHA, 31/08/2015). **403,000 people are reported to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or 4)** (OCHA, 17/09/2015). At least 30,000 people in need are not receiving any food assistance (OCHA, 11/09/2015).

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

Food access

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

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

Livelihoods

In the last week of August, agricultural conditions were reported to be improving because of increased rains (FEWSNET, 27/08/2015).

Livelihoods have been affected by decreased inflows of remittances from family members in Libya due to conflict (IFRC, 30/05/2015). The closure of the Nigerian border, and the consequent reduction of exports, has led to a drop in cattle prices (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

Health
Due to the influx of refugees, there is a need to strengthen healthcare activities in host communities and to recruit more qualified medical personnel (UNHCR, 06/03/2015). In the Lac region, several new mobile health clinics are needed in Samiya, Kouta, Wala, Kollum, Kaya, Damatchali, Welerom, Oulaoula, Tagal, Koudouboul, and Tomboun Kouta, where IDPs have established spontaneous sites. Additional health centres are also needed in Koukimé, Bibi, and Tagal to provide support to the affected populations (IASC, 11/09/2015).

Maternal health

The number of refugee women assisted during delivery by a healthcare practitioner remains very low (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

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).

HIV/AIDS

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

Nutrition

Global acute malnutrition in Chad has reached 22.5%, in part because of the displacement caused by Boko Haram in Lac Region (VOA, 10/09/2015). *Countrywide, 154,000 children are reportedly suffering from SAM (OCHA, 17/09/2015).* 499,000 children are reported to be suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

In Dar es Salam site, 12.3% of children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

WASH

Water

As of the end of August, only 5% of displaced people in Lac region are reported to have access to clean drinking water (MSF 20/08/2015; IASC 21/08/2015). 49.8 litres/person/day is reported in the Dar es Salam camp at 7 September (UNHCR, 16/09/2015).

Sanitation

There has been only a 9% increase in access to sanitation since 1990, with little or no improvement in the last year (UNICEF, 2015). In Dar es Salam camp, one latrine per 48 people was reported on 7 September (UNHCR, 16/09/2015). 94% of the IDPs in the Lac Region do not have access to latrines (OCHA, 11/09/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

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, the education needs of 6,970 school-age children still need to be defined (OCHA, 11/09/2015). In Dar es Salam camp, 870 out of 1,114 children are school-age: 442 males and 448 females (UNHCR, 16/09/2015).

Protection

Gender

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

Children

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

Documentation

The profiling and registration of the displaced in Lac Region hasn’t yet covered all the spontaneous sites, challenging the assessment and identification of needs (OCHA, 11/09/2015).

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: 23/09/2015

**DJIBOUTI** Drought, Food insecurity, Displacement
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

17 September: More than 25,000 new arrivals from Yemen since March: 2,800 of these have been registered as refugees (IOM).

KEY CONCERNS

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

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

Displacement

Conflict in Yemen has led to displacement from Yemen to Djibouti since March, in particular to Obock. As of early September, 2,800 people have been registered as refugees from more than 125,000 arrivals. Djibouti also hosts more than 12,000 refugees from Somalia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea.

Refugees and asylum seekers


2,828 of the new arrivals from Yemen have been registered as refugees; 2,669 of them are Yemeni nationals (UNHCR, 12/09/2015). The majority of registered refugees from Yemen are staying in Markazi camp in Obock (UNHCR, 12/09/2015).

Returnees

1,865 of the new arrivals from Yemen are Djiboutian returnees (IOM, 17/09/2015).

Other

Of the 25,000 arrivals from Yemen since March, 12,172 are Yemeni nationals and 11,182 are third-country nationals (IOM, 17/09/2015).

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

Food security and livelihoods

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

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

Food availability

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

Food access

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

Health

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

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

Nutrition

In May, the national SAM rate was measured at 6.1% (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 20/05/2015).

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).
**ETHIOPIA FOOD INSECURITY**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

11 September: Some 450 people (90 households) have been displaced by severe flooding in Aysaita, Afar region (IOM).

7 September: Acute malnutrition continues to increase, with a 50% increase in severe acute malnutrition admissions in July 2015, compared to July 2014 (OCHA).

**KEY CONCERNS**

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

- Ethiopia hosts some 728,000 refugees; mainly Somalis, South Sudanese, Eritreans, and Sudanese (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

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

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

**OVERVIEW**

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

**Politics and security**

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

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

**Natural disasters**

**Drought**

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

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

**Displacement**

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

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.
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).

At least 90 households (some 450 individuals) were displaced by severe flooding in Aysaita woreda, Afar region, early September (IOM, 11/09/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 21 August, Ethiopia hosts some 728,000 refugees; mainly South Sudanese, Somalis, Eritreans, and Sudanese. The majority are staying in camps in Gambella, Dolo Ado and Shire (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). 36,733 refugees arrived in the first six months of 2015 (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

South Sudan: As of 11 September, 28,235 South Sudanese refugees have entered Gambella region since December 2014, bringing the total of South Sudanese refugees in Gambella to 277,235. 67% are children. 71% of the adult population are women (UNHCR, 11/09/2015). With an additional 10,093 refugees in Benishangul-Gumuz region near Assosa, the total of South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia reaches over 287,000 (UNHCR, 11/09/2015; 14/08/2015).

Around 3,760 people arrived in August, a decrease from the 7,260 arrivals in July, the highest number so far in 2015. On average 90 refugees continue to arrive per day (UNHCR, 11/09/2015). The majority are fleeing generalised violence and food insecurity in Jonglei and Upper Nile states. They are mainly arriving through Pagak, Matar, Akobo, Burbiey, and Raad entry points (UNHCR, 01/09/2015). Gaps in food, water, shelter, and health services have been reported for new arrivals (OCHA, 27/07/2015).

The majority of South Sudanese are staying in camps: 63,022 are in Pugnido, 52,371 in Tierkidi, 47,471 in Kule, 47,737 in Jewi, and 7,568 in Okugo. 43,841 people are staying with host communities (UNHCR, 11/09/2015). Relocation to a new camp, Pugnido II, has started. The camp is expected to accommodate more than 75,000 people (UNHCR, 21/08/2015).

Somalia: Between January and August 2015, 4,394 new Somali refugees arrived in Ethiopia. The number of new arrivals reached 525 in August, the highest monthly total since March (UNHCR, 31/08/2051). As of 31 August, there are 248,894 Somali refugees in Ethiopia. Most are located in Dolo Ado camps (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

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

Sudan: As of April, there are 36,606 Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Refugee returnees

97% of the 4,717 people who have arrived from Yemen as of 17 September are Ethiopian returnees (IOM, 17/09/2015). Some people have been injured in the conflict, and many are in need of transport and shelter (IOM, 26/05/2015; 23/07/2015).

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).

Humanitarian access

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

Food security and livelihoods

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

Belg-dominant areas in SNNPR, northeast Amhara, southern Tigray, and central and eastern Oromia will be facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes from July to September. Even with humanitarian assistance, in addition to the anticipated delayed and below-average Belg and Meher harvests, poor households in these areas will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes from October to December. Poor pastoral households in southern Afar and Sitti zone of Somali region will continue to face Crisis outcomes, even with the presence of humanitarian assistance, at least until December (FEWSNET, 14/08/2015; 24/08/2015).

Food insecurity is expected to persist in the coming months, as the ongoing El Niño phenomenon will continue to negatively affect rainfall throughout 2015 and in the first months of 2016 (OCHA, 24/08/2015).

Food availability

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

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

Food access

Income from agricultural activities has decreased, and stocks are depleting (FEWSNET, 27/06/2015). Staple food prices have been increasing since March, contrary to a usual seasonal decrease from June onwards, increasing the pressure on vulnerable households (ECHO, 10/07/2015). Due to high staple food prices, poor households in southeastern and southern pastoral areas do not have enough income to pay for essential non-food expenses. In southern Shebelle and 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

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

Health

Malaria incidence rates are high in all Gambella refugee locations, including entry points and transit camps. Highest rates are reported in Kule (46.8/1,000 persons/day) and Pagak (41.8/1,000 persons/day). The rainy season has contributed to an increase in malaria in August (UNHCR, 01/09/2015). Other illnesses reported among South Sudanese arrivals are diarrhoea and skin diseases (MSF, 01/06/2015).

Acute malnutrition is rapidly increasing. Supplementary feeding needs for malnourished children increased by 14% between March and late June. As of August, 142 ‘priority one’ woredas have been identified, an increase from 97 in May. 273 additional high-priority woredas risk deterioration without intervention (OCHA, 14/09/2015). Priority areas are mostly in Afar, Oromia and Amhara regions (OCHA, 04/06/2015). As of August, a total of 302,600 children are expected to suffer from SAM in 2015, a 14% increase from February projections (Government, 18/08/2015).

As of late August, 42% of the priority one woredas are not covered by nutrition interventions (OCHA, 14/09/2015). In July, more than 31,700 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases were admitted for treatment across the country, a 73% increase from the 18,300 admissions in January. The admission rates are 50% higher than in July 2014, reaching levels reported during the drought in 2011, when some areas of the country reported a critical nutrition situation (OCHA, 07/09/2015; Nutrition Cluster, 17/06/2015).

Refugees

The nutrition situation had improved somewhat in Gambella in early 2015, though it remained critical, with 20.9% GAM and 4.8% SAM in 2015, compared to 29.3% and 8.9%, respectively, in 2014 (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). At Matar entry point in Gambella, an initial screening of 966 children under five showed 7.8% GAM and 2.6% SAM (UNHCR, 07/09/2015).

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

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

Water supply in most camps in Gambella is below the UNHCR standard of 20L per person per day: 21L in Okugo, 17L in Tierkidi, 16L in Kule and Pugnido, and 10L in
Jewi. In Pagak entry point, only 8 L/p/d is available (UNHCR, 01/09/2015).

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, 07/08/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter

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

Education

Only 45% of the school-aged population in Gambella camps 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

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). 19,615 South Sudanese unaccompanied and separated children are in Gambella (UNHCR, 11/09/2015).

Updated: 18/09/2015

GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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</tbody>
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See the methodology note for details.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 22/09/2015. Last update: 28/07/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 178,000 people are facing Crisis–Famine (IPC Phases 3–5) food security outcomes over the June–September lean season (FAO/WFP, 31/03/2015).

- 10,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 17/09/2015; 13/02/2015).

OVERVIEW

178,000 people face Crisis–Famine (IPC Phases 3-5) food security outcomes and 500,000 face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes over the lean season. At 2% of the requested USD 24 million, the humanitarian appeal for the Gambia is the least funded in the world (Financial Tracking System, 06/2015).

Displacement

Refugees in the Gambia

11,000 refugees, mostly Senegalese from the Casamance region, live in the Gambia (OCHA, 17/09/2015; 31/08/2014). Smaller numbers of refugees come from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d’Ivoire, and Togo (UNHCR).

Food Security and Livelihoods

178,000 people are facing Crisis–Famine (IPC Phases 3–5) food security outcomes and 500,000 face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) over the June–September lean season. Over March–May, 101,000 were in Crisis–Famine, and 412,000 people were Stressed (FAO, WFP, 31/03/2015).

Food availability

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

2014–2015 cereal production was 16% lower than the previous year, which has increased food prices (FEWSNET, 03/04/2015; IFRC, 13/05/2015). The late onset and deficit of rains has also negatively impacted livestock production, which makes up 25% of annual agricultural GDP (IFRC, 13/05/2015).
Aggregate cereal production in 2014 dropped by 75% compared to 2013, due to irregular rains causing poor growing conditions. Production of groundnut, the main cash crop, is estimated to have declined by more than 80% (FAO, 05/11/2014).

Livelihoods

The Ebola epidemic in neighbouring countries has led to a 60% decline in tourism, a significant source of income (Reuters, 12/02/2015).

Nutrition

10,220 children are severely malnourished (SAM), an increase compared to 8,000 severely malnourished in mid-2014 (OCHA, 17/09/2015; 02/2015; 09/2014).

Protection

According to Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, journalists and members of oppositional parties are regularly subject to arbitrary arrests. Torture has been reported in prisons (Human Rights Watch, 17/09/2015; Amnesty International, 24/07/2015).

Reviewed: 22/09/2015

KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

Politics and security

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

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

Al Shabaab

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

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

Conflict developments

Al Shabaab-related violence

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

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

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

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

Natural disasters

The Government has raised an alarm over drought in four northern counties: Mandera, Marsabit, Garissa, and Wajir (Kenya Daily Nation, 10/09/2015).

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, some 8,000 new arrivals have been reported so far from Somalia and South Sudan. Other refugees originate from Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, and Uganda. In addition, more than 200,000 Kenyans were internally displaced due to inter-communal conflict in the first half of 2015.

IDPs

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

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

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 1 September, Kenya is hosting 591,370 refugees and asylum seekers. 222,533 are in Dadaab, 126,747 in Alinjugur, 181,723 in Kakuma, and 60,347 in Nairobi (UNHCR, 11/09/2015).

From Somalia: As of 1 September, 420,711 Somali refugees are in Kenya. 6,206 new refugees have been registered since January 2015 (UNHCR, 02/09/2015; 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 camp complexes, which host around 350,000 people (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Somali refugees remain entirely dependent on humanitarian aid (Institute for Security Studies, 31/08/2015).

The Tripartite Agreement between the Kenyan and Somali Governments and UNHCR, signed in November 2013, establishes the legal framework for Somali refugees wishing to return home (IOM, UNHCR, 09/12/2014). As of 13 September, 3,924 returnees had arrived in Somalia (UNHCR, 13/09/2015).

From South Sudan: Kenya hosts 93,256 South Sudanese refugees as of 1 September (UNHCR, 11/09/2015). 46,588 have arrived since mid-December 2013 (UNHCR, 16/09/2015). 5,018 have registered since January 2015 (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). They are mainly living in Kakuma camp. 64% are children (UNICEF, 05/02/2015). The trend of daily arrivals remains low, with the weekly average ranging from 55–100 (UNHCR, 16/09/2015).

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

7,797 refugees from Burundi are mostly living in Kakuma camp. The majority arrived before the electoral violence that began in Burundi 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 refugees, 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).

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

Security and physical constraints

Humanitarian access is constrained in northern, eastern, and coastal regions due to inter-communal violence and attacks by armed opposition groups, including Al Shabaab. Hill 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 Bodhail, 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 and 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 through October. The situation will improve after the October short rains, which are forecast to be above average, but most households will remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) conditions until December (FEWSNET, 27/08/2015; IPC, 31/08/2015).

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

Food access

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

Livelihoods

The pastoral lean season started early in July, and availability of pasture and water is decreasing. Livestock body conditions remain good. In some pastoral areas, including northern Isiolo, western Wajir, eastern Mandera, eastern Samburu and parts of Marsabit, below-average rainfall has not improved food security or rangeland conditions as seasonally expected (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

Food availability

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

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

Health

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

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

Healthcare availability and access

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

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

Cholera

An ongoing cholera outbreak has affected 21 counties in Kenya. More than 5,560 cases and 113 deaths have been reported between December 2014 and August 2015. Counties at high risk include Turkana, Marsabit, Baringo, Siaya, Migori, Kajiado, Nairobi, Kiambu, and...
Kilifi. The overall case fatality rate (CFR) is 2% (IFRC, 02/09/2015). A cholera outbreak has been declared in Dadaab camp, with 14 reported cases, including one confirmed, as of 11 September (UNHCR, 11/09/2015).

WASH

As of 11 September, Kakuma 4 camp residents have access to an average of 17.2L of water per person per day – below minimum standards. In Dadaab, water supply is at 23.5 L/p/d (UNHCR, 11/09/2015).

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).

Access and learning environment

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

Teaching and learning

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

Protection

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

Gender

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

Children

16,442 unaccompanied minors have been registered among the refugee population (UNHCR, 11/09/2015). In Kakuma camp, the cumulative number of separated and unaccompanied children is 15,630 (UNHCR, 16/09/2015).

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

Updated: 18/09/2015

LIBERIA  FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS


KEY CONCERNS

- 10,672 Ebola cases have been reported in Liberia, including 4,808 deaths, since the beginning of the Ebola outbreak in March 2014. The number of confirmed, probable and suspected cases of Ebola in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone has reached 28,331, including 11,295 deaths. (WHO, 23/09/2015). Numbers are highly inaccurate.

- Insufficient capacity to meet non-Ebola medical needs during the outbreak has led to an increase in non-Ebola related morbidity and mortality.

- 640,000 people are food insecure, including 200,000 severely (LFSA, 30/06/2015).
Politics and security

Violent crime is an ongoing problem in Liberia with high rates of sexual and gender-based violence. Partly for these reasons the Security Council has extended the UN Mission in Liberia until 30 September 2016 (UNSC, 17/09/2015).

Displacement

Refugees and asylum seekers

Liberia hosts around 40,000 refugees, including 77% of the refugees in Liberia fled electoral violence in Côte d’Ivoire in 2010 (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). On 12 March, UNHCR, Liberia, and Côte d’Ivoire agreed to resume voluntary repatriation, after it was suspended due to Ebola (UNHCR, 23/04/2015). Repatriation is scheduled to begin before elections take place in Côte d’Ivoire in October (international media, 23/06/2015).

Humanitarian access

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

Food security and livelihoods

As of June, 640,000 people (16% of Liberians) are food insecure, including 200,000 severely (LFSA, 30/06/2015). The southeastern region, particularly River Gee and Grand Kru, is among the areas most affected by food insecurity (LFSA, 30/06/2015).

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

Food availability

As of 31 August, cross-border flows of goods are reported to remain below average, due to Ebola-related fears (FEWSNET 31/08/2015). 35% of households with access to farmland did not harvest last season. As of June, a third of households had reported rice stocks depletion, particularly affecting severely food insecure households (LFSA, 30/06/2015).

In a July survey, 30% of traders indicated that market supplies of main commodities were lower than normal. Inadequate food availability was reported on most markets, but most particularly in Nimba and Bomi counties (FEWSNET, 11/09/2015).

Food access

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

Although lower than last year, prices remain higher than the pre-Ebola average, particularly in markets outside the capital (OCHA/UN, 07/09/2015). 22% of traders reported in July that the most important market in their area was operating at reduced levels (FEWSNET, 11/09/2015).

Livelihoods

In a July survey, 37% of traders reported less wage opportunities than average for the time of year (FEWSNET, 11/09/2015).

Despite significant improvements in the use of coping strategies since January, 60% are still restricting consumption as of July, and 52% are still borrowing food (WFP, 31/07/2015). As of June, 18% of households in a survey reported using emergency coping strategies such as begging (LFSA, 30/06/2015).

Health

Nearly all health facilities in the country are open, but most are operating at reduced levels compared to before the Ebola outbreak (WHO, 26/08/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

The Ebola outbreak has significantly affected healthcare workers. 378 health workers were infected with Ebola, 192 of whom died. As of August, the country had 117 doctors (one doctor per 100,000 people) and 659 midwives (OCHA/UN, 07/09/2015; WHO, 26/08/2015). Vaccination rates have fallen significantly: DTP3 (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) vaccinations have decreased by 53% since 2013 (UN, 26/03/2015).

Maternal health

The loss of healthcare workers to Ebola resulted in high maternal mortality: maternal deaths have increased 111% as of May, compared to 2013, with the maternal mortality ratio reaching 2,251 deaths per 100,000 live births (or 1:50) (World Bank, 06/2015).

Mental health

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Mental health
A need for access to mental health and psychosocial support remains, especially for survivors, orphans, and the bereaved (UNMEER, 22/02/2015).

As of 28 August, at least 300,000 Liberians are reported to suffer from mental illness (Carter Center, 28/08/2015). There is only one psychiatrist and there are no psychologists in Liberia (PI, 21/03/2015).

Ebola

On 3 September, Liberia was declared free of Ebola virus transmission in the human population, as 42 days had passed since the second negative test, on 22 July, of the last laboratory-confirmed case. Liberia has begun a 90-day period of heightened surveillance (WHO, 03/09/2015). Liberia had been declared Ebola-free on 9 May, but a new case was confirmed post mortem on 29 June, and another six cases since then, with two deaths (WHO, 26/08/2015). Altogether, 10,672 Ebola cases have been reported in Liberia, including 4,808 deaths, since the beginning of the outbreak in March 2014 (WHO, 16/09/2015).

Challenges faced by Ebola survivors include adverse psychological effects, community stigmatisation and re-integration difficulties, diminished livelihoods, and persistent physical pain (WHO, 31/07/2015).

Regional Outbreak

28,220 cumulative Ebola cases have been reported across the region, including 11,291 deaths (WHO, 16/09/2015). Challenges faced by Ebola survivors include adverse psychological effects, community stigmatisation and re-integration difficulties, diminished livelihoods, and persistent physical pain (WHO, 31/07/2015).

Sierra Leone has seen an increase in cases along the border of Liberia since June (WHO, 09/2015). As of 28 July, borders remain open, but regular checks at crossing points and in communities living on the border are maintained (IFRC, 28/07/2015).

Nutrition

52,000 children are estimated to be at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Relative to trends observed from 1992–2012, malnutrition prevalence is forecast to increase by 2.8–5.3% between 2014 and 2016 (UN Development Group, 11/03/2015). Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Nimba, Grand Cape Mount, and Lofa counties, which reported the highest Ebola cases at the height of the crisis, are most affected (UNICEF, 15/04/2015).

WASH

Water

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

Sanitation

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

Protection

Children

5,927 children have been registered as directly affected (quarantined, orphaned, unaccompanied, separated, in treatment, and discharged) by Ebola (UNICEF, 02/09/2015). More than 4,500 children lost one or both parents or primary caregivers to the disease, according to Government data (UNICEF, 03/09/2015).

Failure to meet minimum standards and allegations of rape have been reported at some orphanages. Over 70,000 births were not registered during the epidemic in Liberia, hindering access to services and increasing the risk of trafficking (UNICEF, 31/07/2015). Fears of child trafficking and exploitation have been raised after some children who had been placed into foster care were claimed by strangers who failed to come forward previously (UNICEF, 31/12/2014). 401 of the 450 rape cases reported in Liberia since the beginning of the Ebola outbreak were against children under 17 years of age (UNICEF, 15/04/2015).

Vulnerable groups

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

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

Updated: 25/09/2015

MALAWI FLOODS
For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 23/09/2015. Last update, 10/09/2015.

### KEY CONCERNS

- 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).
- Over 200,000 Malawians are expected to face an acute food situation (VOA, 19/08/2015).

### Natural disasters

#### Floods

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

#### Displacement

**IDPs**

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

### Refugees and asylum seekers

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

### Food Security and Livelihoods

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

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

#### Food availability

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

#### Food access

Maize prices increased by more than 10% in the harvest and post-harvest periods from May through September (FEWSNET, 18/08/2015). In the second quarter of 2015, maize prices almost doubled in Southern (+95%) and Central (+99%) regions. In the same period the cost of the minimum food basket increased more than 10% (WFP, 30/07/2015). Additional large price increases are expected, because large deficits in agricultural production are forcing the country to increase imports (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015).

### Livelihoods

21,768 refugees and asylum seekers are in Malawi, mostly from DRC, Burundi, and Rwanda, and residing in Dzaleka camp in Dowa district in central Malawi, or among host communities (UNHCR, 05/2015). On 27 July, district officials reported that 678 people, including 400 children, have arrived from Mozambique. They fled fighting between the army and RENAMO insurgents (ABC News, 27/07/2015). As of 13 August, the village of Kapise II, located in the southern district of Mwanza, was reportedly hosting 775 Mozambican refugees (VOA, 13/08/2015).
Between July and September poor households are expected to earn less from food and cash crop sales due to reduced production (FEWSNET, 17/08/2015). Almost half the districts in southern Malawi are experiencing limited agricultural labour opportunities, reduced income from crop sales, and reduced access to irrigated farming crops and income due to dry conditions since February. These are expected to diminish households’ purchasing power during the peak of the lean season in January and February 2016, resulting in food consumption gaps and unsustainable coping (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015; 30/06/2015).

Health

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

Healthcare availability and access

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

Nutrition

There has been a significant increase in the number of malnourished children as a result of the floods and poor harvests. 25,313 children aged 6–59 months were admitted with SAM as of July 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). At end April, 35% of IDP sites reported that drinking water was still poor quality, while 8% reported less than 15L of water per person per day (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015; 29/04/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

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

Shelter

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

Education

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

Protection

Gender

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

Children

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

Reviewed: 23/09/2015

Mali Conflict, Food Insecurity, Displacement

<table>
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<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

19 September: Four people were killed in an attack in Mopti region, attributed to the Fulani Islamist group Macina Liberation Front (AFP).

18 September: The Azawad Movement Coalition militants took control of Anefis, Kidal, after withdrawal of pro-government militia, which is in violation of the Algiers peace agreement (AFP, 19/09/2015).

KEY CONCERNS
Security remains volatile, particularly in the north, but tensions are spreading to southern and central regions. Access is limited for aid workers.

71,300 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 11/08/2015).

2.86 million people are affected by moderate and severe food insecurity as of June, including 451,000 facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes (Government, 07/2015).

690,000 people are in need of health assistance and 840,000 are in need of WASH (OCHA, 15/06/2015).

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

Politics and security

Municipal and regional elections that were 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 (AFP, 22/09/2015). The state lost control of the north of the country in 2012, after Tuareg groups from the northern region known as Azawad began a campaign for greater autonomy, and a separate coup d’etat further destabilised the country. 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, and 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.

On 23 August, a representative of the Azawad Movement Coalition (AMC), one of the main partners in the recently signed Algiers peace agreement, announced the suspension of their participation in the accord’s monitoring group as a result of clashes with pro-government militia in Kidal region (AFP, 24/08/2015). The state lost control of the north of the country in 2012, after Tuareg groups from the northern region known as Azawad began a campaign for greater autonomy, and a separate coup d’etat further destabilised the country. 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, and 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.

While the intensity of violence is much lower than at the peak of the insurgency in 2012, attacks by Islamist militants have become more widespread and continue to hamper security. 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.

Tuareg armed groups

The Azawad Movement Coalition, 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 authority over these groups, but it is limited. 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.

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 spiked since mid-August 2014 (AFP, 21/09/2014). Most have been carried out in Gao, but some in Timbuktu, Mopti and Kidal regions. 41 peacekeepers have died since the start of the UN mission in July 2013 and more than 150 have been wounded in close to 80 attacks (local media, 30/05/2015; AFP, 02/07/2015).

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

Conflict developments
AMC militants took control of Anefis, Kidal region, on 18 September after the withdrawal of Gatia militia, who had seized the town in August. This is in violation of the Algiers peace agreement (AFP, 19/09/2015; MaliWeb, 02/09/2015). The security situation seems to be worsening particularly around Timbuktu, with an increasing number of attacks on villagers and people on the road to markets (Reuters, 09/08/2015). On 16–17 August, seven people were killed in violence between Tuareg and Sonrai communities in Tinassamede, Gao region (MaliActu, 19/08/2015).

Security incidents in southern and central regions have increased since June. Some have been claimed by Islamist insurgent group Ansar Dine (AFP, 30/06/2015; 27/06/2015; UN, 29/06/2015; local media, 11/06/2015). On 19 September, four people, including two civilians, were killed in an attack in Mopti region. The attack was attributed to the Macina Liberation Front, a Fulani Islamist group linked to Ansar Dine (AFP, 19/09/2015). On 7 August, affiliates of the same group killed 23 people in an attack on a hotel in Sevare, Mopti. Among the victims were UN soldiers, Malian armed forces, and insurgents (AFP, 08/08/2015; 11/08/2015). At least ten people have been killed in attacks in central Mali attributed to the Macina Liberation Front over the last nine months (AFP, 23/09/2015).

International and Malian armed forces continue to be targeted by armed group attacks. On 11 September, two peacekeepers were injured in an attack on a UN convoy on the Gao-Anefis road. This is the 50th reported attack on MINUSMA (UN, 11/09/2015). On 1 September, armed men killed two Malian soldiers and injured another at a checkpoint near Timbuktu (MaliWeb, 01/09/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

Since early August, heavy rains have caused flooding in all regions of Mali. 15,000 people have been affected (OCHA, 17/09/2015). Most affected are Nioro and Kita districts in Kayes; Kolokani district in Koulikoro; San, Macina and Bla districts in Segou; Mopti and Douentza in Mopti; Timbuktu and Rharous in Timbuktu; and Gao and Menaka in Gao region. Houses, wells, and latrines have collapsed, and agricultural losses have been reported. Poor households that are affected will face difficulties reconstructing their property and covering their basic food needs (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

In Fatoma (Mopti region) and Menaka (Gao region) people displaced by floods are staying in school buildings. This is affecting at least 950 people (Education Cluster, 12/08/2015).

Displacement

Nearly 80,000 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. Since then, 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

As of 31 July, there are 78,183 IDPs in Mali (OCHA, 31/07/2015). The number of IDPs more than doubled between April and May. Since June, the majority of newly displaced in Timbuktu and Mopti have returned. Only in Goundam and Tonka in Goundam district, Timbuktu region, are not yet returning home.

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

Refugees in Mali

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

Returnees

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

Malian refugees in neighbouring countries

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

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

Humanitarian access

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

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

Security and physical constraints

Three communes in Gao have been difficult to access for WFP since May, due to insecurity and roads damaged by rain. The rainy season is expected to continue disrupting humanitarian activities through September (WFP, 04/09/2015).

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

2.86 million people are food insecure as of June, including 451,000 people facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes, according to the Cadre Harmonisé. This corresponds to 2.8% of the population, and is an increase from the 410,000 severely food insecure projected in March (Government, 07/2015).

The majority of people facing Crisis or worse food security outcomes are in Timbuktu (143,000), Gao (104,000), and Mopti (85,000), mainly due to low levels of food stocks, an extended pastoral lean season, and insecurity. The most affected areas are Goundam, Gourma Rharous in Timbuktu, and Bourem and Ansongo in Gao (Government, 07/2015; 30/07/2015).

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

Food availability

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

Livelihoods

Insecurity has led to reduced access to grazing grounds for animals in the north, and an increasing number of farmers are abandoning their farms for fear of attacks by armed groups (IRIN, 04/09/2015). Trade ruptures have been reported in the north, as well as loss of livelihoods due to looting of livestock and other goods (Government, 30/07/2015).

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

Health

Polio

A polio outbreak was declared on 7 September, after a vaccine-derived polio case was confirmed in Bamako. The patient is thought to have been infected in Guinea. This is the first polio case in Mali since 2011 (WHO, 07/09/2015).

Nutrition

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

In Timbuktu, the emergency threshold has been passed, with 17.5% GAM and 3.8% SAM (OCHA, 11/08/2015; 15/06/2015). The nutrition situation has worsened in Kidal and Gao regions. 11.3% GAM and 2.3% SAM was reported in Gao in July; and 5.7% GAM and 1.0% SAM in Kidal (UNICEF, 31/07/2015). In Koulikoro, GAM is at 13%, including 2% SAM (MaliWeb, 02/09/2015).

WASH

Water supply

More than 54,000 people in northern regions do not have access to drinking water. Many water sources have dried up due to lack of rains in the beginning of the season. Pumps have been damaged and cannot be repaired due to insecurity (IRIN, 04/09/2015; UNICEF, 31/07/2015). Nomad communities are putting additional pressure on remaining water sources. Some households are losing their cattle. Worst affected are Bourem, Dorey and Ntiliti in Gao; Tassik in Kidal; and Ebang Malane and Gossi in Timbuktu (OCHA, 11/08/2015; 31/07/2015).

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

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

Access and learning environment

Resumption of hostilities in the north has led to the closure of schools. By the end of June, 430 schools remained closed, affecting 20,500 students (UNICEF, 31/07/2015). In Menaka district, Gao, up to 92% of schools are closed, with Tidermene commune most affected. In Kidal region, all schools are closed in four communes (Education Cluster, 30/06/2015).

Flooding in Mopti and Gao regions has affected at least 20 schools. As of 12 August, in Mopti, two schools have been damaged by a storm in Konna, six others in Mopti town have been submerged, and a school in Fatoma is hosting 200 people. In Menaka, Gao region, one school has been submerged, two others have sustained damage to classrooms, and nine schools are hosting some 750 people (Education Cluster, 12/08/2015).

Protection

Mines and ERW

There has been a considerable decrease in the number of casualties from ERW since 2015, but IED casualties are increasing. Since 2013, IEDs have caused 136 civilian casualties, nearly half of which were recorded in the first half of 2015 (OCHA, 15/06/2015). Explosive remnants of war (ERW) caused 101 casualties from 2012 to June 2014 (OCHA, 30/06/2014).

Children

Three armed groups (Ansar Dine, MNLA, and MUJAO) are reportedly recruiting and using children, and are listed for rape and other forms of sexual violence (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 01/09/2015).

Gender

Since March 2015, 441 gender-based violence incidents have been reported. 90% of victims were female, and 34% involved minors. Victims often lack livelihood support services and safe accommodation. Survivors generally refuse referral to legal or protection services, in fear of retaliation or stigmatisation by their community (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Updated: 24/09/2015

MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

22 September: Prolonged presence of Malian refugees is straining scarce resources, increasing competition for water, pasture, and firewood (IOM; WFP, 21/09/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 458,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes in June. 795,000 are facing Stressed (Phase 2) outcomes (Cadre Harmonisé, 06/2015).
- 33,760 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (IFRC, 01/07/2015).
- Malnutrition is rising in Mbera camp, due to interruption of food aid (MSF, 13/07/2015).

Displacement

Refugees and asylum seekers

Mauritania hosts 51,649 refugees as of 1 September, including 50,102 Malian refugees in Mbera camp and 1,547 urban refugees and asylum seekers, who mainly come from CAR, Côte d'Ivoire, Syria, DRC, and Senegal (UNHCR, 14/09/2015; 11/09/2015). After increased violence in Mali in May, several hundred new refugees arrived (UNHCR, 31/05/2015; 13/07/2015). 

Mbera camp is a remote desert location on the border that has significant security challenges, and where food insecurity and malnutrition are high. According to UNHCR, 80% of camp residents are women and children, and many have been in the camp for two years, resulting in overlapping emergency and medium-term needs (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Food security

As of June, 458,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes (Cadre Harmonisé, 06/2015). Households facing Crisis outcomes are in northern Gorgol and Brakna, western Assaba, southern Tagant, and in the central zone of the Senegal River valley (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015). Poor pastoral, agricultural, and agropastoral households will continue facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes through September, and will have to reduce their food consumption (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). An additional 795,000 people are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes (Cadre Harmonisé, 06/2015).

Disruption of food assistance to Malian refugees in the past six months, due to
Disruption of food assistance to Malian refugees in the past six months, due to funding shortfalls, has negatively affected their food security (WFP, 21/09/2015). From October to December, the food security situation will improve. But in pastoral areas in the north and west, households will continue to have limited purchasing power even after the end of the lean season. Poor households will be facing Stressed outcomes (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015; 31/08/2015).

Food availability

Many farmers have are producing short-cycle crops, which will likely not be cultivated before October, compared to September in usual years. Agricultural activities are ongoing, but the surface area to be harvested is less than in the same period in 2014 and the five-year average due to delayed onset of rains (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

In northern Gorgol, the north of Brakna, west of Assaba, and south of Tagant, poor households have experienced two successive years of poor harvests. They have been depending on markets since February/March, two to three months earlier than in a normal year. Households are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes through September, even in the presence of humanitarian assistance (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

Decreased cross-border trade with Mali has led to a decline in cereal supply, which has contributed to rising food prices (FAO and WFP, 31/08/2015).

Food access

In the first half of 2015, prices of local cereals increased due to the early onset of the lean season. This trend has negatively impacted access to food for vulnerable households (FAO and WFP, 31/08/2015).

Livelihoods

In Bassiknou department, Hodh El Chargui, host communities and Malian refugees are facing increased competition for firewood, water, and pasture. As demand for basic items overrides supply, prices are increasing (IOM, 22/09/2015; WFP, 21/09/2015).

Pasture areas are developing poorly in regions that only received their first rains in mid-August, and do not provide sufficient grazing for herds. Households have to buy cattle food on the market. Animal prices have increased compared to June and compared to 2014 (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

In the central zone of the Senegal River valley (the south of Boghe, Bababe, Mbagne, and the southwest of Kaedi), below-average revenues and increased dependence on markets for food supply, result in households facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes through September (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

Agricultural activities are increasing employment opportunities for poor households (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). Between October and December, increased agricultural activity will augment revenue and improve the food security situation. However, households will continue to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes until the next harvest in February/March 2016 (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

Nutrition

An estimated 129,760 children are expected to be acutely malnourished, including 33,760 severely, according to ECHO. As of March, there was 6.2% global acute malnutrition (GAM) countrywide. No region exceeded the 10% threshold, but Hodh El Chargui, Guidimakha, Brakna and Gorgol were the most affected regions (IFRC, 01/07/2015).

GAM rates are increasing in Mbera refugee camp. WFP has had to cut monthly food rations, due to a lack of funding. As of 10 August, rice and pulse distribution have resumed, but remain at reduced levels (WFP, 10/08/2015). Admissions for nutrition have increased more than 100% according to MSF, with 79 malnourished children admitted per month since the interruption of food aid, compared to 30 per month before (IRIN, 13/07/2015).

WASH

Harsh climate conditions during the rainy season have damaged many toilets in Mbera camp (UNHCR, 14/09/2015).

In Mbera camp, refugees have access to 30L of water per day. On average, a latrine is shared between 22 people (UNHCR, 14/09/2015).

Education

Lack of access to education has been reported in Mbera camp, in particular affecting girls and minorities (UNHCR, 30/04/2015; 13/07/2015).

Protection

Incidents of sexual violence have been reported in Mbera camp (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

Updated: 24/09/2015

SENEGAL FOOD INSECURITY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Humanitarian crisis</th>
<th>Pre-crisis</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>0-6% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
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<td>Severity: minimal</td>
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<td>moderate</td>
<td>severe</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See the methodology note for details.
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

17 September: 640,000 people are estimated severely food insecure (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS

- Around 3 million people are estimated to be food insecure as of September, including at least 640,000 severely (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

Displacement

As of February, there are 17,085 refugees in Matam, Saint Louis, and Tambacounda, mostly from Mauritania. 52% are seeking naturalisation in Senegal (UN, 18/02/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

As of 17 September, 3 million people are estimated to be food insecure, including 640,000 severely (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

Poor agropastoral households in central and northern areas, including Podor, Matam, and Tambacounda, will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes through September (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

In October the Crisis (IPC Phase 3) situation is likely to improve thanks to the harvesting of maize and cowpea, expected to take place in late September (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). Projected food assistance needs through January 2016 are lower than the five-year average, even taking into consideration the lean season (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015).

Food availability

Delayed onset of rains and below-average rainfall, particularly in central regions, have prolonged the lean season. Households finished their food stocks earlier than usual, due to a below-average harvest in 2014 and decreased revenues from livestock sales and milk production (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

In October, the harvest will provide sufficient food to improve food security outcomes, as rains have improved since August and agricultural production is expected to recover from last year’s losses (FEWSNET, 24/07/2015; 31/08/2015; FAO, 10/09/2015).

Food access

Cereal prices have reached their seasonal peak, resulting in decreased access to food for households with poor revenues. High livestock mortality and decreased revenue of livestock sales and milk production have impacted pastoral households’ access to markets (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

In October, the harvest will lower cereal prices, increasing household access to food (FEWSNET, 24/07/2015).

Livelihoods

Shortfalls in household incomes have contributed to the extension of the lean season, and have increased the use of negative coping strategies among poor households, such as decreasing the number of meals per day (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

In the groundnut basin, the decline of peanut production, which is the main source of income for agricultural households, has contributed to a more than 30% fall in household income (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Poor pasture conditions have increased livestock mortality, and resulted in early transhumance towards the south. There is a risk of overgrazing in these areas, and competition for resources in increasing tensions between herders and farmers (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015; OCHA, 15/07/2015). Pastoral households are resorting to increased selling of livestock to meet their food needs, which is endangering their livelihoods. Livestock prices have declined, which further decreased revenues. However, thanks to the onset of the rains, pasture conditions are improving, which will allow for better livestock body conditions and milk production (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Health

A chikungunya outbreak was reported in the southeastern Kedougou region, with 10 confirmed cases as of 8 September. These are the first reports of chikungunya since 2010 (WHO, 14/09/2015).

Nutrition

In 2015, 333,000 children under five are estimated to be in need of nutritional support, including 69,000 who are suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (OCHA, 17/09/2015). People have increased the use of negative coping strategies such as decreasing the number of meals per day, which could aggravate the nutritional situation (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Updated: 25/09/2015

SIERRA LEONE FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

<table>
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<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
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<td>Severity</td>
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<tr>
<td>minimal</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>low.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See the methodology note for details.
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

21 September: Nine people have been killed and up to 12,000 have been affected by flooding in Freetown, including more than 8,165 people temporarily settled in two stadiums. Health, WASH and protection support are priorities; suspected Ebola cases have been reported (OCHA, PI, international organisation).

18 September: 4,290 people affected by floods in Southern province on 5–6 September are living in informal shelters with little or no facilities. There is a high risk of epidemic outbreaks. NFIs, WASH and livelihood are priorities (international organisation; IFRC).

KEY CONCERNS

- As of 16 September, 13,756 cumulative Ebola cases were reported, including 3,953 deaths. 28,220 cumulative Ebola cases were reported across the region, including 11,291 deaths (WHO, 16/09/2015). The numbers of registered cases and deaths are largely inaccurate.

- 43% of the population is food insecure, including 7% severely. This corresponds to around 420,000 people severely food insecure (Government/FAO/WFP, 30/06/2015).

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

Politics and security

Sierra Leone’s Parliament ratified state of emergency regulations on 28 August, declared earlier by President Ernest Bai Koroma for a Floods year, despite calls from opposition to ease restrictions (local media, 28/08/2015; international media, 12/06/2015). There are concerns that the measures are being used by the ruling party against the opposition. Police have been accused of using excessive force, protests have been banned, journalists have been arrested for criticising the response, and political figures have been arrested (local media, 26/04/2015; Amnesty International, 04/05/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

The government declared a level two state of emergency after flooding and landslides damaged parts of the capital Freetown on 16 September (PI, 18/09/2015). Nine people were killed, and up to 12,000 people have been affected, including more than 8,165 who have been temporarily settled in two stadiums. Extensive damage to homes and property has been reported (OCHA, 19/09/2015; PI, 18/09/2015). Medical and WASH support are priorities, as some clinics and water points have reportedly been damaged (PI, 19/09/2015; VOA, 18/09/2015). Protection is also a concern as cases of unaccompanied minors have been reported, while suspected Ebola cases have been identified but ran away (international organisation, 21/09/2015). Although no rains have been recorded since 16 September, a risk of further flooding remains (ECHO, 19/09/2015).

4,290 people have been affected by heavy rainfall in Bo and Pujehun districts in Southern province on 5–6 September; one person was killed. There is a high risk of epidemic outbreaks as the response has been constrained by poor road conditions. Many households are living in informal shelters with little or no facilities. NFIs, WASH, and livelihoods are priorities (international organisation, 21/09/2015; IFRC, 18/09/2015).

Displacement

Refugees

As of February, there were nearly 2,430 refugees in Sierra Leone (UNHCR, 02/03/2015).

Humanitarian access

Response activities are hampered by poor terrain and lack of transport (Doctors of the World, 04/05/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Food security has deteriorated generally in Sierra Leone, especially among households in rural areas who have a high dependence on agriculture but very low incomes (WFP, 16/09/2015; WHO/OCHA, 12/07/2015).

As of April, 2.58 million people (43% of the population) were food insecure, including 426,000 severely (7%). Kailahun, Kenema, Bo, Port Loko and Kono districts are most severely affected by disruptions to agricultural production and market activities due to the Ebola outbreak. In Kailahun, household food insecurity has surged to 74%, compared to 13% in 2011 (Government/FAO/WFP, 30/06/2015).

Households are expected to remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes through September due to below-average food availability during the lean season and the effect on livelihoods. Food security is expected to improve from October through December, as a result of the main harvest and the ban on markets being lifted: food security outcomes are expected to be Minimal (IPC Phase 1) in most areas, and Stressed for poor households in Moyamba, Kenema and Kailahun districts, due to a slower recovery from Ebola-related shocks (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).
In most areas, food stocks have depleted one to two months earlier than normal; farmers’ self-imposed movement restrictions during the Ebola outbreak has led to a 30% drop in agricultural output (local media, 17/09/2015; FEWSNET, 01/06/2015). Ongoing agricultural activities are reportedly below normal levels due to Ebola containment measures (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food access

The vast swathes of Sierra Leone that were quarantined are still struggling to return to normal, as movement restrictions affected the ability to farm and market produce (Al Jazeera, 13/09/2015, WFP, 09/07/2015). In a June survey, 39% of respondents reported that the most important market in their area operated at reduced levels and 4% of traders reported market closures. Inadequate food availability was reported on most markets, but most particularly in Kambia, Tonkolili and Kono districts (FEWSNET, 08/09/2015).

Food use

Poor households in Crisis food security outcomes are continuing to reduce their food intake throughout the lean season, as food stocks have depleted (FEWSNET, 09/07/2015). 45% of households have an inadequate diet, based on cereals, oil, some vegetables and a few other commodities (Government/FAO/WFP, 30/06/2015).

Livelihoods

In a June assessment, 56% of respondents reported reduced wage opportunities from agricultural work, while 30% of traders reported that they were not able to sell their cash crops compared to normal (FEWSNET, 08/09/2015).

The economic slowdown due to Ebola has resulted in low income levels and weak household purchasing power (FEWSNET, 09/07/2015). Typical livelihood activities remain below average due to reduced market activities caused by Ebola-related fears and reduced purchasing power (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015). An assessment in five districts indicated decreased income for 80% of respondents and increased unemployment as among the main effects of the Ebola outbreak in areas both infected or not by the disease (BRAC, 21/05/2015).

The use of coping strategies, such as a reduction in meal size and frequency, has increased across the country during the lean season; Kambia and Port Loko are most affected (WFP, 30/06/2015; 28/05/2015; BRAC, 21/05/2015). 32% of households use emergency strategies, such as begging, to cope with lack of income. Households’ high economic vulnerability translates into food purchases representing 65% of total expenditures for at least 45% of households (Government/FAO/WFP, 30/06/2015).

Health

New Ebola cases are still reported, although weekly incidence is declining. No mass immunisation activities took place during the Ebola outbreak, increasing the risk of preventable outbreaks. Pockets of diseases are already reported (government, 08/06/2015). Mortality and morbidity from other diseases have also likely increased during the outbreak.

Healthcare availability and access

As of May, the Ebola outbreak had caused a 5% reduction in the number of doctors and a 7% reduction in nurses and midwives, leaving only 3.4 health personnel for every 10,000 citizens (local media, 17/09/2015; World Bank, 08/07/2015). 307 health workers have been infected with Ebola and 221 have died (WHO, 02/09/2015).

40 hospitals and 1,300 primary health care facilities across the country need to be restored (Government, 09/07/2015). During the outbreak, many health facilities were temporarily closed and people were reluctant to seek healthcare due to fear of infection. It is likely there has been an increase in morbidity and mortality of other diseases, including malaria, diarrhoea, TB, and HIV (World Bank, 08/07/2015).

Child health

Under-five mortality rates are estimated to have increased by 19% compared to before the Ebola outbreak, up to 191 per 1,000 live births (World Bank, 08/07/2015).

Maternal health

Delivery of maternal health services improved in May: 89% of households report that a member gave birth in a clinic, compared to 64% in January–February, and 28% in November 2014 (World Bank, 15/06/2015). The loss of health workers is expected to have had an impact on maternal health. The World Bank estimates a maternal mortality ratio of 1,916 per 100,000 live births in May 2015, a 74% increase compared to 2013 (World Bank, 08/07/2015).

Ebola

As of 16 September, 13,756 cumulative Ebola cases have been reported in Sierra Leone, including 3,953 deaths. Five confirmed cases of Ebola were reported in the week to 13 September from Kambia and Bombali districts. The four cases reported from Kambia were registered contacts associated with the previous chain of transmission. Bombali had not reported a case for over five months, and the cause of infection remains under investigation (WHO, 16/09/2015). Health authorities have placed 680 people under quarantine after the new case in Bombali and the National Ebola Response Centre reported that 1,805 people were under quarantine across both districts (NERC, 17/09/2015;
Fear, fatigue, and denial of the disease continue to allow the virus to spread (BBC, 18/07/2015). Some people still resist infection prevention and control measures, such as safe burials (BBC, 14/07/2015). Safe transportation of suspected Ebola cases and ambulance safety also remain priorities (OCHA/UNCR, 06/08/2015).

Sierra Leone has the highest number of survivors across all three countries (3,500), including some with HIV (PI, 21/09/2015). Challenges faced by Ebola survivors include persistent physical pain, adverse psychological effects, community stigmatisation and re-integration difficulties, and diminished livelihoods (WHO, 31/07/2015).

Containment measures: Curfews in the worst-affected communities, including in Kambia and Port Loko districts, have been extended indefinitely. Military and police are in charge of enforcement (AFP, 08/07/2015; UNMEER, 12/06/2015). Some restrictions on public gatherings were eased on 8 August as a result of lower case incidence (AFP, 08/08/2015). Requests have also increased for humanitarian teams conducting safe burials to be scaled up in areas hard to reach during the rainy season (WHO/OCHA, 25/08/2015).

Regional outbreak
28,220 cumulative Ebola cases have been reported across the region, including 11,291 deaths (WHO, 16/09/2015).

In August, Porous borders between Sierra Leone and Guinea were posing a challenge to surveillance, and empowering county authorities to improve surveillance at points of entry along the borders remained a priority (OCHA/UNCR, 06/08/2015; UNMEER, 15/04/2015). Officials from both countries have established screening and information sharing protocols at border points between areas of active Ebola transmission (UNMEER, 07/04/2015; 15/04/2015). In August, cross-border movements increased to 2,100 per day as Sierra Leone lifted some Ebola restrictions, raising the risk of rapid spread of the virus (WHO/OCHA, 25/08/2015).

Nutrition
It is predicted that, compared to observed trends from 1992 to 2012, the number of undernourished people during 2014–2016 could increase by 1.30–1.4% due to the Ebola outbreak (UNDG, 11/03/2015). A UNICEF assessment in 60 of 150 chiefdoms identified 273 (1.27%) children with SAM (UNICEF, 25/03/2015).

WASH
In August, health facilities along international borders were striving to comply with medical procedures and lacked basic WASH facilities to ensure minimal hygiene conditions (OCHA/UNCR, 06/08/2015).

Education
87% of households reported all children were attending school in May. Of those who were not attending, less than 2% cited the school was still closed or was unsafe due to Ebola (World Bank, 15/06/2015). In another survey, 46% of households who reported not sending a child to school cited inability to afford school as the main reason (BRAC, 21/05/2015).

Protection
There have been allegations of beatings by police during the Ebola outbreak (Voice of America, 22/06/2015). Child protection issues have also emerged during and as a result of the Ebola outbreak.

Child protection
Orphans are considered particularly vulnerable: 8,624 Ebola orphans have been registered as of 31 August (UNICEF, 02/09/2015). The Ebola outbreak has also had a significant impact on birth registration in Sierra Leone (UNICEF, 31/07/2015).

Due to limited household resources, children are predisposed and sometimes forced to engage in income-generating activities. There are reports of girls turning to sex work for income (The Guardian, 28/04/2015).

Updated: 21/09/2015

BURKINA FASO FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation of concern</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
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<tr>
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<td>minimal</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5%</td>
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See the methodology note for details.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

16 September: Forces loyal to former President Compaoré led a military coup. Between three and six protesters were killed in clashes with security forces (AFP, 17/09/2015; Al Jazeera, 18/09/2015; The Guardian, 18/09/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- Long-term displacement of 34,030 Malian refugees continues to put pressure on the resources of host communities (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).
More than 1.5 million people likely food insecure during the June–August lean season, and 499,000 children suffering from GAM (WFP/FAO, 31/03/2015; UNICEF, 30/03/2015).

24,354 people affected by August floods; the Government is preparing for up to 122,000 by the end of the rainy season in September and appealed for international support (UNICEF, 4/08/2015; OCHA, 12/08/2015).

Politics and security

On 16 September, forces loyal to former President Compaoré led a military coup (AFP, 17/09/2015).

Members of the transitional government are in detention, including the sitting president (Amnesty International, 17/09/2015). Between three and six protesters against the coup were killed in clashes with security forces, and 60 were injured. A night curfew has been announced. General Gilbert Diendere has been installed as the new president (Al Jazeera, 18/09/2015; The Guardian, 18/09/2015).

The coup leaders have claimed their actions are because the new electoral code passed in April prevents supporters of Compaoré from participating in the next presidential elections – scheduled for October –, and tensions had been rising in the country since the new electoral code was passed (AFP, 17/09/2015; ICG, 01/08/2015).

On 26 August, the Congress for Democracy and Progress party’s had announced it would not contest elections, and called for civil disobedience (ICG, 01/09/2015).

The transitional Government was set up in November 2014, after demonstrations in October 2014 against President Blaise Compaoré and his Congress for Democracy and Progress party’s attempt to pass a bill extending his term of office. Parliament was dissolved and Compaoré resigned.

Other Incidents

Unidentified gunmen attacked a police post in Oudalan province on 23 August, killing one policeman and injuring another; the incident is seen by some as linked to the growing insurgency in Mali (AFP, 25/08/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

Floods and heavy winds in seven regions of Burkina Faso early August affected 26,885 people, killed eight, and injured 54 in 8 of the 13 regions in Burkina Faso (ACT, 29/08/2015). Bissighin and Kilwin neighbourhoods in the capital Ouagadougou (Centre region), Dallo (Centre Ouest region), and Bama (Hauts-Bassins) were most affected (OCHA, 12/08/2015). Food, health, WASH, rehabilitation and legal documentation support are priorities. The Government is planning for up to 122,000 people affected by the end of the rainy season in September, and has appealed for international support (UNICEF, 14/08/2015; ECHO, 07/08/2015).

Displacement

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 30 June, there are 34,030 refugees in Burkina Faso. 33,700 are Malian refugees, more than half of them children. 76% of Malian refugees are residing in camps in Mentao, Goudebo, Bobo Dioulasso, and Ouagadougou in northern Burkina Faso; Saag-Nioniogo refugee camp was closed in March, with refugees relocated to other camps (UNHCR, 30/06/2015; WFP, 30/04/2015). Malian families mainly arrive from Gao and Timbuktu regions, fleeing political tensions and social unrest (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

During the June–August lean season, 371,000 people are likely in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 1.2 million in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes, compared to 79,000 and 669,000 between March and May (WFP/FAO, 31/03/2015). Poor households in Tin-Akoff commune in Oudalan province, and Nassoumbou and Koutougou communes in Soum province in the Sahel region, have faced Crisis food security outcomes since April (FEWSNET, 30/04/2015; FEWSNET, 22/05/2015).

Food availability

Floods in northern areas early August carried away more than 64 metric tons of cereal harvests and livestock, leaving households with few to no food reserves and prone to negative coping mechanisms (IRIN, 07/08/2015).

Planting has been significantly delayed in northern areas due to abnormal dryness in the first part of the year (OCHA, 27/07/2015). Rainfall in has been above average throughout August. There is now the risk that some areas may flood (FEWSNET, 18/09/2015). A decrease in the price of livestock was reported between April and June in Oudalan province, due to fodder deficits and lack of water points (WFP/FAO, 31/07/2015).

Food stocks of poor households in Tin-Akoff commune in Oudalan province, and Nassoumbou and Koutougou communes in Soum province in the Sahel region have been depleted since January due to below-average 2014 harvests and reduced livestock prices (FEWSNET, 30/04/2015; FEWSNET, 22/05/2015).
Livelihoods

Pastoral conditions in the north have been affected by abnormal dryness, especially in Oudalan province, impacting in turn transhumance and increasing the risk of conflict over resources (OCHA, 27/07/2015; FEWSNET, 30/06/2015). Disruptions in the functioning of the main drilling hole providing water to the Sahel region of Burkina Faso between April and May has caused the death of some 2,000 cattle, affecting the food security vulnerability of their owners (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Poor households in Tin-Akoff, Nassoumbou, and Koutougou communes have resorted to coping mechanisms such as selling part of their livestock (FEWSNET, 30/04/2015; FEWSNET, 22/05/2015).

Nutrition

499,000 children are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2015 (8.6% of the under-five population), including 149,000 from SAM (UNICEF, 30/03/2015). Two out of three children suffering from undernutrition receive inadequate medical assistance (WFP, 23/06/2015).

WASH

Mobile latrines and potable water are priorities following the August floods, as the worst-affected areas in Ouagadougou are non-planned areas of the city, where there is no proper sewage system (IRIN, 07/08/2015).

Shelter

1,240 houses have been destroyed by the floods early August, and nearly 3,700 people rendered homeless. 2,430 people have been temporarily rehoused in schools, however school is scheduled to start in mid-September (UNICEF, 14/08/2015; IRIN, 07/08/2015).

Updated: 18/09/2015

KEY CONCERNS

- 191,260 Burundians fleeing political unrest are registered as refugees in Rwanda, DRC, Tanzania, and Uganda (UNHCR, 21/09/2015).

OVERVIEW

The political turmoil is exacerbating a chronic situation of unmet humanitarian needs. A contingency plan has been activated. As of June, 270,000 were estimated to be affected. This number includes those displaced to neighbouring countries (OCHA, 06/06/2015; WFP, 26/06/2015). Priority areas are Kirundo and Makamba provinces, and the city of Bujumbura (OCHA, 06/06/2015).

Politics and security

Political instability and violence have persisted since April, when President Nkurunziza announced his intention to run for a third term (Reuters, 20/03/2015). The election was widely declared as not credible (UN, 27/07/2015; AFP, 27/07/2015). The ruling party also won a majority of the vote. The security situation deteriorated rapidly after Nkurunziza’s re-election at end July, and some say risks are degenerating into a renewed armed conflict, with possible repercussions in the region and the possibility of mass atrocities (WFP, 14/08/2015; UNSC, 10/08/2015).

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). Nkurunziza has announced the creation of special security committees (ICG, 01/09/2015). 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). Burundi’s main opposition coalition has called for international sanctions against the government (AFP, 15/09/2015).

Political instability

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).

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). Leaders of the opposition have met to form a coalition (AFP, 30/07/2015).

Recent incidents

It is estimated that 190 people have been killed since violence began in April (ACLED, 19/09/2015). Clashes have been occurring nightly in the capital during police patrols in areas where people have been protesting Nkurunziza’s third term (WFP, 14/08/2015). A number of figures in government and civil society have been killed (UN, 17/08/2015; Reuters, 05/08/2015; HRW, 04/08/2015; AFP, 02/08/2015). Both the spokesman for and the president of the Union for Peace and Democracy party have been assassinated (AFP, 08/09/2015). On 11 September, a failed attempt by uniformed men to assassinate the head of Burundi’s armed forces resulted in the deaths of seven soldiers in Bujumbura (AFP, 11/09/2015).

Kayanza: 31 gunmen died and 221 were captured in clashes with government troops near the border with Rwanda on 11 July. Some see the clash as a precursor to an insurgency by a section of the army that backed the failed May coup (OCHA, 16/07/2015; Press TV, 13/07/2015).

Economic Situation

Foreign aid has significantly decreased since the onset of the crisis; following Nkurunziza’s re-election, a number of countries declared that trade and political and development aid cooperation would be reviewed (UNICEF, 26/08/2015; AFP, 24/07/2015).

Displacement

The political crisis since April has displaced more than 193,000 Burundians to neighbouring countries; internal displacement has been limited. There are 77,600 protracted IDPs in Burundi, mostly ethnic Tutsis, and 79,000 returnees going through a reintegration process. Burundi also hosts 54,800 refugees from DRC, mainly in border regions.

As of January, Burundi had 77,600 IDPs, mostly ethnic Tutsis, living in and around 120 sites in northern and central Burundi (IDMC, 31/01/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of June, Burundi is host to 54,800 refugees from DRC, mainly in the border regions of Ngozi, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Cankuzo, and Bubanza (UNHCR, 03/06/2015). Since the beginning of the political crisis, refugees have been requesting relocation (UNHCR, 05/06/2015).

Refugee returnees

79,000 Burundian returnees were going through a slow reintegration process in April, including 43,000 who had been forcibly repatriated from Tanzania. Most have not been registered due to a lack of reception facilities, while tensions have risen with host communities over land ownership issues (IOM, 01/2014; HCT, 24/04/2015).

Burundian refugees in neighbouring countries

As of 21 September, 191,030 Burundian refugees fleeing political unrest are registered in Rwanda, DRC, Uganda, and Tanzania (UNHCR, 21/09/2015). Around 10,450 Burundians fled the country between 19–27 July, because of the presidential elections (UNHCR, 27/07/2015). Cross-border movement increased at a rate of 2,000 per week in July. The majority are women and children (WFP, 13/07/2015).

Tanzania: 93,565 Burundians fleeing political unrest are in Tanzania (UNHCR, 18/09/2015). Nearly all are in Nyarugusu refugee camp, which is overcrowded and where protection, health, and WASH conditions are critical (ECHO, 31/07/2015; UNHCR, 08/09/2015). New camp locations have been identified to ease overcrowding and officials hope to move refugees before the rainy season begins in October (WFP, 02/09/2015).

Rwanda: 69,170 Burundians fleeing political unrest are in Rwanda (UNHCR, 21/09/2015). The majority are in Mahama camp – where lack of safe water and latrines is of great concern (IFRC, 010/9/2015). The overall population of the camp increased by 28% during August, further straining resources. The rest are in Kigali, Huye district, Bugesera and Nyanza reception centres, and Nyagatare transit centre (ECHO, 31/07/2015; UNHCR, 26/08/2015).

DRC: 14,320 Burundians fleeing political unrest are registered in DRC, and are being relocated from host communities to Lusenda refugee site in South Kivu (UNHCR, 21/09/2015).

Uganda: 14,200 Burundians fleeing political unrest are in Uganda (21/09/2015). The majority are in two sites in Mbarara (Nakivale camp) and Misiera villages (UNHCR, 26/08/2015). Access to safe drinking water is a concern in new settlement areas but has
improved from 11.4L per person per day at the end of August to 14L/p/day (UNHCR, 14/09/2015; UNHCR, 27/08/2015).

Access
UN agencies have been unable to access many parts of the country due to violence. In particular there have been restrictions on the delivery of food supplies from warehouses to distribution sites (WFP, 30/06/2015).

Food security and livelihoods
50,000 people in Kirundo are newly food insecure owing to failed harvests; the province is facing an alarming humanitarian situation (WFP, 03/07/2015; OCHA/UNHCR, 25/06/2015; WFP, 30/07/2015).

Poor households are expected to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes through December in the presence of assistance (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food availability
Production from the June Season B harvest in Muyinga and Kirundo provinces was significantly affected by the political crisis and late rains in the first half of the year (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015, 31/07/2015).

Food access
Food prices declined significantly across the country during the post-Season B harvest period (mid-June through July), but remained higher than the five-year average (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015; 30/06/2015). In Bujumbura, Ruyigi, Muyinga, and Gitega markets, prices have risen and household income has been significantly reduced; in Bujumbura and Kirundo provinces, food prices rose by 32% and 21% on average, respectively (WFP, 31/07/2015; Save the Children/War Child/Terre des Hommes, 23/07/2015).

Livelihoods
Slowed economic activity in Bujumbura during the protests, with most businesses and banks closed, have affected an already fragile economy (OCHA, 04/05/2015).

Health
A shortage of hospital beds has been reported during periods of mass casualties in Bujumbura. Emergency services are hindered by the small number of ambulances venturing out at night (MSF, 26/08/2015). There is risk of a shortage of essential medicines in the coming months (UNICEF, 26/08/2015).

Mental health
Children are increasingly in need of psychological care as a result of the prolonged crisis (UNICEF, 15/07/2015).

Nutrition
Malnutrition is a key concern in Kirundo province: below-average rainfall in the past months have taken GAM rates to 6%, including 1.5% SAM (OCHA, 29/06/2015). Malnutrition has also increased in Nyanza-Lac health district in Makamba province, a transit area for many Burundians fleeing to Tanzania, reaching 8.3% GAM, including 1% SAM (UNICEF, 12/08/2015). Reduction of household income is reportedly starting to impact nutrition levels (Save the Children/War Child/Terre des Hommes, 23/07/2015).

WASH
WASH has been identified as a priority in the context of the political crisis and cholera outbreak.

Hygiene
Non-availability of soap, in part due to high prices, is a barrier to handwashing for households and a concern in the context of cholera of a recent cholera outbreak (UNICEF, 29/07/2015; 15/07/2015).

Education
Many schools in Bujumbura closed during the protests; in July, where schools were open, attendance was low due to fear of insecurity (Save the Children/War Child/Terre des Hommes, 23/07/2015). Cases of exclusion from secondary school on the grounds of students’ political affiliation have been reported from Muyinga province (UNICEF, 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). Burundians are reporting harassment and disappearance of family members associated with the political opposition (ICG/UNHCR, 17/04/2015). In addition, more than 32 Rwandan nationals have been arrested in Burundi on accusations of spying since the start of the crisis (AFP, 08/09/2015). Imbonerakure is accused of severe abuse including torture, threats, and intimidation, including toward refugees (Amnesty, 24/08/2015).
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, is a major concern (UNSC, 07/07/2015). Privately owned media remain closed (RSF, 15/07/2015). Journalists are reportedly facing violence and intimidation from authorities and members of the Imbonerakure (CPJ, 26/08/2015, RSF, 30/04/2015; HRW, 22/01/2015).

Children

Following fighting in Kayanza province in July, 52 children have been arrested and charged with involvement in armed groups (UNICEF, 26/08/2015).

Many children caught up in protests have been detained (OCHA/UNHCR, 25/06/2015).

70% of the refugees fleeing into neighbouring countries are under 18 and a significant number have been separated or are unaccompanied (UNICEF, 12/04/2015; IFRC, 10/06/2015).

Updated: 23/09/2015

GUINEA FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

- As of 20 September, 3,800 cumulative confirmed, probable and suspected Ebola cases, including 2,532 deaths. The cumulative number of reported Ebola cases across the region has reached 28,295, including 11,295 deaths (WHO, 23/09/2015). Numbers are largely inaccurate. Resistance to the Ebola response continues to be reported and is complicating case detection.

- 7.5 million people are living in areas worst affected by the Ebola crisis, including 4.3 million children. Priority needs include health, food security, and nutrition support (UNICEF, 29/07/2015; OCHA, 09/07/2015).

- 1.9 million people are food insecure, including 59,000 severely (WFP/FAO/IFAD/Government, 01/07/2015). More than three million chronically malnourished, including 306,000 acutely (WHO/OCHA, 01/09/2015).

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

Politics and security

The Ebola response has increased tensions between President Condé’s ethnic group, the Malinke, who make up about 35% of the population, and the Fulani ethnic group, representing about 40% of the population, who mainly support the opposition (local media, 18/10/2014). Elections planned for October present a clear risk of political violence.

Political instability

Clashes between rival political factions wounded 17 people in Koundara prefecture on 20 September, in the first violence of the presidential election campaign (AFP, 21/09/2015). The campaign was launched on 14 September, ahead of the 11 October poll (ECOWAS, 14/09/2015). Opposition leader Diallo warned that he may refuse to take part in the elections, as he accused Condé of not respecting an August deal on the organisation of the polls (AFP, 15/09/2015).

In January, and again in April and May, the opposition staged violent protests, demanding the revision of the electoral calendar. Local elections, which could galvanise support for the opposition, have been scheduled after the presidential elections, for March 2016 (local media, 10/05/2015; ICG, 01/02/2015). At least two protestors were killed and 146 injured in the April–May protests (HRW, 30/07/2015).

Natural disaster

Floods

Heavy rainfall is expected in Guinea until the end of September, increasing the risk of flooding and damage to crops in some over-saturated areas (NOAA, 16/09/2015). Heavy
Rains caused severe flooding in Conakry and six other prefectures (Telimele, Macenta, Siguiri, Bélya, Forecariah, and Coyah) over 24 July–3 August. Around 29,600 people have been affected, nine killed, 624 displaced, and 6,181 houses destroyed or damaged. Significant damage to WASH facilities has also been reported, increasing the risk of a deterioration of the health situation in these areas (IFRC, 12/08/2015).

Landslides

Heavy rains triggered landslides in Kolon Kola village in Boffa prefecture on 8 September: two people were killed, more than 16 injured, and nearly 500 inhabitants were affected, with damage to infrastructure and crops reported (OCHA, 22/09/2015).

Displacement

Refugees

As of February, there were nearly 8,850 refugees in Guinea, mostly from Côte d’Ivoire. Voluntary returns of Ivorians from Guinea came to a standstill during the Ebola outbreak (UNHCR, 02/03/2015).

Humanitarian access

Response activities are hampered by poor road infrastructure outside the capital, the rainy season, and community resistance to the Ebola response.

Access of aid workers to affected populations

Hostility towards health workers continues to hamper response efforts, particularly in western prefectures (OCHA, 01/07/2015; UN, 03/06/2015). Rumours about Ebola persist. Though community and family resistance to the response has decreased, the main challenge remains resistance at the individual level, which can lead to unsafe burials or refusal to take a sick relative to an Ebola treatment centre (UNICEF, 16/07/2015).

In Telimele prefecture, access constraints were reported in several localities, including resistance to contact tracing and non-implementation of Ebola prevention measures, sometimes due to lack of information or misinformation (UNMEER, 26/06/2015; USAID, 25/02/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Access to communities outside the capital is severely hampered by poor road infrastructure (OCHA, 16/09/2014). The onset of the rainy season is making field operations more difficult.

Food security and livelihoods

As of May, 1.9 million people were food insecure, including 59,000 severely. The highest rates of food insecure households are in Telemele (43.2%), Koubia (41.3%), Fria (35.5%) and Faranah (40.6%) (OCHA, 24/07/2015; IFAD/WFP/FAO/Government, 01/07/2015).

Most households will continue to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes until the main harvest in October, particularly those directly affected by Ebola. In areas that remain unaffected by Ebola, food insecurity is mainly due to effects of the outbreak on economic activity, productivity, and livelihoods (WFP/FAO/IFAD/Government, 01/07/2015). Food security is expected to improve between October and December, when most households will face Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food security outcomes (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food availability

Exports of agricultural products to neighbouring countries remain low due to fears of Ebola (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015). The impact of Ebola on export earnings has compromised Guinea’s ability to import more; international support is required to cover a gap of 44,000 metric tons of rice and wheat (as compared to the 2015 import requirements) (FAO, 07/08/2015).

The Ebola outbreak resulted in serious shocks to the agriculture and food sectors in 2014, as it disrupted crop maintenance and harvesting through labour shortages. Food production dropped by 3% compared to 2013; rice production in particular dropped by 4% (FAO, 07/08/2015). Better prospects are expected for the October 2015 harvest, which will improve food security and livelihoods (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Livelihoods

Despite significant improvements, use of coping mechanisms remains higher in Guinea than in Sierra Leone and Liberia. Nzerekore, which was most affected by quarantines during the Ebola outbreak, has particularly high levels; they are also elevated in Faranah and Kankan (WFP, 31/07/2015).

Income from atypical labour sources remains limited due to reduced market activity and households’ poor purchasing power (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). Households that have lost members to Ebola continue to see a decrease in revenue (WFP/FAO/IFAD/Government, 01/07/2015).

Health

The availability and accessibility of health services have fallen as resources have been redirected to the Ebola response, and the number of staff has fallen. Ebola cases are still reported, as well as continuing risks of hidden transmission. Measles and malaria cases remain high, while cholera prevention measures remain critical.
Availability and accessibility of maternal health services and child vaccination programmes have been most affected (OCHA, 09/07/2015). A 31% decline in maternal, newborn and child health service outpatients was reported between October and December 2013 and 2014, particularly in hospitals (PLOS, 04/08/2015). The Ebola virus poses a significant risk to pregnant women (WHO, 02/09/2015).

Health worker numbers have fallen by around 1.8% due to Ebola (from the 5,395 registered before the outbreak), and could result in a 38% increase in maternal mortality rates (AFP, 08/07/2015; World Bank, 08/07/2015). 196 Ebola cases have been reported among health workers, including 98 deaths (WHO, 26/08/2015).

As of 20 September, 3,800 cumulative confirmed, probable, and suspected Ebola cases, including 2,532 deaths, have been reported in Guinea. Two new cases were reported from Conakry and Forecariah in the week to 20 September, including one death. Neither were registered as contacts. 537 contacts have been identified in association with these two cases (WHO, 23/09/2015). A case confirmed from the Ratoma area of Conakry on 1 September was briefly lost to follow-up after developing early symptoms, posing a high risk of transmission (WHO, 16/09/2015).

Inadequate management and detection of new cases, due in part to a lack of trust in the response and incomplete contact tracing have been reported: 11% of registered contacts were not monitored over 7–20 September. This increases the risk of hidden transmission (WHO, 16/09/2015).

Ebola survivors report persistent physical pain, adverse psychological effects, community stigmatisation and re-integration difficulties, and diminished livelihoods (WHO, 31/07/2015).

Containment measures: Authorities have deployed 600 trained police officers to monitor traffic in the capital and surrounding areas to ensure that drivers are not transporting dead bodies, and to ensure that burials are conducted safely (WHO/OCHA, 18/08/2015). Health controls are also taking place at the country’s entry points (IOM, 15/09/2015). Experimental vaccination is ongoing, targeting all contacts of Ebola cases, and their own contacts (OCHA/WHO, 08/09/2015).

Although improvements in infection-control behaviors have been reported, many staff remain untrained (PLOS, 04/08/2015). Refusals to comply with WASH procedures at major transport hubs and thoroughfares, as well as unsafe burials, continue to be reported (WHO, 23/09/2015; UNICEF, 02/09/2015).

Malaria

Untreated malaria has surged, due to fear from the Ebola epidemic, and has probably caused many more deaths than Ebola. At the height of the outbreak (December 2014), the number of malaria patients receiving oral and injectible medication compared to 2011 decreased by 24% and 30%, respectively. The decrease was largest in Ebola-affected areas. Extrapolation of the results indicates an estimated 74,000 malaria cases have gone untreated (AFP, 23/06/2015).

Polio

The Government announced an alert to practice enhanced precautions for polio, after a person was diagnosed in Mali, having come from Guinea (local media, 21/09/2015). Guinea’s polio vaccination coverage fell from 63% to 42% in 2014 due to overwhelmed services linked to the Ebola outbreak (Reuters, 07/09/2015).

Nutrition

Nearly 76,700 people are estimated to suffer from SAM in 2015, compared to a July prediction of 36,000 for the year (WHO/OCHA, 01/09/2015; OCHA, 09/07/2015). GAM is most severe in Kankan region (9.3%), followed by Faranah (8.7%), and Boke (8.3%) (OCHA, 01/09/2015).

Protection

Protection issues have emerged with the Ebola outbreak, including linked to children, health workers, and survivors, and gender-based violence.

Excessive use of force by Guinea’s security forces was reported in their response to election-related opposition protests in April and May (HRW, 30/07/2015).

Children

As of 22 September, 6,193 children have been identified as having lost one or both

Regional Outbreak

28,295 cumulative confirmed, probable, and suspected Ebola cases have been reported across Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, including 11,295 deaths (WHO, 23/09/2015).

Porous borders between Sierra Leone and Guinea are posing a challenge to surveillance, and empowering county authorities to improve surveillance at points of entry along the borders remains a priority (OCHA/UNCR, 06/08/2015; UNMEER, 15/04/2015). Officials from both countries have established screening and information-sharing protocols between areas of active Ebola transmission (UNMEER, 07/04/2015; 15/04/2015). Cross-border movements have increased to 2,100 per day as Sierra Leone lifted some Ebola restrictions, raising the risk of rapid spread of the virus (WHO/OCHA, 25/08/2015).

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Children

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parents to Ebola (WHO/OCHA, 22/09/2015). Some have had to leave school and assume responsibilities as head of household. Some Ebola-survivor children, or children whose family had been infected, also suffer from stigmatisation within their families and communities (Protection Cluster, 23/09/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Health workers and survivors are stigmatised (MSF, 26/01/2015). There are reports of recovered patients not being accepted into their communities, despite awareness-raising activities in the community (USAID, 18/03/2015).

Gender

Increases in cases of SGBV have been reported in certain areas with a high Ebola caseload, particularly in Nzerekore, where the number of reports increased four-fold, and Kankan, where rape specifically had doubled in 2014, compared to 2013 (OCHA, 09/07/2015).

Updated: 24/09/2015

MADAGASCAR DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

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. The worst affected regions are Androy and Anosy, which have been impacted by drought (FEWSNET, 19/08/2015).

Severe drought conditions, low food availability and reduced effectiveness of coping strategies are causing an increase in food insecurity. The food security situation will deteriorate for many households between August–February if current trends continue. An increase in the number of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity outcomes is expected, particularly in Tsihombe and Ambovombe (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food availability

The worst drought conditions in six years have led to below-average crop production, and early exhaustion of food stocks (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, 15/06/2015; FAO, 11/05/2015). Agricultural production fell, due to a prolonged dry spell from mid-January to May. This is the third consecutive annual decrease, with production now at a five-year low: 9% less rice has been produced than average, 11% less maize, and 13% less cassava (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, 15/06/2015; FAO, 11/05/2015). Maize production is lowest in Tsihombe and Ambovombe districts, Androy Region. 20% of households in these districts are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between September and December 2015 (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food access

In markets, staple food prices have doubled in the worst-affected regions of Androy and Anosy, and have increased 40% nationally. Early exhaustion of food stocks, reduced coping capacity due to the previous lean season, abnormally high household food prices, and lack of livelihood opportunities will likely result in Stressed (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes for households in the southern regions of Atsimo-Andrefana and Androy (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). Food security is further deteriorated because last year’s lean season has reduced the effectiveness of coping strategies (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, and others, 15/06/2015; FAO, 11/05/2015).

Health

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On 17 August, pneumonic plague was recorded in Moramanga district. As of 30 August, 14 cases and 10 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 Tsiroanomandidy district, peaked in November 2014 and killed 81 people. There were 482 cases in total in 2014 (WHO, 05/2015).

Updated: 23/09/2015

UGANDA DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

13 September: Four out of 10 villages that are hosting Burundian refugees have water shortages. Both the refugee and host community have less than 15L of water per person per day (UNHCR, 13/09/2015).

31 August: In Karamoja, 24% of households are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, and 6% are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). 30% of households were found to be engaging in emergency negative coping strategies (WFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- 187,809 DRC refugees, 183,460 South Sudanese refugees, and 24,782 refugees from Burundi, are in Uganda (UNHCR, 26/08/2015; 20/08/2015; 31/07/2015).

- 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). 10,420 refugees are in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Southwestern Uganda, 223 in Kyaka II (Kyenjojo district in Western Uganda), 130 in Oruchinga in Southern Uganda, 206 in Kisoro Transit Centre in Southwestern Uganda, and 2,715 are reported to be hosted in Kampala’s urban areas (UNHCR, 27/08/2015). As of 16 September, in response to the reduce follow of new arrivals, the response plan has revised its total of expected refugees from Burundi to arrive by December 2015 from 30,000 to 20,000 (UNHCR 16/09/2015).

- 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

At least 50 Ugandan soldiers belonging to the AMISOM peacekeeping contingent were killed in Mogadishu, Somalia, on 1 September. Another 50 are reported to be missing (HUBII, 02/09/2015)

The Ugandan national forces has intervened in disputes at the border with South Sudan. Communities in Lamwo district were in conflict with people in Eastern Equatoria, Sudan (International Crisis Group, 01/09/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

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

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 12 August, Uganda is hosting more than 480,000 refugees (WFP, 12/08/2015). Refugees are hosted in settlements in Adjumani, Kiyandongo, 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 September, there are 25,156 refugees from Burundi. 13,964 have arrived since 1 January 2015 (UNHCR, 13/09/2015). 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). 10,420 refugees are in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Southwestern Uganda, 223 in Kyaka II (Kyenjojo district in Western Uganda), 130 in Oruchinga in Southern Uganda, 206 in Kisoro Transit Centre in Southwestern Uganda, and 2,715 are reported to be hosted in Kampala’s urban areas (UNHCR, 27/08/2015). As of 16 September, in response to the reduce follow of new arrivals, the response plan has revised its total of expected refugees from Burundi to arrive by December 2015 from 30,000 to 20,000 (UNHCR 16/09/2015).

South Sudan: As of 28 August, 161,196 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in
South Sudan:
As of 28 August, 161,196 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Uganda since December 2013 (UNHCR 28/08/2015). The total number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda is 186,196 and is expected to reach 210,000 by the end of 2015 (WFP, 11/08/2015; UNHCR 28/08/2015). 67% are children (UNHCR, UNICEF, et al., 28/08/2015).

4% of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda are identified as people with specific needs, including elderly, disabled, 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).

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

DRC:
As of 30 July, 187,809 refugees are from DRC: 18,479 arrived in the first half of 2015 (UNHCR 31/07/2015).

Humanitarian access
A proposed new law would give Ugandan authorities the right to supervise, approve, inspect, and dissolve all NGOs working in Uganda, in addition to imposing severe criminal penalties for violations (IRIN, 10/07/2015).

Security and physical constraints
According to Human Rights Watch, NGOs working on politically sensitive issues have reportedly been subject to intimidation and threats (HRW, 02/07/2015).

Food security and livelihoods
Karamoja is the most food insecure region in Uganda. 24% of households in Karamoja are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, and 6% are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) 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 engaging in emergency negative coping strategies in Karamoja (WFP, 31/08/2015).

The cost of the minimum food basket has increased by more than 10%. The depreciation of the national currency, together with an increase in fuel prices and in maize exports to South Sudan led to an increase in seasonally adjusted prices for cassava flour (+10%), maize flour (+4%), millet (+9%) and beans (+19%) (WFP, 30/07/2015). 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).

Food availability
Crop production in Karamoja is expected to suffer a three-month delay and to be 20–30% of the normal average. The harvest is likely to start in September, however it will not adequately refill households’ stocks. Early depletion and poor food access are likely to occur through December (FEWSNET 31/08/2015).

Food access
Based on the current status of funding, Uganda is expected to face a breakdown in the provision of food and humanitarian assistance after August 2015 (WFP, 11/08/2015).

Health
Cholera
Disaster-prone areas of east Africa, including Kasese district in Uganda, are expected to have a high incidence of cholera this year due to flooding caused by El Niño (local media, 22/08/2015). As of 15 July, 246 cumulative cholera cases had been reported in Kasese district since March, including two deaths (CFR 0.8%). In the week to 4 July, ten new cases were reported (Government, 20/07/2015). As of 11 August, a cholera outbreak with 29 confirmed cases has been reported in Arua district; the refugees in the area have not been affected (WFP, 11/08/2015).

Malaria
The Ministry of Health has confirmed a malaria outbreak, which is affecting ten districts in the north (AllAfrica, 16/07/2015). One source indicates 375,000 cases in total and 165 deaths over May–July (New Vision, 23/07/2015). In 2014, 1.5 million malaria cases were in Uganda (WHO, 2014).

In Gulu district, 76,904 patients were diagnosed with malaria between April and July: 3,398 were hospitalised and 62 died. In the district, the number of malaria cases per day per medical facility rose from 40 in May to 100 in July (Acholi Times, 30/07/2015, The Independent–Uganda, 10/08/2015). Kitgum district has reported 5,382 cases (AllAfrica, 16/07/2015).

Malaria is still reported as the leading cause of morbidity among refugees, yet only 23.3% of those requiring treatment for malaria receive it (UNHCR, 22/07/2015).
Measles
The number of measles cases is increasing in Kampala and Kamwenge. Kamwenge has confirmed a measles outbreak. Both districts reported more than ten cases in the week to 4 July (Government, 20/07/2015).

Typhoid
More than 10,230 cases of typhoid have been confirmed in Kampala, Wakiso, and Mukono districts in 2015, due to consumption of contaminated water. Six deaths have been reported. The outbreak was declared under control on 16 June (local media, 16/06/015). The number of cases continues to decline, with 2,245 reported in the week to 4 July, compared to 2,400 cases the previous week. Kampala reported the highest number of cases, with 421 cases in one week (Government, 20/07/2015).

Nutrition
Food availability is not a major issue in Uganda, however the use of food or food access can be inadequate in some areas. GAM is at critical levels (above 15%) in four out of seven districts in Karamoja and was above than 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%, according to a recent assessment. These are lower than the rates registered in the previous week, when GAM was 14.2%, and SAM 3.5% (UNHCR, 27/08/2015).

WASH
Four villages out of 10 that are hosting Burundians have water shortages. Refugees and host communities have less than 15 litres of water per person per day (UNHCR, 13/09/2015).

Shelter and NFI
Urgent food, NFI, and shelter needs have been identified within the new Mahiga site in Rwamwanja refugee settlement, Kamwenge district. There are 11,200 refugees in Mahiga and new arrivals continue to overstretch capacities (ACT, 05/06/2015).

Nakivale reception centre lacks separate cubicles for men and women: men, women, and youth share shelter space. Adolescent girls reported being sexually harassed in their sleep (UNICEF, 12/08/2015).

Education
In Isingoro district, the influx of Burundian refugees to Nakivale refugee settlement is expected to strain the resources of local schools (UNICEF, 17/06/2015).

58% of South Sudanese 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
Children
Among Burundian refugees, child labour is very common, with the majority of child workers employed in bricklaying, fish farming and stone quarrying.

Some children have reportedly been sexually abused during the flight from their country of origin (UNICEF, 12/08/2015).

Updated: 17/09/2015
20 September: One person was killed and three injured in a bomb attack in the district of Daman, in Kandahar (Afghanistan News).

20 September: At least 16 civilians were injured by a bomb attack in eastern Kunar province, near a power station, and five civilians were injured in a bomb attack in eastern Saibak, in the province of Samangan (San Francisco Chronicle).

19 September: Five police officers were killed by a roadside bomb in Zurmat district of Paktia province (DAWN).

KEY CONCERNS
- 947,870 IDPs (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).
- 282 civilians killed and 1,241 injured from complex and suicide attacks by anti-government forces, almost double the same period in 2014 (UNAMA, 11/08/2015).
- 1.5 million report severe food insecurity, more than in 2014. Over 200,000 are in immediate need of food assistance (FAO, 10/09/2015).

OVERVIEW
Natural disasters and armed conflicts in Afghanistan have caused humanitarian crisis. Assistance needs include food, healthcare, and protection.

The Afghan Government faces internal and external challenges to its capacity, legitimacy, and stability. The security environment is highly volatile and expected to deteriorate as international troops gradually withdraw from the country.

Politics and security
Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah were sworn in as Afghanistan’s President and Prime Minister, respectively, in September 2014 (Reuters, 29/09/2014). Rival presidential candidates in disputed elections, they have been struggling to maintain a unity government (Reuters, 08/07/2015; AFP, 26/09/2014). Leaders of ethnic groups have criticised Ghani for filling key government posts with Pashtun kin (Reuters, 08/07/2015; AFP, 26/09/2014). Parliamentary elections scheduled for April 2015 were postponed because of security concerns and disagreements over vote procedure.

Conflict developments
Afghan officials and Taliban met in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 8 July, but the confirmation of Taliban leader Mullah Omar’s death in 2013 brought the group to pull out of talks. Informal talks had not brought any breakthrough (AFP, 24/07/2015; 08/07/2015; The Telegraph, 30/07/2015). On 30 July, the Taliban communicated that Mullah Akhtar Mansour had been appointed leader (BBC, 30/07/2015). Mansour is considered to be in favour of peace talks, although some factions remain opposed (The Telegraph, 30/07/2015). On 13 August, Ayman al Zawahiri, leader of Al Qaeda, reportedly delivered an audio message containing his pledge of allegiance to the Taliban’s newly elected leader (The Guardian, 13/08/2015).

At 8 August, 1,523 civilian casualties (282 dead, 1,241 injured) have been reported so far in 2015, specifically from complex and suicide attacks launched by anti-government elements – almost double the same period in 2014 (UNAMA, 11/08/2015). The total reported number of conflict-related casualties so far in 2015 is 4,921 (1,592 dead, 3,329 injured), 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 in recent months, including Kunduz, Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Faryab, Baghlan, and Nuristan (Cordaid, 07/07/2015; RSF, 07/07/2015).

Kabul: On 22 August, a suicide attack on a NATO convoy killed at least 12 people, and injured at least 67 (New York Times, 22/08/2015). On 10 August, at least five people were killed and 16 injured by a suicide bomb at a checkpoint on the road towards the airport (BBC, 10/08/2015). On 7 August, at least 44 people were killed and hundreds injured by three attacks, following the change of leadership in the Taliban movement (ABC News, 07/08/2015). This was the highest number of civilian casualties caused reported in Afghanistan in one day, since the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) began recording such data in 2009 (UNAMA, 08/08/2015).

Kunduz: On 8 August, a bomb attack killed at least 29 people in Khanabad district (BBC, 09/08/2015). Intense fighting has been reported between Afghan forces and the Taliban in the province in recent months. An explosion in Kunduz city killed two and wounded four on 12 July (AFP, 12/07/2015).

Faryab: A suicide attack killed 19 people and injured at least 28 in Almar district on
22 July (UNAMA, 22/07/2015). Since early July the Taliban has seized more than 100 villages in Qasyar, Almar, and Shirin Tagab districts (local media, 16/07/2015). 40 houses in Almar were set on fire (UNAMA, 15/07/2015).

Baghlan: At least 20 people were killed and eight wounded in a gunfight at a wedding ceremony in Deh Salah district on 27 July (International Media, 27/07/2015). At least 40 civilians were wounded by a bomb attack targeting a mosque in Baghlan province on 13 July (UNAMA, 14/07/2015).

Other incidents: On 20 September, one person was killed and three were injured in a bomb attack in the district of Daman, in Kandahar (Afghanistan News, 20/09/2015). The same day, at least 16 civilians were injured by a bomb attack in eastern Kunar province, near a power station, and five civilians were injured in a bomb attack in eastern Saibak, in Samangan province (San Francisco Chronicle 20/09/2015). On 19 September, five police officers were killed by a roadside bomb in Zurmat district of Paktia province (DAWN, 20/09/2015). On 14 September, Taliban fighters stormed a prison in the city of Ghazni. 355 prisoners were freed, including 148 that were charged with national and international security crimes (The Guardian, 14/09/2015). WFP reported that five of its trucks were lost, following an attack on a convoy on 11 September in Yaftal-i Sufla, Badakshan province (WFP, 13/09/2015).

On 5 September, 13 people belonging to the Shi’ite Hazara minority were killed by gunmen in the Zari district of Balkh province (DAWN, 05/09/2015). 12 Hazaras have been kidnapped and four killed in Balkh in the past month (Reuters, 05/09/2015). On 3 September, hundreds of schoolgirls had to be admitted to hospital after inhaling a poisonous gas. This was reportedly the third such incident in the province in the first week of September (Voice of America, 03/09/2015).

Stakeholders

Taliban

Remote parts of southern and southeastern Afghanistan, near the border with Pakistan, remain under Taliban control. The group has intensified attacks since April, especially in the north, in particular in Badakhshan and Faryab (local media, 16/07/2015; Al Jazeera, 13/06/2015). It is increasingly financed by criminal enterprises including heroin laboratories, illegal mining, and kidnapping (UNSC, 02/02/2015).

Islamic State (IS)

Militants fighting under the IS banner in Afghanistan, including an unknown number of Taliban defectors and foreign fighters, have reportedly seized territory from the Taliban in at least six of Nangarhar’s 21 districts. Uncertainty remains regarding their links with IS in the Middle East (Reuters, 29/06/2015).

International military presence

NATO formally ended its combat mission in Afghanistan on 31 December 2014, moving to the Resolute Support mission, comprising some 6,800 US troops and more than 6,300 soldiers from other member states as of June 2015. The focus of the mission is on supporting Afghan forces’ fight against the Taliban, along with US counter-terrorism operations (Reuters, 01/01/2015; NATO 06/2015).

Afghan National Security Forces

The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) are composed by around 350,000 personnel, including soldiers, police, and air forces personnel. The ANSF includes: the Afghan National Army (ANA), the Afghan National Police (ANP), the Afghan Uniform Police (AUP), the Afghan Border Police (ABP), and the Afghan Highway Police (British Army, 2015).

Pro-Government Militias

In Khanabad district, Kunduz province, the membership of pro-government militias has grown to 3,000 this year, 1,000 more than last year, according to the district governor Hayatullah Amiri. Civilians reported a rise in abuse by these groups, including extortion, theft, and assault (IRIN, 07/09/2015).

Natural disasters

The proportion of households affected by natural disasters has decreased to 6% in 2015, from 10% in 2014 (Food Security Cluster, 31/08/2015). 107,451 people have been affected by floods, landslides and heavy snowfall in 2015, mostly in February; 513 people were killed, and 14,460 houses damaged or destroyed. Badghis, Faryab, and Nangarhar provinces were most affected (OCHA/IOM, 02/07/2015). In July, 33 disaster events triggered by natural hazards were reported in 18 provinces, with around 17,700 individuals affected (IOM & USAID, 01/08/2015).

Floods

Floods in July affected several areas. Many households in remote districts of Badakhshan province were impacted and river water, due to river bank erosion, displaced 3,830 people. Floods also damaged roads, agricultural land and irrigation canals affecting 1,297 families (around 9,470 people). In the north, the Amu Darya River overflowed, causing severe flooding that damaged cultivable land, houses, and irrigation canals. In Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, and Nuristan provinces, in eastern...
Afghanistan, more than 200 hectares of agricultural land and 10 irrigation canals were washed out by floods (Food Security Cluster, 06/08/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

Increasing insecurity has led to a rise in internal displacement. As of end June, 947,870 IDPs were recorded, compared to 805,409 in December 2014. 223,280 are in the south, 220,430 in the west, and 169,960 in the centre. At 8 August, 103,000 people have been displaced by the conflict so far in 2015, an increase of 43% compared to the same period in 2014 (OCHA, 18/08/2015). It is expected that the number of people displaced in 2015 will exceed that of 2014, and IDPs and returnees from Pakistan will not have access to enough humanitarian assistance (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015). Priority needs are for water, food, housing, and employment (IDMC, 16/06/2015; UNHCR 31/12/2014). The security context challenges access and identification of IDPs (UNCHR, 24/05/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

Displacement from Pakistan to Afghanistan’s Khost and Paktika provinces has been ongoing since mid-June 2014 and the beginning of military operations in Pakistan’s FATA region. As of 8 June, these provinces were hosting around 205,440 refugees from Pakistan, the majority in Khost (including 10,210 families in Gulan camp) (UNHCR, 11/06/2015). There are concerns about the host communities’ ability to support the refugee population, in particular in terms of food, shelter, and education (UNHCR, 15/06/2015). Between June 2014 and 23 August 2015, over 200,000 people resettled in Gurbuz district, in Khost province (UN, 23/08/2015).

An additional 600,000 Baloch refugees who have fled insurgency activities in Pakistan since 1986 are living in precarious conditions, notably in Nimroz (AAN, 31/12/2014).

Refugee returnees

As of 1 September, since January 2015, around 90,000 Afghan refugees have been forced to return from Pakistan due to lack of documentation. This is almost six times the number of returnees reported in the same period of 2014 (RFERL, 30/08/2015).

Returns have increased following security incidents in Pakistan, particularly the December 2014 Taliban attack in Peshawar. Returnees report an increasing number of protection issues as the main reasons for return: eviction notices by authorities, discrimination, movement restrictions, settlement closure, and harassment (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

The eastern region hosts almost 40% of undocumented returnees (Food Security Cluster, 31/07/2015). 30–40% of them are vulnerable and in need of assistance; 80% of Afghanistan is reportedly not safe for people to be sent back to (BBC, 16/07/2015; OCHA, 15/07/2015). In 2014, only 17,000 people returned from Pakistan (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

Refugees from Afghanistan in other countries

Each day, an estimated 7,000 Afghans are reported to apply for passports. Considering that in Afghanistan the passport is not regularly used for internal identification, but mostly as a document for travel, around 200,000 Afghans each month are estimated to plan on leaving Afghanistan (VOA, 07/09/2015).

At the end of August, around 2.5 million Afghan refugees are reported to be in Pakistan. Over 1 million of these are unregistered (RFERL, 30/08/2015). In Sindh, only 67,000 of an estimated one million Afghan refugees are reported to be registered (DAWN, 31/08/2015). Some Afghan refugees have reported harassment in Pakistan, and not being any safer condition than in Afghanistan. Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have recently deteriorated, after Afghani officials accused Pakistan of supporting terrorist activities on Afghan territory. This deterioration is being highlighted by the reported increase in issues with Afghan refugees (Thomson Reuters Foundation, 03/09/2015). In August, the government of Afghanistan requested that Pakistan allow 1.5 million registered Afghan refugees to stay on its territory for another two years (ALHASAN, 24/08/2015).

Tens of thousands of Afghan refugees have crossed into Europe in 2015 (IOM, 20/08/2015). 50,177 Afghans are reported to have reached Greece between 1 January and 31 August. As of 16 September, Afghans were reported to make up 19% of more than 90,000 refugees who have reached Greek islands of Greece since 1 September (UNHCR, 16/09/2015).

Humanitarian access

Planning figures are for 6.9 million Afghans in need of humanitarian aid in 2015.
including 2.8 million children, compared to 7.4 million in 2014 (UNICEF, 21/01/2015). Humanitarian access is a key operational concern: tens of thousands of civilians remain trapped in conflict zones as of end June (USAID, 02/07/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Since the beginning of the year, as of 17 August, 33 aid workers were reported to have been victims of attacks in the country; 20 national aid workers were killed, two were wounded, and seven were kidnapped. Four international aid workers were also kidnapped in 2015 (Aid Workers Security Database, 17/08/2015). 14 aid workers were killed in 27 incidents against national and international organisations in June, including nine national NGO workers in Balk province on 2 June, and five incidents involving health facilities and health staff (OCHA, 15/07/2015; Reuters, 02/06/2015). 11 aid workers were killed in 21 incidents involving violence against humanitarian staff or damage to NGO facilities in May (USAID; 02/07/2015).

In 2014, 57 aid workers were killed in Afghanistan (Reuters, 17/08/2015).

Security and physical constraints

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

Food security and livelihoods

A May-June seasonal food security assessment indicated worsening food security among urban households. 13% of households indicated food insecurity as a primary issue, compared to the 3% of 2014 (Food Security Cluster, 31/08/2015). 5.9% of people (1.5 million) report severe food insecurity compared to 4.7% in 2014. 7.3 million people are reported to be moderately food insecure. Additionally, female-headed households are reported to be 50% more likely to be food insecure than others, due to the generally much lower income and consequent poorer diet. The food security situation for IDPs is also worsening, with around 200,000 people in need of immediate assistance (FAO, 10/09/2015).

Some households suffering major crop losses and most IDPs displaced by recent floods are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015). In the northern Balkh, Faryab, Samangan and Saripul provinces, 80,654 people are in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) (Food Security Cluster, 06/08/2015). An estimated 500,000 to 990,000 people will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security or worse by November 2015 (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015).

Food availability

Severe food gaps are reported in 14 villages in Arghanjkhah district of Badakhshan, affecting 17,940 people (Food Security Cluster/USAID, 14/07/2015). The 2015 wheat harvest is expected to be better than the last two years, except in Ghazni, Bamyan, Daikundy, Kandahar, Hilamand, Zabul, Uruzgan, Paktya, Paktika, and Khost (FAO, 03/07/2015; FEWSNET/WFP, 07/06/2015).

Livelihoods

Refugees in Khost and Paktika have exhausted short-term coping mechanisms and need livelihood opportunities to face long-term displacement (UNHCR, 26/05/2015).

Below-average precipitation and high temperatures have made pasture conditions worse than normal, impacting pastoral livelihoods (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

Health

Healthcare availability and access

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

Maternal health

As of 28 August 2015, the Maternal Mortality Ratio in Afghanistan is reported to be still very high, with an average of 400 deaths per 100,000 live births (WHO, 28/08/2015).

Mental health

Women have reduced access to education, health and livelihood activities and face significant unmet mental health needs (NRC, 23/03/2015).

Measles

In the first quarter of 2015, 445 laboratory-confirmed cases of measles were reported, compared to 581 cases in all of 2014 (WHO, 26/04/2015). So far, 12 confirmed outbreaks have occurred in 2015, according to the Afghan Ministry of Public Health (SalamWatandar, 25/07/2015).

Polio

In the week between 22 and 28 August, a new case of polio was confirmed in the Achin district of Nangarhar (GPEI, 26/08/2015). Nine cases have been recorded so far.
Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis is a high burden for Afghanistan, but many new cases were missed in 2014 due to lack of close monitoring (Government, 24/03/2015).

Nutrition

48,000 children under five die of malnutrition each year (Government, 04/08/2015).

Assessments performed in Golan refugee camp in Khost province found that the prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) is 12.3%, and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) is 3.8%. In the province of Paktika, a SMART in May 2015, found 7.8% GAM and 0.8% SAM in five districts (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). In 2012, the Afghanistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) found that the GAM rate was around 18% and the SAM was around 11.3% (OCHA, 30/06/2012).

WASH

1.9 million Afghans are in need of better access to safe WASH facilities (UNICEF, 21/01/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

A growing number of IDPs live in informal settlements in major Afghan urban centres, in substandard and crowded accommodation, with insufficient WASH facilities, food, education, and employment opportunities (NRC, 23/03/2015).

Shelter

1,300 people in informal settlements in Kabul received eviction warnings for end June. 40,000 people remain in 50 informal settlements in Kabul (USAID, 02/07/2015).

Education

Access and learning environment

In provinces most affected by fighting, schools have closed over the fear that students might get caught in crossfire. In northern Baghlan at least 18 schools were closed in May (Reuters, 31/05/2015). As of 24 July, over 100 education facilities were reported closed in Helmand due to security threats (Tolonews, 24/07/2015).

Teaching and learning

Educational facilities in Khost are overstretched, with 344 schools employing 6,000 teachers and teaching around 360,000 children. There are 50,000 school-aged refugee children in Khost (Institute for War and Peace Reporting, 05/11/2014). Refugees have language barriers (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

Protection

Afghan local police have reportedly been involved in intimidation, physical abuse or violence, bribe-taking, salary fraud, and theft. Incidents of rape, drug trafficking, drug abuse and the selling or renting of local police weapons and vehicles have also been reported (ICG, 05/06/2015). In the first six months of 2015 UNAMA reported a 23% increase in the casualties among women and a 13% increase in the casualties among children, compared to the previous year (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Mines and ERW

According to a UNAMA report, in the first six months of 2015, 22% of civilian casualties in Afghanistan were caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) (US Ministry of Defense, 04/09/2015).

559km² (4,321 hazardous areas) are contaminated by minefields and explosive remnants of war (ERW). In 2015, a monthly average of 103 total casualties from mines, IEDs, and ERW are reported (UNMAS/MAPA, 30/06/2015).

Gender

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

Women have particularly reduced access to education, health, and livelihood opportunities (NRC, 23/03/2015).

Children

40 reports of sexual violence against children, involving in all 27 boys and 24 girls, were registered by UNAMA between September 2010 and December 2014 (UNAMA, 24/08/2015).

The Afghan national and local police and three armed groups (Taliban, Haqqani Network, and Hezb-e-Islami) have been listed for recruitment and use of children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict 02/05/2015). Between September 2010 and
December 2014, 2,302 children were killed and 5,047 wounded. In the same period, 560 children were recruited for support and combat roles (UNAMA, 24/08/2015). Children have also been used as suicide bombers by armed groups (UNSC, 15/05/2015). Between September 2010 and December 2014, 2,302 children were killed and 5,047 wounded. In the same period, 560 children were recruited for support and combat roles (UNAMA, 24/08/2015). Children have also been used as suicide bombers by armed groups (UNSC, 15/05/2015). Between September 2010 and December 2014, 20 boys were killed carrying out suicide attacks (UNAMA, 24/08/2015).

Updated: 21/09/2015

Iraq conflict, internal unrest, displacement

For the latest Briefing Notes, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

For information relating to the Syria crisis, see SNAP’s latest reports.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

27 September: Iraq announced it would be sharing security and intelligence information with Syria, Russia, and Iran to help combat Islamic State (New York Times).

23 September: At least 121 cholera cases have been confirmed along the Euphrates River since an outbreak was declared on 15 September (Reuters).

21 September: Four explosions across Baghdad killed at least 17 and wounded 44 (Reuters, AFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- 585 civilians were killed and 1,103 injured in conflict-related violence in August, bringing total civilian casualties to 15,551 for 2015 (UNAMI, 01/09/2015).

- 8.6 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 3.2 million IDPs (OCHA, 18/08/2015).

- Access continues to be severely constrained in large parts of Anbar, Salah al Din, Diyala, Kirkuk, and Nineawa (OCHA, 26/07/2015). Protection is a key concern.

- 248,503 registered Syrian refugees are in Iraq; 42% are children (UNHCR, 13/09/2015, 16/08/2015).

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

Political instability and insecurity and the rise of Islamic State are the main drivers of the crisis in Iraq. In June 2014, IS seized Iraq’s second largest city, Mosul, in less than 24 hours, and went on to capture swathes of Anbar, Ninewa, and Salah al Din governorates.

More than 15,551 conflict-related civilian casualties have been recorded in 2015, including 585 killed and 1,103 injured in August (UNAMI, 01/09/2015). Total casualties for August were the lowest since March, after high numbers of civilian casualties caused by IEDs were reported in the last weeks of July. Reports of possible use of chemical weapons by non-state actors in August are a serious concern (OPCW, 17/08/2015; OHCHR, 28/07/2015). Casualty numbers are hard to verify in conflict areas.

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).

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, and a plan for national reconciliation is under consultation (UNAMI, 22/07/2015). While trying to balance sectarian tensions inside the country, Abadi has been seeking international support in the fight against Islamic State (IS) (Foreign Affairs, 16/01/2015).

Widespread protests against perceived corruption and rising unemployment took place in July amid record temperatures and electricity cuts. The protests led to a number of government reforms, including the elimination of certain senior government positions, ending sectarian party quotas at the regional level, and reopening corruption investigations (ALJ, 11/08/2015). Demonstrations continued on Friday 18 September in Babil, Baghdad, Basra, Diyala, Dhi Qar, Diwaniya, Karbala, Maysan, Muthanna, Najaf, and Wasit (ISW, 21/09/2015). On 9 September, Abadi dismissed 123 senior officials (ISW, 10/09/2015).
**Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I):** KR-I President Masoud Barzani’s extended term expired on 20 August, however he continues to rule, leaving KR-I in a legal vacuum that parties are still trying to resolve. Opposition parties are reasserting objections to the political dominance of Barzani’s Kurdistan Democratic Party (ISW, 20/08/2015; AFP, 20/08/2015). Ongoing tensions between KR-I and the Iraqi Central Government around oil revenues since late January have affected infrastructure works, public sector salaries, and market stability (UNHCR, 31/08/2015; UN, 13/07/2015; local media, 26/04/2015).

**Stakeholders**

**Islamic State (IS):** In June 2014, IS declared the establishment of a Sunni caliphate, covering the area between Aleppo in northern Syria and Diyala in eastern Iraq. Abu Bakr al Baghdadi was declared caliph and leader for Muslims worldwide. IS now controls nearly 300,000km² of territory in Syria and Iraq (AFP, 01/06/2015). It has attracted more than 20,000 foreign fighters (ICSR, 21/01/2015; NBC, 02/2015).

**Government forces:** Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), numbering around 48,000 troops, are involved in offensives around Baghdad and in central governorates (Foreign Policy, 28/03/2015). Falling global oil prices have led to significant budget deficits, hampering the government’s capacity to undertake military operations and finance basic services for affected populations (Deutsche Welle, 11/06/2015).

**Shi’a militias:** Three militias have been supporting government forces on all major fronts against IS since the beginning of the insurgency, as part of the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF): Asa’ib, Kita’ib Hezbollah, and the Badr Brigades. PMF number around 100,000 fighters, including 30,000 reportedly backed by the Iranian Government (Al Jazeera, 23/01/2015).

**KR-I forces:** The Kurdish Peshmerga, supported by Kurdish fighters from Syria and Turkey, are engaged in a counter-offensive against IS. Kurdish fighters receive training and equipment from multiple countries, including the United States (AFP).

**International forces:** In August 2014, US forces started airstrikes on IS locations. On 15 September, 30 additional countries pledged to help Iraq fight IS. Iran has dispatched members of its elite Revolutionary Guard and reportedly carried out airstrikes against IS (The Economist, 03/01/2015; The Guardian, 05/01/2015, 04/12/2014). Turkish aircraft have been striking PKK positions in northern Iraq since July 2015 (ISW, 21/09/2015; Reuters, 29/07/2015). On 27 September, Iraq announced it would be sharing security and intelligence information with Syria, Russia, and Iran to help combat IS (New York Times, 27/09/2015).

**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, recapturing populated areas of Diyala in January, and Al Baghdadi in Anbar early March (AFP, 26/01/2015; 08/03/2015). Peshmerga forces are fighting IS in Kirkuk.

**Baghdad:** Frequent attacks continue to hit Baghdad in September. On 21 September, four bombs exploded killing at least 17 and wounding 44 (Reuters, 21/09/2015; AFP, 29/09/2015). Three suicide attacks killed 32 people and wounded 68 on 17 September (Reuters, 17/09/2015). On 15 August, at least 65 were killed and 168 wounded in a single attack (AFP, 16/08/2015; 13/08/2015). During July, 76 people were killed and 188 injured in attacks in Baghdad: some were claimed by IS (AFP, 22/07/2015; 12/07/2015; Reuters, 04/07/2015).

**Anbar:** Iraqi forces and associated militias launched a second, large-scale military operation to retake Anbar from IS on 12 July, supported by coalition airstrikes. Fighting around Falluja quickly reached a stalemate, with IS planting booby traps around the city. ISF have made little progress in attempts to take back Ramadi, despite the town being a priority for coalition forces. Clashes were ongoing as of 25 September (ISW, 25/09/2015, 03/09/2015; ICG, 01/08/2015). On 25 August, ISF reportedly dislodged IS from Jubbata town in Baghdadi subdistrict (ISW, 25/08/2015).

**Diyala:** Attacks – most often bombings – are frequent. Two IS suicide attacks on Shia areas in and around Baquba killed at least 57 and wounded more than 80 on 11 August (Al Jazeera, 11/08/2015). An explosion on 27 July killed four and wounded ten in Abu Saida (AFP, 27/07/2015). A bombing in Mandal killed at least four on 21 July (AFP, 22/07/2015). At least 10 were killed and 16 wounded in attacks in Hudaib village on 20 July.

**Kirkuk:** Advances by Peshmerga in southwest Kirkuk displaced over 11,000 people in late August (IOM, 13/09/2015). Peshmerga and PMF began operations to dislodge IS from areas of southwestern Kirkuk in February (ISW, 18/03/2015).

**KR-I:** On 2 August, ten civilians were reportedly killed in Turkish airstrikes targeting militants of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in Zarkel village (AFP, 02/08/2015).

**Nineveh:** IS enjoys support in swathes of Nineveh 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). Heavy coalition airstrikes targeted areas around Mosul over 21–25 September (ISW, 25/09/2015).

**Salah al Din:** On 26 August PUK forces seized seven villages south of Daquq previously under IS control (ISW, 27/08/2015). At the end of August, IS retook the country’s largest oil refinery at Baiji, which it had lost months before (AFP, 02/09/2015, ISW, 20/08/2015; 08/05/2015). Fighting has been ongoing for 15 months and clashes continued through September (Reuters, 25/09/2015; ISW, 25/09/2015).

**Displacement**

...
There are more than 3.1 million IDPs and 248,503 Syrian refugees.

IDPs

As of 15 September, there are 3,182,736 IDPs in 3,430 locations in Iraq. Anbar hosts 584,748 IDPs, Baghdad 567,186, and Kirkuk 408,162. 26% of all IDPs were displaced in August (IOM, 15/09/2015, 09/09/2015).

69% of IDPs are living in private settings. 21% are in critical shelter arrangements, a 2% increase since mid-August. 22% of the IDPs in critical shelter arrangements are in Anbar, 18% in Dahuk, and 10% in Najaf. 8% of IDPs are in camps, mainly in KR-I (IOM, 09/09/2015). 35% of IDPs in critical shelter arrangements are under 15 years of age (IOM, 30/06/2015). The number and spread of IDPs pose a major challenge to needs assessment and assistance.

Anbar: More than 500,000 people were displaced from Anbar between April and August; nearly half are displaced within the governorate (IOM, 09/09/2015).

IDP returnees: As of 27 August, 358,866 IDPs have returned to their place of origin, most since mid-June. 51% returned to Salah al Din governorate and 36% to Tikrit district, primarily to Merkaz, Tikrit (IOM, 09/09/2015). Heavily disrupted basic services and infrastructure, mines, insecurity, and lost documentation increase risks for returnees (UNHCR, 15/04/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

248,503 Syrian refugees are registered in Iraq and 41,700 non-Syrian refugees (UNHCR, 13/09/2015, 23/04/2015).

Syrian refugees: As of 13 September, children make up 42% of all Syrian refugees in Iraq. KR-I hosts an estimated 97% of refugees, with 112,675 in Erbil, 97,691 in Dahuk, and 30,352 in Sulaymaniyah; 4,512 were last known to be in Anbar and 1,582 in Ninewa (UNHCR, 13/09/2015). A reduced number of arrivals has been reported since 2 June due to changes in admission procedures into KR-I (UNHCR, 31/07/2015). 35% of IDPs in critical shelter arrangements are under 15 years of age (IOM, 13/09/2015, 09/09/2015).

Approximately 15,500 Syrian refugees have returned to Syria in 2015 – 3,747 in August – in part because of the high cost of living and lack of employment opportunities in KR-I (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Iraqi refugees in neighbouring countries

Around 180,000 Iraqi refugees are thought to be residing in neighbouring countries, mostly in Turkey and Jordan (UNHCR, 04/06/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access to the estimated five million people in areas under armed opposition groups’ control is limited (OCHA, 12/08/2015). Several INGOs have suspended activities in IS-controlled areas, or provide emergency assistance through local partners. Long delays in obtaining clearance from Iraqi authorities also hinder access (OCHA, 05/12/2014). Anbar remains largely inaccessible due to ongoing military operations. Only 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. Bzibz bridge to Baghdad remains officially closed, although some exceptional medical cases have been allowed to pass (OCHA, 15/09/2015). On 11 September, 1,500 people seeking to leave areas affected by military operations in Kirkuk were stranded at Daqqu checkpoint in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 15/09/2015). On 23 August, local authorities in Kirkuk asked all IDPs from Diyala to leave the governorate within one month (31/08/2015). 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, 15/03/2015; 08/2015). 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). The situation is also worrying for more than 80,000 people who have limited access to services and commodities in Haditha, including food, safe water, health and electricity (OCHA, 25/08/2015, 18/08/2015).

Security and physical constraints

High insecurity and unexploded ordnance (UXO) hinder access to affected populations (OCHA, 05/12/2014). IEDs are also a concern for returnees to recaptured areas (OCHA, 14/07/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

4.4 million people need food assistance (OCHA/UNCT, 27/08/2015).

Food availability

The October–November 2014 and April–May 2015 agricultural seasons were significantly affected by conflict, especially in major producing areas such as Salah al Din, Ninewa, and Anbar; government seed distributions were delayed end 2014, impacting planting (FAO, 27/05/2015). Below-average wheat production is expected in 2015 (OCHA, 14/07/2015). IS controls major wheat storage silos in Ninewa and Salah al Din (FAO, 10/02/2015).

Food access

Household food consumption improved in July compared to June, particularly among IDPs, with 8.4% of IDP households reporting poor or borderline food consumption in July, compared to 21% in June. This is a departure from the deteriorating trend of April–June. However, coping mechanisms were at an all-time high in July, with 15.5% of respondents reporting having to resort to negative coping strategies. The changes are likely attributable in part to sharing food and eating well-balanced meals during the month of Ramadan, and the corresponding rise negative coping strategies indicate that food access continues to be an issue (WFP, 15/09/2015).

Food prices are particularly high in Anbar, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Salah al Din, and Dahuk due to conflict and blocked supply lines. In Anbar, the percentage of households reporting poor and borderline food consumption rose from 6% to 18% between April and June (WFP, 01/08/2015). However, the cost of a food basket decreased in Anbar by 22% in July. Kirkuk (13%) Diyala (9%) and Salah al Din (5%) also saw decreases, while in Ninewa the cost of a food basket increased by 8%. In some conflict-affected districts of Anbar, the cost of a basic food basket was 35-40% higher than the overall average for the governorate, particularly in Haditha, where it is reported to be five times the average for the governorate (WFP, 15/09/2015).

Refugees: 860 Syrian refugees in camps are estimated to be food insecure (WFP, 31/07/2015). Vulnerability-based assistance to Syrian refugees was introduced in August: 50,000 previously assisted refugees will no longer receive food vouchers; the monthly voucher value will reduce to USD 10 per person for over 47,000 moderately vulnerable refugees, while 1,000 considered the most vulnerable will continue to receive USD 19 (WFP, 06/08/2015).

Livelihoods

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). IDPs’ financial conditions are deteriorating, and labour opportunities and wage rates are low in conflict and IS-held areas (UNHCR, 15/03/2015; OCHA, 02/03/2015; WFP, 11/03/2015).

Health

More than 7.8 million people need health support, 89% of whom are in critical need (WHO/Gol, 07/09/2015). 84% of health programmes supported by humanitarian agencies have shut down due to funding shortfalls, affecting more than three million people (WHO, 04/08/2015).

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).

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 has increased at a rate of 6% since the beginning of June due to poor WASH conditions (WHO/Gol, 11/09/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

At least 14 major hospitals and more than 170 other health facilities are non-functional or destroyed. In some areas, 80% of health facilities are non-functional. 50% of health personnel have left Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al Din, and Diyala governorates (Health Cluster, 13/09/2015).

Anbar: Health capacities are severely strained in Haditha city and al Baghdadi subdistrict, with at least six out of 14 primary health care centres not functioning due to damage in Haditha city, and two out of three in al Baghdadi (WHO, 11/08/2015). Most health facilities in Khalidiya are reported closed since the departure of health workers in June (WHO, 07/06/2015). Ramadi’s main hospital came under IS control on 16 May, and the city hospital in Hit district is no longer accessible for civilians (OCHA, 17/05/2015; 05/05/2015). Shortages of fuel have affected healthcare delivery, leading to critical shortages of medicine.
**Ninewa:** The majority of health facilities in Sinjar remained closed end June due to infrastructure damage, and lack of staff and medical equipment (WHO, 28/06/2015).

**Refugees:** 20% of the non-camp population has difficulty accessing health services, due to cost and perceived availability. Access to specialised primary services, including mental healthcare and control of communicable diseases, remain priorities, especially outside camps (WHO/UNHCR, 30/06/2015; 28/02/2015).

**Education**

980 suspected measles cases have been recorded so far in 2015, including 544 in Baghdad and 115 Babylon; 493 cases were suspected during the same period in 2013, and 563 in 2014 (WHO, 28/08/2015; 01/08/2015).

**Cholera**

Iraq’s health ministry declared a cholera outbreak on 15 September after the illness was detected in Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad. By 23 September, at least 121 cases had been confirmed in governorates along the Euphrates River, especially Babel (ECHO, 23/09/2015; Reuters, 23/09/2015). The use of unsafe water sources for drinking and farming contributed to the outbreak (Reuters, 23/09/2015).

**WASH**

7.1 million people need WASH support, including 4.1 million in critical need (OCHA, 14/07/2015). Extreme temperatures are aggravating the already critical water access problem in areas affected by conflict or controlled by armed groups (OCHA, 11/08/2015). At least 30% of WASH programmes supported by humanitarian agencies have shut down, leaving 1.8 million without access to WASH services (UN, 27/07/2015).

Urgent WASH support is required for at least 26,100 IDPs in Habbaniya and 6,000 in Rahaliya in Anbar, 39,000 returnees in Tikrit and Samarra in Salah al Din, and for 5,300 returnees to Muqdadiya district in Diyala; shortages of fuel and chlorine are reported in Falluja, undermining efficient water supplies to displaced populations (OCHA, 18/08/2015; 11/08/2015; 14/07/2015). Purification materials are lacking or unavailable in Anbar, Salah al Din, Baghdad and Najaf, leaving a critical gap during the cholera season (OCHA, 15/08/2015).

**Refugees:** The operation and maintenance of WASH facilities, and the delivery of WASH services in camps remain challenges. Transition to safe water supply and sanitation in Qushata, 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. This is threatening access to drinking water in Anbar and in Kerbala, Babylon, Najaf, and Qadisiyah (WHO, 28/06/2015). Defects in Khalidiya’s water network in Anbar have been reported (OCHA, 18/08/2015).

**Shelter and NFIs**

Around 2.9 million people require shelter and NFI support, mainly in non-camp settings in central and southern Iraq (OCHA/UNCT, 04/06/2015). The growing number of IDPs in critical shelter arrangements are of highest concern and are particularly affected by high summer temperatures (UNCHR, 31/07/2015; IOM, 30/06/2015).

13 camps are under construction in twelve governorates for an additional capacity of 346,995 people (UNHCR/CCCM, 11/08/2015).

Arbat IDP camp in Sulaymaniya hosts 13,000 people instead of the planned 4,800; access to basic services is of major concern. Close to 3,700 people have been relocated to the new Ashti IDP camp, and an additional 2,500 will be relocated in August (OCHA, 14/07/2015).

**Refugees:** Refugees are increasingly seeking to move to camps due to the high cost of living in KR-I and lack of livelihood opportunities for low to medium-skilled workers (DRC/UNDP, 31/07/2015; UNICEF 31/08/2015). 3,134 new or improved shelter plots are required in Erbil (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Non-camp refugee populations require shelter upgrading and community infrastructure support (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

**Education**

More than three million children did not attend the full 2014/2015 school year, a more than 650,000 who have received no schooling at all (UN, 30/06/2015). 55% of school-aged IDP children in camps are not enrolled in schools, and 70% of children out of camps (Education Cluster, 10/06/2015).

**Anbar:** More than 1,500 schools have been damaged or destroyed by conflict in the province (AFP, 03/08/2015).

**Refugees:** 68% of school-aged refugee children are attending school, including 74% in camps and 62% outside camps. Attendance in primary school in camps varies from 67% in Arbat to 95% in Kawergosk. Challenges include overcrowded classrooms, shortages of Syrian teachers, increasing demand for schooling, and insecurity. At least 50% of Syrian teachers have been unpaid since at least April, due to KR-I’s limited budget (UNICEF/Save the Children, 31/07/2015; UNICEF, 31/08/2015). Only 5% of 15-17 year olds attend formal education (UNICEF/Save the Children 31/08/2015).
Protection

IS has committed targeted attacks, killings, torture, rape, forced religious conversion, and child conscription. Sharia courts have been established in IS-controlled territories, carrying out extreme punishments against men, women, and children (UN, 19/03/2015; 20/01/2015). As many as 3,000–3,500 people, predominantly from the Yazidi community and other ethnic and religious groups, remain in IS captivity (UN, 13/07/2015; AFP, 24/09/2015). ISF and associated militias have allegedly carried out looting, killing, torture, and abduction during their counter-offensives against IS (Reuters, 04/04/2015; 21/03/2015; Amnesty, 02/04/2015).

Increasing violence and intimidation against media workers has been reported in IS-controlled areas, particularly in Ninewa governorate (UNESCO/UNAMI 01/09/2015). In Mosul alone, 40 journalists have been assassinated since IS took the city in June 2014 (IJS, 16/08/2015). There are also reports of security forces and unidentified gunmen threatening journalists covering the protests in Basra, Umm Quasr, and Hilla (ISW, 14/09/2015).

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).

Children

Around 2.4 million children are living in the most affected governorates of Iraq. Grave violations against children, including sexual violence, maiming, and forced recruitment, are prominent (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 20/06/2015). IS has reportedly sold children as sex slaves, is using minors as suicide bombers, and providing military training to schoolchildren in Syria and Iraq (AFP, 08/06/2015; OCHA, 06/02/2015). The group abducted 400 children in Anbar during the last week of May (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Child marriage is increasingly used as a strategy by families to protect young girls from sexual violence and deprivation (OCHA, 12/08/2015).

Refugees: 40% of Syrian refugees in Iraq are children (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). Child labour is affecting 16-30% of Syrian refugee children in Dahuk (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

Documentation

IDPs: Lack of documentation among IDPs is a key concern, especially as it is a prerequisite for residency permits and difficult to obtain outside a person’s area of origin: many children born in displacement lack birth registration, while up to 50% of IDP families are reportedly missing at least one important personal identity document (OCHA, 14/07/2015). There are reports of IDPs from Diyala and Kirkuk having their documentation confiscated and being forced to return to their province of origin (OCHA, 04/07/2015). Reports also highlight arrests of IDPs without documentation in Kirkuk (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Refugees: Residency permits in KR-I are only issued for 3-6 months, which has limited access to legal employment (DRC/UNDP, 31/07/2015). Many of the 37,500 Syrian refugee children aged 0–4 lack birth registration documents because their parents do not have any (UNHCR, 25/05/2015). Refugees in Al Obaidi camp in Anbar continue to lack access to legal documentation and assistance due to inaccessibility of government services (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

Gender

Accurate numbers of women and girls affected by abuse across Iraq are hard to obtain. Reports show an increase in sexual violence, abduction, trafficking, and forced recruitment of women. IS reportedly carried out systematic sexual violence against Yazidi women and girls in northern Iraq (HRW, 15/04/2015).

Mines and ERW

The Government estimates more than 1,730km² of land is contaminated by landmines and UXO. IS is reportedly planting more (MAG, 07/2015).

Updated: 29/09/2015

SYRIA DISPLACEMENT, CIVIL WAR

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

Updated: 29/09/2015

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

24 September: A six-month ceasefire has been agreed in Zabadani (Rural Damascus) and al Foua and Kefraya (Idleb), allowing for the evacuation of 10,000 civilians (AFP).

22 September: One in four schools has been destroyed, damaged, or is being used as shelter by IDPs (Education Cluster).
31 August: The availability of clean drinking water is less than one-third of pre-crisis levels (UNICEF).

KEY CONCERNS

- 11,000 people were killed in the first six months of 2015 (SNHR, 01/07/2015). Over 240,000 deaths documented March 2011–August 2015, including over 70,000 civilians, 12,000 of them children (SOHR, 06/08/2015).

- 12.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including 5.6 million children (OCHA/UNICEF, 12/2014).

- 7.6 million IDPs (OCHA, 28/12/2014).

- 4.8 million people live in hard-to-reach areas (OCHA, 12/2014).

- 4 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 15/07/2015).

OVERVIEW

Some 12.2 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including 5.6 million children. The humanitarian situation appears most critical in the governorates of Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Rural Damascus, and Deir-ez-Zor (SNAP, 28/01/2015).

The conflict has killed over 240,000 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. More armed groups then became involved, in particular Jabhat al Nusra (JAN), Islamic State (IS), and Kurdish armed groups such as People’s Protection Units (YPG).

Widespread conflict and high levels of violence continue, including indiscriminate aerial bombing by government forces and indiscriminate shelling by armed opposition (UNSC, 23/06/2015). Civilians have been subject to direct and indiscriminate attacks, including the widespread use of barrel bombs and other explosives in populated areas (UNSC, 18/06/2015). In August, government forces used barrel bombs more than 1,500 times (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 07/09/2015).

Over the first six months of 2015, 11,090 people were killed, according to the Syrian Network for Human Rights. Government forces are believed to be responsible for 77% of the deaths, including 6,928 civilians (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 01/07/2015). 2,040 people were reported killed in August. These figures do not include casualties among government or IS forces (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 01/09/2015; 01/08/2015).

2014 saw the highest annual death toll since the war began, with 76,000 people killed in conflict, including 18,000 civilians (SOHR, 02/01/2014). More than 240,000 people have been killed since fighting began in March 2011 and more than one million people have been wounded or suffered permanent disability (SOHR, 06/08/2015; UNICEF, 03/2015).

On 17 August, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a statement on a Syrian peace initiative set to begin in September. It is the first time in two years that the Security Council has agreed on a statement on Syria (AFP, 17/08/2015).

Stakeholders

Government forces have control of an estimated 20–30% of Syrian territory: Aleppo city, Damascus city, Homs city and surroundings, Tartous governorate, parts of As-Sweida, Dar’a, Hama, Lattakia, and Quneitra governorates, and some areas in Al Hasakeh, Deir-ez-Zor, and Idlib governorates (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, 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 Raqqqa, 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). On 10 September, Russia confirmed it had delivered military equipment to Syria (Reuters, 10/09/2015). Reportedly, Russia has sent planes, military advisers, experts, and technicians to Lattakia in September (SOHR, 13/09/2015). US officials claim around 200 Russian forces are in the governorate, reportedly involved with preparing Hmeymim military airport to accommodate larger planes (SOHR, 13/09/2015; Reuters, 11/09/2015).


Conflict developments

As of mid-September, fighting and airstrikes have intensified in almost all governorates over recent months, and frontlines continue to shift (UNHCR, 08/09/2015).

The YPG, supported by other armed groups and coalition airstrikes, are challenging IS in the north (ISW, 25/06/2015). According to analysts, with the exception of the takeover of Palmyra in May, IS has mainly been losing ground since February (AFP, 29/07/2015). IS lost Tal Abyad in Ar-Raqqa governorate to YPG in mid-June, considered a significant defeat (AFP, 15/06/2015).

After a number of shorter ceasefires since August, a six-month ceasefire was agreed to in Zabadani town (Rural Damascus), and al Foua and Kefraya 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; UNHCR, 08/09/2015; BBC, 12/08/2015)

Ar-Raqqa: Intense government airstrikes on Ar-Raqqa city were reported mid-September (AFP, 18/09/2015). Ar-Raqqa governorate is IS’s stronghold in Syria.

Aleppo: Clashes between IS forces and opposition groups have escalated around Mare town: villages and roads changed hands repeatedly during the first two weeks of September (ECHO, 09/09/2015; BBC, 05/09/2015).

Damascus: In mid-August, bombings intensified in the besieged area of Eastern Ghouta; an estimated 3,000 people have been injured. In early September, Jaysh al Islam reportedly made some significant gains in the areas surrounding Eastern Ghouta (BBC, 14/09/2015; MSF, 10/09/2015). New areas north of Damascus have come under siege, with a population of 600,000 (MSF, 10/09/2015). Douma, Jobar, and Darayya have been under continuous government airstrikes since early August (ECHO, 09/09/2015).

Homs: Government airstrikes on Palmyra intensified mid-September (AFP, 18/09/2015). In early September, IS forces seized Jazal oil field, the last oil field under government control. Clashes are ongoing in the desert zone (SOHR, 07/09/2015). On 6 August, IS forces seized the town of Al Qaryatain in their first major offensive since May (BBC, 06/08/2015). The takeover means IS forces are moving closer to the M5 highway, a crucial supply route for government forces (IRIN, 13/08/2015).

Idleb: Government airstrikes targeting Jaysh al Fatah Operations Room have intensified mid-September (BBC, 19/09/2015).

Lattakia: Clashes are continuing in areas north of Lattakia (SOHR, 13/09/2015). As of early September, JAN and aligned groups have advanced closer to Lattakia city, a key government stronghold (BBC, 02/09/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

There are 7.6 million IDPs within Syria; 50% are children (OCHA, 31/08/2015; 25/11/2014).

As of 31 July, 1.2 million people have been internally displaced so far this year. Many of them have been displaced several times since the conflict broke out (OCHA, 31/08/2015). In June, 120,000 people were newly displaced in Al Hasakeh governorate, 28,000 in Aleppo governorate, 30,000 people in Dar’a, and 50,000 people in Ar-Raqqa (WFP, 17/07/2015; UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

In late July, an estimated 30,000 people were displaced in Idlib governorate following a government campaign of intense airstrikes (ECHO, 31/07/2015). At least 150,000 people have reportedly been displaced in the governorate since late March (WFP, 17/07/2015).

Refugees

Palestinian refugees in Syria (PRS): 560,000 Palestinian refugees are currently registered in Syria. Of these, 80,000 have fled to other countries. Over 95% of the 480,000 Palestinian refugees that remain within Syria are dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 31/08/2015).

Iraqi refugees: There are an estimated 29,000 Iraqi refugees in Syria (UNHCR 25/11/2014).

Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries

4,088,760 Syrians are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries as of 17 September; a million more than in September 2014 (UNHCR, 17/09/2015). Since the war began, 350,000 Syrian asylum seekers have been registered in Europe; more than 175,000 arrivals from Syria were registered in Greece between 1 January and 31 August 2015.
Turkey: 1,938,999 registered refugees (UNHCR, 25/08/2015).
Lebanon: 1,113,941 refugees (UNHCR, 25/08/2015).
Egypt: 132,375 refugees (UNHCR, 05/07/2015).

PRS: 42,000 have been recorded with UNRWA in Lebanon, 14,348 in Jordan (UNRWA, 02/03/2015) and 860 in Gaza. Around 4,000 are reportedly in Egypt (UNRWA, 28/10/2014).

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 137 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 Quudsaya in northern Damascus have come under siege since late July. No humanitarian supplies are reaching the areas (MSF, 10/09/2015). Eastern Ghouta remains under siege; the population is in urgent need of assistance after weeks of intense bombing and hospitals are overwhelmed (MSF, 10/09/2015). The siege of Moadamiyeh has tightened; humanitarian assistance cannot reach the town, and people cannot enter or leave (MSF, 10/09/2015). The UN has removed Yarmouk from its list of besieged areas, despite UNRWA not having been able to deliver aid within the city for four months (IRIN, 24/07/2015).

Deir-ez-Zor: IS has cut off access to government-controlled areas of Deir-ez-Zor, leaving an estimated 228,000 civilians under siege since February: minimal relief supplies have been airlifted into the city (UNICEF, 30/04/2015).

Homs: IOM reached areas in Homs governorate in late August, however report that access is very limited (IOM, 01/09/2015).

Idlib: Lack of access due to insecurity continues to significantly hamper tracking of population movement, safe registration of IDPs, identification of lifesaving needs and provision of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 14/04/2015). Al Foua and Kefraya towns are besieged by JAN forces and cannot be accessed (AFP, 29/08/2015)

Rural Damascus: Zabadani town has not been accessed by humanitarian actors since 2012, and lack of food and medical supplies is reported, with fighting worsening the situation (OCHA, 07/07/2015). 40,000 people are in urgent need of basic services in 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).

Security and physical constraints

Siege tactics are used by all actors in the conflict. Parties to the conflict continue to target public infrastructure and facilities, including water supply and electricity (OCHA, 27/08/2015). Electricity is only available for two–four hours a day, or not available at all, in most parts of Syria (UNHCR, 08/09/2015). In northern Syria, fuel shortages are severely limiting transportation (MSF, 22/06/2015). Since January 2014, prices of diesel have increased by 110%, and petrol prices by 65% (Logistics Cluster, 25/09/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

9.8 million people require food, agriculture, and livelihoods-related assistance, according to the Food Security and Livelihoods sector. Of these, around 6.8 million people live in high-priority districts and need critical food assistance (WFP, 26/03/2015). High food prices have caused households to reduce the number of meals and eat lower quality and less nutritious food (UNICEF, 08/09/2015).

Food availability

Since January 2014, prices of diesel have increased by 110%, and petrol prices by 65% (Logistics Cluster, 25/09/2015).
While weather conditions have been generally favourable, the conflict continues to impact agricultural output (FAO, 30/07/2015). Wheat production in 2015 is estimated to be 40% lower than pre-conflict levels, although higher than in 2014. It is the smallest estimated harvested wheat area since the 1960s (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015).

Crop production has been adversely affected by high prices or lack of agricultural inputs (such as seeds, fertiliser, and fuel); damage to agricultural machinery, irrigation systems, and storage facilities; disruptions in electricity supply; and destruction of standing crops (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015; FAO, 17/06/2015).

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).

**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 shortage of staff, equipment, supplies, or damaged infrastructure (UNICEF, 31/07/2015). Health services in Aleppo, Dar’a, 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 70% and many lifesaving treatments are not available (WHO, 27/03/2015).

Populations living in hard-to-reach or besieged areas have limited access to healthcare (ICRC, 27/08/2015). Health needs are growing in northeastern Syria, and humanitarian actors struggle to access al Hasakeh governorate due to insecurity (ICRC, 27/08/2015).

Since 2011, Physicians for Human Rights has recorded the killing of 633 medical personnel and 271 attacks on 202 medical facilities. Government forces were found to be responsible for 90% of attacks on medical facilities – including 51 attacks with barrel bombs – and 97% of medical personnel deaths – including 142 deaths by torture or execution (PHR, 18/06/2015).

**Waterborne diseases**

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, Idlib and Rural Damascus (UNICEF, 31/07/2015).

In late August, 26 cases of typhoid were reported in Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus (UN News Centre, 21/08/2015).

**WASH**

4.6 million people are in need of WASH assistance. Six out of ten governorates report major problems in the WASH sector (MSNA, 30/10/2014). New waves of displacement have put further strain on water and sanitation networks (UNICEF, 10/07/2015).

**Water**

Syria’s water infrastructure has been severely affected by the conflict: an estimated half of the total production capacity has been lost or damaged (ICRC, 02/09/2015). The 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).

Deliberate disruptions to water supply systems are increasingly being used by various parties to the conflict as a tactic of war (UNICEF, 19/08/2015). 18 deliberate water cuts have been recorded in Aleppo city this year (UNICEF, 25/08/2015). Water from the main distribution system in Aleppo was cut for the first two weeks of August, and again at the end of the month (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). During August, water prices in Aleppo increased as much as 3,000% (UNICEF, 25/08/2015).

In and around Damascus, water cuts in the last weeks of August affected at least five
million people. Water supplies have been restored, but not to adequate levels (ECHO, 21/08/2015).

Water pumping stations in Idleb governorate are operating only two hours a day (UNICEF 10/07/2015).

Sanitation

One-third of water treatment plants no longer function, and sewage treatment has halved (PHR, 10/2014; WHO/UNICEF, 22/07/2014). New waves of displacement have put further strain on sanitation networks (UNICEF, 10/07/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

In late 2014, 1.6 million people were estimated to be in need of shelter and NFI assistance (2015 Syria SRP, 17/12/2014).

Shelter

Limited information is available on shelter needs of the 7.6 million IDPs (Shelter Cluster, 29/07/2015).

More than one million houses have been damaged, 400,000 of which have been totally destroyed (UNHCR, 02/09/2015).

Many IDPs are staying in unfinished buildings, or in schools and other public buildings. The buildings are often overcrowded and the IDPs lack access to basic services (UNHCR, 02/09/2015).

Education

Between 2.1 and 2.4 million children are currently out of school – approximately half of all school-aged children (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).

Obstacles to education include the lack of safe learning spaces, shortages of teachers 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 directly (UN Human Rights Council 11/2014). Human and organ trafficking are reported (UNHCR 20/11/2014). Chemical weapons attacks have been reported (Reuters, 18/07/2015; HRW, 03/06/2015).

Both government and opposition forces have reportedly carried out arbitrary detention and abduction (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 30/08/2015).

Since the start of the conflict, 11,500 people have died from torture while in detention; government forces were responsible for 99% of cases (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 26/06/2015).

Journalists and other media workers are systematically targeted. Since the conflict began in 2011, 84 journalists have been killed, more than 90 abducted, and 25 remain missing (Institute for War and Peace Reporting, 12/08/2015).

Mines and ERW

Large quantities of unexploded ordnance and many booby-trapped houses in the eastern sector of Kobane city and the surrounding countryside are preventing return (OCHA, 17/02/2015). Since late January, there have been 45 explosions and 66 people killed, the vast majority of them civilians, according to a demining NGO (IRIN, 07/05/2015).

Children

Various opposition groups, including JAN, Kurdish groups, and IS have been found to recruit children (NOREF, 16/02/2015). In 2015, IS has trained over 400 children as fighters (AFP, 24/03/2015). 52 children recruited by IS have been killed so far in 2015, including 16 who were used in suicide bombings (SOHR, 15/07/2015). The YPG has recruited 59 children since June 2014 (HRW, 15/07/2015).

Updated: 29/09/2015

YEMEN COMPLEX, CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

23 September: IS claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing targeting a Shi’ite mosque in Sanaa city, the latest in several attacks against Shi’ite mosques in recent months (BBC).
More than 105,000 people have fled Yemen since conflict escalated in March (UNHCR, 22/09/2015).

President Hadi reportedly returned to Aden from exile in Saudi Arabia (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS
- 21.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 10/06/2015).
- 12.2 million people directly affected by the conflict (OCHA, 10/06/2015).
- 12.9 million people are food insecure (IPC Indicative Analysis, 18/06/2015). Six million are estimated to be severely food insecure (OCHA, 05/06/2015).
- More than 15 million people lack access to healthcare (OCHA, 03/06/2015).
- 1.6 million children under five are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition, including 400,000 potential SAM cases (OCHA, 13/07/2015; 12/06/2015).
- At least 20 million people lack access to clean water. Since the escalation of the crisis, 9.4 million people have lost access to safe water (OCHA, 05/06/2015).
- 1.4 million IDPs in Yemen (Protection Cluster, 05/08/2015).

OVERVIEW
Yemen’s political transition has turned into armed conflict between Houthis from the north and the government. Southern secessionists, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), and Islamic State activity throughout the country compound the security and political challenges. Access to safe drinking water, healthcare, and other basic services continues to decline. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) has declared Yemen a Level 3 emergency based on the severe humanitarian situation.

Politics and security
Instability and violence continue across the country. As of end August 2015, 21 of Yemen’s 22 governorates are directly affected by airstrikes, armed clashes, and shelling (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Conflict between Houthi and government forces began to escalate significantly from late March 2015. Several ceasefires have failed to hold (AFP, 27/07/2015; 13/07/2015). Equally, peace talks have not brought any agreement. The last round of UN-led talks including government and Houthi representatives concluded in Geneva on 19 June (AFP, 19/06/2015). A new round was expected to begin in Oman mid-September, but the Hadi government has backed out of the talks and will only join if the Houthis withdraw their forces from all territory they have seized during the conflict (AFP, 14/09/2015; 10/09/2015).

Houthis advanced to the capital and took control in September 2014. In February 2015, the Houthis dissolved Parliament, and President Hadi fled to Aden. In March, Houthis advanced further south, and President Hadi escaped to Saudi Arabia. On 25 March, a Saudi-led coalition began airstrikes in support of pro-government forces. Islamist groups, including AQAP and Ansar al-Sharia, have exploited the power vacuum to take control of large areas in southeastern Yemen (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, Houthis have lost control over much of southern Yemen, but remain strong in northern governorates (ECHO, 17/08/2015; ICG, 12/08/2015).

On 22 September, President Hadi reportedly returned to Aden, following several government ministers who arrived from Saudi Arabia the week before (AFP, 22/09/2015).

As of 14 September, 4,855 conflict-related deaths and 24,971 injuries have been registered since March (OCHA, 14/09/2015). Civilians account for almost half of those killed – 2,112 deaths as of end August (OHCHR, 01/09/2015). These numbers are expected to be much higher due to underreporting (OHCHR, 01/09/2015).

Stakeholders
The pro-government forces, supported by Saudi-led coalition airstrikes, aim to regain control over Houthi- and AQAP-controlled areas. President Hadi has been in charge of government forces from his exile in Saudi Arabia. Several ministers had returned to Aden by late July (Al Jazeera, 23/07/2015). The Yemeni army is deeply divided, with units loyal to President Hadi fighting pro-Houthi units (ABC 15/04/2015).

The Houthis, also referred to as Ansar Allah, are based in Sa’ada governorate. They have taken up arms before, citing political, economic, and religious marginalisation (Al Jazeera, 16/11/2009). 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).

**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 20/03/2015).

**Conflict developments**

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). As of 21 August, pro-government forces have gained control over Aden, Abyan, Shabwah, Lahj and Al Dhalee governorates (WFP, 21/08/2015).

Over July and the first weeks of August, pro-government forces made significant gains in southern Yemen: Aden was taken by pro-government troops on 17 July and as of 17 August, Houthi forces had reportedly lost all the territory they held in southern governorates (ECHO, 17/08/2015; ICG, 12/08/2015).

**Al Jawf:** Airstrikes have intensified in recent weeks, causing increased displacement – also among IDPs displaced for a second time (Protection Cluster, 22/09/2015).

**Marib:** Saudi-led coalition ground forces are advancing west from eastern Marib; heavy fighting is reported between coalition and Houthi forces (ECHO, 21/09/2015). The security situation is expected to deteriorate in coming weeks (Protection Cluster, 22/09/2015).

**Sa’ada:** Massive destruction has been reported after an intensification in airstrikes targeting Sa’ada governorate, the Houthis’ stronghold (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 claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that targeted a Shi’ite mosque in Sanaa city on 23 September; at least 25 people were killed (BBC, 24/09/2015). IS has in recent months claimed responsibility for several bombings targeting Shi’ite mosques in the capital (AFP, 03/09/2015).

**Taizz:** Heavy fighting continues, with indiscriminate shelling reported (ECHO, 21/09/2015). The coalition has reportedly deployed ground troops (UNHCR, 26/08/2015). During August, Houthi forces regained some territory in Taizz (ICG, 01/09/2015).

**Displacement**

Several waves of conflict, lack of access, and the fluidity of displacement make it difficult to estimate displacement figures and needs. More than 1.4 million people are thought to have been displaced in Yemen since March – adding to an estimated 800,000 returnees, refugees, and migrants in need of assistance (Protection Cluster, 05/08/2015; OCHA, 12/06/2015).

**IDPs**

As of early August, 1.4 million people have been internally displaced since the escalation of conflict, a 12% increase since early July (Protection Cluster, 05/08/2015). This includes 299,000 in Hajjah, 236,000 in Al Dhalee, and 195,000 in Aden governorate. IDPs originate mainly from Aden, Al Dhalee, and Lahj governorates (Protection Cluster, 08/05/2015). Sa’ada city has seen an influx of IDPs since mid-September (UNICEF, 22/09/2015).

Most IDPs are staying with friends and family, and host community members are in need of assistance themselves (OCHA, 19/06/2015; OCHA, 10/06/2015). IDPs and host communities are in need of food, shelter, health services, and fuel (IOM, 23/07/2015).

**IDPs in Taizz governorate are in immediate need of food, shelter, health, and WASH services (Protection Cluster, 22/09/2015).**

**Refugees and asylum seekers**

In February, there were 257,645 registered refugees in Yemen: most are Somali (236,803); 5,934 are Ethiopian (Mixed Migration Secretariat, 28/02/2015). Since escalation of conflict in March, more than 25,000 Somali 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 have resulted in further displacement of refugees and asylum seekers, loss of livelihoods, and a breakdown in basic services (OCHA, 19/06/2015).

**Other people of concern in Yemen**

Estimates indicate that over 883,000 returnees, refugees, and migrants in Yemen currently require assistance, including Yemeni migrants deported from Saudi Arabia (OCHA, 12/06/2015).

10,500 people have arrived in Yemen since March, mostly from Somalia and Ethiopia (UNHCR, 14/07/2015). Many new arrivals reported they were unaware of the security situation in Yemen before arriving. Others reported they were aware of the situation, and still preferred it to the situation in their country of origin (UNHCR, 03/07/2015).

**Arrivals from Yemen in other countries**

Since March 2015, more than 105,600 people, consisting of Yemenis, returnees, and third-country nationals (TCNs) have left Yemen (UNHCR, 22/09/2015). As of 24
September, 25,561 have arrived in Djibouti and 29,268 in Somalia (IOM, 24/09/2015). 10,000 arrivals have been recorded in Ethiopia, 5,500 in Sudan, and 5,000 arrivals 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 20/09/2015; 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 via both road and sea (WFP, 29/07/2015). Fuel shortages are further hampering humanitarian operations (OCHA, 30/06/2015). The arms embargo on the Houthis and commercial shipping restrictions have also impacted the supply of humanitarian relief (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Humanitarian access constraints are particularly severe in Sa’ada, followed by Lahj, Aden, Al Dhalee, Taizz, Abyan, Shabwah, Marib, and Al Jawf (OCHA, 07/07/2015). As of end August, humanitarian access to Taizz governorate is extremely limited due to ongoing fighting (OCHA, 31/08/2015). Access in Sanaa has been affected by intensified airstrikes in late September (Logistics Cluster, 28/09/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

On 2 September, two local ICRC staff members were killed in Amran governorate while travelling between Sa’ada and Sanaa (ICRC, 02/09/2015; OCHA, 02/09/2015). Four Yemen Red Crescent volunteers have been killed since March (ICRC, 13/09/2015). Humanitarian workers in Taizz governorate are increasingly being targeted, harassed, and abducted by armed groups (OCHA, 31/08/2015). Many aid agencies have suspended activities and evacuated their staff (IRIN, 27/03/2015).

Security and physical constraints

The closure of airspace over Yemen is severely restricting air operations, as are limitations in neighbouring airspace zones (Logistics Cluster, 06/07/2015). Sanaa and Seiyun are the only airports operating international flights (Logistics Cluster, 07/09/2015). Aden airport has reopened but requires repair and is not fully operational (Logistics Cluster, 15/09/2015).

The Yemeni government-in-exile 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, 18/09/2015). Hodeidah port has reopened after airstrikes mid-August, however destroyed shore cranes, security constraints and administrative hurdles continue to hamper access to the port (Logistics Cluster, 28/09/2015). Aden port is accessible, but land transportation from Aden to northern governorates remains restricted (IOM, 03/09/2015).

Yemen imports 70% of its fuel needs, but in August, fuel imports reached only 12% of Yemen’s monthly fuel needs (OCHA, 14/09/2015). Diesel prices are 1,056% higher than before the conflict escalated (OCHA, 13/07/2015). The fuel shortage is creating severe challenges for the transportation of food, water, and medical supplies, and the operation of water pumps and generators (ECHO, 14/05/2015). On average, Yemenis have less than one hour of electricity per day, due to fuel shortages (OCHA, 05/06/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

12.9 million people are food insecure, 2.3 million more than before the escalation of the crisis in March (FAO, 31/08/2015). 6.1 million people (22.7% of the population) face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes, mainly in Sa’ada, Aden, Abyan, Shabwah, Hajjah, Al Hodeidah, Taizz, Lahj, Al Dhalee, and Abyan Bayda, while 6.8 million people (25.7%) are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), according to the June 2015 IPC Analysis. This is a 21% increase in food insecurity since last year (FAO, 31/08/2015; Indicative IPC Analysis, 18/06/2015). The situation is expected to further deteriorate as long as insecurity continues to severely constrain access and household purchasing power falls (Indicative IPC Analysis, 18/06/2015; FEWSNET, 30/06/2015).

Food availability

While Yemen ordinarily imports 90% of its food, imports of staple foods, such as cereals, have almost completely ceased since the escalation of conflict (OCHA, 29/05/2015). Cooking gas is 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).

A 30% reduction in harvest is expected in the key cropping regions (central highlands, southern uplands, and western coastal plain) compared to previous years (FAO, 31/08/2015).

The ongoing conflict, malfunctioning markets, high cost of fuel and other inputs, high operating costs for irrigation, and below-average rainfall during the planting season have all disrupted the cropping season. Land preparation, irrigation, weeding, and access to farmlands have been disrupted by ongoing insecurity, and agricultural infrastructure and facilities have been damaged or destroyed (FAO, 31/08/2015).

A 75% reduction in fish production is estimated in Taizz, Aden, Lahj, and Abyan governorates, while in other governorates the reduction is estimated to be around 50% (FAO, 31/08/2015).
Food access

Food prices have increased by 40–100% since the start of the crisis, with the highest prices in southwestern governorates (FAO, 08/07/2015). Acute fuel shortages have affected food prices (WFP, 10/04/2015).

Airstrikes have reportedly targeted local markets and trucks carrying food (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Livelihoods

More than 2.5 million people have lost their source of income due to the suspension of basic services and social safety nets. Livelihoods have also been affected by the closure or downsizing of companies: only three percent of businesses were reportedly functioning normally by May 2015 (FEWSNET, 18/08/2015). An assessment carried out 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, due to insecurity and disruptions to transfer systems (FEWSNET, 18/08/2015). Aden, Taizz, Lahj, Al Dhalee, Abyan, Hajjah and Sa'ada are most affected (FAO, 31/08/2015). The Social Welfare Fund, which provides financial assistance to poor households, has stopped functioning (ECHO, 22/09/2015).

Farmers are struggling to sustain their income due to high input costs and low output prices (FAO, 23/06/2015). 65% of fishermen have lost their job and income, as a result of insecurity, lack of fuel causing spoilage, and market disruption (FAO, 31/08/2015; OCHA, 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).

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). 900 health facilities have been damaged since March (UNICEF, 15/09/2015).

Health staff are increasingly unable to report to work. Qualified medical staff were already in short supply before the crisis, and the evacuation of non-Yemeni health staff, who made up at least 25% of health workers, has added to shortages (WHO, 27/04/2015). Health professionals who continue working have not been paid in months (OCHA, 27/08/2015). In three months following the escalation of conflict, nine incidents of violence against staff and in health facilities and care workers and 65 incidents against health facilities were reported (OCHA, 14/06/2015).

Ambulance services are non-functional in most areas heavily affected by conflict due to fuel shortages and security threats (OCHA, 14/06/2015). There have been reports of ambulances being commandeered by militias (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

In Sanaa, Al Sabaeeen, the country’s main paediatric hospital, was closed in early September following damage caused by airstrikes (OCHA, 14/09/2015). Yemen’s national blood transfusion centre in Sanaa is reportedly close to closing, due to fuel shortages and shortage of blood bags and other supplies (WHO, 04/09/2015).

Taizz governorate’s health system has collapsed, affecting 3.2 million people in the governorate. All 11 public health facilities have been closed; limited emergency services are only provided by two hospitals. Half of private facilities have also closed (OCHA, 14/09/2015; UNICEF, 01/09/2015). The remaining private health facilities are overwhelmed by the large number of severely injured, and a dengue outbreak (OHCHR, 01/09/2015). Humanitarian organisations are struggling to deliver medical and surgical supplies due to insecurity (ICRC, 28/08/2015). Taizz International Hospital is occupied by armed groups (OCHA, 02/09/2015).

Prior to the conflict, Yemen imported 80% of its medical supplies (OCHA, 30/06/2015). Medicines for diabetes, hypertension, and cancer are no longer available and there are acute shortages in critical medical supplies – trauma kits, medicines, blood bags and other necessities (OCHA, 12/06/2015). The only oxygen-generating plant in Yemen ceased to function in April due to lack of fuel (OCHA, 19/04/2015).

Outbreak response, including surveillance and early response, is no longer functioning (OCHA, 13/07/2015; 14/06/2015). 25% of Yemen’s health facilities are no longer conducting routine vaccination (UNICEF, 07/07/2015). 87 out of 333 districts lack a functioning cold room to store vaccines (UNICEF, 07/07/2015).

Dengue and malaria

In Taizz governorate, a spike in dengue cases has been reported: from 145 suspected cases in early August, to 704 suspected cases (500 confirmed) by early September (UNICEF, 07/09/2015; OCHA, 02/09/2015).

Some cases of malaria have been reported (Thomson Reuters Foundation, 12/08/2015). Insecurity is preventing vector control (OCHA, 30/06/2015). Lack of electricity and medical supplies make laboratory testing for dengue and malaria challenging (OCHA, 30/06/2015).

Nutrition

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Around 1.8 million children are likely to suffer from malnutrition in Yemen in 2015 – one million more than in 2014. Of these, a projected 537,000 will be at risk of severe acute malnutrition (UNICEF, 19/08/2015).

There was a 150% increase in hospital admissions for malnutrition between March and June (WHO, 19/06/2015). 1.6 million children and pregnant or lactating women are in need of services to treat or prevent acute malnutrition (UNICEF, 07/07/2015).

An assessment in Hodeidah governorate found global acute malnutrition (GAM) to be at 31% among children under five, 9% of whom have severe acute malnutrition (SAM) – a significant increase from 18% GAM in the governorate in 2014 (UNICEF, 25/08/2015).

**WASH**

At least 20 million people lack access to clean water (WHO, 19/06/2015). Since the escalation of the crisis, 9.4 million people have lost access to safe water due to fuel shortages (OCHA, 05/06/2015). Diesel needed to deliver public water and sanitation is either not available or only sporadically available in 20 of 22 governorates (OCHA, 13/07/2015).

**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).

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).

**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).

The majority of IDPs are hosted by relatives. Some families are reportedly hosting up to six or seven displaced (IOM, 22/05/2015).

IDPs staying with host families are reporting overcrowding, lack of food, and lack of adequate WASH facilities (OCHA, 22/05/2015). Many IDPs are staying in public buildings, such as schools or health facilities, open spaces or makeshift shelters (OCHA, 28/08/2015).

Refugees who were previously self-reliant are now dependent on humanitarian assistance and unable to afford adequate shelters in urban areas, leading to overcrowding (OCHA, 19/06/2015).

**Education**

Over 1.8 million children have lost access to school since the escalation of conflict in March (UNICEF, 11/08/2015). Prior to the conflict, an estimated 2.5 million children were not in school (OCHA, 04/2014).

**Access and learning environment**

3,584 schools have closed since March – one out of every four schools in Yemen (UNICEF, 18/08/2015).

**More than 500 schools have been damaged:** 390 partially damaged and 140 destroyed (OCHA, 21/09/2015). Hajjah, Marib, Sa’ada, Sanaa, and Taizz are the governorates where most schools have been damaged. Some 20 schools are occupied by armed groups, and 422 are hosting IDPs (OCHA, 21/09/2015). The Saudi-led coalition has stated that schools are legitimate targets if used for military purposes, and have targeted school buildings claimed to be hosting military equipment (Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, 11/06/2015).

In schools hosting IDPs, classroom equipment, such as desks and benches, is being used for firewood (UNICEF, 23/06/2015).

**Protection**

11.4 million people are in need of protection assistance, including about 7.3 million children (OCHA, 12/06/2015).

Use of explosive weapons in populated areas, attacks on civilian infrastructure, increased recruitment of children, and attacks against humanitarian workers have been reported since the conflict escalated in March (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Armed groups have detained children, carried out extrajudicial executions, and subjected detainees to general ill-treatment (Human Rights Watch, 02/09/2015).
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, 02/09/2015). As of 22 September, 466 children have been reported killed and 658 injured (UNICEF, 22/09/2015).

464 children have been recruited by armed groups since the escalation of the conflict (UNICEF, 22/09/2015). 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 have greater humanitarian needs than the average population (UNICEF, 20/02/2015).

Updated: 28/09/2015

DEMONCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

INFECTION, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 22/09/2015. Last update: 01/09/2015.

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 after a landmine at the border injured two South Korean soldiers in early August (Guardian, 04/08/2015). On 20 August, the tension resulted in a brief exchange of fire at the border – no casualties were reported. On 24 August, DPRK and South Korea agreed on a deal to reduce tensions (BBC, 25/08/2015).

Humanitarian access

Humanitarian access remains extremely limited. Humanitarian agencies do not have the ability to freely access communities, conduct assessments, or run monitoring and evaluating processes. International sanctions are further complicating assistance, in particular due to the suspension of banking channels for fund transfers (UN, 01/04/2015).

Natural disasters

Tropical Cyclone Goni

Tropical Cyclone Goni passed off the coast of the Korean peninsula late August, causing floods and landslides in north Hamgyong province (ECHO, 27/08/2015). 40 people were killed in flash floods in Rason city, 153 houses were completely destroyed, and 849 houses were partially damaged (IFRC, 26/08/2015).

Floods

Heavy rain over 1–5 August caused flooding in South Hwanghae, South Hamgyong, and North Hamgyong provinces. As of 10 August, 21 people have been reported dead, and nine are missing. 3,400 people have been affected by the floods, with more than 900 houses destroyed, and more than 4,000 hectares of crops damaged (IFRC, 12/08/2015; ECHO, 12/08/2015).

Drought

A prolonged dry spell during the planting season, which lasted from April to early June, has adversely affected crops and the yield potential of 2015 food crops (FAO, 17/06/2015). So far in 2015, all provinces have experienced less rainfall than the yearly average (OCHA, 01/07/2015). The provinces of North and South Hwanghae, which contribute to the largest share of the national cereal output, have been most affected (FAO, 17/06/2015). According
to South Korean officials, June rainfall has alleviated the drought in other areas (AFP, 10/07/2015).

**Food security and livelihoods**

1.8 million children, older people, and pregnant and lactating women are in particular need of food assistance (UN, 01/04/2015). An estimated 18 million people, of a total population of 24.6 million, are dependent on government rations and highly vulnerable to shortages in food production (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. Maize output is expected to be 15% lower than last year. In 2015, 31% of rice crops suffered from serious water shortages during planting and 6% of rice crops were not planted (OCHA, 11/08/2015). Soybean production is also expected to be affected (FAO, 13/07/2015).

9% of agricultural land is unarable since the 2014 drought; in North and South Hwanghae 33% of land is considered unusable for agricultural purposes (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

**Health**

An estimated six million people need access to essential health services, including vaccines. Other medical products and lifesaving equipment, such as ambulances, remain limited. Health facilities often lack functioning water systems, increasing the risks of hospital infections and the spread of disease (UN, 01/04/2015).

**Water**

The quality and availability of water in domestic water wells, which many communities rely on, has been impacted by the drought. According to reports, wells are dry and water levels in reservoirs are 20–30% of 2013 levels (NRP, 18/07/2015). Irrigation activities have been disrupted by the April–June dry spell (FAO, 17/06/2015). Rainfall in 2014 was also 40–60% below 2013 levels (Reuters, 30/05/2015).

**Education**

Lack of teaching/learning materials in addition to the lack of adequate sanitation facilities in school buildings remain a challenge (UNICEF, 26/01/2015).

**Protection**

Forced labour is a major concern. According to Human Rights Watch, DPRK authorities arbitrarily arrest and unfairly prosecute citizens (Human Rights Watch, 08/06/2015).

**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).

Indicators suggest that health facilities are stretched by an increase in cases of diarrhoea, as access to safe water is diminishing during the drought (OCHA, 01/07/2015). A joint field observation mission in June found a general increase in waterborne diseases (OCHA, 22/06/2015).

**Nutrition**

According to FAO, 10.5 million people were undernourished in 2014 (FAO, 27/05/2015).

Food shortages peak during the lean season, between July and September, and households resort to coping mechanisms such as receiving support from families on cooperative farms; reducing meal sizes; gathering wild foods; and diluting meals with water (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

Chronic and acute malnutrition remains one of the major contributors to maternal and child mortality (UNICEF, 26/01/2015). In 2012, the National Nutrition Survey reported 4% acute malnutrition among under-fives (National Nutrition Survey, 03/2013). Micronutrient deficiencies are of particular concern (OCHA, 01/07/2015).
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

17 September: Protests and clashes with police continue in Beirut over garbage collection and alleged corruption (Al Jazeera, 17/09/2015).

7 September: A heavy sandstorm hit Beirut and other parts of Lebanon. Up to five people have died and hundreds have been hospitalised with breathing problems (UN, 14/09/2015; Daily Star, 09/09/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1,113,941 Syrians are registered as refugees in Lebanon (UNHCR, 25/08/2015).
- The Government instructed the temporary suspension of refugee registration with UNHCR, beginning 6 May 2015 (UNHCR, 06/05/2015).

OVERVIEW

Lebanon has the highest per capita concentration of refugees worldwide. While the country struggles to deal with the refugee influx, which exceeds a quarter of the Lebanese population, tensions between host and refugee populations are increasing due to food price hikes, and pressure on health and education systems, housing, and employment. Some 3.3 million people in Lebanon, including 1.2 million children, are directly affected by the Syria crisis (UNHCR 16/12/2014). Lebanon is also hosting 270,000 long-term Palestinian refugees (UNICEF 12/12/2014).

Politics and security

The Lebanese Parliament has extended its mandate until June 2017, claiming that elections would present too much of a security risk (Daily Star, 12/11/2014). Lebanon has been without a president since President Sleiman’s term expired in May 2014. Parliament has failed to elect a president 24 times in the last year (Daily Star, 17/06/2015).

Hezbollah’s involvement in Syria, and the alleged presence of Jabhat al Nusra (JAN) and Islamic State (IS) in Lebanon, has raised destabilisation concerns in Lebanon. Longstanding tensions between Lebanon and Israel have flared occasionally in the context of the Syrian civil war.

The Government of Syria continues to conduct cross-border air raids (UN Security Council, 22/04/2015).

Civil unrest

Following the closure of Beirut’s main landfill, and the subsequent build-up of solid waste in the street, rioting broke out in Beirut, mainly outside government buildings. As of 26 August, at least one protester has been killed, tens have been wounded and four are missing (Daily Star, 26/08/2015; Al Jazeera, 24/08/2015). Hezbollah has declared its support for the ‘You Stink’ movement organising the protests. Both You Stink and Hezbollah have called for the current government to resign (AFP, 25/08/2015). As of 17 September, protests and clashes with police continue (Al Jazeera, 17/09/2015).

Conflict developments

Bekaa Valley: The presence of JAN militants continues to be suspected on the outskirts of Arsal (Daily Star, 26/06/2015). There have been no major security incidents in the area involving JAN since June.

Palestinian refugee camps: The security situation in many Palestinian refugee camps is tense. A Palestinian joint security force deployed to the southern refugee camp of Mieh Mieh in late March, less than a year after a similar security plan was implemented in Ain al Hilweh (Daily Star, 24/03/2015).

Ain al Hilweh, Lebanon’s largest Palestinian refugee camp, is a site of frequent tensions and armed clashes. Tensions between Fatah and Islamist groups in the camp have been increasing. Between 22 and 27 August, up to four people were killed and more than 15 wounded in two separate clashes between Fatah and other Islamist armed groups in the camp. This is the highest rate of casualties in a single week since May. An unconfirmed number of people, believed to be in the thousands, were displaced (UN, 25/08/2015; Daily Star, 27/08/2015).

Natural disasters

On 7 September, a heavy sandstorm hit Beirut and other part of Lebanon. Up to five people have died and hundreds have been hospitalised with breathing problems. Sources suggest that the size and severity of this sandstorm is unprecedented in Lebanon’s recent history (UN, 14/09/2015; Daily Star, 09/09/2015).
Displacement

Refugees

Since 6 May, registration has been temporarily suspended. As of 25 August, 1,113,941 Syrians are registered as refugees in Lebanon. Bekaa is hosting 390,727 refugees; Beirut 328,504; North Lebanon 266,246; and South Lebanon 128,464. This is a significant decrease of nearly 60,000 from the figure reported in early July (UNHCR, 25/08/2015). The lower figure is partly due to the decision to deregister refugees who originally registered after 5 January, according to new Government regulations. It may also be due to cross-border migration, meaning that those who obtain work in Syria are losing their registration status.

26% of refugees are women, and 53% children (UNHCR 09/2014). 16% of Syrian refugee households are led by women (Equal Access Monitor, 30/06/2015). The number of Syrians in Lebanon not registered with UNHCR is unknown.

In July, an estimated 5,000 individuals residing in 50 informal tented settlements (ITS) were evicted following an order issued by the Lebanese Army in the Sahel area of Akkar (UNICEF, 27/08/2015).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: 45,185 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) reside in Lebanon (UNHCR, 28/02/2015) PRS entry to Lebanon is now almost entirely limited to those transiting to a third country. An increasing number of PRS remain in Lebanon illegally, and face an array of protection concerns (OCHA 01/09/2014).

Recent fighting in Ain al Hilweh may have displaced up to 3,000 camp residents, although numbers are not confirmed (UN, 25/08/2015).

Host communities

Host communities have reported inadequate or insufficient access to water, waste water management systems, affordable housing, and employment opportunities (OCHA 09/2014).

Humanitarian access

Access of affected populations to assistance

Registration with UNHCR has been temporarily suspended since early May, upon government instruction. The Government formally decided to stop welcoming displaced people in October 2014, barring exceptional cases. The policy raises serious protection concerns (UNHCR, AFP 24/10/2014; UNHCR 07/2014; UNHCR, 20/04/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Refugees live across 1,750 different locations in Lebanon, making the delivery of humanitarian assistance challenging (UNHCR 10/2014). Northern Bekaa, Tripoli, and Akkar are areas of higher risk, and the UN will only carry out critical missions to parts of those areas (WFP, 03/12/2014).

Food security and livelihoods

As of 6 May, 1.5 million people are in need of food assistance (WFP, FAO, Food Security cluster, 31/03/2015; UNHCR, 06/05/2015). In total, 24.5% of people are in moderate to severe food insecurity, compared to 12.8% in 2014 (WFP, 07/07/2015). The highest levels of food insecurity are found in North Lebanon (Akkar) and the Bekaa Valley (WFP, 01/07/2015). As of September, WFP will cap assistance at five members per household because of a funding shortfall (OCHA, 21/08/2015).

Livelihoods

700,000 people are in need of livelihood assistance (UNDP, 31/01/2015; UNHCR, 06/05/2015). 49% of refugee households live below the Lebanese extreme-poverty line (USD 3.84/person/day) (WFP, 07/07/2015). A third of the refugee population is living with under USD 2–3 per day, unable to meet their basic needs (UNHCR, 09/06/2015).

Reduced assistance to Syrian refugees due to funding shortfalls has caused families to adopt negative coping strategies (WFP, 16/06/2015). In 2015, 15% rely on loans as a main source of income compared to nearly 0% in 2014. This year 11% are in need of emergency coping strategies, compared to 8% in 2014 (WFP, 07/07/2015).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: 75% of PRS have reported cash assistance as their main source of income (UNRWA, 15/05/2014).

Health

3.3 million people are in need of healthcare (WHO/UNHCR, 31/01/2015; 06/05/2015). In the Bekaa Valley, there has been a 20% increase in summer morbidities compared to 2014. This includes respiratory tract infections, diarrhoea and dermatological problems. The rise has been attributed to a heatwave combined with poor living conditions (MSF, 20/08/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Since January, Syrians wanting to enter Lebanon must apply for a visa (UNHCR, 25/01/2015).
Health services are available, but costly. Short opening hours and lack of trained health personnel further limit access (WHO, 01/2015).

72% of primary health centres assessed by UNICEF in 2014 lacked sufficient essential drugs, 67% lacked sufficient medication for chronic diseases, and 49% lacked sufficient antibiotics for children (UNICEF, 08/2014).

WASH

3.3 million people are in need of WASH assistance (UNICEF/UNHCR, 05/05/2015). WASH conditions are worse for refugees in informal settlements and in difficult-to-access locations in the Bekaa Valley and the north (UNHCR, 07/2014). WASH conditions are often below standards in Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut, where many Syrian refugees have settled (IFRC, 03/02/2015).

Sanitation

Informal settlements in the Bekaa valley and in the north have limited or no sanitation facilities (MSF, 20/08/2015).

Environmentally friendly and safe disposal of wastewater is a huge challenge in Lebanon, especially for the majority of locations across the country that are not connected to functioning treatment plants. This is exacerbated in Arsal, where security concerns have prohibited the provision of services (WASH Cluster, 04/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter

1.8 million people are in need of shelter assistance (UNHCR, 05/05/2015).

Refugees are spending up to 90% of their monthly income to live in substandard housing such as garages, sheds, and in unfinished buildings (NRC, 18/06/2015). An assessment found that 50% of refugees live in poor conditions, including accommodation without adequate WASH facilities, or adequate protection against weather. An additional 18% were found to live in temporary shelters without access to basic services (NRC, 18/06/2015).

A large number of refugees are forced to live in tents or haphazard shelters in ITS with 900 in the Bekaa Valley alone (MSF, 20/08/2015). The ITS are usually substandard. Humanitarian agencies are unable to make substantial improvements to the sites, as they are located on private land (UNHCR, 09/06/2015).

In Beirut, many Syrian refugees have settled in Palestinian refugee 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, 31/01/2015, 06/05/2015).

Access and learning environment

One in five households with school-aged children have withdrawn their children from school due to increased food insecurity (WFP, 02/06/2015).

Protection

Main protection concerns include the presence of ERWs; child labour; lack of documentation for refugees, impacting their ability to access services and move freely; and forced evictions.

Mines and ERW

15.23 square kilometres remain in need of clearance for ERW. 19 incidents of ERW related injuries or deaths have been recorded in 2015 as of August, compared to 24 in all of 2014. The increase may be related to the presence of refugees in dangerous areas (Al Jazeera, 13/08/2015).

Lebanon has nearly 1,400 confirmed minefields and 520 cluster munition strike areas, including in areas hosting refugees. A significant number of landowners and workers still enter contaminated areas, stating they have no choice (Mine Advisory Group, 01/06/2015).
According to ILO estimates, between 210,000 and 320,000 refugee children of school age who are not in school are involved in some form of child labour (VoA, 23/01/2015). Social exclusion, vulnerability of households, the influx of Syrian refugees, and organised crime and exploitation are all leading children to live or work on the streets (ILO et al., 16/02/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Undocumented refugees: Increasing numbers of refugees are undocumented, as they are unable to renew legal residence due to unaffordable fees and complicated administrative procedures. Rental agreements are required to obtain legal residence, however only about 15% of refugees have rental contracts (NRC, 18/06/2015). Registered refugees are not allowed to work, which further deters refugees from seeking legal status. Concern is raised over undocumented refugees’ ability to freely move and access services, and an increased risk of abuse and harassment (ECHO 20/06/2015; NRC, 18/06/2015).

Forced evictions: By February, the Lebanese army had ordered 17,000 refugees in eastern Bekaa Valley to vacate informal tented camps, reportedly to prevent infiltration by militants (Daily Star, 07/02/2015). In the Bekaa, as of 1 May, 5,981 people had been evicted and relocated from 61 sites; 6,422 individuals remain at risk of eviction (UNHCR, 10/05/2015). Another 5,000 were evicted from ITS in Akaar district, in northern Lebanon, in July (UNICEF, 27/08/2015).

Documentation

De-registration of refugees: As of 24 April, refugees who entered after 5 January and have been subsequently registered should be deregistered according to new Government regulations. As of 31 May, 2,626 persons have fallen into this category. In May, the Ministry of Social Affairs further notified UNHCR that all new registrations should be suspended until a mechanism to deal with those who seek registration is established (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Stateless refugees in Lebanon include Syrian Kurds who were denaturalised in Syria in 1962. Between March 2011 and August 2014, 34,272 Syrian refugees were born in Lebanon. An estimated 72% do not possess an official birth certificate (UNFPA 30/11/2014).

Updated: 17/09/2015

MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT
The government and 16 ethnic opposition groups are yet to agree on a draft text for the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) which was due to be completed in March (ICG, 01/07/2015). The Government has made clear that the agreement will only apply to those armies taking part in negotiations, but participants have said they will not sign unless other groups are also permitted to sign (AFP, 11/05/2015; ICG, 01/07/2015).

On 17 March, the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) met with the President and affirmed its commitment to the peace process (Government, 17/03/2015). On 6 July the Tang National Liberation Army (TNLA) declared a unilateral ceasefire and its intention to join the national ceasefire agreement (Democratic Voice of Burma, 06/07/2015). On 9 September, the President met with representatives from ethnic armed groups in Naypyidaw for ceasefire talks (AFP, 09/09/2015).

Conflict developments

Despite peace negotiations, the security situation remains tense in parts of Myanmar. 14 armed clashes were recorded in August and 31 in July. Most were in Shan and Kachin states. The decrease is likely due to the reduced mobility of armed groups during the rains (Myanmar Peace Monitor, 31/08/2015; 31/07/2015). Between February and May, 554 people were killed in violence between separatist groups and Myanmar forces. In March and April, the Myanmar Armed Forces and MNDAA engaged in 28 recorded battles, with 281 fatalities in Shan state alone (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 Sumpra Bum Township after intensifying in mid-July. Armed forces in the area will not grant humanitarian access to over 1,000 people displaced by the fighting (Irrawaddy, 21/08/2015).

Sagaing region: Indian forces began attacks on positions in Myanmar’s Sagaing region on 9 June, after armed groups associated with the Naga ethnic group in Myanmar carried out cross-border attacks on Indian army patrols and convoys (BBC, 19/06/2015). After parallel Indian and Myanmar army operations, the armed Naga ethnic group and the Indian army signed a peace agreement on 4 August (Time, 04/08/2015).

Disasters

The monsoon season continues until October, though tropical storms can be expected until November (HEWS).

Cyclone Komen

Floods linked to Cyclone Komen began on 26 July and continued until 10 August. 1.6 million people were affected, up to 385,900 households were displaced, and 122 killed. Twelve out of 14 states and regions were affected (ECHO, 11/09/2015). On 31 July, Rakhine state, Chin state, Sagaing region, and Magway region were declared natural disaster zones (ECHO, 17/08/2015; AFP, 08/08/2015; 10/08/2015). Ayeyarwaddy (505,761), Sagaing (399,567), and Magway (308,046) saw the highest numbers affected, but Rakhine and Chin states suffered perhaps the severest impact, because of their higher baseline poverty rate (government, 23/08/2015).

The 130,000 Rohingya displaced in Rakhine are considered to be particularly vulnerable, as already inadequate shelter was damaged by the flooding (BBC, 02/08/2015; OCHA, 01/08/2015).

Other flooding

On 3 September, the Chindwin River overflowed with heavy rains in northern Sagaing region, affecting over 100 villages. Up to 870 people were affected in Homalin township. 600 homes were submerged in Khandi township, affecting an estimated 3,000 people (New Light of Myanmar, 06/09/2015).

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 Irrawaddy (ECHO, 11/09/2015; New Light of Myanmar, 07/09/2015).

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

385,000 households were reported displaced at the height of the recent flooding. As water began receding in mid-August, people have returned home, with an
unconfirmed number remaining in temporary shelters. At least 10,000 people in Chin are reported as currently displaced, and a further 1,800 remain displaced in Myatheindan Pagoda in Sagaing (ECHO, 23/08/2015; 04/09/2015).

Prior to July and August flooding, 662,400 people were estimated to be in protracted displacement nationwide, primarily due to conflict. There were around 97,000 displaced people in Shan and Kachin states as of May (OCHA, 21/06/2015) and 147,000 displaced in Rakhine as of April (OCHA, 23/06/2015). About 20,000 people were newly displaced in 2015, mainly in Kachin and northern Shan (OCHA, 16/05/2015). Approximately 2,000 people were displaced in July by conflict (Myanmar Peace Monitor, 31/07/2015).

IDPs

Chin: Some 10,000 are displaced by recent flooding (ECHO, 23/08/2015).

Magway: Reports suggest about 6,200 people have been displaced from Pwint Phyu Township to nine temporary shelters as of 4 August (IFRC, 04/08/2015). 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: Flooding in July and August displaced at least 18,000 people around Buthidaung Township (UNHCR, 04/08/2015), and over 6,000 displaced people in Minbya are sheltering in 23 monasteries (MSF, 04/08/2015).

Around 130,000–140,000 people, mainly Rohingya Muslims, are in protracted displacement in Rakhine (USAID, 16/06/2015; The Diplomat, 17/06/2015). Many live in closed camps following inter-communal violence in 2012 (OCHA, 27/02/2015).

Sagaing: Local media reports that 10,000 residents of Kalay Township have displaced to eight temporary shelters (Myanmar Times, 05/08/2015).

Shan and Kachin: As of 21 September, reports indicated that 180 people have been displaced by fighting between government forces and the KIA around Mansi Township, which began 18 September (Irrawaddy, 21/09/2015).

Fighting intensified between the KIA and government troops on 11 July around Sumpra Bum Township, Kachin state. As of 21 August, the fighting has continued, and 1,400 civilians are reported displaced (Irrawaddy, 21/08/2015; 20/07/2015).

Refugees from Myanmar in neighbouring countries

According to UNHCR, as of late March, over 415,000 refugees originate from Myanmar (AFP, 30/11/2014).

China: Between January and February 2015, around 60,000 people are believed to have fled to China. Refugees move back and forth across the border to seek shelter, food, and employment, according to aid agencies (OCHA, 30/05/2015; RFA, 23/03/2015).

Bangladesh: An estimated 30,000 Rohingya refugees live in official camps and receive assistance from aid agencies (local media, 09/11/2014). An additional 300,000–500,000 Rohingya reside either in unofficial camps or villages where they get little or no humanitarian assistance and almost no protection from human rights abuses. Most Rohingya are denied refugee status (UNHCR, 12/06/2015; AFP, 06/06/2015; AFP, 29/05/2015).

Malaysia: 40,700 Rohingya registered with the UN were in Malaysia at end December 2014. Rohingya activists say a roughly equal number are unregistered. Rohingya migrants are frequently kept in smugglers’ camps along the border, where they are held for ransom, tortured, and raped (AFP, 30/11/2014; international media, 30/12/2015, Reuters, 01/06/2015).

Thailand: In July, biometric verification found around 110,000 refugees from Myanmar in nine camps in Thailand, along the border (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). Other sources place the number as high as 150,000 (US Government, 2015). Since June 2014, movement restrictions have been more strictly enforced; Myanmar refugees are banned from leaving camps, confined to their homes 1800–0600, and threatened with deportation if they do not comply (Refugees International, 29/08/2014). Thai officials have been accused of tugging boats carrying Rohingya out to sea, away from their coast (CNN, 20/05/2015; UNHCR, 01/2015). Rohingya are subject to human trafficking. Many are held for ransom and abused (international media, 01/06/2015; 02/06/2015).

Other

Rohingya in the Bay of Bengal: The Thai Government began a major operation to shut down human trafficking along its border with Myanmar in April, leading people smugglers to abandon migrants at sea (Reuters, 02/06/2015). 31,000 Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants have attempted to cross the Bay of Bengal in 2015. An estimated 1,100 have died during the journey (IOM, 31/08/2015). As of 12 July, Myanmar authorities have collected and returned more than 1,000 Rohingya Muslims and Bangladeshi migrants to the mainland (VICE, 14/07/2015; AFP, 06/06/2015; local media, 18/06/2015). 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

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Fighting around Hpakant and Sumpra Bum has prevented access to around 1,400 people who have reportedly been inaccessible since 11 July. Some reports suggest armed groups are actively denying access to humanitarian groups (Irrawaddy, 21/08/2015; 20/07/2015). Frequent conflict, predominately in Kachin and Shan state, also prevents access to people in need.

Access of affected populations to assistance

There has been little to no cross-line humanitarian assistance to non-government-controlled areas in Kachin. Some 50,000 IDPs have had little to no humanitarian access since September 2014 (local media, 05/12/2014; OCHA, 15/06/2015).

Security and physical constraints

In Myanmar’s highland areas access is restricted by difficult terrain and poor infrastructure, and further limited during the monsoon season (May–October). Many areas are heavily mined, mainly Kachin and northern Shan states, and particularly eastern Bago region (Norwegian People’s Aid, 09/06/2015; UNICEF, 30/11/2014).

Access to areas affected by recent flooding and landslides is severely restricted. Although water has receded from some areas since 10 August, access, particularly in Chin State, remains very difficult (Democratic Voice of Burma, 18/08/2015). Roads, bridges, and other transport infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed. The government reports that 868 road sections and 831 bridges were damaged (Government, 24/08/2015).

Chin state: Landslides triggered by torrential rain have blocked major roads and severely restricted access to 40,000 people in Hakha, the state capital (Democratic Voice of Burma, 04/08/2015).

Kachin state: 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).

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).

Food availability

At the height of the flooding (July-August), approximately 566,560 hectares of farmlands were flooded across 12 affected regions and states, though the waters are now receding. At least 229,280 hectares of farmland are believed damaged or destroyed. Most negatively affected agricultural land is in the north and west (ASEAN, 18/08/2015; Democratic Voice of Burma, 18/08/2015; FAO, 10/08/2015).

Livelihoods

The harvest of some crops, including beans and pulses – some of Myanmar’s biggest agricultural exports – will be delayed by at least 60 days, affecting food security and livelihoods (Irrawaddy, 04/08/2015).

Health

Access to healthcare is a major challenge in Rakhine (OCHA, 30/09/2014). If Rohingya camp residents wish to leave their camp to see a doctor, they must first obtain a referral by a government doctor and reportedly must also often bribe the security guards (Center for International and Strategic Studies, 22/10/2014). Only patients in the most critical condition tend to reach hospital.

Healthcare availability and access

July and early August flooding has damaged health facilities and further diminished access to healthcare nationally. 242 health facilities have been damaged or destroyed in July and August and drug stocks have been lost in some areas (UNICEF, 20/08/2015; ECHO, 17/08/2015).
**Dengue fever**

As of 17 June, the number of dengue fever cases in 2015 has reached 8,475, causing 37 deaths – more than double the number during the same period in 2014. Incidence has been increasing since April. Mon state, Yangon, and Ayeyarwady regions are the most affected (Eleven, 18/06/2015; local media, 22/06/2015).

**Nutrition**

In Rakhine state, GAM is above 20% in some areas. In June 2014, 2.1% SAM and 6.8% MAM was found among 32,000 children under five screened in Rakhine (UNICEF, 01/02/2015).

**WASH**

People from Rakhine and Chin states and Sagaing and Magway regions are reportedly without access to portable water due to July and August flooding (Democratic Voice of Burma, 18/08/2015).

**Sanitation**

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).

**Vector control**

Cases of acute diarrhoea have been reported in Rakhine, Sagaing region, and Magway region. This rise in cases is partially attributed to the lack of potable water, as well as around 1,000 pounds that is reportedly contaminated by waterborne diseases in Rakhine and 250 pounds contaminated in Sagaing region (Democratic Voice of Burma, 18/08/2015).

**Shelter and NFIs**

17,000–21,000 homes were completely destroyed in July and August’s flooding. 10,000 were in Rakhine alone. The government reports that 430,000 additional homes damaged (ECHO, 23/08/2015; Government, 08/09/2015). 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).

**Protection**

The KIA continues to forcibly recruit people from villages in Shan state (local media, 11/11/2014; local media, 01/06/2015). Local media has accused government troops of rape, beatings, and shooting of unarmed civilians in the Kokang region, Shan state (RFA, 25/03/2015). The Rohingya ethnic minority continues to face discrimination from the government and is vulnerable to human trafficking.

**Mines and ERW**

Around five million people live in mine-contaminated areas (Mines Advisory Group, 05/2014). Eastern Bago is believed to be the most contaminated region (Norwegian People’s Aid, 09/06/2015).

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
Accidents happened while people travelled on foot to areas they visit often, such as fields (UNICEF, 30/11/2014).

According to local media, citing intelligence reports by the Bangladeshi border security forces, Myanmar security forces have planted mines along the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh (local media, 23/11/2014).

Gender

Rape has been repeatedly used as a weapon by armed groups, including the Myanmar army. In 2014, the Women’s League of Burma released a report that documented more than 118 victims of sexual violence at the hands of the Myanmar army since Thein Sein’s government took power (local media 26/11/2014).

Cross-border trafficking for the purposes of domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, and forced marriage was identified as a major protection concern by respondents during an assessment (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

Children

Children not in flood shelters are extremely vulnerable and less likely to receive assistance, as they are harder to identify and harder to reach (SC, 2006).

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).

Documentation

Over 800,000 people – mostly Rohingya – are estimated without citizenship in northern Rakhine (UNHCR). In early April, the Myanmar Government started taking back temporary identity cards, expired end March, from people without full citizenship, including Rohingya (international media, 18/06/2015). In June, the Government began offering two-year ‘green cards’ to some Rohingya, but they have to provide documentation, which the majority do not have, and renounce their Rohingya identity (international media, 18/06/2015). For those who refuse registration or lack adequate documents, the plan was for Rakhine authorities to construct temporary camps (local media, 12/10/2014). Rights advocates say this could put thousands of Rohingya at risk of indefinite detention. The damage to shelters resulting from the flooding in July and August may have exacerbated as documentation may have been destroyed.

Updated: 25/09/2015

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

20 September: Egyptian authorities have flooded many of the smuggling tunnels which connect Gaza to Egypt along the border near Rafah. This has particularly affected the availability of fuel (Al Jazeera, 20/09/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.9 million people need humanitarian assistance; 1.3 million in Gaza and 600,000 in the West Bank (OCHA, 31/03/2015).

- 1.45 million people, or 33% of the people in oPt, are estimated to be food insecure (WFP, 19/12/2014). 868,000 people in Gaza alone require food aid (UNRWA, 05/02/2015).

- 1.4 million people are in need of WASH assistance, particularly access to water (OCHA, 12/05/2015).

- Continuity of medical care is threatened by the financial crisis and electricity shortages in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (OCHA).

- The ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip limits access and movement of both people and goods (OCHA, 25/04/2015).

- The ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip limits access and movement of both people and goods (OCHA, 25/04/2015).
Politics and security

The Palestinian unity government, made up of members of both Hamas and Fatah, resigned in June, a year after its formation in 2014. Its mandate was to arrange a general election, which never materialised. Hamas remains dominant in the Gaza Strip and Fatah in the West Bank (Al Jazeera, 17/06/2015).

On 16 January, the ICC launched an examination of the events of the 50-day war (ICC, 16/01/2015). Palestine became an official member of the ICC on 26 March (AFP, 26/03/2015). An Amnesty International report found evidence of war crimes committed by Israel during Operation Protective Edge in the Rafah area of Gaza, and that Hamas used torture against its enemies during the conflict (Amnesty, 29/07/2015; 27/05/2015).

Stakeholders

Hamas is an Islamist organisation that was established in 1987 in the first Palestinian Intifada – The Uprising (1987–1993), with the aim of resisting the Israeli occupation. It provides some social welfare programmes, and its military wing, the Izzedine 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 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: Since 1967, Israel has occupied the West Bank and east Jerusalem, and 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.

Incidents between Israeli security forces and Israeli settlers against Palestinians gradually increased during the second quarter of 2015. In the West Bank, the majority of injuries and fatalities are caused by protests at Israeli settlements and checkpoints. In Gaza, injuries most frequently occur in the Access Restricted Area (ARA), as Israeli forces open fire on people accused of entering the restricted area.

There are growing tensions between actors within oPt, particularly between Hamas and various smaller armed groups or ‘brigades’ in Gaza (OCHA, 01/06/2015). On 30 June, Islamic State (IS) declared its intentions to replace Hamas as the main power in Gaza. No action followed, but Sinai, the Egyptian territory adjacent to Gaza, has been the site of major clashes between 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).

As of 22 June, 13 people have been killed and 993 wounded by Israeli forces in oPt so far in 2015 (OCHA, 01/06/2015). An average of over 40 Palestinians are injured by Israeli forces every week (OCHA, 25/06/2015).

Gaza

Palestinian armed groups continue to test-fire rockets into the sea and fire rockets towards Israel. Rockets were most recently launched on 18 September. Israel responded with air strikes. No casualties were reported (AFP, 18/09/2015). There has been an increase in rocket fire by groups other than Hamas (UNRWA, 04/08/2015). From 30 July to 3 August, militant groups not associated with Hamas fired 11 rockets towards Israel from inside the Gaza strip. All either failed to launch or landed inside Gaza. Hamas intervened and stopped several of the launches. (Jerusalem Post, 16/07/2015).

It was reported on 9 July that two Israeli citizens are believed to be held in the Gaza Strip by Hamas (BBC, 09/07/2015). Hamas has demanded the release of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for two Israelis (AFP, 17/07/2015).

Tensions are rising between Hamas and other armed groups in Gaza. On 19 July, six bombs believed to be targeting Hamas and Islamic Jihad, an armed group associated with Hamas, detonated in northern Gaza (Al Jazeera, 19/07/2015). It is suspected that IS or groups who support IS may be responsible; (Al Jazeera, 21/07/2015).

Inter-communal violence is also increasing. In July, three people were killed and three injured during in several incidents (UNRWA, 04/08/2015; 14/07/2915).
On 22 September, a woman was killed by Israeli forces after an alleged attempted stabbing in Hebron (AFP, 22/09/2015). This followed several days of violence at the Al Aqsa Mosque Compound, starting on 13 September. Around 50 people were injured in clashes in and around the compound and over 25 were injured in other clashes (OCHA, 14/09/2015).

Two Palestinians were killed on 15 August and 17 August following an incident at Zatara checkpoint, when an Israeli soldier was stabbed. Over 11–18 August, 27 Palestinians were injured by Israeli forces (OCHA, 22/08/2015). Two Palestinians were killed and three wounded in an arson attack by Jewish settlers on two homes in the West Bank (AFP, 31/07/2015).

Up until end July, 17 people had died due to Israeli forces in 2015, compared to 19 in the same period in 2014 (OCHA, 27/07/2015).

Settler-related violence

In 2015, there has been on average two Israeli settler attacks resulting in damage to Palestinian property a week. 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

As of 19 June, 215 IDPs remained in UNRWA collective centres. Around 100,000 people remain displaced following the 2014 July–August conflict. Many are believed to be staying within the host community but their exact location and shelter requirements and other needs are unclear (UNRWA, 19/06/2015; IFRC, 06/03/2015; OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Humanitarian access

As of 20 September, 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. This has particularly affected the availability of fuel (Al Jazeera, 20/09/2015).

Rafah Crossing was open for only four days in August, allowing 5,757 people to travel in both directions. This is lower than the over 8,000 allowed to pass in June. In January and February, the crossing was closed in both directions (31/08/2015). 7,504 Palestinians exited the Gaza Strip in the first half of 2015 compared to 19,806 in the same time period in 2014.

Following attacks in the Sinai by IS-affiliated groups, Israel has closed the Kerem Shalom border with Gaza (Jerusalem 02/07/2015).

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

Child health

The infant mortality rate in Gaza has risen for the first time in more than five decades, from 20.2 per 1,000 live births in 2008 to 22.4 in 2013, the last date with available information (UN, 09/08/2015).

Mental health

Between 300,000 and 400,000 children are in need of mental health support in the Gaza Strip (UNICEF, 26/02/2015, World Vision, 13/04/2015).

WASH

1.4 million people are in need of WASH assistance, particularly access to water (OCHA, 12/05/2015).

Water

More than 70% of households in Gaza are being supplied with piped water for 6-8 hours once every two to four days, due to insufficient power supply (OCHA, 06/07/2015).

Sanitation
90% of the water in Gaza fails WHO standards for safe drinking water (UNWRA, 24/03/2015). Up to 90 million litres of partially treated sewage are being discharged into the Mediterranean Sea every day, partially due to electricity and fuel shortages (OCHA, 06/07/2015). This is exacerbating the contamination of the aquifer.

Waste management

Although solid waste is being collected in most areas, it is being left in temporary sites rather than dumped in designated landfills.

Shelter

An estimated 500,000 Palestinians are in need of shelter assistance (OCHA, 31/03/2015). Rebuilding of the 9,161 Palestine refugee houses considered totally destroyed by Operation Projective Edge began in late June (AFP, 24/06/2015). As of 13 July, 51,039 families are yet to begin the first phase of repair works on their homes (UNRWA, 13/07/2015).

NFIs

There is currently a 55% energy deficit within Gaza (OCHA, 06/07/2015). As of 12 September, rolling power cuts across Gaza have increased from 12–16 hours to over 20 hours per day. This is due to a break in the supply lines with Egypt and a lack of fuel impacting the Gaza Power Plant (OCHA, 14/09/2015).

Education

Teaching and learning

In the previous academic year, 90% of the 252 UNRWA schools in Gaza ran on a double-shift system, and some on triple shifts, affecting some 400,000 students (UNRWA, 29/01/2015; OCHA, 12/02/2015).

Protection

The Israeli authorities are accused of detaining individuals, including children, without trial, forcibly displacing communities, as well as legalising the use of force feeding of prisoners, building on and claiming Palestinian land (Al Jazeera, 30/07/2015). To date, the Israeli government has approved plans to build Jewish settlements on 26% of Area C in the West Bank (HRW 24/08/2015). Both Israeli and Palestinian armed groups have been reported as targeting civilians (HRW, 2015).

It has been alleged that an increasing number of journalists are being targeted and injured by Israeli forces during clashes, due to a policy change. Rubber bullets and live ammunition have been used. Palestinian journalists have been the most affected (AFP, 08/04/2015). At least seven journalists have been injured since May (international media, 16/05/2015; OCHA, 06/05/2015; local media, 02/05/2015).

Mines and ERW

Palestinian civilians and security forces continue to be killed and injured by ERW. On 6 August, an ERW exploded, killing four people and injuring more than 40 in Rafah. Ten houses were damaged (The Guardian, 06/08/2015). In May, 84 people were injured in several incidents involving ERW (UNRWA, 11/05/2015; OCHA, 18/05/2015).

It is estimated that more than 1,900 ERW have yet to be secured (UNRWA, 23/09/2014).

Children

Approximately 30 children were injured by live ammunition in the first quarter of 2015 (Defence for Children International, 23/03/2015).

The Israeli army continues to arrest or detain Palestinian children as young as 11 (HRW, 20/07/2015). As of December 2014, a monthly average of 185 Palestinian children were in Israeli detention (OCHA, 31/03/2015).

Vulnerable groups

The Israeli military continues to demolish houses. Over 17–18 August, 39 structures were destroyed, displacing 126 people. This is the largest demolition and displacement event in the West Bank in three years (HRW, 24/08/2015). Four Bedouin communities in Areas C of the West Bank were affected. They are part of around 7,450 Palestinian Bedouins and herders, some 60% of them children, who have demolition orders pending against their homes, and over 85% lack connection to the electricity and water networks (OCHA, 06/05/2015; 30/04/2015).

18,000 Palestinians live in or near the 18% of the West Bank designated by the Israeli authorities as “firing zones”, areas of land claimed by the Israeli military for training and security purposes. Palestinians who live in these zones face severe access restrictions, recurrent demolition, and incidents of forced displacement and home demolition (OCHA, 12/01/2015).

Updated: 24/09/2015

PAKISTAN CONFLICT, DROUGHT, DISPLACEMENT
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

21 September: A man died of suspected Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever on 16 September, in Multan, Punjab. Health authorities are implementing safety measures to prevent diffusion of the disease (Alhasan).

18 September: At least 29 people were killed in a Taliban attack on the Badaber air force base, outside of Peshawar (CNN).

17 September: Approximately 59,803 families remain displaced in South Waziristan Agency. Priorities are shelter and NFIs, WASH, health, food security, protection, and nutrition (OCHA).

17 September: Over 25,000 people refused to vaccinate their children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the national anti-polio immunisation campaign started on 14 September. Over 200,000 children were not vaccinated (DAWN).

17 September: At least two Pakistani civilians were killed in the sectors of Kotli and Nakyal, on the disputed border in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, reportedly when Indian forces opened fire (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.8 million IDPs in Pakistan, half of whom were displaced by military operations in 2014 (UNHCR, 05/06/2015).
- 1.6 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, the majority in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (OCHA, 07/05/2015).
- 1,781 civilians were killed in conflict-related violence in 2014; 649 civilians have been killed so far in 2015 (SATP, 23/08/2015).

OVERVIEW

Priority humanitarian needs are health, nutrition, and food assistance. IDPs and Afghan refugees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are of particular concern. The security situation remains volatile due to militant attacks in urban centres and military operations against the Taliban in the tribal areas.

Politics and security

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.

As of 23 August, 649 civilians have been killed in conflict-related violence in 2015 (SATP, 23/08/2015). 1,781 civilians were killed in conflict-related violence in Pakistan in 2014, and 3,001 in 2013 (SATP, 01/01/2015).

Punjab

On 13 September, at least nine died 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. 23 people were injured in the attacks. No one has claimed responsibility (AFP, 16/08/2015).

Kashmir

India, Pakistan, and Kashmiri insurgent groups have fought over control of the disputed region of Kashmir since the Indo-Pakistan War. While thousands have died as a result of this conflict, the situation has become less deadly in recent years. Tensions have been increasing since mid-August when eight civilians – six in India-controlled Kashmir and two in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, were killed in several incidents of shelling (AFP, 16/08/2015). On 29 August, another incident of border fire killed at least ten civilians – six in Punjab province and four in India-controlled Kashmir (AFP, 29/08/2015). Talks between Pakistan and India late August ended with no agreement (AFP, 26/08/2015).

On 17 September, at least two Pakistani civilians were killed in the sectors of Kotli and Nakyal, on the disputed border, when Indian forces opened fire (AFP, 17/09/2015). As of 21 September, an increase in military activity across the control line is pushing families to flee their homes, both in Indian and Pakistani territories. Indian shelling reportedly forced 15,000 people to evacuate (Peace Direct, 21/09/2015).

Balochistan

Several armed groups, including the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF), have been fighting for greater autonomy since 1948. 2014 saw a sharp rise in acts of violence, which has persisted in 2015. Attacks by Islamist armed groups are also increasing.

Quetta has seen a rise in targeted killings and bomb explosions in the last months, and in early July security forces launched a crackdown on militants both within and outside the
A report from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan highlights that in Sindh, killing, including both terror attacks and other crime, fell 34% in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 (DAWN, 21/04/2015).

On 9 September, two media workers were killed in two separate firearms attacks in Karachi (Reuters, 09/09/2015; UN, 14/09/2015).

Natural disasters

Drought

The heavy rainfall that has hit the areas across Sindh has ended the drought conditions also in Southwestern parts of Balochistan. Western Balochistan, however, has not received any rainfall, and drought conditions in the area worsened. Dalbandin, Nokundi, Musakhel, Kharan, and adjoining areas, are still experiencing moderate drought conditions (AlHasan, 31/08/2015).

Floods

As of 13 September, 1,572,190 people have been affected by monsoon-related floods that began in June, causing 238 deaths and 232 injuries (Government, 13/09/2015). 234,890 people have been displaced and are hosted in camps.

Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh are most affected (OCHA, 09/09/2015; Government, 07/09/2015). More than 4,000 villages have been affected, and close to 10,000 houses damaged (Government, 31/08/2015). Hundreds of thousands of hectares of standing crops have been destroyed (DAWN, 10/08/2015). Priority needs are reported to be food, access to emergency health services, clean drinking water, and emergency shelter (ICRC, 28/08/2015).

On 20 September, heavy rains hit the districts of Mirpurkhas, Tharparkar, and Badin, causing the flooding of low-lying areas, and breakdown in the provision of electricity (DAWN, 21/09/2015).

Displacement

1.8 million IDPs and 1.6 million Afghan refugees are registered in Pakistan. An unknown number of unregistered Afghan refugees also live in Pakistan – Pakistani authorities estimate the number may be as high as one million.

IDPs

As of 30 June, there were 1.8 million IDPs in Pakistan, half of whom were displaced by military operations in 2014. The largest IDP populations are located in Bannu (85,147 households), Peshawar (59,415 households), and Dera Ismail Khan (44,083 households) (OCHA, 30/06/2015; UNHCR, 06/06/2015). The majority of IDPs live in host communities, with only 2% living in camps (UNHCR, 06/06/2015).

The phased return of IDPs in FATA started mid-March. As of 17 September, over 113,175 families have returned to FATA since March 2015 (OCHA, 27/08/2015; 17/09/2015). The majority of IDPs have found refuge in Dera Ismail Khan and Tank districts, where they are living with host communities (OCHA, 23/09/2015). As of 17 September, approximately 59,803 families remain displaced in South Waziristan Agency. Priorities are shelter and NFIs, WASH, health, food security, protection, and nutrition (OCHA, 17/09/2015). 21% of the families that have returned are female-headed households (OCHA, 14/09/2015).

Refugees in Pakistan

As of August, 1.6 million registered Afghan refugees live in Pakistan, mostly in Khyber
Pakhtunkhwa. The majority live in host communities (DAWN, 31/08/2015; UNHCR, 29/12/2014; OCHA, 07/05/2015).

Registration of undocumented Afghan refugees, which was due to begin in July, is now set to begin in September (DAWN, 31/08/2015). According to Pakistani officials, about a million unregistered Afghan refugees live in Pakistan (DAWN, 20/06/2015). As of 31 August, 2,800 Pakistani computerised identity cards issued to Afghan nationals are being verified by Pakistani authorities. The verification was triggered by the discovery of money transfers to anti-state organisations. Discussions are ongoing on whether to confine Afghan refugees in camps for the whole duration of their stay in Pakistan (Alhasan Systems, 31/08/2015).

The number of undocumented Afghans returning home has increased following security incidents in Pakistan, particularly the Taliban attack in Peshawar last December. Pakistani authorities have included the repatriation of refugees in a new anti-terrorism action plan (AAN, 09/03/2015). The number of reported Afghan returnees varies between 50,000 and 140,000 (OCHA, 15/07/2015; UNHCR, 30/06/2015). So far in 2015, UNHCR has assisted 50,000 registered Afghan refugees with returning to Afghanistan (UNHCR, 28/08/2015).

Pakistani refugees in neighbouring countries

As of 8 June, Khost and Paktika provinces in Afghanistan are hosting 205,434 refugees from Pakistan (UNHCR, 11/06/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Several security incidents involving aid workers have been reported so far in 2015.

In 2015, 4,443 cases of refusal of polio vaccination have been registered, mostly in Balochistan (DAWN, 08/09/2015).

Four peace volunteers have been killed in 2015: one in Mohmand Agency in May, three in Khyber Agency in February. (DAWN, 11/05/2015; 03/02/2015; 06/04/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

As of July, 29 districts nationwide are reported to be severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3), out Pakistan’s 148 districts. Four have reached IPC Phase 4 and require emergency response, while 56 are classified as moderately food insecure (IPC Phase 2), and 59 are generally food secure (IPC Phase 1) (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).

People displaced by flooding are reporting fungal and skin infections, diarrhoea, and respiratory problems (ICRC, 28/08/2015).

Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

A patient died of suspected Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever at the Nishtar Medical Institute of Multan, Punjab, on 16 September. National authorities are implementing safety measures aimed at preventing diffusion of the disease. Large, uncontrolled movement of sacrificial animals to highly populated areas for Eid celebrations have been reported (AlHasan, 21/09/2015). CCHF is transmitted by tick bites or contact with infected animal blood or tissue (WHO).

Dengue

In the week up to 14 September, 155 cases of dengue were reported in Karachi, Sindh province, bringing the total caseload to 1,169 in 2015 (Al Hasan, 14/09/2015).

On 12 September, at least 66 girls lost consciousness and 38 were hospitalised in Jhelum, Punjab, after a government anti-dengue fumigation in a school (DAWN, 13/09/2015). On 14 September, several residents attacked a health department team in Miterpura, Rawalpindi, Punjab, after problems with anti-dengue fumigation in two schools. One health worker was injured and two people were arrested (DAWN, 14/09/2015).

Polio

On 8 September, two new polio cases were reported, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), bringing the country’s total caseload so far in 2015 to 32. There were 306 cases in 2014, including 179 in FATA, and 68 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (DAWN News, 08/09/2015).

Hundreds of health workers demonstrated on 4 September in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, protesting the non-payment of salaries and threatening to boycott anti-polio vaccination campaigns planned for September (AlHasan, 07/09/2015). On 14 September, the national campaign to provide polio vaccination to around 5.3 million children kickstarted (The Tribune, 15/09/2015). As of 17 September, over 25,000 people refused to vaccinate their children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Over 200,000 children were not vaccinated (DAWN, 17/09/2015).

Nutrition

An estimated 2.86 million children and pregnant and breastfeeding women are undernourished in Pakistan, including one million IDPs (OCHA, 31/01/2015). In FATA, global acute malnutrition (GAM) reaches 16% and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) 5.6%
In South Waziristan, GAM among IDPs is over 14% in the hosted areas (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

WASH

1.1 million people are in need of WASH, including 500,000 IDPs (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

In flood-affected areas, sources of safe drinking water are limited, as hand pumps, boreholes, and tube wells are either damaged or submerged. Due to a lack of sanitation facilities, rates of open defecation have increased (ICRC, 28/08/2015).

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 (36,297 of 124,284) operate with only one teacher. In Sindh, the percentage of single-teacher schools is 45%; in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, 7%; and in Gilgit-Baltisan, 33% (DAWN, 17/09/2015).

In Balochistan, schools reportedly lack basic facilities such as drinking water and toilets. Teachers are also reported to lack adequate education (DAWN, 22/06/2015). Around 33% of children in the province are out of school (DAWN, 13/03/2015; 20/02/2015).

The majority of school-aged Afghan refugees in camps in Pakistan are unable to attend school after sixth grade (around age 11) due to lack of means (Inter Press Service, 22/12/2014).

Protection

Women, children, the disabled, and the elderly need referral assistance and specialised protection in displacement and returnee areas (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

Updated: 23/09/2015

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

14 September: in 2015 58% of adults with chronic conditions in Jordan were not able to receive medicines and adequate health services for their conditions, compared to 24% in 2014 (UNHCR).

14 September: In Azraq camp, 135 cases of hepatitis A have been recorded between late July and 31 August. 96% were among people under 18 (UNHCR).

KEY CONCERNS

- 629,266 Syrian refugees in Jordan (Save the Children, 13/09/2015).
- Jordanian authorities are reported to have tightened controls along the borders. Several hundreds of asylum seekers are stranded and in deep need of humanitarian assistance in the 'no-man's land' on the border, in Jordanian territory (ECHO, 19/08/2015, Physicians for Humanity, 19/08/2015).
- As of August 2015, 85% of refugees are food insecure, compared to 48% in 2014 (NRC, 03/08/2015).
- A growing number of Syrian refugees living outside of camps are entering camps to receive medical attention, straining the already limited resources (ECHO, 19/08/2015).

Politics and security

Concerns over spiralling crises in Iraq and Syria and extremist infiltration have increased since Jordan joined the US-led airstrikes against Islamic State (IS) in September 2014, and then reinforced its participation after the assassination of a captured Jordanian pilot on 3 February (ISW, 19/02/2015; Al Jazeera, 12/02/2015). Tensions between refugees and host communities are a concern, primarily due to a sense of competition over housing, jobs, and assistance (Mercy Corps, 12/2014).

On 13 August, six people in Ramtha, along Jordan’s northwest border, were injured by an illuminating shell fired during clashes in Syria (ABC News, 13/08/2015). On 25 June, one person was killed and another four injured when mortar shells from southern Syria fell into Ramtha, a town in Jordan close to the border. The mortar shelling is believed inadvertent, resulting from clashes inside Syria (Kuwait News Agency, 25/06/2015).
As of 31 July, 686,501 refugees are registered with UNHCR in Jordan (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). The average number of Syrians entering Jordan has dropped considerably since 2013. 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).

Refugees and asylum seekers

Syrian refugees

As of 6 September, there are 629,266 Syrian refugees in Jordan (Save the Children, 13/09/2015). The Government of Jordan claims that the actual number of Syrian refugees hosted in Jordan is around 1.5 million (AFP, 25/08/2015). There were 6,263 new arrivals in the first six months of 2015 (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). Several hundred asylum seekers are stranded and in need of humanitarian assistance in the ‘no-man’s land’ on the border, in Jordanian territory (ECHO, 19/08/2015, Physicians for Humanity, 19/08/2015).

50.7% of registered refugees are female. 520,127 refugees are reported to be hosted in urban areas, while 108,740 are in camps. 51.8% are below 18 years of age, 44.7% are between 18 and 59, and 3.5% are older than 60 years (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). About 86% of refugees in urban areas live below the Jordanian poverty line of USD 95 per person per month (Act Alliance, 13/08/2015).

175,965 refugees live in Irbid governorate, 142,632 in Amman governorate, 76,751 in Ma’afra governorate, and 50,404 in Zarqa governorate (UNHCR 16/08/2015).

There has been a pattern of refugees returning to camps, mainly due to increased economic vulnerability. Some 22,643 Syrian refugees live in Azraq camp, Zarqa – an 88% increase since January (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). 56% are children, including 205 identified separated and unaccompanied minors. 367 people in the camp have disabilities. Three households in 10 are headed by women and 1,158 women are reported to be at risk (UNHCR, 31/07/2015). There are 79,709 Syrian refugees in Za’atari camp (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Jerash, north of Amman, hosts 10,725 refugees, and Ajloun, west of Jerash, hosts 9,625. There are 673 refugees in King Abdullah camp and 304 in Cyber City camp, both located in the Irbid governorate, (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

Returnees to Syria

As of 13 August, around 100 people are returning to Syria every day, mainly to Dara’a, a Syrian town along the border with Jordan (EU, 13/08/2015). Reasons for return include reunion with family members, increasing vulnerability given reduced aid and lack of livelihood opportunities in Jordan, and a desire to continue education (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

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).

Since late 2012, the government has explicitly stated that it would not allow PRS to enter Jordan. Those who do enter are subject to a number of protection issues, including refoulement, confiscation of documents and, for those with Jordanian citizenship, de-nationalisation (HRW 05/2014, 04/07/2012). As of 15 May, 41 forced returns to Syria have been reported to UNRWA since January 2015. UNRWA reports 106 cases of PRS deported in 2014, a 40% increase on 2013, but warns the actual number of deportations is likely much higher (UNRWA, 03/12/2014; 15/05/2015).

Non-Syrian refugees

As of 31 August, there are 50,340 registered Iraqi refugees. 48.4% are female. The breakdown by age is: 33.9% are below 18 years of age, 56.7% are between 18 and 59, 9.4% are over 60 years of age. 90% of Iraqi refugees are being hosted in Amman governorate (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Many Iraqis may have entered without a legal permit, or overstayed a regular period, and estimating the actual number of Iraqis in Jordan is challenging (Act Alliance, 13/08/2015). A surge in the registration of Iraqi refugees was reported between September and December 2014, but new registration numbers significantly decreased in 2015 (UNHCR, 23/09/2014; PI, 11/03/2015).

Only 1% of the appeal for Iraqi refugee needs is funded. The most urgent issues are lack of access to schooling (34% of Iraqi refugees are of school age), lack of access to healthcare and, for the most vulnerable refugees, heavy reliance on cash assistance (UNHCR, 13/05/2015). The unemployment rate of Iraqi refugees in Jordanian host communities is reported to be very high (Act Alliance, 13/08/2015).

Humanitarian access

The influx of Syrian refugees has placed significant additional stress on Jordan’s already strained public services. Public health and education services are...
Access of relief actors to affected populations

Accessing Syrians in the “no man’s land” on the border, in the Jordanian territory, is very difficult (Physicians for Humanity, 19/08/2015).

International NGOs working in Jordan are required to get all projects approved by the Government, which can be a lengthy process. Aid agencies assisting Syrians also need to include vulnerable Jordanians as 30% of their beneficiaries; some have faced pressure to increase this proportion to 50% (PI, 06/2014).

On 23 July, only 11% of the funding for the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) had been secured (Government, 23/07/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Food insecurity among refugees in the country has risen in 2015. As of August 2015, 85% of refugees are food insecure, compared to 48% in the previous year (NRC, 03/08/2015).

Within host communities, there has been a 37% increase in the number of food insecure compared to 2014, and 68% live below the poverty line, representing a 24% increase since 2014. 67% of households are using negative coping strategies, a 32% increase since 2014 (WFP, 30/06/2015).

Livelihoods

The unemployment rate among active Syrian refugees is as high as 57% (ILO, 11/05/2015). Refugees are not officially allowed to work in Jordan, and therefore they are heavily dependent on humanitarian aid (WFP, 31/08/2015). 99% of employed Syrian refugees in Jordan work in the informal sector (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

86% of Syrian refugees in urban areas are living below the Jordanian poverty line of USD 96 per month and 10% are below the abject poverty line of USD 37. More than 80% are resorting to reducing their food intake, sending family members out to beg, or engaging in high-risk or illegal activities to earn money. Over 60% of refugee families outside camps are in debt (VAF, 15/06/2015; UNHCR, 15/06/2015). An estimated 1,750 Syrians are reported to be living in extremely poor conditions on the eastern border of Jordan (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

As of May, the labour force participation rate for Jordanians is similar to before the Syrian crisis, but unemployment has increased from 15% to 22% (ILO, 11/05/2015). A study suggests that Syrians may have crowded Jordanians out of the construction sector (ILO, 11/05/2015).

Food availability

Funding shortfalls have resulted in a series of cuts to food assistance for Syrian refugees. WFP food vouchers to Syrian refugees outside camps have been almost halved since the last quarter of 2014, due to funding shortfalls (WFP, 31/05/2015). As of the first week of August, provision of food assistance to around 200,000 Syrian refugees was cut by half (Pulitzer Center, 10/08/2015). On 4 September, WFP confirmed it has stopped providing food assistance to around 229,000 Syrians in Jordan, due to lack of funding; food provision will be temporarily maintained for another 211,000 Syrian refugees (AFP, 04/09/2015).

Health

Healthcare availability and access

The Government decision to halt free access to health services for refugees in November 2014 led to a reduction in the number of Syrians accessing public healthcare. The cuts have led to a growing number of Syrian refugees entering camps to receive medical attention, straining already limited resources (ECHO, 19/08/2015).

Reports indicate that, in 2015, 58% of adults with chronic conditions in Jordan were not able to receive medicines and adequate health services. This represents a sharp increase compared to the 24% in 2014. The government facilities have a delivery rate of health services to the population of 44%, compared to 66% of 2014 (UNHCR, 14/09/2015).

Maternal health

Maternal health is of particular concern: half of pregnant women have been unable to afford antenatal care, and 60% of new mothers could not afford postnatal care. Refugee women in Zaatari camp are reported to be in particular need of better postnatal care (EU, 14/08/2015; UNICEF 30/06/2015).

Mental health

High needs for psychosocial support have been reported (EU, 14/08/2015).

Hepatitis A

In Azraq camp, 135 cases of hepatitis A were recorded between late July and 31
In Azraq camp, 135 cases of hepatitis A were recorded between late July and 31 August. 96% of cases were among people under 18 (UNHCR, 14/09/2015).

WASH

Water

Reports suggest that the public water system is under significant strain in areas with high concentrations of Syrians (Government, 17/03/2015).

Sanitation

Municipal sewage and garbage removal services are under stress (REACH, 12/11/2014). Two out of five Syrian refugees live in poor sanitary conditions; only one in five has a functioning toilet. People in informal shelters are particularly affected (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

About 75% of registered Syrian refugees (520,000 people) live among host communities in Jordan (NRC, 03/08/2015). Most refugees are concentrated around the major urban areas of the northwest, such as Amman and Irbid. Syrian refugees now constitute 38% of the population of Mafraq city and Ba’lama subdistricts (UNHCR, 31/05/2015, 13/07/2015).

Shelter

Lack of adequate shelter is the main concern for Syrian refugees. Available shelter is often not adequate, affordable or secure (NRC, 17/06/2015). An assessment in northern Jordan showed that one in five refugee households live in accommodation that does not provide basic protection from the elements. Housing is often overcrowded, and half of the families assessed share accommodation with at least one other family to save costs (NRC, 17/06/2015). Threat of eviction is another concern (NRC, 17/06/2015).

NFIs

In Mafraq governorate, almost half of refugee households have no heating and a quarter have unreliable electricity (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

Education

Around 48% of Syrian refugee children in the country are out of school. Over 65% of all school-aged children in Za’atari 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). A survey showed that 60% of Syrian refugees over 15 have never completed basic schooling; only about 15% have completed secondary education (ILO, 11/05/2015). Over 3.3% of children in Za’atari camp are reported to have at least one form of disability or chronic disease. Two-thirds are not attending school due to their condition (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

Protection

There was increasing evidence in the second part of 2014 that the Government is returning screened refugees to Syria. Jordanian officials maintain that the border is open to refugees, and that Jordan is simply instituting security measures to exclude people connected to “terrorist organisations” (Al Ghad, 14/12/2014; Jordan Times, 11/12/2014). Refugees report a waiting period of up to two months, 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. 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.

Vulnerable groups

In July 2015, Jordan was reported to have suspended all the projects for the
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; PI, 07/2014 R1).

An urban verification exercise, which requires biometric registration of all Syrians outside camps and the reissuing of key documents, has been ongoing since 15 February. As of 27 April, 54,794 Ministry of Interior (MoI) cards had been issued, covering 11% of the urban refugee population (UNHCR, 13/05/2015). A lease agreement is one of the preconditions for registration and for the issue of the MoI card, yet many Syrians outside of camps lack rental contracts (NRC, 17/06/2015). The card is required to access basic health and education services or register marriage, births, or deaths. The Government has instructed humanitarian agencies not to provide assistance to Syrians who do not have service cards. There is no sign this decision has been enforced, but it creates a vulnerability, also considering that, according to several agencies, between 15-30% of the refugees (100,000-200,000) in Jordan may not be fully registered (PI, 08/01/2014; 03/12/2014; IFRC, 04/08/2015).

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: 16/09/2015
Nearly 8,000 people have been killed and over 17,800 injured in the conflict since April 2014 (UN, 08/09/2015). 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).

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).

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).

On 8 September, government leaders and separatists began new peace talks (AFP, 07/09/2015). Two government soldiers died on 9 September (AFP, 13/09/2015; AFP, 09/09/2015).

Local elections will be held in Ukraine on 25 October. On 17 September, the leaders of the separatist Donetsk and Luhansk regions announced their own elections on 18 October and 1 November. This move threatens the peace process and contradicts the Minsk agreements (BBC, 16/09/2015).

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).

Conflict developments

The number of casualties decreased between February and April 2015 due to the ceasefire, but began to rise again in May (AFP, 25/08/2015; 03/08/2015).

An intensification of ceasefire violations was reported along the Donetsk–Mariupol corridor in Donetsk region in mid-August, as pro-Russian forces sought to gain control of a strategic highway linking the two cities, as well as in northwest Luhansk. Granitne, Starohnutivka, Avdeevka, Talakova, Kominternove and Pavlopil were all shelled (AFP, 25/08/2015; OSCE, 17/08/2015; AFP, 17/08/2015).

At least two people were injured by ceasefire violations in Donetsk and Luhansk in the week ending 20 September. Sporadic small arms fire and shelling continue to be reported (OSCE, 17/09/2015; 20/09/2015; 16/09/2015).

Humanitarian access

Administrative requirements to cross the lines separating government from non-government areas are increasingly complicated. These, combined with significant logistical challenges, severely constrain both aid delivery and populations’ ability to reach safety, services and reunify with their families (UNHCR, 08/06/2015; 20/03/2015; OCHA, 06/03/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Administrative requirements to cross the lines separating government from non-government areas are severely affecting aid delivery. Foreign organisations working in non-government areas of Donetsk region need to be accredited. Obligatory permits 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).

As of 24 September, rebels in Luhansk region ordered ten foreign aid organisations, including UN agencies and MSF, to leave. Only ICRC remains (AFP, 24/09/2015; UN, 24/09/2015).

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,
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 September, the bridges at Luhanske, Horlivkais, and Rizhishne were destroyed. Rains may make bypasses impassable. The main road between Zoloten and Luhansk is closed, as is the Artemivsk–Debalteve road and Krasnoarmiysk–Donetsk road (Logistics Cluster, 10/09/2015).

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, 28/09/2015).

Displacement

More than 2.4 million Ukrainians have been displaced by the conflict, including 1.46 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 7 September, an estimated 1.46 million IDPs have been registered in eastern Ukraine since March 2014, including 18,460 children. 60% are elderly and 4% people with disabilities (UNHCR, 07/09/2015; UNICEF, 01/09/2015; OCHA, 28/08/2015). This is an increase of 58,900 since 3 August (UNHCR, 07/09/2015). Key reception areas are under government control in Donetsk (539,500) and Luhansk regions (213,800), and Kharkiv (186,700), Kiev (106,000), Zaporizhzhya (99,800), and Dnipropetrovsk regions (72,400) (UNHCR, 26/08/2015; 03/08/2015). 19,000 people are estimated to be displaced within Crimea (IDMC, 31/10/2014). IDPs are in need of livelihood, employment, and psychological support (UNHCR, 03/08/2015).

IDPs are required to register in government areas in order to be eligible for social payments and pensions; 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).

Some IDPs have reportedly returned to conflict areas, as currency devaluation has limited their purchasing power (OCHA, 06/03/2015). 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). Food shortages have also been reported among IDPs in Luhansk and Kharkiv (OCHA, 24/04/2015; 10/04/2015; FAO, 26/01/2015).

Insecurity, damaged infrastructure, landmines, and lack of resources are delaying agricultural activities in many conflict areas (OCHA, 10/04/2015). 13% of wheat, barley, and maize, and up to 30% of sunflower crops were not harvested in 2014 due to displacement, corresponding to losses of 530,000 and 400,000 metric tons, respectively.
Food access

People in non-government areas are particularly affected by high food prices due to the restricted movement of commodities: as of July, they were 70% higher than the national average (WFP, 31/07/2015). 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).

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).

Polio

Two cases of polio among children in Zakarpatskaya region, southwest Ukraine, were confirmed 28 August. These are the first cases of polio in Europe since 2010. In 2014, only 49% of children in Ukraine were immunised against polio, and only 14.1% of children under one have been vaccinated in 2015 (WHO, 01/09/2015).

Tuberculosis (TB)

At least 2,400 people in non-government areas with TB, including 530 people with multidrug-resistant TB, lack consistent treatment provision and follow-up (HRW, 13/03/2015). Stocks of medicines for drug-resistant TB are insufficient and further shortages are expected (Global Fund, 24/07/2015). New TB cases were estimated in February to have increased by 5% in non-government areas of Donetsk, mainly among the elderly and combatants (OCHA, 06/02/2015).

WASH

More than 1.3 million people need WASH assistance, including nearly 1.2 million in non-government areas (OCHA, 25/08/2015). Access to safe water in non-government areas is of particular concern.

Water

Damage to water supply lines has affected access to safe water for 1.3 million people. Three million are at risk of acute water shortages if repairs are not conducted (OCHA, 17/08/2015). More than 2,000km of pipelines have been damaged in Donbas and conflict hampers agencies’ ability to conduct repairs (OCHA, 10/07/2015). 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).

Shelter and NFIs

1.4 million people are estimated to be in need of emergency shelter and NFIs, compared to
600,000 end March. Government and non-government areas in Donetsk and Luhansk, as well as high IDP reception areas, are most affected (OCHA, 25/08/2015; MSNA, 30/03/2015).

Shelter

An estimated 554,800 IDPs (38%) live in inadequate or poor shelter (Shelter Cluster, 31/08/2015). 9-10% of IDPs in government areas along the conflict line receive housing, compared to less than 1% in western and central Ukraine (UNHCR/Shelter Cluster, 15/06/2015; UNHCR, 20/03/2015). The majority of IDPs are staying with host families or 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).

Winterisation needs are growing due to the damage to shelters in areas along the conflict line, where repair needs are high (Shelter Cluster, 28/08/2015; UNHCR/Shelter cluster, 30/04/2015). 60% of Shyrokyne’s buildings have been destroyed by shelling (MSF, 21/04/2015).

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).

Protection

5.1 million people are in need of protection (OCHA, 17/08/2015). Human rights violations and abuses persist in eastern Ukraine, including shelling, arbitrary and illegal detention, human trafficking, and deprivation of economic and social rights in conflict areas (UN, 01/06/2015). An increase in cases of human trafficking of women and IDPs has been reported; in previous years, the majority of victims were men for labour exploitation (OCHA, 17/08/2015). Over 40 journalists have been banned from the country (VOA, 17/09/2015).
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 Novoazovsk and Artemivsk districts in Donetsk region are reportedly contaminated (UNHCR, 10/04/2015). Two separate incidents involving ERW on 4 and 24 August killed one child and injured three others in Pavlovgrad and Mariupol, Dnipropetrovsk region (Protection Cluster, 01/09/2015). At least another two people died and five more were injured due to ERW in the week ending 20 September (OSCE, 17/09/2015: 20/09/2015; 16/09/2015).

Updated: 29/09/2015

NORTH AMERICA

HAITI FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE

OVERVIEW

Humanitarian needs in Haiti stem from displacement, food insecurity, and malnutrition. The situation is compounded by an extremely fragile political and economic situation, and a significant vulnerability to natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and droughts. The resilience of the population is extremely low.

Politics and security

Parliamentary elections took place on 9 August, after having been delayed since 2011. However, 26 of 1,508 polling stations were closed due to violence, and voter turnout reached only 18% (AFP, 21/08/2015; OAS, 10/08/2015; Reuters, 10/08/2015). Following demonstrations in several parts of the country and sharp criticism from international observers and Haitian human rights groups, the Provisional Electoral Council announced that a revote will take place in 25 of 119 constituencies (Alter Press, 11/08/2015; 12/08/2015). 16 candidates were disqualified over suspected involvement in election violence. Clashes in the days leading up to the elections killed five people and injured 34 (Reuters, 10/08/2015; AFP, 10/08/2015). National police were mobilised and MINUSTAH forces put on standby in case of further violence (AFP, 21/08/2015).

The current situation is relatively stable, however tensions persist. On 1 September, protests broke out in Arcahaie in Ouest department, against a presidential decree to re-zone the communes in the area. The protests blocked part of National Highway 1 and lasted three days (local media, 04/09/2015). On 8 September, the Vérité party, one of the leading political parties, pulled out of the second round of legislative elections, claiming it was the primary target of violence during the first round of voting (NYT, 08/09/2015).

Local and presidential elections are due to take place on 25 October 2015.

Natural disasters

Tropical storm
Tropical storm Erika killed four people and injured 12 on the outskirts of Port-au-
Prince and in Léogâne on 29 August (AlterPresse, 29/08/2015). In total, 18,800 people are estimated to have been affected by the storm (OCHA, 10/09/2015).

Drought

Around one million Haitians have been affected by prolonged drought conditions since the beginning of the year. The most affected departments are Sud-Est, Nord-
Ouest, Artibonite, Centre, and Nord-Est (OCHA, 03/07/2015). 80% of Haiti is currently affected by El Niño conditions, with seasonal rainfall about 50% lower than average (FEWSNET 07/08/2015). The drought is expected to continue until at least December (FEWSNET, 20/07/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of 30 June, 60,800 IDPs remain in 45 camps following the 2010 earthquake: 47% in Delmas (27,340), 17% in Croix des Bouquets (10,760), and 10% in Tabarre (5,750) in Port-au-Prince (IOM, 03/06/2015). 21 IDP sites were closed between 1 April and 30 June (IOM, 30/06/2015). Information management and service delivery in camps has been severely constrained due to lack of funding (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Basic services in camps have declined faster than the pace of return or relocation (OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014). Absence of a protection-sensitive approach, lack of coherent urban planning, and instability, in part due to poor rule of law, are major obstacles to durable solutions for IDPs (UNHCR, 08/05/2015).

Arrivals from Dominican Republic

Dominican authorities report that over 66,000 people have returned to Haiti as of 11 August (IOM, 11/08/2015). IOM monitors have identified 17,548 Haitians and people of Haitian descent who have crossed the border from 16 June to 4 September, including 102 unaccompanied minors. 11,236 people report that they were returning spontaneously, 4,945 claim to have been deported, and 1,367 were officially deported. 24% were born in the Dominican Republic (IOM, 14/09/2015). 5,570 people were 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 staying in spontaneous camps springing up in the south of the country. Anse-à-Pitres reported 1,000 voluntary returns up until July 2015. The majority are in Ouanaminthe (Nord-Est) and Belladère (Centre) communes, and some in four spontaneous camps in Anse-à-Pitres, where conditions are critical (GARR, 20/08/2015; IOM, 11/08/2015; Alter Press, 26/06/2015). Reports indicate that the coalition of governmental and non-governmental entities tasked with assisting arrivals from the Dominican Republic does not have the means to meet their needs (AlterPresse, 08/09/2015).

Humanitarian access

The number of humanitarian actors has continued to decrease, from 512 in 2010 to 146 by March 2015, and government capacity has not always improved, creating critical sectoral gaps (UN, 28/03/2015; OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014).

Food security and livelihoods

As a result of below-average rainfall in 2015, 3.8 million Haitians are food insecure, including 180,000 people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, compared to 605,000 and 165,000 in 2014 (local media, 15/06/2015; ECHO, 27/05/2015; OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014).

Poor households in Sud, Sud-Est, Nord-Ouest, Nord-Est and Artibonite are expected to face Crisis through January 2016, due to the combined effect of food prices, erratic rains, poor harvest prospects, and lack of investment in the agricultural sector. The situation for some others will worsen to either Crisis or Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015, 17/08/2015).

Food availability

60–80% of the main local crops and vegetables have been lost in parts of Haiti as a result of the drought and overall agricultural production for this year is estimated to be 50% lower than last year (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015, 17/08/2015). Sud-Est (Grand Gosier, Anse-à-Pitres and Belle-Anse communes), Nord-Ouest, Artibonite (Gonaïves), Plateau central, Nord-Est, and Ouest (Grand-Gôave) are most affected (FEWSNET, 17/08/2015; FAO, 27/05/2015). Prolonged dryness until December will likely lead to a second below-average output for the August–December season harvest (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015).

Livelihoods

Extended dry spells have reduced available jobs in the agricultural sector, which is estimated to provide 50% of all jobs in Haiti (Reuters, 26/08/2015; OCHA, 27/07/2015).
Livestock has been severely affected by the drought and fishing was also impacted in May and June due to unusually rough seas (Haitilibre, 11/09/2015; ECHO, 27/05/2015).

**Health**

Five million Haitians (half of the total population) lack access to basic health services (UN, 27/10/2014). Cholera continues to affect Haiti, driven mainly by poor WASH conditions. The total number of cases in the first half of 2015 was triple that of the same period in 2014.

**Healthcare availability and access**

The 2010 earthquake destroyed an estimated 60% of Haiti’s health system and a number of hospitals have still not been fully rehabilitated since the earthquake. 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 12 August, 20,043 suspected cases and 170 deaths have been reported in 2015, compared to 7,739 cases and 56 deaths during the same period in 2014 (PAHO, 12/08/2015; OCHA, 31/07/2015). From January to April 2015, the incidence rate was nearly 400% higher than during the same period in 2014 due to the unusually early start to rainy season this year and the associated spike in waterborne bacteria (NPR, 28/05/2015). **Most cases are from Ouest, Centre, Artibonite and Nord departments** (OCHA, 31/07/2015). January recorded the largest number of cases, with 4,321 suspected cases and 36 deaths (HPN, 01/06/2015).

**Nutrition**

At March, 85,000 children suffered from acute malnutrition, including 17,000 requiring immediate assistance (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

**WASH**

Populations in Belladere and Fonds-Verrets in Centre and Ouest departments, as well as in several areas of Port-au-Prince, have lacked access to safe drinking water for the past six months, mainly due to drought, causing children to miss school and increasing social tensions (Alter Press, 01/07/2015; local media, 22/05/2015).

As of late 2014, more than 3.4 million Haitians lacked access to safe water (one-third of the total population; 47% of the rural population) (UN, 30/09/2014). 60% of schools lack toilets and 40% do not have drinking water (local media, 31/08/2015).

**Sanitation**

69% of Haiti’s population lack access to improved sanitation (World Bank, 30/09/2014). 60% of schools have no toilets (HRW, 08/10/2014).

**Shelter and NFIs**

The majority of Haiti’s 45 IDP sites are in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince – including 12 in Delmas and four in Croix des Bouquets – and Leogane (11). 40% of IDP sites are tents and makeshift shelters, while 47% transitional shelters (IOM, 30/06/2015). Conditions in the camps are deteriorating as humanitarian actors withdraw due to lack of continued funding (IOM).

In total, 3.5 million Haitians (one-third of the total population) live in precarious neighbourhoods and informal settlements in urban areas where they suffer from socio-economic deprivation, elevated risk of disaster impact, and forced eviction (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

**Education**

An estimated 400,000 children do not attend school, 10% of the total population of school-aged children in Haiti (AFP, 07/09/2015).

**Protection**

**Children**

Many children still show signs of emotional and psychological stress since the earthquake, and remain in need of protection; minors in camps are particularly at risk of exploitation, with sexual violence commonplace (Save the Children, 08/01/2015).

**Documentation**

Around one-third of people relocated outside camps after the 2010 earthquake do not have legitimate status/rights for the land they occupy. Land disputes and tensions are common and have been accompanied by coercion, violence, and forced eviction (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

**Vulnerable groups**
Up to 200,000 Haitians and people of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic are at risk of forced expulsion as a regularisation process ended on 16 June (AFP, 21/06/2015). Many are at risk of statelessness, as the Haitian government has indicated it will refuse to accept non-national deportees onto its territory (AlterPresse, 19/08/2015). In the Dominican Republic, violence by locals against Haitians and people of Haitian descent has been reported in Monte Cristi province (AlterPresse, 24/08/2015) and raids targeting Haitians have been reported in Santiago de los Caballeros (local media, 25/08/2015). 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). Estimates of the number of arrivals in Haiti vary widely, but tens of thousands have crossed from the Dominican Republic (IOM, 11/08/2015).

Updated 16/09/2015

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  DROUGHT, EPIDEMIC**

**Situation of concern**  
Pre-crisis vulnerability: Low  
% population affected: 16.1%  
Humanitarian access: Minimal

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

19 September: Dengue fever caused four deaths in the second week of September, bringing total deaths from the disease to 57 in 2015. National health authorities have issued an epidemiological alert (RedHum).

19 September: As of 1 September, 78,000 people had applied for permits following the approval of the new national regularisation plan. Not meeting the requirements, they were denied permits and are at risk of deportation (CWSGlobal).

**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).

**Displacement**

As of August, 524,000 foreigners, including 450,000 Haitians, were reported to be living in Dominican Republic (PanamPost, 25/08/2015; US News, 10/07/2015).

The government of Dominican Republic has introduced a National Plan for the Regularization of Foreigners (PNRE) and said it will deport all those who failed to meet the 17 June deadline for registration (CNN, 21/06/2015). As of 1 September, 84,000 Haitian migrants in the Dominican Republic have reportedly received work permits, and another 110,000 permits were ready to be claimed across the country. 78,000 people have applied but did not meet documentation requirements under the PNRE and are at risk of deportation (CWSGlobal, 19/09/2015).

Deportations were interrupted on 10 June because of growing international pressure over concerns of human rights infringements, but resumed on 25 August (US News, 10/07/2015;
PanamPost, 25/08/2015). On 17 August, 66,000 Haitians were reported to have spontaneously left Dominican Republic since the beginning of the deportations (REDLAC, 17/08/2015).

In 2013, the article that guaranteed citizenship to those born in the Dominican Republic was removed from the Constitution, and applied retroactively to all those born after 1929 (US News, 10/07/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Livelihoods

The inadequate rainfall has severely reduced the water availability, impacting crop production, causing death of livestock, and subsequently affecting the livelihoods of many people. Rainfall deficits remain severe in coastal areas of the country, particularly on the eastern and northern sides (FEWSNET, 18/09/2015).

Rice production in Montecristi has been severely affected by the ongoing drought. Over 8,614 hectares of rice-cultivated land have been lost, causing economic damage worth tens of millions of dollars, and affecting hundreds of people (RedHum, 22/08/2015).

Health

Dengue

National health authorities issued an epidemiologic alert following four deaths from dengue fever in the week ending 19 September. There have been 57 deaths from dengue so far in 2015, an increase from 40 in all of 2014.

In the four weeks up to 19 September, 1,172 new suspected dengue cases were registered, bringing the 2015 total to 5,222.

There were 4,428 dengue cases in all of 2014 (RedHum, 19/09/2015).

Protection

Haitian migrants

Around 288,500 unregistered migrants in the country have registered for a residency permit, after the decision of the Dominican government to deport illegal immigrants after the deadline for applications in its “regularization plan” (PanamPost, 25/08/2015; US News, 10/07/2015). Certification of citizenship and employment are necessary to apply for regularisation, but 96% of those who have applied do not have passports, and many employers are refusing to produce employment certificates (CNN, 21/06/2015).

Additionally, deportations put those born in the Dominican Republic to Haitian parents at risk of statelessness, due to the widespread lack of documentation (PanamPost, 25/08/2015). Reports indicate that in the last weeks violent incidents involving young Haitians and Dominican soldiers occurred on the border, but no casualties have been registered so far (NPR, 31/08/2015).

Arbitrary arrests and denial of human rights for Haitians nationals within Dominican Republic have been reported in 13 communes (Human Rights Watch, 01/07/2015).

Updated: 23/09/2015

EL SALVADOR: DROUGHT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 September: San Miguel, Morazán, La Unión, La Paz and San Vicente are the most drought-affected departments (WFP).

14 September: Up to 60% of primera maize crops have been affected by the dry spell; more than 100,000 farmers are estimated to be affected by crop losses (FAO).

31 August: 156,000 people in the eastern and western regions are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes due to a prolonged dry spell related to El Niño (FEWSNET).

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). 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,
An estimated 500,000 people across the “Dry Corridor” in Central America are facing severe food insecurity, while around 1.3 million are facing moderate food insecurity (OCHA, 07/09/2015).

**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, as a result of 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).

**Nutrition**

The acute malnutrition rate is at 2%, and has increased due to the coffee rust epidemic and prolonged dry spell (WFP, 30/06/2015).

**Updated: 28/09/2015**

**GUATEMALA DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**14 September:** 677,000 individuals (154,000 families) are estimated to have suffered crop losses due to drought, which are unlikely to be compensated by good output in the second harvest season (FAO).

**7 September:** In some communities in the dry corridor, 13% of children under five are acutely malnourished (OCHA).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Nearly one million people are facing acute food insecurity due to drought (Reuters, 14/08/2015).

- Acute malnutrition rates are on the rise (FEWSNET, 08/2015). Chronic malnutrition is reportedly increasing due to several years of below-average harvest and food insecurity (Reuters, 14/08/2015).

**Natural disasters**

- 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).
Drought

The El Niño phenomenon is causing severe drought in Central America’s “dry corridor”, which runs through Guatemala (Reuters, 14/08/2015). According to forecasts, the drought will continue until the end of the postrera season in November, with well below-average rainfall and a likely early end to the rains in the second half of October (FEWSNET, 08/2015). 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).

This year’s drought is exceptionally long, with more consecutive days without rain than in 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). Areas in the dry corridor also saw long periods without rain in May and June, (OCHA, 25/08/2015).

Guatemala is reported to be the most affected by the regional drought, followed by Honduras and El Salvador (OCHA, 25/08/2015).

Floods

Floods caused damage to 34 communities in the cities of Livingston and El Estor in early August, affecting 8,290 people. At least four people died. As of 10 August, 109 people were still staying in shelters (OCHA, 10/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Nearly one million people are facing food insecurity, as drought has led to a third consecutive year of decreased harvest (Reuters, 14/08/2015).

In the east, households receiving emergency food assistance are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes, while those not receiving assistance will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes until September. From October onwards, seasonal wages will improve household revenue and lead to Stressed (Phase 2) outcomes in the east (FEWSNET, 08/2015).

Municipalities in the highlands receiving assistance will continue facing Stressed (Phase 2) outcomes until September. Without continued assistance, households affected by agricultural losses and a fungus epidemic will move to Crisis (Phase 3) food security outcomes (FEWSNET, 08/2015).

500,000 people are facing severe food insecurity across the dry corridor in Central America, 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, due to three consecutive years of below-average harvests (Reuters, 14/08/2015). The unusually long dry spell has caused a 75 –100% loss of subsistence production in the dry corridor. The latest harvest has not replenished food stocks as usual. There is a high risk that the bean harvest will also be well below-average (FEWSNET, 08/2015).

Areas most affected by agricultural losses are in the east and west of the country, and some areas in the departments of Suchitepequez and Retalhuleu, on the southern coast.

Food access

Thousands of families cannot afford food due to a lack of income from seasonal work (Reuters, 14/08/2015). Households in poor, rural communities have resorted to eating only one or two meals a day (Reuters, 14/08/2015).

Livelihoods

An ongoing fungus epidemic that affects coffee plants is leading to a reduction in seasonal employment and lower wages (Reuters, 14/08/2015). An estimated 154,000 families (677,000 individuals) are impacted by crop losses due to the drought. 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).

Health

On 24 August, the government declared a health emergency in health districts affected by epidemics of dengue fever and chikungunya: Santa Rosa, Retalhuleu, Quetzaltenango, San Marcos, Peten Norte, Escuintla, and Zapaca (Government, 24/08/2015). Between January and August, more than 2,500 suspected chikungunya cases have been reported, and 650 cases of dengue. Vector control is a priority to prevent further spread of the disease (Redhum, 28/08/2015).

Nutrition

There are indications that the nutrition situation is deteriorating in areas affected by a rain deficit. An initial nutrition screening among children under five in Huehuerenango, Quiche, Chiquimula, Quetzaltenango, Alta Verapaz, and Baja Verapaz municipalities indicated 5.7% acute malnutrition. Initial results of an assessment in July in Tucuru and Santa Catarina La Tinta, indicated 3.3% acute malnutrition (FEWSNET, 08/2015). In some communities in the dry corridor, acute malnutrition reaches 13% among children under five. 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).
HONDURAS DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

21 September: Heavy rains caused flash floods in La Ceiba, a port city on the northern coast. The most affected area is the San Isidro market, in the barrio El Centro (RedHum).

KEY CONCERNS

- Over 1 million people affected by drought in 13 departments (REDLAC, 07/09/2015).
- 80% of bean production has been lost. Maize prices remain very high compared to 2014, with increases reaching 20% in some areas (FAO, 14/09/2015).

OVERVIEW

Yearly droughts have deteriorated the food security situation in Honduras, affecting crop production, livelihoods, and food availability. Consecutive droughts do not give households sufficient time to build up food stocks or adapt, creating a need for humanitarian assistance.

Natural Disasters

Drought

The 2015 drought has had an impact on over 1 million people, in 170 municipalities across 13 departments (REDLAC, 07/09/2015). 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. Half (146) of the country’s municipalities are affected in the southwestern part of the country (OCHA, 03/08/2015). 81 municipalities, home to 332,920 people, are considered to be severely affected and 65 municipalities, home to 312,670 people, moderately affected (OCHA, 24/08/2015). Three municipalities at the northern border with El Salvador have been severely affected (FAO, 14/09/2015).

The departments most affected by the drought are Comayagua, La Paz, Francisco Morazan, Choluteca, and El Paraíso. Other departments affected include Valle, Ocotepeque and Copán (El Heraldo, 14/08/2015).

El Niño, which has decreased the amount of precipitation, is expected to continue throughout 2015, if not until February 2016 (OCHA, 04/07/2015; El Heraldo, 03/07/2015).

In 2014, 930,000 people in 165 departments were affected by drought (Government, 13/01/2015). Choluteca, Valle, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán, Intibucá, and Lempira departments were most affected (ECHO, 20/08/2014).

Floods

On 21 September, heavy rains caused flash floods in the city of La Ceiba. The most affected area is the San Isidro market, in the barrio El Centro (RedHum, 21/09/2015).

Food Security and Livelihoods

The poorest households who were severely affected by drought-related harvest losses, are expected to face severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) from September, also due to the absence of food stocks, lack of jobs, and the seasonal increase in grain prices (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). As of June, the effects of the drought were expected to worsen food insecurity for approximately 500,000 people (OCHA, 08/06/2015).

Food availability

The effects of El Niño coupled with the drought are expected to result in damage or complete loss of crops in the *primera*, *postrera* and *apante* harvests (FEWSNET, 08/2015). The drought caused by El Niño has damaged parts of the maize, bean, and coffee crops in southern Honduras. Two consecutive poor growing seasons will add to the effects of the 2014 drought (WFP, 01/07/2015; FEWSNET, 24/07/2015).

Basic grain crops will be severely affected due to the drought, putting populations in the western region at risk (OCHA, 04/07/2015). Additionally, below-average rainfall in the central and western region has led to losses in maize and bean crops (FEWSNET, 07/08/2015).

Livelihoods

Around 80% of bean production has been lost. Maize prices remain very high compared to 2014, with increases reaching 20% in some areas (FAO, 14/09/2015).

Farmers are reporting that low levels of rainfall and lack of seeds are the two main challenges for the *postrera* planting season. The drought may cause increased migration to...
urban areas as labour opportunities in rural areas are affected (El Heraldo, 13/08/2015).

Small-scale farming households are projected to need assistance because of crop losses in the current primera season (FEWSNET, 19/08/2015).

Health

Limited access to water due to drought is having a negative impact on hygiene, in turn increasing health risks, especially acute diarrhoeal diseases. Health services in rural areas do not have sufficient capacity to meet the needs of the affected population (OCHA, 10/12/2014).

Chikungunya

As of 9 September, 27,204 cases of Chikungunya were registered, with a 1,500 peak in the weekly caseload between 20 and 26 July (RedHum, 09/09/2015).

Dengue

31,405 cases of dengue have been confirmed so far in 2015; 648 of these were confirmed cases of the more serious dengue haemorrhagic fever (El Heraldo, 29/07/2015).

Nutrition

As of 30 April 2015, more than 40% of Honduran children are estimated to suffer from chronic malnutrition (Feed the Future, 30/04/2015). In 2014, 3.4% of children under five were suffering from acute malnutrition. At least 19,559 children were malnourished as a direct consequence of the drought (OCHA, 10/12/2014).

Updated: 23/09/2015

OCEANIA

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

DROUGHT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 24/09/2015. Last update: 17/09/2015.

OVERVIEW

Prolonged drought and frost have affected 1.8 million people in the Highlands region; 1.3 million are living in areas considered severely affected. Food and WASH are reported as priority needs.

Politics and security

Inter-communal violence in Papua New Guinea displaces thousands of people every year. Between May and August 2015, nine people were killed in incidents of inter-communal conflict in the Eastern Highlands province. According to the local police, about 30 conflicts are ongoing in the province (Inter Press Service, 14/08/2015). Tribes in Western Highlands have been engaged in armed conflict for more than 30 years (Radio New Zealand, 17/07/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

An estimated 22,500 people are internally displaced in Papua New Guinea, as a result of inter-communal violence or natural disasters. 1,200 were estimated displaced in 2014, although the real number is most likely higher. The majority of the displaced live in Madang and Morobe provinces in northern Papua New Guinea. Around 85% of the displaced live in government-run camps (IDMC, 11/12/2014).

Refugees, asylum seekers and detainees

Papua New Guinea hosts an estimated 10,000 refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR, 12/2014). About 1,000 people seeking asylum in Australia are detained in an Australian-run transit centre on Manus Island. Overcrowding, inadequate WASH facilities, and health concerns including outbreaks of malaria and typhoid have been reported, however conditions have reportedly improved in the last year (The Sydney Morning Herald, 10/09/2015; The Guardian, 08/09/2015; 18/02/2015).

Humanitarian access
Only 3% of roads in Papua New Guinea are paved; travel between provinces is mostly by air or boat (WFP, 07/09/2015).

Access of affected population to assistance

Inter-communal tension is reportedly preventing the drought-affected population in the Highlands from migrating to lower altitudes (Radio New Zealand, 15/09/2015).

Natural disasters

Frost and drought

The impact of several months of drought and frost over recent weeks has reached 1.8 million people in the Highlands region: 1.3 million are living in the most severely affected areas (Government, 24/08/2015). As of 2 September, 24 people have reportedly died from related causes (Radio New Zealand, 02/09/2015). The most affected provinces include Chimbu, Southern Highlands, Enga, Eastern Highlands, and Western Highlands (OCHA, 24/08/2015). 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, 24/09/2015).

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). Frost in Tambul, the main agricultural district in the Highlands, has damaged sweet potato and potato gardens (CARE, 31/08/2015). Fish ponds have dried up, reducing the availability of an important source of protein (ECHO, 14/09/2015).

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).

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). An increase in typhoid cases has been reported in Eastern Highlands and Chimbu provinces (CARE, 31/08/2015). Rural health centres lack the capacity to deal with any potential large disease outbreaks (IOM, 04/09/2015).

WASH

Water

With water sources drying up, the population has resorted to using less reliable water sources, including 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 (ECHO, 14/09/2015).

Education

Water shortages have caused several schools in the affected provinces to close or keep shorter hours (ECHO, 14/09/2015; OCHA, 24/08/2015).

Updated: 24/09/2015

SOUTH AMERICA
COLOMBIA CONFLICT, DROUGHT, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

23 September: FARC-EP and the Colombian government have agreed on a six-month deadline to sign a formal peace deal, which would end a five-decade conflict (BBC, 24/09/2015).

20 September: Venezuela and Colombia agreed on restoring diplomatic ties, but the border remains closed. More than 1,600 Colombians have been deported from Venezuela, and more than 22,000 have returned voluntarily (Colombia Reports, 24/09/2015; OCHA, 23/09/2015).

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, including 1.3 million affected by natural disasters, 1.3 million people in areas with access constraints, 900,000 IDPs, and 1.1 million people in host communities (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

Five decades of armed violence coupled with the country’s frequent natural disasters have had serious humanitarian consequences. Forced displacement and landmine contamination are among the major concerns. For rural communities, movement restrictions by armed groups limit access to basic health services, crops and labour markets, especially in the country’s Pacific region.

Politics and security

Colombia’s armed conflict has spanned five decades, pitting the central government against armed groups such as the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP) and the National Liberation Army (ELN).


The intensity of the armed conflict has decreased substantially since peace negotiations began in 2012. Since the start of the FARC-EP’s unilateral ceasefire on 20 July and the government suspension of air raids thereafter, military activity between the two parties has almost completely ceased, and is at its lowest since the 1970s (Colombia Reports, 22/08/2015).

The ELN has been involved in informal peace talks with the Government since June 2014, and in late August 2015 the parties are reportedly close to reaching an agreement on beginning formal talks (Colombia Reports, 25/08/2015).

On 19 August, Venezuela closed its border to Colombia indefinitely after an attack at the border injured four Venezuelan border guards (AFP, 22/08/2015). On 27 August, Venezuela and Colombia each recalled their ambassadors (AFP, 28/08/2015). On 12 September, Colombian officials claimed Venezuelan military planes had crossed into Colombian airspace (Colombia Reports, 14/09/2015). The Colombian and Venezuelan Presidents met on 20 September, and agreed to restore diplomatic ties, but the border remains closed (Colombia Reports, 24/09/2015; AFP, 22/09/2015).

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 the peace talks and would consider disarmament (AFP, 07/01/2015; BBC, 07/01/2015).
ELN has been active in Arauca, Norte de Santander, Nariño and Cauca Departments (Kienyke, 2013).

**Government forces:** The Government of Colombia’s strategies to combat non-state armed groups have been closely linked to eliminating the cultivation of illicit crops in the country, which finance the armed groups.

**BACRIM and post-demobilised armed groups:** Criminal gangs (*bandas criminales*) under the names Black Eagles, and Erpac, among others, are generally made up of former paramilitary fighters and another former armed group, the United Armed Forces of Colombia (AUC). They are involved in drug trafficking and extortion throughout the country and in Venezuela and Panama. These groups are particularly active in Antioquia department, as well as the Pacific and Caribbean regions (BBC 29/08/2013).

**Conflict developments**

FARC-EP has allegedly violated the ceasefire on three occasions since 20 July, and the group has admitted to the killing of a community leader in Nariño in early August (Colombia Reports, 24/08/2015). FARC-EP has claimed that the military has carried out airstrikes, however this has not been verified by observers (Colombia Reports, 17/08/2015). 70% fewer security incidents were registered after the ceasefire than in the previous month (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

The military has since the FARC-EP ceasefire began reportedly mainly focused its military operations on other armed groups, including EPL in the northeast, and the Urabeños (Colombia Reports, 21/08/2015). Clashes between ELN and security forces continue in southwestern Colombia, where 12 ELN members were killed in a military operation on 17 September (Colombia Reports, 17/09/2015).

**Natural disasters**

In the first six months of 2015, more than 319,000 people were affected by disasters caused by natural hazards (OCHA, 03/08/2015).

**Drought and wildfires**

Drought caused by the El Niño phenomenon is expected to affect Colombia until March 2016 (OCHA, 21/09/2015). 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 Quindío 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). As of 18 September, at least four people have been killed in wildfires, as they continue in several departments (RCN Radio, 18/09/2015).

**Floods**

The El Niño phenomenon is considered the strongest in 18 years and due to last through December, resulting in an increase in rainfall and flooding throughout Colombia (ECHO, 08/08/2015). In early August, heavy rainfall damaged over 1,000 houses, public offices, and some schools in Puerto Boyacá, Department of Antioquia, and affected around 6,000 people (OCHA, 03/08/2015; Redhum, 01/08/2015).

**Displacement**

**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).

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). 1,843 people were displaced in August due to insecurity, the majority in the Catatumbo region in Norte de Santander (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

**Returnees**

As of 23 September, 1,678 Colombians have been deported from Venezuela since 21 August, following tension at the Colombia–Venezuela border (OCHA, 23/09/2015). More than 22,000 Colombians are also believed to have returned voluntarily during the same period, due to fear of persecution by Venezuelan security forces (OCHA, 23/09/2015). 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 neighboring 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).

On 21 August, Venezuela closed several border crossings on the Colombia-Venezuela border 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 closures, as many live and work on both sides of the border. While Venezuelan officials have allowed them to cross the border, 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).

Health

Only 30% of the population living in areas affected by armed conflict has access to healthcare (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

WASH

1.1 million people are in need of WASH (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

Water

Only 35.5% of the population consumes safe drinking water, with only 15% of rural areas consuming treated water (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

Attacks on the oil industry in Putumayo department in 2014 are still affecting nearby communities, who have little access to water. Some oil companies are providing families with 20–40L of water per week, which is below standards (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

916,000 people need shelter (OCHA, 20/01/2015). Many of those displaced by armed conflict come from rural areas and have difficulty re-obtaining rights to their homes when they return. A legal process is in place in the departments of Atlantic and Magdalena in northern Colombia, though some claimants have received threats from paramilitary groups (Amnesty, 23/01/2015).

Education

370 students have not been able to attend school due to mobility restrictions in Teorama, Norte de Santander (OCHA, 18/07/2015).

Protection

Torture and ill-treatment in various forms are reportedly common in Colombia, and measures for protection and compensation are either very limited or ineffective. As of June 2015, 72,544 people have been reported missing (Red Cross, 04/06/2015).

Mines and ERW

Over November 2012–March 2015, there were 789 victims of anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance, an average of 27 people per month (OCHA, 17/05/2015). In March, the Colombian Government and FARC-EP agreed to remove landmines and explosives, aiming to complete demining by 2025 (Reuters, 09/03/2015).

There have been frequent reports of landmine explosions involving both civilians and security personnel in Cauca and Caqueta (BBC, 17/06/2015; Government, 03/06/2015).

Gender

52% of displaced women have suffered some type of sexual violence after displacement, according to a study by OHCHR. Women in the Pacific region are particularly affected (NRC, 09/2014).

Children

There are approximately 2,000 underage fighters in FARC (Reuters, 15/04/2015). By 2014, reports showed that 76% of children fighting with FARC-EP and 18% with ELN had been reintegrated into society (UNICEF, 2014).

Vulnerable groups
Afro-Colombians and indigenous peoples are highly vulnerable groups, as they are minorities and generally live in areas more likely to be cut off by conflict (NRC, 09/2014).

In 2014, there were 626 registered attacks against human rights defenders, a 147% increase compared to 2013. 73% of attacks were carried out by post-demobilised armed groups (OCHA, 28/02/2015).

*Updated: 24/09/2015*
Introduction to the Global Emergency Overview

The Global Emergency Overview (GEO) is a weekly update that provides a snapshot of current humanitarian priorities and recent events. Its primary objective is to rapidly inform humanitarian decision makers by presenting a summary of major humanitarian crises, both recent and protracted. It collates information from a wide range of sources, including ReliefWeb and media, and displays this information to enable quick comparison of different humanitarian crises. It is designed to provide answers to four questions:

1. Which humanitarian crises currently exist? (World map)
2. What has happened in the last seven days? (Snapshot and Latest Developments)
3. What is the situation in the country affected by a crisis? (Latest Developments and Narrative)
4. Which countries could be prioritised in terms of humanitarian response? (Prioritisation)

The world map and the table provide an overview of how the countries are prioritised. The countries are subdivided by four priority levels: "watch list", "situation of concern", "humanitarian crisis", and "severe humanitarian crisis".

The priority levels are assigned on the basis of:

- the number of people affected by recent disasters
- the level of access to the affected population
- the under-5 mortality rate
- the level of development of the country
- the number of protracted IDPs and refugees.

If a country experienced a disaster in the seven days prior to an update or witnessed an escalation of an ongoing crisis, a country is highlighted by a yellow dot on the map.

The snapshot briefly describes major events in the seven days to the date of publication.

Narratives for each country in the GEO reflect major developments and underlying vulnerabilities of the country over recent months. They are based on secondary data. The latest developments for each country cover the incidents over the past seven days, and key concerns highlight humanitarian priorities.

More information on the Global Emergency Overview Methodology can be found in the Global Overview Methodology Brief and the Frequently Asked Questions.

The Global Emergency Overview is a mobile application.

To download the mobile application for Android phones click here.


To download the mobile application for iOS phones click here.


Updates

The Global Emergency Overview prioritisation will be updated once a week and the results will be available every Tuesday. In case of major new humanitarian events or an escalation of an ongoing crisis which triggers a change of prioritisation, the Global Overview will be updated on an ad hoc basis.