Snapshot 29 October – 5 November

In Syria, the opposition remains divided over their participation to proposed peace talks in Geneva, with a decision being expected by 9 November. In Damascus, the Government repeated that it will not enter discussions if President al-Assad is forced to resign. While the overall number of Syrian refugees went over 2.2 million, revised estimates indicated that the number of people in need in Syria has increased from 6.8 million in April to 9.3 million in late October. An estimated 6.5 million are internally displaced.

In the Philippines, Typhoon Krosa, locally known as Vinta, hit Cagayan province on the northern Luzon Island on 31 October. To date, local authorities have reported that over 220,000 people were affected, including almost 66,000 displaced.

In late October, a food security assessment conducted in the northwestern semi-arid Turkana region of Kenya indicated that more than 346,000 people were in dire need of food assistance, according to the authorities.
Political and Security context

Burkina Faso has been politically stable for over two decades but has been suffering from the political and military crisis in neighbouring Mali, and is located at the centre of a troubled region, with Niger and Cote d’Ivoire both quite vulnerable to shocks.

Presidential elections are set for 2015, raising fears of unrest if the current president fails to implement a smooth democratic succession after years of restrictions on political space. In this context, the country is threatened by social unrest, with an increase of local conflicts over land, traditional leadership and growing inequalities in 2012. Already in 2011, several violent protests erupted in various cities due to public distrust toward the power in place. The current administration has two years to prepare a smooth mandate transition and prevent a succession battle or a new social uprising.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Burkina Faso has been affected by insecurity and the on-going military intervention in Mali.

Displacement: As of 30 September, UNHCR noted that the current number of Malian refugees in Burkina Faso (unchanged since April) stands at 49,975, including 27,146 children. Refugees are located in seven formally recognised camps and informal settlement sites: Mentao, Damba, Fereiro, Gouvebo, Gandafabou, Bobo Dioulasso, and Ouagadougou. Most camps are in the northern region of Sahel, in the provinces of Soum, Oudalan and Seno, where almost 90% of Malian refugees are settled.

Disaster: As reported by OCHA on 16 September, on the basis of rapid assessments, CONASUR (National Council for Emergency and Rehabilitation) counted a total of 13,057 people affected by floods and winds, in 10 regions of Burkina Faso. In addition, 21 wounded and 4 deaths were recorded as well as 1,554 homeless. To cope with this situation, the government delivered food and survival equipment to meet the urgent needs of the affected populations. ECHO reported on 13 September that the population was in urgent need of food assistance and shelter, while wells and water points needed to be rehabilitated. To date, severe flooding has affected over 400,000 people across nine countries of the Sahel region in Africa.

Food Security: WFP reported that cereal production from the 2012/2013 agricultural season was over 30% higher than the 2011/2012 production. As of 28 October 2013, 1.8 million people in Burkina Faso remain food insecure and are yet to recover from the 2012 food and nutrition crisis.

According to FEWSNET in late October, food insecurity is expected to be Minimal (IPC Phase 1) until March 2014 in all livelihood zones, due to several measures mitigating the impact of the lean season and increasing the access to food for poor households. However, the country has undergone several shocks over the past five years, including the 2011/2012 drought, and the population has not yet recovered from the last food crisis, mainly because many households still suffer from the effects of negative coping strategies, such as the sale of assets, implemented during the 2012 crisis. A March FAO report found that the food insecure are predominantly in the Sahel, north and east regions.

In the Sahelian area of Burkina Faso, an estimated 90% of people depend on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods.

Civil strife in northern Mali has contributed to increased food supply issues in parts of the country. OCHA reported early July that the arrival of Malian refugees and their cattle had further increased pressure on scarce resources leading to tensions with local communities. A May WFP and UNHCR joint assessment showed that 15% of the Malian refugee households have poor or borderline food consumption, against 13% in the host population. A February FAO/WFP joint assessment indicated an elevated prevalence of food insecurity in Malian refugee camps and in Burkina’s host communities with an estimated 52% of refugees and 58% of host populations affected by food insecurity.

Health and Malnutrition: One million children under 5 are affected by stunting due to chronic malnutrition.

The 2013 total target annual caseload of children under 5 with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), as reported by UNICEF in late October, is 96,000 children. The number of new admissions in 2013 from January until end of September is 52,921 or 55.1% of the annual target. To date, 49.7% of refugee children suffering from SAM received therapeutic
treatment and 72% of the refugee children aged 6-59 months received vitamin A supplementation. According to OCHA, the number of children with a serious risk of SAM was reassessed on the basis of new admissions recorded between January and July 2013 and increased from 71 to 320 children.

The number of children affected by Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) is estimated at 400,000, marking a decrease from January levels, bringing the <5 Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate to 10.9%. According to 2012 assessments, the highest GAM rates were recorded in the regions of Centre North, East, North, Centre and Boucle de Mouhoun. In May, UNHCR and WFP reported that malnutrition is alarming among certain Malian refugee communities, especially in Goudebou, where rates are beyond critical thresholds (SAM: 5.3%, MAM: 19.1%).

According to UNICEF, 2,479 cases of meningitis and 294 deaths were reported in all 63 districts of Burkina Faso since the beginning of the year until the last epidemiologic report on 15 October 2013 (week 41). The fatality rate rose marginally from 11.8 to 11.9%. The total number of cases is the lowest in comparison to the past years as there has been no epidemic this year.

From January to October 2013, a total of 2,832 cases of measles (with 53 new cases from September to 13 October) and 12 deaths (equal to a mortality rate 0.42 per cent) due to measles-related complications such as pneumonia, croup or encephalitis (mortality rate 0.42 per cent), were reported in Burkina Faso. Of these, 976 or 34 per cent of cases (including 8 new cases reported since September) and no deaths were reported in the Sahel region.

Updated: 05/11/2013

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

**Highlights**

**26-27 October:** At least 40 people were killed during fierce clashes between vigilante groups and former rebels in the town of Bouar.

**Political and Security Context**

**International Context:** On 10 October, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2121, which provides the basis for a peaceful resolution to the crisis in CAR, in a clear indication that international concerns are rising over the situation currently unfolding in the country. It demanded the swift implementation of transitional arrangements leading to transparent presidential and legislative elections 18 months after the start of the transition. Against that backdrop, the Council updated the mandate of the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office (BINUCA), reinforcing its role in five areas: support for implementation of the transition process; support for conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance; support for stabilisation of the security situation; promotion and protection of human rights; and coordination of international actors. The Council also urged elements of the ex-Seleka and other armed groups to participate in disarmament and demobilisation programmes.

**National Context:** On 13 September, the transitional President of CAR, Michel Djotodia, officially announced dissolution of the Seleka coalition, the armed force he led which allowed him to seize power in late March. According to different estimates, the Seleka coalition numbered 25,000 fighters, some of whom had been recruited as the group advanced toward the capital Bangui between December 2012 and March 2013, and after the seizure of the capital. At present, the main issue that remains is the disarmament of part of the Seleka armed movement that will not be integrated in the regular armed forces. After a period of voluntary disarmament that ended on 14 September, coercive disarmament of parts of the Seleka-affiliated fighters has started in Bangui while the new authorities struggle to establish order throughout the country.

As of mid-September, the situation in CAR was highly volatile with widespread insecurity and clashes between elements of the only in-name defunct Seleka coalition and the population. Various rebel leaders, de facto new warlords, some originating from neighbouring countries, are reportedly dominating the country outside of the capital Bangui. Looting and destruction is virtually unchecked, with an increasing number of unpaid Seleka members roaming the streets and setting up checkpoints to collect money. Increasingly, the local population is responding by organising vigilante groups. Fighting is also reported between Seleka member and groups loyal to the former authorities ousted in the coup.

According to a senior UN official who visited the country in early August, security is virtually non-existent beyond the capital, while state institutions are close to collapse. Bangui remains fairly calm, with weapons and military equipment collected and submitted to government authorities by the committee in charge of voluntary disarmament. Elsewhere in the country, human rights infringements, arrests, and executions are reported. The new authorities are still unable to restore order or even deploy official representatives outside Bangui. Over 700 people were killed in 2013; the three regions most affected by violence are Ouham, Bouar, Bangui and surrounds.

According to UN officials as of early November, CAR is at risk of spiralling into genocide as armed groups incite Christians and Muslims against each other. On 26-27 October, fierce clashes between vigilante groups and former rebels in the town of Bouar resulted in at least 40 deaths. In the first week of October, 14 people were killed in violent clashes between Christians and Muslims in Bangassou, and armed attacks in the village of Bangui-Bouchia in Lobaye province in early October resulted in casualties of Muslim citizens. This last series of violent incidents is a worrying indication of the rise of interreligious fighting in CAR, while witnesses reported that the clashes broke out beginning of October after local Christians organised a march to protest against abuses by Seleka’s predominantly Muslim fighters.

On 8-9 October, at least 50 people were killed and dozens wounded in clashes between the elements of the ex-Seleka and auto-defence groups in Garga, northwest of the country. The two days of fighting caused the local population to flee to the bush and the neighbouring town of Yaloke. In late September, heavy fighting was reported ongoing in the volatile northwest, around Bossangoa and Bossembele, 150 kms and 300 kms north-west of Bangui respectively, with little information available. Renewed fighting has triggered new massive displacement with up to 170,000 people uprooted in September; the number of casualties remains difficult to ascertain.
Clashes began on 7 September in Bossangoa and later spread throughout the province. On 9 September, up to 100 people were killed and at least 50 wounded when troops of the new regime battled fighters claiming loyalty to toppled President François Bozizé in Bossangoa and Bouca, in Ouham district. Although defence and security forces were said to control Bossangoa, men claiming to serve the ex-president were still holding villages around the town. On 8 September, forces, possibly loyal to former President Bozizé, infiltrated these villages, destroying bridges, and other infrastructure, and reportedly taking revenge against the Muslim population. The retake of the village by the Seleka resulted in attacks against the Christian population. According to UNHCR, the clashes triggered significant displacement, and at least eight villages were razed to the ground.

A string of violent incidents between local residents and Seleka military occurred at the end of August in the villages of Ngaoundaye, Makele, Bo, and Beboura, about 500 km northwest of the capital. They came after insecurity resurfaced in Bangui between 20-27 August. Reports indicated that at least 13 people were killed and over 30 injured during an alleged disarmament operation of supporters of the ousted President Bozizé by the new authorities. The operation mainly targeted the Boy-Rabe, Boeing, and Combatant neighbourhoods, believed to be strongholds of supporters of the former regime. According to international observers, the manoeuvre was marked by arbitrary arrests, detention, torture, extortion, armed robberies, physical violence, restriction of movement, and lootings and led to an estimated 5,000-6,000 people fleeing the Boeing quartier to take refuge in the nearby Bangui International airport.

Earlier in August, President Djotodia had allegedly barred fighters from the Seleka coalition from further participating in policing operations in Bangui and had declared that the task had to be left to the AU-led International Support Mission to Central Africa (MISCA). In mid-April, a first disarmament operation in Boy-Rabe was criticised by foreign observers, including Human Rights Watch, as it resulted in widespread lootings of houses amid indiscriminate shootings of civilians by members of the Seleka coalition.

On 1 August, the Multinational Force of Central African States (FOMAC), which had been operating in CAR since before the coup and was dispatched to help in improving security, became the AU-led MISCA, with the main mandate of helping restore control by the authorities over the whole territory. As reported by local sources in mid-September, reinforcements have begun arriving for an African peacekeeping mission, but the planned 3,600-strong force will not be fully deployed before January 2014. An estimated 450 French military force, which may be increased to 750 soldiers, are also posted in CAR, with a 3,600-strong force will not be fully deployed before January 2014. An estimated 450 French military force, which may be increased to 750 soldiers, are also posted in CAR, with a restricted mandate of securing the international airport and protecting French interests and citizens in the country. Paris has stated that it is ready to provide operational support to the MISCA forces.

On 18 August, the former rebel leader Michel Djotodia, head of the Seleka coalition that took control of CAR following a coup in late March, was formally sworn in as the country’s new president. The inauguration of Djotodia officially marks the beginning of his interim administration’s 18-month deadline to restore order and organise elections. Initially, violence erupted in CAR in December 2012, when the Seleka coalition, a group of five rebel movements, took up arms against the Government, claiming that it had failed to honour 2001 and 2007 peace deals declaring amnesty for fighters who laid down their arms. Throughout March, Seleka rebels took control of various towns and continued their advance until they seized Bangui on 24 March and toppled President Bozizé who fled to Cameroon.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

More than six months after Seleka rebels seized power in CAR, the country is still struggling with a humanitarian emergency. Humanitarian agencies have warned that the national situation is worsening, advocating for security, access, and protection of civilians. Ongoing lawlessness is considerable, and administrative offices, hospitals, health centres, and schools have been pillaged, depriving vulnerable communities of basic services. UNICEF reported in early July that the current humanitarian crisis is affecting an estimated 4.6 million people (the entire population of CAR), including 2.3 million children. As of mid-August, OCHA noted that 1.6 million people were in acute need of assistance.

Displacement: Levels of internal displacement in CAR are difficult to ascertain. As of 30 September, there were reportedly 400,000 IDPs in CAR. The latest IDP numbers mark a significant increase compared to estimates published at the beginning of September. As of 24 September, UNHCR indicated that over 170,000 people, half of them children, had fled over the previous two weeks in Ouham province in northwest CAR following increased fighting. An inter-agency mission in the area estimated that 70,000 people were in dire need of assistance following these events.

As of 25 October, OCHA reported that 65,000 new refugees have fled from CAR since the current crisis erupted last December. DRC alone has received an estimated 42,600 refugees, while Chad has witnessed the arrival of 13,000 people, including 4,000 who have arrived in the Moissala area since mid-July. An additional 4,800 people were displaced to Republic of Congo and 4,286 to Cameroon respectively. Cumulatively, there are over 220,000 refugees from CAR in neighbouring countries.

There are an estimated 17,000 refugees in CAR, mostly Congolese and Sudanese. In April and May, the UN reported that an estimated 5,000 people were displaced from Sudan’s Darfur into CAR following tribal clashes. According to local media, the 2,200 Sudanese refugees from camp Bambari demanded to be moved from the camp due to the deteriorating security and the humanitarian and health situation in the camp.

According to OCHA, as of 31 October, the number of displaced in Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) affected areas remains at 21,000, but requires verification when the situation stabilises. 3,800 DRC refugees remain hosted in Haut-Mbomou, with a majority (3,200) in Zemio camp. In Q3 of 2013, one LRA attack was reported, resulting in 34 abductions. This is a significant reduction from Q2 of 2013, when OCHA reported a total of eight attacks, 20 deaths, and 60 abductions.

Disaster: As reported by IFRC, on 3-4 September, heavy rains caused flooding in several areas of the 3rd district of Bangui. Of a population of 90,000 people, over a third (33,000) were affected, with 337 families having their houses damaged or destroyed. An estimated 30% of those who had their homes affected found refuge with host families, the rest are living out in the open. Almost all the wells and latrines in these areas were reportedly damaged by flood waters.

Access: On 25 October, OHCA reported that a critical bridge has been damaged, blocking
the access from Bangui to Paoua by road. On 17 October, WFP reported that the delivery of aid is increasingly challenging due to transport companies being reluctant to travel without armed escort. Security incidents are reported in Bangui and across the country. The humanitarian community is increasingly the target of looting and attacks by armed groups. In Bangui, looting of vehicles, notably off-road vehicles, operated by international organisations continue to occur.

On 9 September, two aid workers were killed in clashes between troops of the new regime and fighters claiming loyalty to toppled president Bozize in Ouham district. In Bangui, a local UN staff member was reportedly attacked by rogue Seleka elements on 12 August. This incident followed one a week earlier when a local UN staff member was seriously wounded and his wife killed. UNHCR reported that it remains extremely concerned with limits to humanitarian access, though access to refugee camps at Bambari, Batalimo, and Zemio that host mainly Congolese and Sudanese refugees in central and southern CAR, has improved.

As reported by UNICEF on 2 September, a truck drivers’ strike in Cameroon over deteriorating security conditions in CAR was stopping humanitarian aid from reaching thousands of children. On 21 August, Cameroonians authorities temporarily shut down the border after claiming Seleka rebels had shot a police officer. Despite the border reopening, truckers remain cautious about crossing into CAR.

OCHA reported on 17 July that the restriction of humanitarian space due to insecurity is limiting the delivery of aid to people in need. However, almost all NGOs have now returned to their previous locations and are deploying teams and resuming activities. The Humanitarian Country Team is facilitating access with Seleka authorities in regions outside Bangui to enable humanitarian actors to assist people affected by the crisis. UNDSS has approved the gradual return of critical international UN staff on 18 June, indicating an improvement in security-related constraints.

Despite these improvements, the use of secondary roads is inadvisable due to physical and infrastructural constraints, exacerbated by the impending rainy season. Access is largely limited to towns and populations along main roads.

Food Security: As of 1 November, WFP reported that an estimated 1.1 million people are moderately or severely food insecure, with IDPs being the most affected. As reported by FAO in late August, an estimated 900,000 individuals were experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity levels while 300,000 individuals were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) as of July. The exact number of food insecure people in CAR remains difficult to establish. In June, OCHA and the Food Security/Nutrition Working Group reported that two million people in CAR faced Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity.

The majority of families in CAR live on subsistence farming, but the armed conflict during the March harvest season prevented people from accessing their farmland and disrupted livelihoods. This was compounded by the looting of cattle, seeds, tools and food reserves. On 19 October, FAO reported that, despite above average rainfall received in most areas of the country during the cropping season, crop production is expected to be reduced, and harvests will likely be delayed in parts due to the deteriorating civil insecurity.

According to an Emergency Food Security Assessment conducted by the Food Security Cluster in 14 of the 17 prefectures of the country, households have been forced to rely on crisis or emergency strategies, placing their livelihoods at risk. The majority of households who were interviewed reported that their livestock had been stolen in the past months.

FAO reported on 1 November that market supplies are tight across the country and that the widespread and severe market disruptions across the country have kept food prices volatile and at high levels. As a result, the absolute levels of food prices are likely to reflect the relative scarcity of food commodities and the access constraints for purchasers. The average inflation rate, which surged from 1.3% in 2011 to 5% in 2012, is forecast to rise further to 8% in 2013.

Health and Malnutrition: OCHA reported on 25 October that 60% of health facilities have been vandalized, looted or destroyed, and over 80% of the country’s medical doctors have moved to Bangui from provinces. On 18 October, ICRC reported that no health facilities beyond those provided by humanitarian organizations are operating outside Bangui. They also reported that there is a shortage of medicines. As reported by Merlin in early June, 3.2 million people are living without health care. In July, MSF stated that even before the coup, the country was in a state of crisis with mortality rates well above the emergency threshold in several regions.

According to OCHA, outbreaks of measles have been reported almost everywhere in CAR, with at least 600 confirmed cases of measles as of 25 October. The health cluster reports cholera outbreaks in 15 of 22 health districts.

Malnutrition and preventable diseases are reportedly rife. Malaria is the leading cause of death. The number of cases of malaria in northwest CAR has almost doubled, partly because of insecurity caused by armed groups operating in the rural north, according to MSF. MSF treated 36,910 cases of malaria in Boguila, a region 50 km from the Chadian border, between January and June this year, compared with 19,498 cases in the same period last year. Officially, malaria is estimated to be the cause of 54% of the deaths of children <5 in CAR.

As of mid-August, over 13,000 people living with HIV/AIDS had their anti-retroviral treatment interrupted as a result of instability since December 2012.

According to UNICEF, malnutrition rates remain high with an estimated 13,500 children <5 suffering from SAM, and 44,000 affected by MAM. A recent exploratory mission in southwest CAR, in Nola, Boda, Berberati, Gamboula and Gadzi revealed increased levels of GAM, ranging from 6%-10.3%. In May, as reported by an IPC seasonal analysis, the prevalence of SAM in children <5 was above the emergency threshold of 2% in nine of 16 prefectures.

Protection: On 29 October, Amnesty International published a report expressing deep concern over serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law during the internal armed conflict in CAR. Violations included attacks on civilians, executing and torturing civilians, indiscriminately shellling communities, raping women, and forcefully recruiting children. INGOs have reported a sharp rise in the same types of human rights abuses across the country.
Several INGOs have indicated that children, notably those displaced by the conflict, remain particularly vulnerable. Several organisations, including UNICEF, have reported the re-recruitment of children <18, some of whom had been recently demobilised, into Seleka forces. According to OCHA, as of late October, at least 3,500 children have been recruited into armed groups, an increase from the 2,000 prior to the conflict.

In late July, the International Federation for Human Rights reported that Seleka rebels have killed 400 people, carried out dozens of rapes, and intentionally destroyed 34 villages/towns since February this year.

Education: According to UNICEF, seven of ten primary school students have not returned to school since the start of the conflict in December 2012. 65% of the 165 schools visited by UNICEF have been looted, occupied, or damaged by bullets or shells. OCHA reports that as a result of instability, many schools, which had recently re-opened, had to close again, particularly in the provinces of Ouham, Ouham-Pendé, and Ouaka.

Updated: 05/11/2013

CHAD FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

31 October: According to IRIN, malaria deaths have nearly doubled in Chad in 2013, with 2,057 fatalities registered so far and around 780,000 cases diagnosed. Erratic rainfall with intermittent dry spells may have encouraged the breeding of mosquitoes and the development of larvae into adult insects.

31 October: According to FEWSNET, food security of households that depend on rain-fed cereal crops has improved in October with the proceeds of harvest. Stocks from crops coupled with vegetable products will enable households to diversify their sources of food between October 2013 and December 2013. During this period, the country will face Minimal food insecurity (IPC Phase 1). However, in Wadi Fira, parts of the northern areas of Ouara, Kanem, northern Batha, Hadjer Lamis and Bahr El Gazel, households will start to run out of cereal stocks from January 2014 (one to two months earlier than usual). Between January and March, they will depend more on food purchases while prices are abnormally high. During this period, they will have reduced food consumption and will remain at Stressed levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 2).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: Chad has witnessed an escalating influx of migrants and refugees from neighbouring countries since March. According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on 29 July, instability in CAR, northern Nigeria and the Darfur region of Sudan has led many Chadians to return home with an estimated 1,000 returnees from CAR, 1,500 from Nigeria and 22,000 fleeing Sudanese Darfur to the border town of Tissi. According to UNHCR on 18 August, the total number of Sudanese refugees in Chad is now 330,000 people. They displaced fled a conflict over gold mines in eastern Darfur between Maaliya and Rizeigat ethnic groups. Another wave later crossed into Chad fleeing inter-communal violence between Salamat and Misseriya ethnic groups in Um Dukhun, Central Darfur.

Ongoing political turmoil in CAR has led to 13,087 CAR refugees crossing into Chad since December (including 4,125 refugees who arrived mid-July in Moissala, southern Chad), bringing the number of CAR refugees in Chad to over 70,000, UNHCR reported on 13 August.

Humanitarian needs among incoming refugees are: access to potable water; hygiene; shelter; and health and nutrition care for children and women. Against this background, UNICEF reported in late April that basic social services are non-existent in Tissi, having been destroyed or damaged during the 2004-2006 civil war and following ethnic tension in the Sila region.

People fleeing violence in northern Nigeria have crossed into Western Chad around Lake Chad. Returnees from Nigeria are primarily unaccompanied minors from fishing villages in Bagakawa, notes UNICEF. As of 15 October, OCHA reported an estimated 2,200 returnees dispersed mainly across three locations: Bol, Ngouboua and Mao.

Disaster: On 21 August, local media reported that heavy rains struck eastern Chad and led to the destruction of more than 2,000 houses in the Sudanese refugee camp Mile. The number of affected people is unknown. The rainy season has yet to end, and flooding is causing significant access constraints and deterioration of sanitary conditions.

Access: OCHA reported on 17 September that humanitarian organisations in the areas of Tissi (southeast) are confronted with restrained access due to the proximity of two unstable borders, heavy rains, and insecurity.

Food Security: Two consecutive years of continued climatic shocks, including poor rainfall in 2011, caused significant food security concerns in Chad in 2012 that are continuing into 2013. According to WFP and the Chadian Government, 13% of households (around 1.2 million people) face severe food insecurity and another 9% face moderate food insecurity in 18 regions across Chad. In total, 2.1 million people are reportedly food insecure.

According to FEWSNET, food security of households that depend on rain-fed cereal crops has improved in October with the proceeds of harvest. Stocks from crops coupled with vegetable products will enable households to diversify their sources of food between October 2013 and December 2013. During this period, the country will face Minimal food insecurity (IPC Phase 1). However, in Wadi Fira, parts of the northern areas of Ouara, Kanem, northern Batha, Hadjer Lamis and Bahr El Gazel, households will start to run out of cereal stocks from January 2014 (one to two months earlier than usual). Between January and March, they will depend more on food purchases while prices are abnormally high. During this period, they will have reduced food consumption and will remain at Stressed levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 2).

FEWSNET had already reported in September that food insecurity is gradually improving for poor households in Logone Occidental, Logone Oriental, Tandjile and Mayo Kebbi Ouest. However, stocks remain low due to the 2012 floods, causing above-average prices and reducing access to cereals for poor households, which will remain at Stressed levels
of food insecurity (IPC Phase 2).

The Chadian Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation reports that the final cereal production figures for the 2012/2013 agricultural season stand at 3.1 million tonnes of cereals. This marks an increase of 91% compared to the previous season and 54% compared to the five-year production average.

According to FEWSNET, food security conditions will steadily improve with the rebuilding of the production capacity and the replenishment of livelihood assets. Despite a net cereal production surplus form the current harvest season, production deficits have been registered in some structurally food-deficient regions of the Sahel belt. The main reasons are: drought, crop diseases, and destruction by birds. In southern Chad, deficits are largely a result of floods.

In mid-July, local media reported that Sudanese refugees located in camps in eastern Chad faced food shortages. A joint assessment by WFP and UNHCR in May showed that the food security situation is alarming for 22,131 Central African refugees in the Belom camp in Maro (southern Chad). The most affected are refugees who arrived in Chad from January to March 2013 (compared to earlier refugees from 2002 to 2009), with 71.2% of them food insecure. This is mainly due to the lack of access to agricultural lands, poverty, lack of diversified livelihoods, and unsustainable income generating activities. Local media reported on 13 August that Sudanese refugees in camp Djabal (eastern Chad) suffer from an acute lack of drinking water, putting the lives of 19,500 people at risk.

Health and Malnutrition: Malaria remains a major health problem in Chad, with a prevalence rate of nearly 30% across all age groups and about 36% among children younger than five years, according to UNICEF. According to IRIN, malaria deaths have nearly doubled in Chad in 2013, with 2,057 fatalities registered so far and around 780,000 cases diagnosed. Erratic rainfall with intermittent dry spells may have encouraged the breeding of mosquitoes and the development of larvae into adult insects.

MSF reported in mid-September that the main causes of morbidity in the Tissi area are malaria, acute watery diarrhoea, and respiratory infections. The malaria caseload for 2013 is a cause of concern, with some of the hardest hit regions seeing a tenfold rise from 2012, following an unpredictable rainy season and the shortage of bed nets across the country. MSF reported that the number of malaria cases increased alarmingly in Am Timan, Salamat region, with 14,021 cases reported in August alone.

Since July, local media have regularly reported the dire conditions in which Sudanese refugees live in camps located in eastern Chad. On 12 September, it was reported that the refugees of camp Djabal have complained about the high incidence of malaria and diarrhoea, especially affecting the youngest and older persons, while camp authorities reported 22 deaths during August. Earlier in July, Sudanese refugees of camp Treguine had reported similar problems, indicating that there was an acute lack of medical staff and medicines in the camps.

The nutritional situation in Chad’s Sahel belt is at critical levels with a GAM rate surpassing the emergency threshold of 15% in nine of 22 regions, according to OCHA. The most affected areas are Batha (25% GAM), Wadi Fira (22% GAM), Salamat (22% GAM), Beg (21% GAM), and Kanem (21% GAM). UNICEF forecasts that an estimated 126,000 children will suffer from SAM in 2013.

Updated: 05/11/2013

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

4 November: Leaders from the member countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Conference of the Inter-regional Great Lakes (ICGLR) met in Pretoria (RSA) to discuss the conflict in eastern DRC and bring together governments backing Congolese President Kabila and those supporting allies of his Rwandan counterpart.

25 October – 4 November: Fighting is ongoing between government forces (FARDC) and M23 fighters, with FARDC taking the last rebel strongholds along the border with Uganda. On 3 November, the M23 representative in the Kampala talks called for a truce, but hostilities continued between belligerent parties on the ground, with a final joint offensive by FARDC and the UN intervention force. On 3 November, DRC’s Minister of Foreign Affairs returned to Kampala, with a view of resuming negotiations which were interrupted on 21 October. According to an M23 spokesman, an agreement could be signed within the coming days if the opposing parties can reach consensus on the amnesty, disarmament, and reintegration of M23 fighters. Since 25 October, military operations targeted several rebel-held cities which have been under M23 control for almost a year. The latest outburst of violence triggered significant population displacement, both internally and across the borders with Uganda (10,000) and Rwanda (3,000).

As of 30 September, Maniema province was hosting an estimated 257,000 IDPs, 75% of whom come from South-Kivu. Orientale province was hosting 506,000 IDPs including 120,000 displaced following clashes between FARDC and FRPI in Ituri territory in mid-September.

Political and Security Context

International Context: On 4 November, leaders from the member countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Conference of the Inter-regional Great Lakes (ICGLR) met in Pretoria (RSA) to discuss the conflict in eastern DRC and bring together governments backing Congolese President Kabila and those supporting allies of his Rwandan Counterpart. In early October, according to reports, the presidents of Rwanda and Uganda told UN Security Council envoys that their countries were not responsible for bringing peace to neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo’s (DRC) volatile east, which has been plagued by endemic conflict for years. The two countries have long been accused of supporting rebel groups in DRC, including the M23, which allegedly benefited from Rwanda’s support, a charge Kigali rejects. For observers, both countries are seen to foster instability in DRC. In a worrying development correlation to renewed fighting in North-Kivu end of October, Rwanda accused the Congolese army of...
As of 4 November, fighting was reportedly ongoing between FARDC and M23 fighters, with FARDC taking the last rebel strongholds along the border with Uganda. The latest wave of fighting between the insurgents and the military started on 25 October despite international calls for restraint and constitutes the most serious outbreak of violence since the ceasefire set in early September. On 3 November, the M23 representative in the Kampala talks called for a truce, but hostilities continued between belligerent parties on the ground, with a final joint offensive by FARDC and the UN intervention force. While the M23’s ceasefire announcement was welcome by Kinshasa, DRC’s authorities demanded that the insurgents officially state the end of the rebellion, with a view to resume negotiations which were interrupted on 21 October.

From the perspective of DRC’s government, the last two weeks of fighting yielded significant strategic gains, but the international community stressed the importance of a political solution to be reached through diplomatic channels by both parties. On 3 November, DRC’s Minister of Foreign Affairs returned to Kampala, which indicated that dialogue may be resuming soon. According to an M23 spokesperson, an agreement could be signed within the coming days, if opposing parties can reach consensus on the amnesty, disarmament, and reintegration of M23 fighters.

Since 25 October, military operations targeted several rebel-held cities north of Goma, which has been under M23 control for almost a year. To date, MONUSCO reported that one UN peacekeeper was killed in the clashes, but the overall number of casualties is unknown. This latest outbreak of violence also triggered significant population displacement, both internally and across the borders with Uganda and Rwanda.

Peace talks started in early 2013, but were interrupted in May when violence escalated in North Kivu where the M23 had earlier fought an 18-month uprising. In mid-July, renewed hostilities between FARDC and M23 occurred in the vicinity of Goma leading to the deadliest clashes since the beginning of the rebellion in April 2012. In late August, ongoing fighting between the M23 and FARDC caused heavy casualties on both sides and led to the involvement of the UN intervention brigade for the first time since the beginning of its unprecedented mandate to launch military operations against the insurgents. In early September, 80 people were killed in another outbreak of violence, with an additional 30 civilians killed as residential areas of Goma were shelled.

As reported by OCHA in mid-September, the northern area of Kamango, near the Ugandan border, was still considered unsafe for people to return, three months after clashes between FARDC and the Ugandan rebel group Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) forced 66,000 refugees to cross into Uganda. While WFP reported in August that 70% of the refugees had returned to DRC, ongoing attacks by armed groups made the returnees reluctant to go back to areas of origin. According to the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), ADF carried out over 20 attacks on schools and hospitals in the Kamango area from November 2012 to July 2013. There are urgent needs in terms of protection and food security in the area. New attacks and kidnapping by ADF were reported by local sources throughout September, and most recently on 23 October.

In southern North-Kivu, armed groups are reported active, especially along the Masisi-Walikale axis. On 27 October, local media reported new clashes between the Hutu-

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**National Context:** On 23 October, President Kabila pledged to build a national unity government and implement policies reflecting the recommendations formulated during the three-week national dialogue aiming at tackling the country’s lingering social, institutional, and economic problems. In October, recommendations by thematic groups working under the framework of the National Dialogue Forum (NDF) were validated in Kinshasa. The recommendations included restructuring of FARDC, the police, and security forces, and the gradual establishment of new provinces. Opposition groups have reportedly included specific reforms to the national electoral commission ahead of 2016 presidential elections, while suspicions run high that the current President may seek a third term though the constitution prevents this.

The NDF opened on 7 September, with the agenda tackling the current political, social, and military crisis. Leaders are meeting in Kinshasa, Lubumbashi in Katanga province, and Kisangani in Orientale province to discuss the governance, economy, and decentralisation processes, as well as disarmament of insurgent groups and inter-communal strife. The main opposition force, the Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), was not present because reportedly their wish to review the agenda was disregarded by President Kabila and his government. The UDPS allegedly wanted to address such issues as human rights violation, children’s enrolment in armed groups, the sell-off of natural resources, corruption, and the legitimacy of institutions. While the discussions were meant to last up to 20 days, consultations were delayed because of profound disagreements between participating parties.

DRC is struggling with a proliferation of armed groups; North Kivu, Katanga, and Orientale are currently the most volatile with ongoing heavy fighting. Across DRC, sustained combat operations and inflighting between armed groups, non-state actors and government military are causing massive displacement. According to local reports, various human rights infringements have been reported, and several humanitarian organisations have been forced to evacuate their staff from the area because of insecurity.

In parts of Maniema and South Kivu provinces, armed groups were reportedly present between July and October, with significant activism of the self-defence militia Raia Mutomboki (RM) in Shabunda territory. From 6-9 October, local media reported that two rival factions of RM clashed over mining resources, forcing the local population to flee in the bush. In late September, fighting between RM and FARDC was also reported in Shabunda, where it triggered new displacement. Peace talks reportedly started on 10 October between local authorities and RM representatives to end the spate of violence, which started in Baliga area at the start of September. The Rwandan rebel group Democratic forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) is also suspected of clashing with government forces and abducted over 20 people in the area between 17 and 20 October.

**North-Kivu Province:** According to local sources, North Kivu currently harbours over 20 different armed groups, including the ethnic Tutsi-dominated M23 insurgency group, which has plagued the province with indiscriminate attacks on civilians and fighting with government troops for years. The conflict in the mining region also drags regional powers into the fighting, with neighbouring countries such as Rwanda and Uganda regularly accused by the authorities of backing militias.
dominated militia Nyatura with the militia RM around Masisi, along with cases of looting and cattle-raiding. The previous week, 20 people were reportedly abducted in the area by suspected members of Nyatura, following a clash between the two militias which killed an unknown number of people and triggered significant displacement toward the bush and South-Kivu. The area has been repeatedly plagued by ethnic infighting between Nyatura, the Nyanga-dominated Nduna Defense of Congo (NDC) militia and the Hunde-dominated Alliance for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS). On 20 October, NDC took control of Pinga after one day of fighting against the coalition Nyatura/APCLS, causing people to flee their homes.

Throughout August and September, the NDC militia repeatedly clashed with the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (DFLR), a Rwandan Hutu ethnic rebel group, the APCLS, and government military in Walikale territory, causing multiple population displacements. As of early October, the deployment of MONUSCO troops to Walikale has allegedly allowed for an easing of tensions, but the axis Masisi-Walikale remains under control of rebel groups.

Oriental Province: In mid-September, clashes between FARDC and the Patriotic Resistance Force of Ituri (FRPI) in Walendu Bindi, in Ituri territory, displaced an estimated 120,000 people. In August, four days of fighting in Walendu-Bindi, Bavi, and Olongba between the same belligerents had reportedly displaced over 80,000 people and affected 120,000.

In late August, clashes between unidentified armed groups were reported from Kakwa and Kaliko in Ituri territory forcing FARDC to intervene. In a separate incident, clashes between FARDC and a rebel group based in the Mambasa region were reported in mid-August. In late August, renewed tension between FARDC and the Ugandan army were reported in Mahagi, north of Lake Albert and close to the Ugandan border. Little information is available to date.

Oriental province has been largely affected by the activism of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), a Ugandan militant movement operating in DRC since 2005, which is responsible for 122 incidents from January to September 2013, mostly on the borders with CAR and South Sudan, noted OCHA.

Katanga Province: On 25 September, incidents continued to be reported in Manono, Pweto, and Mitwaba where increasing activism of the militia Bakata Katanga has caused renewed population movements. The separatist militia group Bakata Katanga has been carrying out continuous attacks in Katanga, notably in Nganie, where it has caused large displacement since June. However, since August, over 350 members of Bakata Katanga have reportedly surrendered to government forces.

In August, other armed groups, including the Popular Self-Defence Forces (FAP), and local militias have reportedly been active in Katanga province and have clashed with FARDC.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: As of 30 September, DRC hosted over 185,000 refugees among whom 127,000 are from Rwanda and the rest from CAR, Burundi, Sudan, Uganda, and the Republic of Congo. Since December 2012, UNHCR reported that 42,612 refugees have arrived in DRC from CAR. As of 30 September, OCHA estimated that 2.7 million people are displaced in DRC due to fighting between FARDC and various rebel groups, mostly in the Kivus, Province Orientale, and Katanga.

As of 25 September, over 225,000 Congolese refugees are in Uganda and Rwanda with 140,000 in Uganda, including 112,000 from North Kivu, and 85,000 in Rwanda, including over 63,000 from North Kivu, according to UNHCR. Since April 2012, over 30,000 new refugees had been registered in Rwanda.

North-Kivu Province: In August and early September, extensive fighting between armed non-state actors and FARDC, as well as infighting, has led to massive displacement in North Kivu. While early October showed a short lull in violence, renewed fighting since 25 October caused new population displacement, both internally towards South-Kivu and across the border with Rwanda and Uganda. As of 4 November, the Rwandan authorities reported an estimated 3,000 new DRC refugees, and Uganda reported at least 10,000.

As of 25 September, OCHA reported that North Kivu currently hosts over 1.032 million IDPs, some displaced since January 2009. In August, over half the displaced were in Masisi (30%) and Walikale (23.5%) territories. In the whole province, 63% of IDPs were living with host families, against 22% in public buildings, and 15% in camps. To date, population movements remain ongoing due to the presence of multiple armed groups and repeated clashes between insurgents and government forces.

In early September, OCHA reported that clashes between the rebel groups APCLS and the Congolese Army Movement (MAC) in the zone of Habula displaced most of the town's population toward Kashebere and Nyanzale in north-western Masisi territory.

In August, several thousand people were forced to flee their homes because of clashes between armed groups, mainly NDC, the DFLR, and the APCLS in Walikale territory. In mid-August, local sources reported that 16,000 people from Munzanga, Kisoro, Munzanga, Busakara, and Pingo were displaced to the villages of Rusamambu, Buleusa, Kateku, Kilambo, and Bukumbirwa. As reported by NRC in late August, 15,000 people who fled from Kituna in July were still displaced in Nyanzale, Kihondo, and Kasoko.

In July, large displacements from Kishimba and Ikobo toward Bulewusa, Miriki, and Kanabayaonga, and from Rutshuru territory to the south of Lubero territory were reported. On 11 July, an attack by ADF-Nalu on the town of Kamango led to 66,000 people from North Kivu province fleeing into Uganda. While WFP reported in August that 70% of the refugees had returned to DRC, ongoing attacks by armed groups made the returnees reluctant to go back to their areas of origin.

South-Kivu Province: According to OCHA as of 30 September, there are 591,000 IDPs in South Kivu, 76% of whom fled their places of origin because of insecurity caused by armed groups. This number marks a decrease of IDPs compared to August, due to updated figures for returnees in the province.

On 25 October, local media reported that infighting between armed groups displaced over 10,000 people in the last two weeks in Shabunda territory. In late September, small-scale new displacement occurred following fighting between RM and government military in the area.
In August-September, according to OCHA, displacement was seen in South Kivu with over 10,000 people fleeing Mutarule and Uvira in Rusisi Plain to neighbouring areas, up to 8,000 people fleeing the town of Luberizi Bwergera, Luvungi, Sange, and in Rusisi Plain with 9,800 people displaced. These displacements have been triggered by renewed activism of armed groups in the area.

In August, authorities reported that since the beginning of 2013, large groups of displaced have returned to South Kivu with up to 81,000 returnees, 80% of all returnees, settling in Shabunda territory.

Maniema Province: On 30 September, OCHA reported that Maniema province was hosting an estimated 257,000 IDPs, 75% of whom come from South-Kivu. The displaced are mainly located along the administrative boundaries with the Kivus, between Punia and Tanganyika.

Orientale Province: As of 30 September, OCHA reported that 506,000 people are displaced in Orientale province, including 120,000 displaced following clashes between FARDC and FRPI in Walendu Bindi in Ituri territory mid-September. According to local sources, the new IDPs are without shelter and in dire conditions. Ongoing fighting is hindering humanitarian access to these populations. The latest wave of displacement is believed to be a continuation of fighting in Bavi, Walendu-Bindi, and Olona, which displaced 80,000 people in August. The August-September displacements in Orientale province are the biggest wave of population movement in the province since 2008.

Katanga Province: OCHA reported on 9 October that the number of IDPs in the province has decreased from 389,700 to 358,400 from August to September. Over the same period, the number of returns has increased significantly due to a lull in violence in Kasenga, Manono and Mitwaba. However, the situation remains volatile in Malemba Nkulu and Pweto, where repeated clashes between government forces and local militias continue to cause displacement. Pweto is considered to be the territory most affected by these events and records up to 40% of the IDPs of the province.

According to OCHA, new attacks by armed groups on 17 and 18 October caused people to flee their villages in the area of Mitwaba. In late September, OCHA reported that activism of the militia Bakata Katanga has led to new population displacements from Nganji to Mwanza, straining Mwanza resources, mostly with heightened food insecurity. Since early June, attacks by Bakata Katanga resulted in the displacement of 23,000 people according to authorities.

In early September, OCHA indicated that up to 9,000 people have been displaced from Mwebe and Mkwila toward the Lufira River following fighting between unidentified militias and government forces. The displaced were reportedly in need of NFIs, food, and medicine.

As of July, the UN reported that there were an estimated 43,800 IDPs in Pweto with population movements occurring mainly along the Pweto/Mutabi/Lwantente and Pweto/Lukonzo/Lozwa/Nzwiba axes. In mid-August, an attack of the armed group FAP on the spontaneous IDP camp of Mwasi in the Pweto area was recorded. It was the second such incident in August.

Disaster: In Orientale province, heavy rains in Bas-Uele and Haut-Uele districts made roughly 6,000 people homeless on 4 September, according to OCHA. Ensuing floods destroyed houses, roads, and crops across six territories, Bangadi and Niangara were among the worst affected. In late August, local sources reported that over 500 people had been affected in Dungu with floods also damaging crops.

Access: Access is limited across large parts of DRC, mainly in the east. Physical and infrastructural impediments to delivering aid are significant due to mountainous and volcanic terrain, and a lack of asphalted roads in some areas, especially in Maniema province.

Tensions between aid workers and the local population, with incidents of hostilities against aid workers and interference in delivering aid have been reported. OCHA recorded 177 security incidents against aid workers recorded across DRC from January to September 2013.

Since 25 October, access is limited in areas affected by the fighting between FARDC and M23 fighters in North-Kivu, where assistance cannot be provided due to insecurity. Mine clearance operations and the clearing of non-exploded devices is reportedly ongoing.

Food Security: A June report by FSNWG estimated that 6.4 million people are at Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity. The figure represents an increase of about 75,000 people compared to October 2012. Two-third of food insecure people, an estimated 4.2 million, are considered severely food insecure and concentrated in the east of North Kivu province and the south of Katanga province, where conflict has escalated since March.

Extreme poverty with few livelihood options are the main reasons for food insecurity. In eastern DRC, renewed conflict has significantly contributed to the deterioration of food security and the nutrition situation, according to WFP. The west of DRC, although relatively stable compared to the east, faces chronic food insecurity due to isolation, lack of social infrastructure, and the effect of several aggravating economic shocks.

In the northern provinces of Equateur and Orientale, the planting of the main season maize crops, to be harvested from October, has been completed under average rainfall conditions. Satellite analysis indicate that good rains benefited crops in northern and southern regions, while poor rains may have affected crops in central provinces of Bandundu, Kasai Occidental and Kasai Oriental.

In Maniema, OCHA reported on 10 September that the cities of Matete and Salambala (Kabambare territory) are particularly at risk of food insecurity, following the recent exclusion of the population from the Namoya mining area which caused 5,000 miners to lose their livelihoods. From 11-18 July, an inter-cluster assessment conducted in Punja territory showed that over 130,000 IDPs and returnees are living in dire conditions, eating three to four times per week. The conflict between FARDC and the RM in Punja (December 2012 – April 2013) caused the population to miss two agricultural seasons and lose most, if not all, assets during displacement.

Health and Malnutrition: On 7 October, in North Kivu, MSF reported that at least ten people have died of rabies. The outbreak has reportedly infected 154 people. Reports
about new cases have come from remote areas as the organisation is set to donate vaccines and post exposure treatment to the Ministry of Health.

Across DRC, over 20,000 cholera cases have been registered for 2013 as of 30 September; OCHA reports; 337 deaths have been reported for a fatality rate of 2%. Over 60% of cases (more than 11,600) are registered in Katanga Province. During 2012, DRC had 30,753 registered cholera cases with 709 deaths, compared to 21,700 cases in 2011. The surge in cholera cases is largely the result of limited access to safe drinking water, poor hygiene conditions, and poor sanitation. In South Kivu, local media noted on 11 September that seven cases of cholera have been reported in the previous two weeks in Minova and surrounds. On 27 August, MSF reported that ten people died of rabies, mostly in the Lemera health zone, triggering a rabies intervention in the east of DRC.

Over four million cases of malaria have been reported since the beginning of 2013 as of 17 June. 8,500 deaths have been registered due to malaria during the same period (21,000 deaths in 2012). In Maniema, OCHA reported on 10 September that 97 displaced and returnee children died of malaria during August in Punia territory.

In October, OCHA reported 63,400 cases of measles between January and August 2013. In Kasai Occidental, local media reported on 15 August an outbreak of measles in the area of Kamonia. Forty children have died of the disease in Kamako (including 28 deaths on 6 and 7 August) due to unsanitary conditions following massive population displacement and overcrowding in settlements. In Katanga, OCHA reported on 23 October 5,931 measles cases and 90 deaths in the province since the beginning of the epidemic in March 2013. Local media reported on 11 September that 60 cases of measles (including two deaths) were recorded in Kasumbalesa in the last 40 days. According to OCHA on 26 August, more than 1,500 deaths due to malaria were recorded within the last eight months in the province.

An inter-cluster mission conducted in Punja and Kasese from 11-18 July reported several deaths among children from both measles and severe anaemia. The health zone of Punja records high levels of infant mortality due to anaemia, mostly because of access and provision issues of medication stocks in health centres. At least 29 deaths of children <5 were reported in June. According to UNICEF in October, malnutrition rates in Kasongo territory were beyond emergency thresholds, with 12% GAM and 3% SAM.

In North Kivu, local sources reported that following violent clashes between Congolese forces and Ugandan rebels ADF/NALU in early July, health centres and shops lack medicines and basic items in an area where 80,000 people are exposed to waterborne diseases, including cholera and dysentery.

In Kasai Oriental, OCHA reports that since mid-June, an epidemic of yellow fever is spreading in Kamana, Lubao, and Lubindi-Lukula, with six confirmed cases.

**WASH:** On 12 August, ICRC reported that less than 50% of the population of South Kivu has access to safe drinking water.

**Protection:** At end July, UNHCR reported that ongoing violence in North-Kivu, involving FARDC, the M23, and the ADF/NALU, is increasingly exposing women and girls to violence, particularly rape. From January to July 2013, 619 cases of rape were reported, compared to 108 cases during the same period in 2012. According to UNHCR, 70% of the cases of sexual violence are perpetrated by armed men. On 26 August, UNICEF indicated that a growing number of children are being killed or injured in renewed fighting and as many as 2,000 are being used as child soldiers in the current conflict.

**Updated:** 05/11/2013

**Mali CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY**

**Highlights**

**4 November:** Three Tuareg and Arab rebel movements announced their merger to form a united front in the peace talks with Malian government. Namely, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), the Arab Movement of Azawad (MAA) and the High Council for the Unity of Azawad (HCUA) met in Burkina Faso to agree on the establishment of a political platform, a negotiating committee and a joint decision-making body.

**4 November:** A landmine exploded at the passing of a public transport vehicle, killing four people and wounding a dozen. According to the UN, unexploded ammunitions and landmines in the north remain a significant threat.

**2 November:** Two French journalists were kidnapped and executed by unidentified armed men in Kidal.

As of **early November,** 283,000 people are still internally displaced as consequences of the 2012 crisis in the north, which represents a decrease of 50,000 from the 333,000 reported early August. IOM reported that the capital Bamako hosts the largest number of IDPs (67,000), followed by the northern regions of Gao (47,000), Timbuktu (45,000) and Kidal (36,000). UNHCR also reported that a total of 170,000 refugees currently reside outside Mali, mostly in Mauritania (67,500), Niger (50,000) and Burkina Faso (50,000).

**End of October:** Civilian protests erupted in Gao against the make-up of a delegation sent to Bamako to represent the region in the peace talks.

**Political and Security Context**

**Political context:** On 4 November, three Tuareg and Arab rebel movements announced their merger to form a united front in the peace talks with Malian government. Namely, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), the Arab Movement of Azawad (MAA) and the High Council for the Unity of Azawad (HCUA) met in Burkina Faso to agree on the establishment of a political platform, a negotiating committee and a joint decision-making body. Both the government and the rebel coalition are committed to the national dialogue, which raises hope for a political solution to the crisis triggered by the Tuareg uprising in 2012.

While President Keita created a Ministry for National Reconciliation and the Development
of the Northern Region to seek solutions to the Tuareg issue, the central government
remains unwilling to discuss autonomy for northern Mali. However, authorities announced
on 29 October that it lifted arrest warrants against four leaders of the Tuareg rebellion, in
the name of “national reconciliation”. On October 2, it also decided to free 23 prisoners
arrested in clashes in the north, putting into practice the Ouagadougou accord reached
between MNLA and the government in June.

On 6 September, newly-sworn President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita announced that the first
parliamentary elections would take place on 24 November. This followed the August
presidential election process, which was an important step on the path to recovery for the
country, 18 months after the military coup and the seizure of its northern territory
(Azawad) by radical Islamists.

Security Context: Despite progress in the national reconciliation process, incidents are
still reported across the north of the country. In Kidal, two French journalists were
killed and executed by unidentified armed men on 2 November, and on 23 October,
armed Islamist militants attacked military positions in Tessalit, reportedly killing several
UN peacekeepers and civilians. In Gao, civilian protests erupted against the make-up of a
delegation sent to Bamako to represent the region in the peace talks end of October.
Earlier in the month, Malian military sources reported that Islamist extremists fired shells
on Gao, in what marked the first attack on the city in months. The militants reportedly also
destroyed a bridge near the town, which is on the only route between Gao and
neighbouring Niger. It remains unclear whether the attack led to any casualties. The shots
came nine days after a suicide attack in Timbuktu which killed at least two civilians,
wounded seven soldiers and killed the four bombers, according to the government. Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) claimed responsibility for the attack, which
underlines the group’s continued capacity to carry out attacks in northern Mali and has
raised fears of similar attacks in the future.

Simultaneously to the clashes in the north, in the southern garrison town of Kati, close to
the capital Bamako, officers who participated in the March 2012 military coup fired into the
air in protest at not receiving promotions they said had been promised, underscoring the
dual challenge facing the new government. On 2 October, Mali’s new president, Ibrahim
Boubacar Keita, dissolved an army reform committee dominated by former members of a
military junta, following protests at the military base.

International presence: On 18 July, Nigeria announced plans to withdraw some of its
1,200 soldiers from the UN peacekeeping force in Mali and Sudan’s Darfur region, saying
the troops are needed for security at home. The Nigerians are part of a force of 12,640
African troops who took over from a French-led mission on 1 July. On 1 July, authority for
the stabilisation of Mali was transferred from the forces of the African-led International
Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) to the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization
Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). The creation of the peacekeeping force was approved
unanimously by the UN Security Council on 25 April and the transfer was agreed by the
UN Security Council on 25 June. As of 1 July, most of the 6,100 soldiers of AFISMA have
become part of the peacekeeping operation.

French forces still present in Mali have formally handed over security duties to MINUSMA.
A separate and reduced contingent of at least 1,000 French soldiers will remain in Mali to
conduct counter-terrorism operations. France’s involvement in the conflict came after
Islamist fighters moved to within 20 km of Mopti, a strategically important town on the
border between rebel and Government held territories, taking control of the strategic town
Konna on 10 December 2012. With support from France’s armed forces, the Mali
Government started a counter-offensive on 11 January.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: According to IOM early November, 283,000 people are still internally
displaced as consequences of the 2012 crisis in the north, which represents a decrease of
50,000 from the 333,000 reported early August. IOM’s report indicates that the capital
Bamako hosts the largest number of IDPs (67,000), followed by the northern regions of
Gao (47,000), Timbuktu (45,000) and Kidal (36,000), and attributes the drop in IDPs figures
to people returning home. Between January and September, more than 78,000 IDPs have
reportedly travelled from the south to the north, and surveys indicate that improvement of
security conditions is the main reason for these population movements. However, sporadic
violence in the north or the difficult economic situation is still causing displacement toward
the south, with 39,000 people going from the north to the south between January and
September 2013.

As of 31 October, UNHCR reported that a total of 170,000 refugees reside outside Mali,
mostly in Mauritania (67,500), Niger (50,000) and Burkina Faso (50,000).

Disaster: On 28 August, 34 people were killed and more injured by heavy rains, which
provoked flash floods in almost all the neighbourhoods of the capital Bamako. Over 100
homes were destroyed and thousands of people were made homeless after the Niger River
burst its banks. IOM reported on 12 September that 20,000 people were affected.
Potentially contaminated underground and surface water is a concern. ECHO reported on
12 September that an increase in the number of malaria cases and water borne diseases
could already be observed.

Earlier in August, OCHA reported that heavy rains caused flooding in the Kidal and Segou
regions, destroying fields, houses and latrines, and affecting 11,300 people. To date,
severe flooding affected more than 400,000 people across nine countries of the Sahel
region in Africa.

Access: Humanitarian access continues to improve in central regions and parts of the
north, and aid is increasing in the accessible parts, according to OCHA. Aid activities in
other parts of the north are limited due to continued insecurity and banditry. On 4
November, a landmine exploded at the passing of a public transport vehicle, killing four
people and wounding a dozen. According to the UN, unexploded ammunitions and
landmines in the north remain a significant threat.

Access to basic social services (water, education, and health) remains limited in the north
largely because of the low return of civil servants, the destruction of infrastructure, and a
lack of materials to support basic services.

Food Security: In late September, WFP reported that the regions of Timbuktu, Kidal and
Gao are the worst affected in terms of food insecurity with prevalence rates comprised
between 32% and 36% for severe food insecurity, and up to 90% of the population affected
by severe to moderate food insecurity and relying heavily on food assistance. As IDPs and refugees begin to return to the north, limited resources will be further strained and the number of people requiring assistance is likely to increase in the coming months. According to previous assessments finalised in May, people affected by food insecurity are estimated at about 3.5 million, including 1.4 million in need of immediate assistance.

FEWSNET notes that as of late September, the availability of green-harvested maize, tubers, and rice marks the end of the lean season in southern and northern growing areas, where poor households are seeing improved access to food products thanks to continued humanitarian aid, the availability of milk and gathered foods, and especially favourable terms of trade. Agricultural zones in the southern part of the country are experiencing Minimal food insecurity (IPC Phase 1).

Health and Nutrition: On 5 August, OCHA reported that in the areas that were occupied by armed groups, 65% of health structures are reported partially, or non-functional compared to 17% nationally.

According to OCHA on 19 July, the nutritional situation is serious across Gao with a General Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 13.5%. An estimated 660,000 children <5 suffer from acute malnutrition in 2013, including 210,000 from severe acute malnutrition.

**Updated: 05/11/2013**

### MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY

#### Highlights

**31 October:** As reported by FEWSNET, Mauritania is expected to face Minimal Food Insecurity (IPC Phase 1) in most parts of the country due to pastoral conditions and crops generally comparable to those of an average year, regular and adequate supply markets, ability to access food reinforced by functional assistance programmes and favourable terms of trade. However, in the western part of the agro-pastoral zone, erratic rainfalls have resulted in a significant decrease of rain-fed cereal production and lower income from agricultural work. Poor households will experience Stressed levels of Food Insecurity (IPC Phase 2), which is expected to start in November and decline with the maturation and flood-recession cropping in February. In the northwest of rain-fed crops areas (central and northern Guidimaka and eastern Gorgol), the sharp decline in rain-fed cereal production, only resource for most of poor households, will result in Stressed levels of food insecurity from January 2014.

#### Political and Security Context

Early October, Mauritania's main opposition parties announced a boycott of the legislative election scheduled on November 23 after talks with the government over preparations for the vote collapsed without agreement. The Coordination of the Democratic Opposition (COD) announced on 4 October that 10 of its 11 member parties had decided to boycott the vote but Islamist party Tawassoul and Union of Forces of Progress (UFP) said they will participate, prompting uncertainty over future of coalition. The talks were the first between the two sides in over four years. The COD demands the polls be postponed until April to allow time to prepare a voter census and electoral roster, and wants guarantees of the independence of the electoral commission, according to Reuters. The last legislative election was held in 2006. This round of elections has been repeatedly delayed since October 2011. The current president Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz seized power in a 2008 coup and was elected a year later, but the COD has never accepted his presidency as legitimate.

#### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** UNHCR has stated that the number of Malian refugees in Mauritania has levelled off since March 2013 standing at 75,261 people as of 30 June. Almost all refugees (over 74,000) live in the Mbéra camp, 60% are women and children, according to UNICEF, and have lived in the camp for over a year.

**Disaster:** As of early October, the several weeks of consecutive rainfall since mid-August have caused flooding in much of the capital, Nouakchott, and the six surrounding regions of Brakna, Tagant, Hodh Ech Chargul, Assaba, Inchiri, and Adrar. According to the Department of Civil Protection, the damages caused by the flooding are unprecedented in the region. As reported by IFRC, more than 5,600 people have been affected by the flooding. 2,305 people have been displaced and at least eight people have died according to OCHA.

**Food Security:** As reported by FEWSNET on 31 October, Mauritania is expected to face Minimal Food Insecurity (IPC Phase 1) in most parts of the country due to pastoral conditions and crops generally comparable to those of an average year, regular and adequate supply markets, ability to access food reinforced by functional assistance programmes and favourable terms of trade. However, in the western part of the agro-pastoral zone, erratic rainfalls have resulted in a significant decrease of rain-fed cereal production and lower income from agricultural work. Poor households will experience Stressed levels of Food Insecurity (IPC Phase 2), which is expected to start in November and decline with the maturation and flood-recession cropping in February. In the northwest of rain-fed crops areas (central and northern Guidimaka and eastern Gorgol), the sharp decline in rain-fed cereal production, only resource for most of poor households, will result in Stressed levels of food insecurity from January 2014. This situation of stress will remain until exodus start in March.

WFP reported on 3 September that as of July, 23.7% of Mauritanian households are considered food insecure, representing a decrease compared to the same period last year (32.3%), but the rate is not as low as expected (estimation for July 2013 was 22%). Higher rates were recorded in the south of the country, in the Guidimaka (40%), Assaba (37%), Tangant (34%), and Gorgol (31%) regions. Food insecurity is higher in rural areas (28.5%) than in urban areas (17.4%), even though rural exodus and rising food prices are driving the urban food insecurity rates higher. 800,000 people are food insecure, which marks an increase from the estimated 560,000 food insecure people reported in January 2013. 190,000 people are classified as severely food insecure and 610,000 moderately food insecure.

**Health and Nutrition:** According to the SMART survey conducted in July, six regions of the country have reached or exceed the emergency threshold of 15% for Global Acute
Malnutrition (GAM). The national Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) rate remains below (12.8%).

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**NIGER FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT**

### Highlights

**Late October:** The bodies of 92 migrants were found in late October in Niger’s northern desert after they had died of thirst just a few kilometres from Algeria, their planned destination.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** According to the UN on 28 August, thousands of Nigerians were reported to be crossing into Niger, fleeing the ongoing military offensive against Islamist militants of the Boko Haram group. As of 15 August, UNICEF reported that an estimated 13,500 refugees from northern Nigeria had arrived in southeastern Niger (Diffa region). UNHCR also reported the arrival of 3,544 Nigerian returnees and 94 people of other nationalities (mainly Chadians). These refugees have been crossing into Niger since mid-May and have settled in Bosso, Diffa, Kablewa, Maine, Tam, Tchoukoujani, and Garin Amadou. The majority live with host families; others live in rented houses, but lack the money to pay rent or have no shelter at all.

According to UNHCR as of end September, an estimated 49,600 Malian refugees are registered in Niger as a result of the military intervention in Mali. UNHCR also reported that 5,124 Nigeriens returned to Niger, bringing the total number of those displaced from the Malian conflict into Niger to over 54,000. Malian refugees continue to place significant stress on the country with most settling in regions hardest hit by the nutrition and food security crisis.

Late October, the bodies of 92 migrants were found in Niger’s northern desert after they had died of thirst just a few kilometres from Algeria, their planned destination. Following this incident, international media reported on 3 November that at least 127 migrants were arrested as they attempted to cross into Algeria through the Sahara desert. Government officials have announced their plan to close illegal camps in the north of Niger, as they blame the migrant deaths on illegal trafficking.

**Disaster:** As of 25 September, OCHA reported that severe flooding in July and August killed 32 people, affected over 165,000 people, and damaged 13,000 hectares of crops. Tillabery, Maradi, Tahoua, and Dosso regions are among the most affected areas. In Tillabery region alone, 39,700 people are affected. Aid distribution has taken place in parts of Tillabery, Kollo, Ouallam, Say, and Filingué departments. But several locations affected by the floods including Banibangou, Damana, Firwa kola, Gotheye, and Imnanan Taggazar remain unassisted. Interventions remain limited to areas where humanitarian actors were operational before the floods.

This year, severe flooding has affected over 400,000 people across nine countries of the Sahel region in Africa.

### Food Security:

According to OCHA on 19 July, 2.9 million people are food insecure in Niger. As reported by FEWSNET in early November, preliminary crop assessments performed in October show that the national grain production is inadequate to meet the country’s needs. The assessments showed that with the exception of Dosso and Maradi, all regions experienced production shortfalls. Acute food insecurity remains Minimal (IPC Phase 1), except for localized areas. It is expected that the food access and incomes of the poor and very poor households will be significantly reduced and may evolve into Stressed (IPC Phase 2) for January – March 2014, specifically for Tillabery, Diffa, and localized areas of Tahoua and Zinder, due to their lack of production and access to markets.

FAO reported on 26 August that since Niger depends on food imports from Nigeria during the lean season, the current insecurity in the northeast that has disrupted trade with surrounding countries is affecting food availability.

Small-scale breeding of desert locust has been observed in Niger’s Tahoua, Agadez, and Zinder regions. As of 30 September, only 11,749 of a total of 44,555 hectares of infested crops were treated; the low rate of treatment (26%) is due to logistical constraints in the infested areas.

Cereal prices reached a five-year high in April, with the sharpest increases in Maradi and Diffa regions. Prices stabilised in May, but have remained higher than the seasonal norm. Compared to the five-year average, the prices of dry cereals are rising, with millet (17%), sorghum (20%) and maize (9%) displaying the largest increases. The high market prices are largely due to production shortfalls and market disruptions in neighbouring Nigeria, following the 2012 floods. Central Niger is especially dependent on Nigerian grain flows and is likely to see the highest impact on prices.

**Health and Malnutrition:** As of 20 October, the cumulative number of cholera cases had reached 562 including 11 deaths (case fatality rate of 1.96%) since the government officially declared the epidemic on 10 May. The epidemic continues in the districts of Tillaberi and Tera that have reported 405 and 123 cases respectively. There is a high risk that the disease will spread along the Niger River. In 2012, more than 5,785 cholera cases and 110 deaths were reported countrywide.

With 41 registered cases, of whom 16 have died, diphtheria has returned to Niger seven years after the last epidemic in 2006. The recent epidemic has been confirmed by local health officials in Tillabary, 120 km northwest of the capital. The most affected age group is 5-14 years, with 26 registered cases.

According to UNICEF, as of 29 September, more than 707,100 cases of malnutrition in children <5 have been treated at therapeutic centres, including over 303,800 for SAM while more than 403,200 for MAM. On 31 July, OCHA reported that malnutrition has slightly decreased, with a rate of 13.3% GAM for children <5, compared to 14.8% in 2012, except in Maradi district where the 16.3% GAM rate is a concern. As of September, a SMART survey indicated that children aged 6-23 months are the most affected with a GAM rate of 20.6% and a SAM rate of 4.9%. UNICEF reported mid-October that more than 2,500 children <5 died of malnutrition between January and August 2013.
SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

As of 5 November, FAO reported that moderate to heavy rains were experienced in Juba and Shabelle river basins (southern Somalia). Considering the current high river levels and given the rainfall forecast, the risk of flooding along the Shabelle is anticipated to be high. Following the early beginning of the main rainy season (the gu) in mid-March, an estimated 50,000 people were displaced and 6,400 hectares of crops damaged by floods.

Political and Security Context

International Context: In the beginning of October, US Special Forces raided Barawe, Lower Shabelle, to capture Abdikadar Mohamed Abdikadar, the alleged link between the Al-Shabaab Islamist group in Somalia with al-Qaeda and Kenya militants. Al-Shabaab has controlled the town since 2008. According to residents in Barawe, Al-Shabaab sent 200 masked fighters with heavy machine guns as reinforcement in response to the US operation. On the same day as the raid in Somalia, US forces seized alleged al-Qaeda leader Anas al-Liby from the Libyan capital Tripoli. On 28 October, an air strike in southern Somalia close to Barawe killed two senior commanders of Al-Shabaab.

According to the African Union (AU) on 9 May, an estimated 3,000 AU peacekeepers have been killed in Somalia since 2007. Despite recent success by Somali forces and AU peacekeepers against Al-Shabaab fighters, tensions exist between the different military forces involved and local authorities to the extent that, on 22 April, Ethiopia officially announced its wish to remove troops from Somalia. However, it has no plans for a complete withdrawal from the fight against al-Qaeda linked insurgents. During March-April, the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Hudur, a town in the southern Bakool region, led to its immediate occupation by Al-Shabaab.

In early March, the UN Security Council agreed to maintain deployment of the AU Mission until February 2014 and partially lift its 20-year weapons ban for a year to boost the Government’s capacity to fight off Al-Shabaab insurgency. In a similar move, the US declared that Somalia was again eligible to receive defense articles and services, which may be seen as a tangible illustration of improving relations between Washington and Mogadishu.

But as threats from Al-Shabaab persist and attacks continue both in Somali and the region of the Horn of Africa, the AU's Peace and Security Council endorsed the recommendation to boost AMISOM by 35% in the renewed effort to fight Al-Shabaab with an additional 6,235 soldiers, taking its total strength to around 24,000. The UN Secretary General urged member nations to provide AMISOM with financial and military support. Following the Westgate attacks in Kenya, the UN envoy for Somalia called for additional AU troops to counter the 5,000 Al-Shabaab fighters, which the UN said posed an international threat.

National Context: Conflict remains widespread, as Somalia struggles to curb an insurgency led by Al-Shabaab, an Islamist organisation allegedly tied strongly to al-Qaeda. According to sources, the movement has retained strongholds in parts of rural southern and central Somalia, with another faction is present in the mountains in the northern, semi-autonomous Puntland region. Although security in the capital Mogadishu has improved since its lowest point in August 2011, attacks by Al-Shabaab in urban centres and along transport axes are common.

Safety and Security: Al-Shabaab has become increasingly isolated in southern Somalia and suffered significant territorial and reputational losses since Kenyan forces moved into Somalia in October 2011. Following the September attack in Nairobi, seen as introducing Al-Shabaab onto the global terrorist scene, the European Union has increased security for its military advisors in Somalia. Attacks on high level targets remain a credible threat.

On 3 September, Al-Shabaab ambushed President Mohamud's military-escorted motorcade, firing rocket-propelled grenades at the convoy. The President reportedly escaped unhurt. In mid-June, Al-Shabaab militants launched a high-profile assault targeting the UN compound in Mogadishu. The attack killed 15 and caused all UN missions outside Mogadishu International Airport to be suspended for 24 hours.

Latest reports suggest that Al-Shabaab remains active through small-scale operations in various areas of Mogadishu. The situation is aggravated by infighting among the Somali military and security forces.

On 19 September, AU troops backed by Somali government forces reportedly captured Mahaday district (Middle Shabelle Region) from Al-Shabaab, marking it the third town in the region to be taken after Jawhar and Balca. According to local sources, heavy clashes between Al-Shabaab and government forces aided by AMISOM troops continued in Mahaday on 2 October.

Conflict Patterns

Kismayo: Between June and September, both inter-communal and violence against AMISOM troops flared up in Kismayo in Jubaland on the border with Kenya and Ethiopia. In Kismayo, control has long been split between multiple forces including clan militias, Al-Shabaab, and Kenyan and Ethiopian soldiers. At end June, fighting of the rival Somali warlords over Kismayo had claimed 71 lives and injured more than 300. Fighters from the Ras Kamboni militia of Ahmed Madobe, who proclaims himself president of the Jubaland region in June, battled against forces loyal to Bare Hirale, a former Somali defence minister.

In early June, two days of heavy fighting between Madobe's forces and gunmen loyal to Iftin Hassan Basto, another local warlord claiming the presidency, left 30 dead and 40 wounded; 1,604 people have been displaced by the violence. These were the heaviest clashes the city had seen in over four years and the first since several rival warlords claimed control of the lucrative port and fertile hinterlands in May. OCHA data indicated that 60,000 people needed humanitarian assistance in Kismayo in early July.

In the aftermath of the June clashes, the central government called for the withdrawal of Kenya Defense Force troops from Kismayo believing that they sided with Madobe. Following the announcement, there have been a series of elders’ meetings in Dhoble to
discuss the way forward. In retaliation for the involvement of Kenyan troops, Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the attack on a shopping centre in Kenya's capital from 21-25 September, killing at least 68 people and wounding 175.

**Puntland:** Tensions persist between the central authorities and the semi-autonomous Puntland region. On 29 August, the president of Somalia's Puntland region said the central government was undermining plans to create a federal system, and that he would develop potential oil resources in his area even without a revenue-sharing deal with Mogadishu. The statement underlined deep national divisions. On 5 August, Puntland cut all ties with the central government in a clear sign of distrust toward Mogadishu. Puntland accused central authorities of refusing to share power and foreign aid with the region in line with the country's federal structure, and taking its eye off the fight against al-Qaeda-affiliated Islamist militants.

Puntland is grappling to uproot Al-Shabaab from the region and has scaled up operations in the Galgala area, from where Al-Shabaab launches its attacks. On 29 September, the defense forces of Puntland raided Al-Shabaab positions in the Galgala Mountains, reportedly inflicting casualties. The attack and potential defeat of Al-Shabaab could improve the operating environment for humanitarian activities in the area. Similar operations planned by Puntland authorities in the Bossaso airport, Galkacyo, Garowe, and Gardo airstrips will potentially have a positive impact on humanitarian access and operations.

In July, clashes were recorded between residents and security forces in Qardho (Karkaar region). Following the clashes, Puntland President Farole announced suspension of the 2013 Local Council elections planned for 15 July due to instability and election violence. However, elections are planned for early 2014. Community leaders and clan elders will soon begin the process of nominating 66 new MPs to the Puntland Parliament. Once in session, the MPs will elect a president of Puntland for a new term to start in January 2014.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

Protracted conflict, consecutive years of drought and natural hazards, and disruption of basic infrastructure have led to large-scale displacement in Somalia and across the region, leaving almost half of the population (around 3.2 million) vulnerable to external shocks, and lacking access to basic services and goods.

**Displacement:** An estimated 1.1 million Somalis are IDPs, according to UNHCR, mainly in the South-Central region. In March-April, thousands of new IDPs were reported in the vicinity of Xudur after the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops. Flooding also displaced an additional 50,000 people, notably in the Jowhar and Baidoa areas.

Amnesty International reported on 12 September that the government is pressing ahead with plans to clean up Mogadishu, forcing thousands of people out of makeshift camps. In January 2013, the authorities announced their plan to relocate IDPs from the capital to rural areas outside the city. These measures will directly impact more than 300,000 people living in Mogadishu where they are sheltering from cyclical drought, famine, and armed conflict. The relocation of IDPs has been put on hold as security and basic services in the chosen relocation site, Daynille (north of the capital), could not be guaranteed. However, eviction of IDPs by private land-owners has recently increased. According to OCHA, 6,600 families were evicted in August and September from settlements in central Mogadishu.

As of October, UNHCR reported that more than one million Somalis are registered refugees in neighbouring countries, mostly in Kenya (around 475,000), Ethiopia (246,000) and Yemen (240,000). However, Somali refugees continue to return home, with over 26,500 people having returned since the beginning of 2013.

As reported by HRW in August, IDPs in Somalia suffer from widespread abuses with rape and sexual violence posing a constant threat to women and children living in camps.

**Disaster:** As of 5 November, FAO reported that moderate to heavy rains were experienced in Juba and Shabelle river basins (southern Somalia). Considering the current high river levels and given the rainfall forecast, the risk of flooding along the Shabelle is anticipated to be high. OCHA previously reported that following the early beginning of the main rainy season (the gu) in mid-March, an estimated 50,000 people were displaced and 6,400 hectares of crops damaged by floods.

**Access:** As of late September, Al-Shabaab continued to interfere with relief operations in rural areas across southern Somalia, particularly in Middle Juba Region and parts of Bakool, Bay, and Gedo regions. In southern and central Somalia, humanitarian access remains challenging. The withdrawal of Al-Shabaab from key towns in southern Somalia has enabled an increased international presence in some areas. Insecurity in these areas, however, continues to affect trade and market activities and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. FSNAU notes that conflict has disrupted the movement of food and other basic commodities in most parts of these regions, particularly in Bakool. Attacks on aid workers pose a serious constraint for humanitarian operations.

On 14 August, MSF who has operated in Somalia since 1991 announced an immediate stop to all operations in Somalia as a result of increased attacks on its staff. On August 15, the Government urged MSF to reconsider its withdrawal stating that the decision will directly affect the lives of thousands of vulnerable people and could lead to a catastrophic humanitarian crisis. On 15 August, Al-Shabaab militants looted MSF hospitals in Dinsoor (Bay region) and Mararay (Middle Juba region) towns.

**Food Security:** As indicated in a joint FSNAU and FEWSNET report in late August, an estimated 870,000 people, among whom 72% are believed to be IDPs, will remain in Crisis and Emergency food security status from August to December 2013. The recent figures represent a continued improvement since January when an estimated 1,050,000 people were in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) food security status, and an even more significant since the country was plagued by a deadly famine. From October 2010 to April 2012, famine in Somalia led to the deaths of 258,000 people, according to May OCHA estimates. Nearly 2.3 million additional people beyond those requiring more urgent assistance, one-third of Somalia's population, are classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

According to FEWSNET, recent improvements are attributed to a near average July/August 2013 gu harvest, increased livestock prices and herd sizes, improved milk availability, low prices of both local and imported staple food commodities, higher purchasing power from income from labour and livestock sales, and sustained humanitarian interventions over the last six months. However, according to FAO, cereal
Production is expected to be below average, with particularly low yields in Gedo, Huduur and Hiran regions bordering Kenya and Ethiopia that received below average rainfall.

FEWSNET and FSNAU reported that some areas, in addition to IDPs, people who live in very poor conditions are severely affected by food insecurity. For agro-pastoral households in Hiraan, central Somalia, an early end to the March to June gu rains, along with poor distribution, resulted in a low harvest. Poor households are expected to fall into Crisis (IPC Phase 3) status during the October to December lean season. Poor pastoral households in Coastal Deeh, in central Somalia are expected to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through at least the end of 2013. Low livestock ownership will further limit income. On the Sool Plateau pastoral livelihood zone in northeastern Somalia, poor households are likely to divert funds to purchase water during the remainder of the hagaa dry season through October. Most poor households in Somalia are likely to remain in Stress (IPC Phase 2) conditions until December.

FAO reported in August that maize and sorghum prices were well below their levels of 12 months earlier (up to 50 % less) and about 75% below their peak high in June 2011, when famine was declared.

Health and Malnutrition: The first confirmed case of the wild poliovirus since 2007 was reported in Mogadishu on 9 May. The total number of confirmed cases in Somalia stands at 174 cases as of 24 October. The polio epidemic has spread to neighbouring countries with 14 in Kenya, six in Ethiopia, and three cases reported in South Sudan. The first vaccination campaign began on 14 May. However, recent fighting in Kismayo halted the polio vaccination campaign planned for July, targeting 24,000 people. Large insecure areas of south-central Somalia have not conducted immunisation campaigns since 2009, leaving 600,000 children vulnerable, according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Two cases were confirmed from parts of Lower Shabelle region. The risk to populations across other areas of Somalia is high, due to substantial population immunity gaps.

Nutrition indicators in Somalia have improved since the 2011 famine. However, the prevalence of malnutrition remains above WHO’s emergency threshold of 15%, especially among IDPs. More than 206,000 children <5 are acutely malnourished, a slight decrease since January 2013, when FSNAU estimated 215,000 children <5 to be acutely malnourished of whom at least 45,000 were severely malnourished. Two-thirds of these children are in Southern Somalia, where high rates of malnutrition persist and are attributed to an inadequate health infrastructure and poor feeding practices.

At the start of August, FSNAU reported critical levels of GAM (≥15% and <30%) in North East, Central and South Somalia. In Kismayo, 19% GAM rates were reported in a recent flashpoint area for tribal fighting that also hampered the polio vaccination campaign. The nutrition situation in Kismayo suggests a decline in acute malnutrition and improved nutrition when compared with results from December 2012 assessment, which reported a GAM rate of 28%.

As reported by FSNAU, the nutrition status of IDPs in the central and northern regions of Somalia has deteriorated. Sustained malnutrition levels were seen among IDPs in Bossaso, Gaalkacyo, Garowe, Dhusamaareb, Kismayo, Dholley, and Mogadishu.

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SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

31 October: The unilateral referendum in the contested oil region of Abyei resulted in 99% of ballots demanding secession from Sudan. Although organisers insisted the polls were open to all Abyei residents, only the Ngok Dinka voted, which explains the overwhelming majority of votes in favour of Abyei joining South Sudan. Both Khartoum and Juba criticised the vote, and the African Union warned against the far-reaching consequences this event could have on the region. The Misseriya have already announced they do not recognise the results of any unilateral polls and have started planning for a counter-referendum to be held in November under local and international observation.

As of late October, food security had improved across the country due to the ongoing harvest and stood at Minimal levels (IPC Phase 1). However, Crisis levels (IPC Phase 3) of food insecurity were recorded in Pibor county (Jonglei) as a result of conflict and extensive displacement. In Abyei, food security is maintained at Stressed levels (IPC Phase 2) due to the provision of humanitarian assistance. In parts of Jonglai, Warrap, Unity and Lakes, Stressed levels of food insecurity persist due to inter-communal conflict, high prices, and irregular rains.

As of 29 October, OCHA reported that seasonal flooding in South Sudan has affected nearly 200,000 people, mostly in Jonglei (50,000), Northern Bahr el Ghazal (45,700), Lakes (30,400), Warrap (24,700), and Upper Nile (15,000). With the rainy season coming to an end, access is improving gradually.

As of 27 October, South Sudan is hosting 225,557 refugees, mostly from neighbouring Sudan.

As of 25 October, health officials announced that the country is polio free since June 2009, after three suspected cases tested negative. South Sudan had been on alert following the polio outbreak in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, and will continue with the planned vaccination campaign launched in October.

Political and Security Context

South Sudan – Sudan: On 27-29 October, residents of the contested oil region of Abyei voted in an unofficial referendum to determine if the border area should remain with Sudan’s South Kordofan region or join the Bahr el-Ghazal region in South Sudan, a move observers fear could trigger renewed violence and affect the continuing normalisation of relations between the two countries. The future of the oil-producing zone remains one of the most sensitive issues since South Sudan became independent in 2011 and is home to the Ngok Dinka tribe, closely connected to South Sudan, and the semi-nomadic Arab Misseriya, who traditionally move back and forth from Sudan. Although organisers insisted the polls were open to all Abyei residents, only the Ngok Dinka voted, which resulted in ballots overwhelmingly expressing the tribe’s demand to secede from Sudan and join South Sudan. Both Khartoum and Juba criticised the vote, and the African Union warned against
the far-reaching consequences this event could have on the region. Initially, Abyei was
supposed to vote in January 2011 when Juba voted to split from the north, but the
referendum was repeatedly stalled. The Misseriya have already announced they do not
recognise the results of any unilateral polls, and started planning for a counter-referendum
to be held in November under local and international observation.

2012 saw repeated clashes along the undemarcated border, until the two sides signed a
series of agreements under international pressure. Since June, renewed tensions between
Juba and Khartoum have disrupted the gradual improvement of relations witnessed after
the signature in March of a technical agreement to establish a demilitarised border zone,
the deployment of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, and the
activation of all agreed security-related mechanisms. The two states had also agreed on a
plan for the coordinated implementation of all elements of the 27 September 2012
agreements, including the re-launch of crude oil exports from South Sudan. On 7 May,
Sudan announced that cross-border oil flows had resumed, and the first cross-border
shipment was received at Heglig. However, in June, a quarrel started over alleged support
by Juba to rebels in Sudan, and accusations that Khartoum backed rebels fighting in
Jonglei state, South Sudan. This destabilisation of bilateral relations threatens to disrupt
vital oil and transit fees that make up both countries’ main source of foreign income.

On 1 August, in a joint communiqué, the two sides officially agreed to cease the support or
harbouring of rebel groups from either side and prevent rebels from crossing the common
border. In early September, South Sudan's President Kiir visited Khartoum (for the second
time since 2011) for talks with President al-Bashir, and a joint statement was issued to
reaffirm both countries’ commitment to all bilateral cooperation agreements including on oil
export.

National Context: On 24 July, South Sudanese President Kiir dismissed his entire
cabinet, including main political rival Riek Machar who had announced his intention to run
in the 2015 elections. While the AU urged President Kiir to form a new government and
respect the country’s diversity in doing so, the sacking of the government highlighted
increasing tensions in the South Sudanese ruling Sudan People Liberation Movement
(SPLM) party. Kiir and Machar were on opposing sides of a split in the SPLM during much
of the civil war with Khartoum that led to the independence of South Sudan.

Inter-Communal Violence: Ethnic clashes and violence continue across South Sudan
with an increasing number of human rights abuses reported, notably by government forces,
according to a July Human Rights Watch report. Violence is concentrated in Jonglei state
and the central tri-state area of Lakes, Unity, and Warrap, with incidents also reported in
Northern Bahr El-Ghazal.

In Jonglei state, the precarious security situation stems from the protracted conflict
between armed groups and official troops, and from ongoing inter-tribal fighting. On 20
October, a rebel attack on two cattle camps in Twic East county killed 76 people and
wounded 88 others. Local authorities reported that 20 children were abducted and
thousands of cattle were stolen in the raid. Subsequent attacks were reported in several
other locations. At the beginning of August, nine people were killed in two other cattle-
raiding incidents recorded in Twic East and Bor counties, which authorities blamed on the
Murle and David Yau Yau groups. Cattle-raiding, which mirrors local ethnic tensions, is a
recurrent issue throughout South Sudan, with recent incidents in Jonglei and Unity states.

In July, widespread fighting between ethnic groups, state and non-state actors affected
large parts of the state, mostly Pibor and, to a lesser extent, Pochalla counties, forcing
tens of thousands of civilians to flee. Initially, local authorities reported that groups of
heavily armed South Sudanese gunmen, belonging to the Lou Nuer and Dinka tribes, were
fighting their way toward a rival community, the Murle people, in eastern Jonglei state. As
of mid-August, information, including numbers of casualties, remains unverified, although
due to authorities, over 300 people were killed during the clashes and 4,000 injured.
Against this background, HRW reported an increasing number of abuses against civilians
committed by South Sudanese authorities during the anti-insurgency campaign in the state.
Earlier, the UN Security Council and the US had called for Juba to better protect civilians
in Jonglei state amidst reports of killings, lootings, and beatings, including by government
troops. On 19 June, the rebel leader of a Jonglei-based rebel group, David Yau Yau, a
member of the Murle group, officially agreed to begin peace talks with government
representatives. The conflict between the Yau Yau rebel group, who calls itself South
Sudan Democratic Army (SSDA), and the South Sudan Army (SPLA) had escalated since
early March, after Juba conducted a major operation against the SSDA. South Sudan
issued an ultimatum to David Yau Yau on 5 June asking him to cease hostilities
unconditionally or risking being pursued by State military forces.

In Lakes state’s capital Rumbek, a forceful disarmament campaign by local authorities
was conducted in September, leaving two dead and four seriously injured, according to
local reports. Rumbek has struggled to curb recent inter-communal violence and
proliferation of arms in the region. Five people were shot as clashes erupted between
cattle herding groups on 7 September in Rumbek North county, according to local official
sources. On 1 September, seven people were killed in separate inter-communal clashes
between Rup and Kuie communities in Rumbek Central county in Lakes state. The
following day, six were killed in a retaliatory attack.

In Upper Nile state, 800 rebels belonging to a group blamed for attacks over the past two
years accepted an amnesty offer from the South Sudanese government and handed over
their weapons on 5 June. The surrender came two months after 5,000 fighters from the
South Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM), led by Brigadier General Basny Monyut, took
up the amnesty offer from South Sudanese President Salva Kiir. On 5 August, talks
officially started with the former rebels of the SSLM. The rebel groups South Sudan
Democratic Army and South Sudan Defence Forces also declared peace with the
government of South Sudan and entered the negotiations.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: As of 15 October, OCHA reported that at least 159,130 people have been
internally displaced by violence since January 2013. This figure reflects only those who
have been accessed and assisted. Because of access constraints, it is a marked
underestimation of the number of people displaced by violence in South Sudan. In 2013,
71,000 returnees have come to South Sudan from Sudan, totalling 1.9 million returnees
from Sudan since 2007.

Following increased inter-communal violence in Jonglei, international organisations have
reported new IDPs. In September, OCHA reported 112,600 displaced, mostly located in
Pibor county or fled to Juba or neighbouring countries, following fighting. An inter-agency
assessment conducted in Pibor county on 7-8 September indicated that most IDPs and
returnees reported heavy losses of livestock and assets. The majority said they have been
located at least four times because of violence since the start of 2012. The six main
population centres in Pibor county (Boma, Gumuruk, Likuangole, Manyabol, Maruwa Hills,
and Pibor) are either partially or completely abandoned and many civilians remain in the
bush, cut off from assistance. In Gumuruk, IOM registered 23,000 IDPs as of 9
September, and people move in and out to receive assistance. Vulnerable populations in
Pibor county are living outside protected communities and with inconsistent access to
food, safe drinking water, shelter, and health care. Most IDPs have resorted to extreme
coping strategies, with some eating wild fruits and leaves. Following cattle-raids,
reportedly in the tens of thousands of cattle, the population is slaughtering female cattle for
meat, even if this means that they cannot replenish stocks.

As of 27 October, UNHCR reported that 225,557 refugees, mostly from neighbouring
Sudan, are in South Sudan. According to OCHA as of 31 August, there are over 119,000
Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile state and 74,700 in Unity state who need humanitarian
assistance. An estimated 71,000 South Sudanese have returned from Sudan since January
2013; up to 350,000 South Sudanese remain in Sudan.

Local authorities in Fashoda county, Upper Nile state, reported that 2,500 refugees
crossed into the area from South Kordofan early October. UNHCR reported that 2,100
refugees from South Kordofan have arrived in Upper Nile since mid-July. Local authorities
stated that 70% of the refugees are women and children and fled their homes because of
aerial bombardments, ground clashes, or food shortages. Many refugees showed signs of
malnutrition. In mid-June, according to OCHA, an estimated 3,000 new IDPs arrived in
Northern Bahr El Ghazal state, fleeing increased insecurity and armed attacks in areas around
River Kiir, South Darfur, and South Kordofan. 26,000 people were reportedly
placed as of 21 July. According to MSF, the remote area is practically inaccessible and
IDPs have little access to aid. Their food situation is already dire and may further worsen as
the rainy season gets underway.

Some 11,900 returnees were registered in four transit sites in Renk county in Upper Nile
during a biometric registration in July and August. The figure marks a major drop from the
previous estimate of 17,500 people, according to OCHA. About 4,400 individuals of those
registered are willing to be transported to their final destinations; 7,500 individuals prefer to
stay in Renk town.

Disaster: As of 29 October, OCHA reported that seasonal flooding in South Sudan has
affected nearly 200,000 people, mostly in Jonglei (50,000), Northern Bahr el Ghazal
(45,700), Lakes (30,400), Warrap (24,700), and Upper Nile (15,000). With the rainy season
coming to an end, access is improving gradually, but remains challenging, especially in
Lakes and Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

As reported by OCHA, affected populations need household items, clean water, emergency
drugs, and short-term food assistance. Information on damage remains limited, though
hundreds of houses have reportedly been destroyed across the five states.

In late August, an estimated 18,000 people were affected and partly displaced in Maiwut
county, Upper Nile state, following floods. According to a 21 August WHO assessment, the
health situation in Maiwut is deteriorating as malaria and waterborne diseases spread through the area.

Access: Insecurity, poor infrastructure, and lack of logistics capacity continue to severely
hamper humanitarian access nationwide. The recent floods have exacerbated the
challenges of humanitarian access in certain areas of South Sudan, with Unity state
particularly difficult to access due to infrastructural constraints.

OCHA reported as of 15 October that 269 violent incidents have been recorded since
January 2013. As of 12 September, Upper Nile and Jonglei states are the worst affected in
terms of access incidents, with repeated violence against humanitarian personnel and
assets, active hostilities, and interference in the implementation of relief programmes.
Insecurity led humanitarian actors to halt distributions of food assistance twice during
August. Following widespread violence in July that affected over 140,000 people, aid
workers had reached close to 21,000 people with food distributions as of 18 August, but
had to stop operations to review operational constraints, including guarantees of safety for
civilians receiving assistance and for aid workers supporting them.

On 14 July, and for the first time in 2013, OCHA stated that aid agencies reached parts of
Pibor county, where thousands of civilians have been hiding in the bush. Permanent
insecurity in Pibor county makes it complicated for humanitarian actors to operate in the
area. In July and August, aid agencies reached IDPs in Dorain, Labrab, and Pibor town. As of 5 August, many areas remain cut off from assistance due to insecurity.

Food Security: According to FEWSNET in October, food security has improved across
the country due to the ongoing harvest and currently stands at Minimal levels (IPC Phase
1). However, Crisis levels (IPC Phase 3) of food insecurity are recorded in Pibor county
(Jonglei) as a result of conflict and extensive displacement. In Abyei, food security is
maintained at Stressed levels (IPC Phase 2) due to provision of humanitarian assistance.
In parts of Jonglei, Warrap, Unity, and Lakes, Stressed levels of food insecurity due to
inter-communal conflict, high prices, and irregular rains persist. In mid-August, WFP
reported that the food security situation has improved compared to the same period in
2012 even if an estimated 8% (over 850,000 people) and 34% (over 3.5 million people)
respectively remain severely and moderately food insecure in South Sudan. In 2012, an
estimated 4.7 million people were food insecure across the country.

Food security is expected to further improve in most areas until January, with good food
availability levels in most markets, and prices of staple foods starting to decline, although
they remain above the five-year average. Cross-border trade flows from Sudan have
slightly decreased compared to April-May 2013, due to the tensions in the border area.

Health and Nutrition: On 25 October, health officials announced that the country has
been polio free since June 2009, after three suspected cases tested negative. South Sudan
had been on alert following the polio outbreaks in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya, and will
continue with the planned vaccination campaign launched in October.

A measles outbreak was officially announced in Upper Nile state in early October. Since
August, at least 44 cases were registered in Malakal county according to South Sudanese
authorities and WHO. South Sudan declared an outbreak of meningitis in Malakal county in
late May.

OCHA reported that the hepatitis E outbreak that began in mid-2012 and peaked in February 2013 in refugee camps in Unity and Upper Nile states is now under control. Though the number of cases per week is decreasing in most locations, it is still increasing in others, with Maban and Doro refugee camps (Upper Nile state) of particular concern. In Maban, as of mid-July, 11,279 cases and 205 deaths were recorded since the beginning of the outbreak.

According to OCHA, as of mid-June, the children <5 GAM rate was 18.1%. In August, using MUAC measurements, WFP estimated average national malnutrition rates to be around 11% with Jonglei, Unity, Warrap, and Lakes states showing serious to critical levels ranging from 14% to 21%.

Updated: 05/11/2013

SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

As of early November, an estimated 3.3 million people in Sudan face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity, according to FEWSNET. The figure marks a seasonal decline by 20% from the peak lean season figures of September, amounting to more than 4.2 million people food insecure.

Early November: Final results from the unilateral, non-binding Abyei referendum by the local Ngok Dinka community on whether to join Sudan or South Sudan showed that 99.9% of those who voted backed joining South Sudan, a result, which has been recognised neither by Sudan nor South Sudan. Although the referendum was officially open to all residents of the area, the Ngok Dinka’s rivals in the area, the Misseriya, did not participate, and have said they will not recognise the results of any unilateral poll. The recent development has sparked fears of heightened tension in the area as the ownership of Abyei remains a sensitive issue between the two states.

27 October: The Government of Sudan announced a 12-day cessation of hostilities in non-Government controlled areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, beginning on 1 November 2013, in order to facilitate a polio vaccination and vitamin A supplementation campaign for children <5. The UNICEF and WHO-led campaign, originally planned for October, will target 147,000 children <5 in areas controlled by the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) in South Kordofan and 7,000 children in Blue Nile who have not been vaccinated since the ongoing armed conflict began in 2011. If the vaccination campaign is implemented, it will be the first cross-line access into SPLM-N areas from within Sudan since 2011.

Political and Security Context

Sudan – South Sudan: On 22 October, Sudanese President al-Bashir made a rare visit to South Sudan to meet his counterpart. The Abyei referendum reportedly dominated the discussions as part of ongoing efforts to consolidate normalisation of relations between the two countries and prevent violence in the contested area. Other outstanding issues that were discussed pertained to revitalising the cooperation agreement, inter alia regarding border access, visa issues, security arrangements, and other economic matters.

Sudan and South Sudan security officials agreed on 26 September to expel rebel groups from the demilitarised zone on the border between the two countries as part of efforts to normalise relations and open crossing points. The joint statement followed a meeting held by the Joint Security Committee, chaired by heads of Sudanese and South Sudanese military intelligences from 24-26 September and is the most recent step to establish a demilitarised border zone, mutually agreed in March 2013.

Civil Unrest: Violent clashes between protesters, police, and military broke out in Khartoum and central Sudan on 23 September. The violence is reportedly the worst unrest in central Sudan in decades. The death toll remains contested, with figures ranging from 60 to more than 210 deaths. According to human rights groups in Khartoum, protesters were killed by bullets fired by military and police into dissenting crowds, and many were reportedly injured by tear gas and rubber bullets employed to disperse the crowds. The government has disputed allegations from human rights groups, witnesses, and activists that the Sudanese police fired live rounds at protesters. As of 15 October, 800 people have been detained, suspected of violent riots, and vandalism.

The protests erupted following a decision by the Sudanese government to cut fuel subsidies, causing a sharp rise in fuel prices. Petrol stations in Khartoum almost doubled fuel prices overnight. The subsidy cuts have been driven by a severe financial crunch since the secession of oil-producing South Sudan in 2011, which deprived Sudan of 75% of the crude oil output, its main source of revenue for food imports.

Insurgent Groups: Khartoum continues to struggle to curb insurgencies waged by non-state armed groups reunited under the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) banner in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile.

Abyei Contested Area: Starting on 28 October, tens of thousands of residents in the Abyei border region voted in a non-binding, unilateral, referendum on whether to join Sudan or South Sudan. The referendum was conducted by the local Dinka Ngok community without the support of Sudan, South Sudan, and the African Union. Final results showed 99.9% of those who voted backed joining South Sudan, an expected result, which has been recognised by neither Sudan nor South Sudan. Although the referendum was officially open to all residents of the area, the Dinka Ngok’s rivals in the area, the Misseriya, did not participate, and have said they will not recognise the results of any unilateral poll. Rather, the rivaling Misseriya tribe announced on 29 October that it will hold a counter-referendum in November to determine the fate of Abyei area.

Sudan and South Sudan failed to reach a solution for Abyei in bilateral meetings on 22 October, despite alleged fruitful discussions. The ownership of Abyei has been left undecided since South Sudan declared independence from Sudan in 2011. A long-promised official referendum on its status has been stalled by arguments over who is entitled to vote. The Khartoum government has demanded the Misseriya group vote alongside the majority Ngok Dinka, while Juba wants polling limited to its Ngok Dinka origin.
allies. Until recently, South Sudan expressed intent to press on with the referendum in October, despite Sudan’s reluctance. Following meetings and the recent shift by South Sudan to press through, no new date has been set for a legally binding referendum.

On 21 September 2012, the African Union High Implementation Panel for Sudan (AUHIP) proposed to hold the referendum in October 2013, in accordance with the endorsement from the African Union Peace and Security Council. The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2046 on 2 May, deciding that Sudan and South Sudan should reach agreement on the final status of the Abyei area.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Displacement:** An estimated 2.8 million Sudanese are currently internally displaced due to food insecurity and conflict. As of late October, there are roughly 229,000 Sudanese refugees in South Sudan and Ethiopia, and another 346,000 in Chad, according to UNHCR.

By mid-September, an estimated 71,000 South Sudanese have returned from Sudan since January 2013. According to IOM, over two million people of South Sudanese origin have returned to South Sudan from Sudan since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005. Estimates on the number of South Sudanese in Sudan vary from 220,000 people (Sudan Government estimate) to 350,000 people (UNHCR estimate).

UNHCR reports that 153,000 refugees originating from other countries were in Sudan as of mid-July.

Humanitarian organisations estimate that since early September 2013, 2,500 people have arrived in Abyei from South Sudan. These population movements are allegedly linked to the referendum on the final status of the area that was planned for October 2013. Previous information indicates that 60% of the 100,000 people displaced from Abyei in May 2011 have returned. According to the Warrap State Government, following a visit to Abyei to assess living conditions in the area, the situation is critical for many returnees with shortages of shelter, health, and water.

Eastern Sudan has received an average 500 Eritrean refugees per month in 2013, down from 2,000 a month in 2012. Sudan reportedly hosts at least 114,500 Eritrean refugees. According to UNHCR in June 2013, there are an estimated 86,900 registered refugees across the eastern states, mostly from Eritrea, with smaller numbers of people from Ethiopia, Somalia, and Chad.

**Disaster:** According to OCHA, heavy rains and floods have affected 341,000 people in 16 states across Sudan and Abyei since 1 August. In mid-September, the government’s Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) revised the number of people affected by floods in Sudan to an estimated 500,000 people. The increase in numbers is due to more rainfall in Khartoum, West Kordofan, and White Nile states.

Khartoum state remains the worst affected by flooding with over 184,410 people affected, followed by El Gezira with over 52,975 people affected, and Blue Nile with 50,000 affected. OCHA states that immediate needs include emergency shelter, health, water, and sanitation support. This year’s floods are the worst since the historic 1988 floods.

WHO has expressed concern that heavy rains and floods may aggravate outbreaks of communicable diseases, especially acute watery diarrhoea, malaria, dengue fever, and Rift Valley fever. Inconsistent chlorination, population movements, flooded and destroyed toilets, and poor community hygiene practices are risk factors for the potential outbreak and spread of waterborne diseases.

The recent floods have further destroyed large stretches of cropland. According to the State Ministry of Agriculture, an estimated 55,000 acres (53,000 feddans) of sorghum, sesame, beans, groundnuts, tomatoes, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, okra, eggplant, and banana plantations have been destroyed by floods in Blue Nile state alone.

**Access:** On 4 October, the Rapporteur of the joint Sudan and South Sudan Security Committee announced that Sudan and South Sudan agreed to re-open five border crossings between the two countries. These crossings include the Kosti – Renk road, the Rabak – Renk road, the Babanusa-Aweil-Wau railway crossing, the Kosti – Juba river transport, and the Heglig – Fariang road. The Committee recommended that both countries agree on facilitation of delivery of humanitarian aid and the transport of citizens stranded at the borders, the relocation of refugees from the demilitarised zone, and the repatriation of prisoners of war.

On 21 August, as reported by local media, the Sudanese Interior Minister announced that the government will introduce new rules governing the work of foreign relief organisations. Authorities will now only allow national organisations to work for human rights, excluding foreign humanitarian groups and UN agencies. The imposition of additional restrictions on foreign actors underlines Khartoum’s lasting discomfort with international organisations that it has repeatedly accused of exaggerating the magnitude of conflicts in the country, disseminating false information, and spying.

Access for humanitarian actors to affected populations, and access of affected populations to aid, is severely hampered by the presence of mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). According to UNMAS, 250 locations, an estimated 32 km², are covered by mines and ERW, with the greatest concentration in Kassala, Gedaref, Red Sea, Blue Nile, South Kordofan, and Darfur states.

**Food Security:** As of October 2013, FEWSNET reports that an estimated 3.3 million people in Sudan face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity. The figure marks a seasonal decline by 20% from the peak lean season figures of September, amounting to more than 4.2 million people food insecure. The current crisis is mainly driven by the impacts of conflict on access to food.

Projections for the 2013/14 cereal production indicate that the total output will be 15-20% below average. In the central and eastern areas of Sudan, the deficit is the largest, with production expected to be as low as 60-70% below average.

This year’s low production is mainly due to late and insufficient rains during critical times in the season. In eastern and central Sudan, rainfall totals over the course of the season were 20-50% below average, according to FEWSNET. The late start of the rains resulted in delayed planting, from July to August/September, something which increases the risks of wilting. In total, the areas planted across Sudan are 20-30% below the five-year average according to a September assessment by FEWSNET, FAO, USAID/FFP and the Federal
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoA&I).

The October green harvest is expected to improve food insecurity levels, despite the overall production deficit. However, a gradual and seasonal deterioration is likely to begin when poor households exhaust stocks and increase dependence on market purchases starting in January 2014. Moreover, projections indicate that the lean season is likely to begin earlier than usual in 2014, in March/April, compared to May/June in a typical year.

IDPs compose the most affected group, representing an estimated 80% of the total food insecure population. In Abyei, most households face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) level food insecurity according to FEWSNET. High food prices, restricted cross-border trade with South Sudan, and the decrease of the cultivation areas, have led local communities in Abyei to expand livelihoods strategies, switching to coping mechanisms employed in times of severe food insecurity. As more and more people return to the area where tensions eased in the wake of the signing of the agreement between Juba and Khartoum, it is likely that the humanitarian assistance will be challenged to keep up with rising needs.

Health and Nutrition: On 27 October, the Government of Sudan announced a 12-day cessation of hostilities in non-Government controlled areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, beginning on 1 November 2013, in order to facilitate a polio vaccination and vitamin A supplementation campaign for children <5. The UNICEF and WHO-led campaign, originally planned for October, will target 147,000 children <5 in areas controlled by the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) in South Kordofan and 7,000 children in Blue Nile who have not been vaccinated since the ongoing armed conflict began in 2011. Concerns have been raised by SPLM-N that two weeks is insufficient time to bring children from remote areas in the Nuba Mountains to vaccination points and then safely return home. If the vaccination campaign is implemented, it will be the first cross-line access into SPLM-N areas from within Sudan since 2011. Concerns have been raised by SPLM-N that two weeks is insufficient time to bring children from remote areas in the Nuba Mountains to vaccination points and then safely return home. If the vaccination campaign is implemented, it will be the first cross-line access into SPLM-N areas from within Sudan since 2011.

Child mortality due to malnutrition reached 40% in Sudan as of late September, according to WHO. Nationally, GAM levels for children <5 stand at 16.4%, above the emergency threshold of 15%. In mid-June, the Sudanese Ministry of Health issued a report noting that 33% of Sudanese children are chronically malnourished and 5.3% suffer from SAM. An estimated 500,000 children <5 suffer from SAM and up to two million children are stunted, according to a recent report on malnutrition produced by the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, and partners. Malnutrition rates in east Sudan (Red Sea, Kassala and Gedaref states) are the highest in Sudan, with 28% of children suffering from moderate or severe acute malnutrition in Red Sea state.

DARFUR

Political and Security Context

On 9 September in Khartoum, Darfuri leaders took part in a conference to discuss the root causes of the recent tribal conflicts and seek solutions for peaceful coexistence amongst tribes. Participants recommended both disarmament and the establishment of laws regulating relations between farmers and pastoralists, as well as the settlement of disputes over land resources. This was the first event organised by UNAMID (the AU-UN Hybrid Operation in the western Sudanese region), after the UN Security Council renewed its mandate late July 2013 until 31 August 2014, to address the causes of the escalating violence across Darfur.

Insurgent Groups: Clashes between the rebel group Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Minnawi (SLM-MM), part of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) umbrella movement, and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) have been ongoing in Southern and Eastern Darfur since April. A lack of up to date information makes it difficult to evaluate the intensity of the fighting. According to local sources, the SRF attacked a military convoy east of Kass in South Darfur on 19 August that resulted in 21 dead. Fighting between the SAF and allied militias and SLM-MM was reported in Onganja, south of Nyala, then Labado and Muhajria to the east, and later in Donkey Darisa, leaving hundreds of thousands of civilians displaced and without shelter in May. Government forces face attacks from dissident factions of the SLM led by Abdul Wahid al-Nur (SLM-AW) in Northern Darfur. Fighting has displaced civilians north and northwest of Nyala.

On 20 August, a consultation with Darfur’s three rebel groups (Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Minnawi (SLM-MM), Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel Wahid Al-Nur (SLM-AW), and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) was organised by UNAMID in Arusha, Tanzania after a first meeting in May. Though representatives of the rebel movements allegedly welcome such initiatives, spokesmen for the groups reiterated their goal to negotiate with Khartoum on a national agenda, and not on separate regional issues, through the SRF. The SRF is an alliance including the SLM-N, fighting in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, and has ties with opposition political groups in Khartoum.

Since the beginning of August, SAF has continued regular air raids targeting East Jebel Marra in South Darfur, and Kadja and Dady areas of North Darfur. According to local media reports, intensive air raids on 23 October killed one and injured at least 12 people, destroyed 30 houses and a school in East Jebel Marra, affecting the villages of Tangarara, Hillat el Dum, and Arasu. On 5 September, at least seven people, including four children, were reportedly killed in renewed air strikes against Darfur’s East Jebel Marra in the vicinities of Kined, Silo, Shangil Tobaa. On 18 August, heavy bombing reportedly destroyed an entire village in East Jebel Marra, killing four. Air raids in North Darfur on 11 August killed nine and wounded dozens. A European international organisation, the Society for Threatened Peoples (STP), condemned what it described as indiscriminate air raids on civilians in the Jebel Marra Mountains that forced thousands of people to flee the area.

East Darfur: Since mid-July, tensions over land ownership and cattle have increased between Rezeigat and Maaliya tribes in Kulaykili Abu Salama in Adila locality. Local media reports that three people from the Maaliya tribe were killed in an attack by members of the Rezeigat tribe in Bakhit, Abu Karinka locality in East Darfur on 23 October. Armed clashes during 16-22 September resulted in the deaths of 21 tribesmen and injury of 55 people, reported OCHA. Local sources indicate that clashes took place on 18 September in the Bakhit region, 70 km east of East Darfur.
capital Ed Daein, leaving 20 dead and as many injured. The recent violence erupted despite a peace deal signed on 22 August by representatives of the two Arab tribes to end several weeks of deadly clashes and prepare for a reconciliation conference in Al-Tawisha, North Darfur.

On 17 August, the abduction of 42 Malaliya tribespeople by Rezeigat tribesmen jeopardised an earlier attempt to convene a conflict resolution meeting. As reported by STP on 14 August, over 300 people were killed in four days of clashes between the two nomadic pastoralist groups that started on 9 August. OCHA noted that an estimated 170 people were killed in the clashes, and as of 12 September, HAC reported that these clashes had displaced an estimated 144,000 people.

Central Darfur: Localised fighting between Misseriya and Salamat tribes in Central Darfur state continued in September and October despite the signing of a third reconciliation agreement on 10 September in Um Dukhun town. According to OCHA, 45 people from the two tribes were killed from 23-29 September. Local media reports cite clashes on 3 October between the tribes at Bindisi, resulting in an unknown number of dead and injured. The clashes supposedly spread into neighbourhoods of Bindisi city and surrounding villages.

According to local authorities in Central Darfur, armed Misseriya and Salamat tribesmen have been mobilising in Um Dukhun, Bindisi and Mukjar in preparation for conflict. The reconciliation agreement signed in Zalingei early July was yet another unsuccessful attempt at a lasting peace, followed by 230 people killed in two weeks of fighting. Violence between the two tribes has flared since April, causing large-scale displacement and numerous casualties. Between April and June this year, fighting between the two tribes forced over 55,000 people to flee their homes, including an estimated 22,000 IDPs and 30,000 displaced to Chad and 3,300 people to Central African Republic (CAR), according to UNHCR.

On 3 September, violent clashes erupted between police and pro-government militia at Tululu market in Niertiti locality. According to local sources, the clashes sparked over conflict over who is entitled to levy taxes and duties on the market. The number of casualties is unknown. On 29 August, infighting between militia and SAF troops was reported from the same area, which is growing increasingly insecure. On 26 August, an ICRC convoy travelling from Zalingei to Niertiti was hijacked and four staff abducted. ICRC staff was released the next day, but the vehicles and other looted materials were not returned.

South Darfur: South Darfur has seen various different conflicts recently, including fighting between SAF and SLM-AW forces, between militias and Government security, and inter-tribal fighting. The state also faces problems of banditry and criminality.

On 8 September, OCHA stated that increased criminality throughout Darfur is affecting humanitarian and commercial traffic, especially South Darfur. On 4 September, on the axis between Zalingei and Nyala, armed men attacked a convoy of ten trucks carrying food commodities. On 6 September, a private vehicle was carjacked by gunmen. On 26 August, guesthouses used by ICRC and their warehouses in Nyala were attacked and looted by armed men. ICRC staff were beaten and personal property confiscated. In early July, fighting in the area resulted in the looting of offices and premises of several international organisations resulting in the deaths of two aid workers, and the injuring of three, from World Vision.

At least five people were killed and 48 wounded as violent protests erupted in South Darfur capital Nyala on 19 September, according to local media. Thousands of angry demonstrators clashed with police as they protested against the incapacity of local government to uphold security in the town. The demonstrations were sparked by the killing of a prominent businessman by an alleged Janjaweed militia on 18 September. Riot police tried to disperse the crowd, reportedly firing bullets and using tear gas. Order was restored on 20 September, but the situation in Nyala has remained tense.

North Darfur: On 3 November, the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) announced that their troops had launched an attack on a SAF battalion in the area of Nimra, East Jebel Marra. Statements by the armed attackers indicate that the death toll was high, but no numbers have been confirmed.

Since the start of 2013, rival Abbala and Beni Hussein tribes have clashed violently over control of the Jebel Amer gold mine in Al Sareif Beni Hussein, leaving 839 people dead, according to authorities, and an estimated 150,000 displaced, according to the UN. The gold mine death toll is over double the number of all people killed by fighting between the army, rebels, and rival tribes in Darfur in 2012, according to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's quarterly reports to the Security Council.

On 26 July, Abbala and Beni Hussein tribes signed a comprehensive peace agreement in El Fasher, and on 18 August, the treaty allegedly came into effect with the reopening of roads linking Saraf Omra with Al Sareif Beni Hussein. The two tribes agreed to cease hostilities, hold accountable outlaws from any side, and return all stolen agricultural lands.

On 10 September, the Liberation and Justice Movement faction (LJM), a rebel group gathering ten smaller Darfuri rebel organisations since February 2010, claimed liberation of the military region of Um Hashaba located west of the North Darfuri city of El Fasher. The rebels allegedly ousted army troops and militias from the area in an attack which killed 26 army staff and militiamen.

On 2 November, militiamen reportedly attacked and killed a group of six people in the area of Wadi Bari, west of Kabkabiya Town, in North Darfur. Information remains scarce on the event to date.

Insecurity and Attacks on Internally Displaced People (IDPs): In September, there were reports of increased violence from SAF and affiliated militias against IDPs in camps in Darfur. IDPs across Darfur continue to face attacks from various armed non-state actors. According to the Association of Displaced Persons and Refugees of Darfur, North, Central, and West Darfur are the hardest hit. On 18 September, 30 militiamen stormed into Kalma Camp in South Darfur, allegedly beating and harassing IDPs before police could intervene. In early September, attacks against IDPs were reported in Kerenik in West Darfur, while attacks against civilians occurred in Manawashi in South Darfur on 2 September. On 3 September, new assaults were reported from Marshang in South Darfur. In August, attacks occurred in Hila Beeda near Zalingei, capital of Central Darfur, at Hamidiyah camp in Central Darfur, and near Dankoj IDP camp in Saraf Omra in North Darfur. Since late June, reports of increased violence from SAF and affiliated militias against IDPs in camps in Darfur.
similar incidents have been reported from Zalingei in Central Darfur, and El Salam, Dumma and Toum Kittir camps in South Darfur, Murnei camp in West Darfur, Dreige camp in South Darfur, Um Haleeb camp and Neritti camp in Central Darfur.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

OCHA reported in mid-August that 3.2 million people, over a third of Darfur’s population, are in need of humanitarian assistance as a result of the decade-long conflict and insecurity.

Displacement: According to UNHCR as of mid-August, there are 2.4 million IDPs in Darfur; an estimated 1.4 million live in camps. OCHA stated on 30 June that roughly 287,000 people have been displaced or severely affected by inter-tribal fighting and conflict between armed groups and the Government from January to June. According to UNHCR in August, there are almost 300,000 new IDPs since the beginning of 2013.

UNHCR observes that around 36,200 Sudanese refugees from Darfur have arrived in Chad since January 2013. There are currently an estimated 330,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad. As instability persists across Darfur, this number may increase. Since January 2013, roughly 3,400 new Sudanese refugees have arrived in CAR (mainly from Central Darfur). Roughly, 5,000 people were displaced from Sudan to CAR in March, reports the UN.

Up to 200,000 people, according to local sources, were displaced in the Nyala area in South Darfur. At present, people continue to arrive at camps, notably Alsalam camp where living conditions are dire.

In South Darfur on 21 May, renewed violence between Al-Gimir and Beni Halba tribes displaced 20,000 residents of Katela town to the southern neighbouring Tulus area. IOM reported fighting between Salamat and Taisha tribes that caused 1,800 people to flee their homes in East and South Darfur and take refuge in South Darfur’s Kalma IDP camp. An estimated 60,000 people also took refuge in El Sereif and Saraf Omra in North Darfur.

In East Darfur, an estimated 176,000 people have been displaced in East Darfur since April 2013 as a result of fighting between SAF and the SLM-MM and inter-tribal fighting between Rezeigat and Maaliya tribes that started in August 2013. 140,100 people have been displaced as a result of the Rezeigat-Maaliya tribal clashes that began in August 2013. These people were displaced primarily from villages in Adila and Abu Karinka localities. Government restrictions have prevented humanitarian organisations from accessing the aid needs of these people or verifying their number. ECHO reported on 12 September that the most urgent needs of these IDPs are food, non-food relief supplies, emergency shelter, WASH, and health assistance. Another 36,000 people were displaced by fighting between SAF and SLA-MM around Muhajeria and Labado in April/May.

An estimated 11,600 people displaced from around Muhajeria are taking refuge in Abu Dangal village and Shaeria town in East Darfur. According to HAC, these IDPs were displaced from Muhajeria town in Yassin locality in April following fighting between SAF and SLM-MM. There has been a sharp deterioration in the health coverage in Shaeria since MSF-Belgium suspended operations following a decision from the National Intelligence and Security Services. This has negatively affected an estimated 16,000 people in Shaeria town and nearby villages.

In Central Darfur, HAC notes that an estimated 15,300 people have fled their homes and sought shelter in Um Dukhn town since April 2013, when fighting between Misseriya and Salamat tribes over resources started. The new IDPs in Um Dukhn were displaced mainly from Magan, Kabar, and Salaley administrative units and parts of Mukjar locality. Over 22,000 people were internally displaced due to the Misseriya-Salamat conflict in Central Darfur. Most of these IDPs have not received food assistance, though some have benefited from NFI distributions, and water and sanitation assistance.

As reported by the STP in mid-August, ongoing bombing by SAF of the Jebel Marra Mountains in North and South Darfur has displaced 17,000 people from the area. According to the UN, there are about 100,000 people in the Jebel Marra area either displaced or severely affected by conflict.

Disaster: OCHA reports that heavy rains since mid-August have impacted 29,135 people and destroyed 2,562 houses in North Darfur. In South Darfur, 18,440 people are affected, and in West Darfur 960 people are affected. Local sources reported heavy rains in El Salam IDP camp in South Darfur destroying over 1,000 homes. In early September, heavy rains were reported in central Darfur, with at least 95 houses destroyed north and south of Niertiti, and in North Darfur with over 100 homes destroyed at camp Dankuj in Saraf Omra. In West Darfur, rains and floods caused a number of injuries among IDPs in the Abu Suruj camp.

Heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding in August was recorded across North Darfur, affecting El Fasher, Melit, El Kuma, and El Mahi as well as in South Darfur, in Nyala and surrounding IDP camps, killing seven people and destroying 400 houses. Rains also affected the districts of Al Wadi, Jebel, Al Jeer, Tabo, and Texas.

Access: The humanitarian community continues to confront escalating security concerns in Darfur. On 23 October, the head of a national NGO was killed by unidentified gunmen about 15 km southwest of Nyala town in South Darfur, according to OCHA. Following the incident, field missions to remote areas are expected to be curtailed to a minimum.

On 13 October, three Senegalese peacekeepers were killed and one injured after being ambushed by members of an unidentified armed group in West Darfur. According to UNAMID, the police unit came under attack while escorting a water convoy in West Darfur. On 11 October, a UNAMID military observer from Zambia died in the North Darfur capital El Fasher following an attack by armed men who stabbed him and hijacked his vehicle. The latest incidents come barely four months after seven Tanzanian peacekeepers were killed and 17 injured in what was described as the worst-ever single attack in the troubled region since 2007.

OCHA states that insecurity is hindering movement of humanitarian supplies by road in Central Darfur, especially to the southern corridor localities of Um Dukhn and Bindisi. Inter-tribal fighting and clashes between Government security forces and armed
movements in parts of East Darfur state are delaying the humanitarian response to people in need. The deteriorating security situation following inter-tribal tension and clashes between Rezeigat and Maaliya tribes and Government restrictions on movement have prevented humanitarian actors from reaching an estimated 150,000 IDPs in Adila, Abu Karina, Muhajeria and Labado, Yassin, and Sharea, OCHA reports.

According to WHO, inaccessibility due to insecurity is a major concern in North Darfur, particularly in conflict-affected areas of Jebel Amir, namely Elseraif town, Kebkabaya and Saraf Omra. In South and East Darfur, particularly in Jebel Marra, access has been a concern for operational organisations.

As reported by the UK-based Sudan Social Development Organisation on 19 August, an estimated 80,000 people in Abu Karinka, Adila, Bakhet and Abu Jabara towns in East Darfur have been cut off from life-saving assistance due to the ongoing strife between Maaliya and Rezeigat Arab tribes. These people are living without access to water, shelter, or medical assistance.

**Food Security:** As of October, according to an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification jointly undertaken by several humanitarian actors, 2,743,362 people in the Darfur states face Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) levels food insecurity, of whom 527,827 are in South Darfur, 1,023,611 in North Darfur, 468,891 in West Darfur, 492,933 in Central Darfur, and 230,100 in East Darfur.

Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity will persist among new IDPs in East, Central and South Darfur states due to displacement, loss of assets and livelihood strategies. In addition, some 20% existing IDPs in Darfur, will remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) throughout March 2014, according to FEWSNET.

**Health and Malnutrition:** At least 25 people, among them eight children, diagnosed with visceral leishmaniasis (VL) and scabies have died in Kerenik (West Darfur) and Um Dukhun (Central Darfur) in October, according to local media. Local reports indicate that VL, scabies, and ringworm have increased since 2012, resulting in a surge of patients in hospitals and health centres in the region.

Almost 275 cases of food poisoning from contaminated grain were reported from Murnei camp in West Darfur on 25-26 August, resulting in 13 deaths. Large numbers of livestock have also reportedly died.

According to WHO, cases of acute jaundice syndrome and measles were reported in Elseraif area, North Darfur, but emergency response was not immediately carried out due to insecurity. Local media reported on 23 July that four children died of measles in El Salam IDP camp near Nyala. There are concerns that the camp might have to be dismantled.

**BLUE NILE AND SOUTH KORDOFAN STATES**

**Political and Security Context**

**Security Context:** Armed clashes between SAF and the SPLM-N in South Kordofan and South and North Kordofan. The fighting came as the AU was trying to mediate the oil crisis declared by the SPLM-N on 31 August 2013, according to the South Kordofan and Blue Nile Coordination Unit (SKBN-CU). On 30 September, SPLM-N announced the end of a unilateral cessation of hostilities agreed last month.

SKBN-CU reports that the Sudanese Air Force aerial bombardments in September resulted in civilian casualties and displacement in El Buram, Dalami, Delling, Heiban, Kadugli, Rashad, and Um Durein localities in South Kordofan and Bau, Geissan, and Kurmu localities in Blue Nile.

SKBN-CU previously reported that July and August saw intensive ground fighting in insurgent controlled areas in Bau Geissan, and Kurmu counties, Blue Nile leading to civilian displacement. In SPLM-N-controlled areas of South Kordofan, aerial bombardment and ground fighting resulted in civilian casualties and displacement. An August report by Sudan Consortium (a coalition of 50 Africa-based and Africa-focused NGOs) reported at least 23 civilians killed and another 81 civilians injured by aerial bombardments since January 2013.

In Blue Nile, heavy fighting was reported in the Tamado Mountain area in Geissan locality on 16 September, and fighting and aerial bombadments on 17 September near Dindiro in Bau locality, 90 km from the Blue Nile State capital, Ed Damazine. OCHA said that an estimated 300 people from Wigo and Madum areas in Bau locality (about 35 km southwest of Ed Damazine town) fled their homes because of fighting between SAF and SPLM-N forces.

On 24 July, in an indication of increasing levels of coordination achieved between armed movements, elements of the SRF, an alliance of armed opposition movements comprising SPLM-N and the JEM, attacked an army position in al-Rachad in central North Kordofan, with people reportedly killed on both sides. Rachad is near the state capital El-Obeid and Um Ruwaba, a city stormed in a coordinated attack of the SRF in April. On 27 July, elements of the SRF staged an attack on an SAF patrol in Al Deleima village, 18 km north of Delling town and 150 km from Kadugli on the main Kadugli-El Obeid highway linking South and North Kordofan. The fighting came as the AU was trying to mediate the oil crisis that has led to the worsening of the relations between Juba and Khartoum over the past weeks.

On 27 April, talks about a possible ceasefire between the rebel SPLM-N and the Sudanese Government stalled over the issue of humanitarian access corridors. According to SPLM-N, the adjournment of the negotiations is linked to Khartoum’s insistence on linking the humanitarian issue to the political one, a condition the rebel group strongly rejects.

At the end of April, after seizing Abu Karshola town, an SPLM-N armed group briefly besieged and looted the town of Um Ruwaba, a strategic stronghold linking Southern Kordofan to Northern Kordofan. This unprecedented attack and the fighting that ensued in the aftermath triggered regional resonance, leading Khartoum to overtly accuse Juba of supporting the rebels.
Humanitarian Context and Needs

On 26 June, in a controversial statement, Khartoum asserted that the humanitarian situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states is witnessing no problems, except in limited areas under rebel control.

Displacement: During September, more refugees arrived in Upper Nile state, South Sudan from Talodi and Abu Jubaiha areas of South Kordofan due to aerial bombardments and acute food insecurity, according to SKBN-CU. Official numbers of the new refugee population from Talodi and Abu Jubaiha are unavailable, but OCHA reports that over 2,800 refugees were located in Fashoda, Malakal, and Melut counties in Upper Nile state as of 3 October 2013. NGOs reported that refugees from Talodi exhibited emergency levels of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). According to UNHCR, more than 196,000 Sudanese refugees from South Kordofan and Blue Nile have sought shelter in South Sudan.

Following ground fighting in Bau, Geissan, and Kurmuk counties inside Blue Nile, an influx of 3,000 refugees reportedly crossed into Ethiopia from Geissan county at Ashimbu and at a smaller crossing south of Kashankaro. The SKBN-CU reported that as of late September, numbers of IDPs remain high in Bau and Geissan areas, with Sudanese refugees from Geissan continuing to arrive in Ethiopia. SKBN-CU reported the arrival of 1,436 newly displaced people to Gambarda and Doglog areas in Kurmuk locality in late September. These people arrived from Kalatu Shamall area in Kurmuk following fighting between the SAF and SPLM-N forces in the area. As of early October, 32,000 refugees from Blue Nile have arrived in Ethiopia since 2011.

On 17 August, local authorities in Fashoda county, Upper Nile state in South Sudan said that a significant number of refugees crossed into the area from South Kordofan in previous days. The refugees were reportedly severely food insecure, with four persons dying after their arrival; 4,000-5,000 people were already in the area with urgent need for food, shelter, and other humanitarian assistance.

According to UNHCR, people from South Kordofan (Warni, Kaw Nyaro, and Talodi areas) continued to arrive in South Sudan’s Upper Nile state from 23-29 September, most are from Warni reportedly fleeing insecurity. More than 550 people arrived from South Kordofan in to South Sudan’s Upper Nile state (Malakal and Fashoda counties) in September. People from Kaw Nyaro and Talodi areas say they left because of food insecurity and lack of prospect for future harvest.

As of 30 June, OCHA stated that 231,000 people in South Kordofan and 95,000 people in Blue Nile were displaced or severely affected by conflict in government-controlled areas. In SPLM-N areas, 700,000 people in South Kordofan and 90,000 in Blue Nile are displaced or severely affected by conflict according to local estimates. The UN reports that it has no presence in SPLM-N controlled areas and is unable to independently verify these figures.

Access: According to a 6th June UN report, access remains limited in rebel-held areas, but has improved in government-controlled areas since January. As of mid-August, there is no humanitarian access from Sudan to rebel-held areas in South Kordofan.

On 25 June, the Sudanese ruling NCP warned foreign aid groups expelled from the country against entering Blue Nile and South Kordofan states without Khartoum’s permission. The NCP secretary stated that some organisations previously working in Sudan who had been expelled due to violating government policies were trying to sneak back in. He claimed that these groups sought entrance through political bodies and people with connections to rebels to collect information on the humanitarian situation in Sudan and fabricate reports with the help of organisations such as Amnesty International and Transparency International. The NCP official revealed a new strategy for civil society organisations in line with the government’s policies regarding human rights work in Sudan and underscores permanently banning groups that support rebels from entering the country. The authorities currently ban access of foreign groups to rebel-held areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

On 4 April, WFP reported a breakthrough in delivering food aid to the Blue Nile state for the first time since conflict began 18 months ago. WFP reported delivering aid to 33,000 IDPs in North Kordofan from Abu Karshola in South Kordofan in April and May.

Food Security: As of October, according to an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification jointly undertaken by several humanitarian actors, 104,240 people in South Kordofan, and 100,107 people in Blue Nile face Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) levels food insecurity.

According to FEWSNET, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity are likely to persist among IDPs and poor residents in SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile. At least 30% of IDPs in SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan are estimated to remain at Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity due to displacement, loss of assets and livelihood strategies, and lack of access to humanitarian assistance. Another 20% of poor residents in SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile, and IDPs in GoS-controlled areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile states will remain at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels.

The effects of the deteriorating food security will be exacerbated by the continued lack of access to humanitarian assistance, the near-absence of income sources from agricultural production and labour, and progressive stripping of assets over an extended period since June 2011.

Health and Malnutrition: According to unofficial reports, malnutrition rates among children <5 in the conflict-plagued regions is 30%, double the emergency threshold according to WHO.

Updated: 05/11/2013

ANGOLA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

Early November: As a result of lower food stocks from own production and the longer than normal migration, more than 20% of households of the worst drought-hit regions, Namibe and Cunene, are experiencing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of food insecurity.
Political and Security Context

A unit of Angolan troops crossed into neighbouring Congo Republic on 13 October, taking position in several locations in Kimongo district and detaining 40 Congolese soldiers, according to local sources.

Angola's ambassador in Brazzaville said he was unaware of Angolan troop movements inside the Congo Republic and denied that his country's army was detaining Congolese soldiers. Congo deployed soldiers to the area after learning of the incursion, but they were quickly subdued by the Angolan forces. The soldiers were released on 17 October.

The incident highlights tensions around Angola's oil-rich Cabinda enclave, which is separated from the rest of Angola and surrounded by Congo Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo. Cabinda is home to the FLEC rebellion, which has been fighting a low-intensity guerrilla war against Angola's Government for decades.

Angola, which possesses one of the region’s most capable militaries, has in the past pursued FLEC separatists beyond its borders, notably inside Democratic Republic of Congo. FLEC signed a cease-fire in 2006; which was rejected by the Paris-based president of the group’s armed wing.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Food Security and Malnutrition: Since November 2012, Angola has been affected by a prolonged drought leaving 1.8 million people affected, out whom 700,000 are reported to be at risk of food insecurity by OCHA in late September. In August, 1.5 million were reported to be food insecure. Crop and livestock productions have been adversely impacted on account of the prolonged dry conditions and the resultant poor pastures. The five southern provinces of Namibe, Cunene, Kwanza Cubango, Huila, and Benguela are particularly affected, with Cunene and Namibe being the most severely hit.

According to FEWSNET as of October, as a result of lower food stocks from own production and the longer migration, more than 20% of households in Namibe and Cunene are Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or are minimally able to meet their food needs, but are unable to purchase non-food items. Given current conditions and expectations for average rainfall, poor households in Namibe and Cunene are expected to be Stressed (Phase 2) until harvests arrive in March 2014, according to FEWSNET. Meanwhile, better access to water and livestock conditions suggests that in Cuando Cubaango, Minimal (IPC Phase 1) is projected over the same period.

In Cunene, the GAM rate has reached 24%. Crop losses in Cunene are expected to reach up to 80%, adversely impacting farmers including semi-nomadic communities and children <5. This represents 50% of Cunene’s population of whom 130,000 are children <5.

In Namibe province, a June joint assessment found that 250,000 people were affected by the drought and 70% of crops destroyed. After food insecurity, the greatest reported problem is lack of access to water. Half of all water points are no longer working or have dried up, according to UNICEF. People are reportedly migrating in search of water and pasture for their cattle.

As a result of the drought, and despite an anticipated improvement of food security nationally compared to 2012, southern provinces are expecting a poor cereal harvest for the second consecutive year, negatively impacting food security. The government has established an emergency plan to provide assistance in the southern province of Cunene, where roughly 640,000 people are affected by the drought.

Health and Nutrition: As a result of the use of untreated stagnant water, levels of water-borne diseases are increasing. An estimated 1,571 cases of cholera have been reported in the provinces of Huila, Cunene, and Benguela, with 62 deaths. The Ministry of Health has reported an epidemic of dengue fever (over 900 cases and ten deaths) and an outbreak of measles in 60% of the municipalities, particularly affecting malnourished children. Malaria is affecting large numbers of Angolans, with 75 deaths in eastern Lunda Sul province in the first quarter of 2013 and 15,000 cases registered overall. An estimated 533,000 children suffer from varying levels of malnutrition in a country that is still recovering from decades of a civil war that lasted until 2002.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: According to UNHCR on 30 September, 5,280 refugees from the Central African Republic have been registered in Cameroon since January 2013. More than 1,800 registered refugees are in the eastern region and roughly 1,400 live in urban areas, mainly Yaounde and Douala. As of early October, a total of around 90,500 refugees from CAR are living in Cameroon.

In addition, Cameroon is increasingly receiving refugees from Nigeria affected by the currently on-going military offensive against Boko Haram militants. Attacks carried out by Boko Haram, operating throughout Nigeria and the North East of Cameroon, have led to a significant deterioration of the security situation in the Nigerian states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa. Since June 2013, Nigerian refugees have been crossing the border to Cameroon’s Far North region, mainly in the departments of Mayo Sava, Logone Chari and Mayo Sanaga. As of 17 July, the International Red Cross estimated that there are about 10,000 Nigerian refugees in Cameroon, while local government and civil society sources say the number is closer to 20,000. UNHCR figures show that more than 8,000 located in the Far North region, mainly women and children. The needs among the arrived refugees are largely in WASH, health and nutrition.

Disaster: On 17-18 September, heavy rains caused the rupture of the dam along the Logone River at the town of Dougui, Kai Kai District in the Far North Region of Cameroon. According to IFRC, this caused initial evacuations of people to the banks of the dam. As of early October, more than 800 people in Bigue, Palam and Djafga are affected by the 17
Just over a week later, on 27 September, further torrential rains in the same area caused a second rupture in the dam 4 km from the first rupture, leading to severe flooding in the proximate area. The Cameroon Red Cross Society reports that an entire village of approximately 5,000 people were immediately displaced. The government has identified 9,000 people in need of immediate assistance, notably shelter, food and health care.

Food Security: According to FAO as of early October, recurrent climatic shocks in recent years have negatively impacted agricultural activities in the two Sahelian regions North and Far North. The regions have been slow in recovering from the 2011-2012 drought and 2012 floods. This has led to severe food insecurity and malnutrition for about 615,000 people.

GIEWS reports that as of mid-October, harvesting of the 2013 main season and the planting of the second season maize crops are underway concurrently in several bi-modal rainfall areas of the Centre and South. Abundant precipitation during March to July, the main season planting and growing period, benefited crops. On the other hand, below average rainfall in August and September may have negatively impacted planting activities of second season crops, for harvest in December/January, and rainfall amounts and distribution in the coming months will be crucial for crop development and performance.

Health and nutrition: UNICEF reports that the nutrition situation for 2013 is similar to that in 2012 due to a structural vulnerability of populations in the northern Cameroon, which has increased with each consecutive crisis. As of 30 June, an estimated 83,300 children <5 years old suffered from SAM and 134,700 suffer from MAM.

According to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, one wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) case has been confirmed in Cameroon. This is the first WPV in the country since 2009. Genetic sequencing is on-going to determine origin of the isolated virus.

Reviewed: 05/11/2013

ETHIOPIA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

No new development this week. Last update: 29/10/2013.

Political and Security Context

On 13 October, a bomb blast killed two people in the capital Addis Ababa. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the government has thwarted plots of attacks blamed on rebel groups based in the south and southeast of the country, as well as the Somali Islamist movement Al Shabaab which Ethiopia has been fighting alongside African Union forces since 2011.

Ethiopia is considered comparatively stable in the Horn of Africa, but two decades of deadly conflict in the south eastern region of Ogaden have had a severe impact on the Ethiopian-Somali population, especially five years of relatively successful government counter-insurgency campaign. While there are signs that the peace process may restart in the coming months, deep clan tensions and intra-communal violence remain against the backdrop of wider regional rivalries involving neighbouring states of Somalia and Kenya.

According to observers, the country is likely to remain stable in the coming decade, due to a steady suppression of political opposition, the perspective of a new peace process between the government and separatist groups, and Addis Ababa’s determination to accelerate economic growth in a context of sustainable peace. However, the recent shift in national leadership (following the death of the longstanding Prime Minister in August 2012) is raising fears of unrest if new constituencies start voicing grievances against the lack of political freedom and an economic situation characterised by high inflation rates and food insecurity.

Al-Shabaab has been repeatedly threatening Ethiopia since 2011, and Addis Ababa recently pledged that it will remain in Somalia until durable peace and security is maintained. So far, no attacks have materialised. The government has to date been able to suppress protests and contain armed insurgencies in the Ogaden and Oromo regions, but has yet to address the root causes of the violence.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: As of 23 September, OCHA reported that inter-communal conflict between the Oromo and Somali communities affected 90,000 people, part of whom are displaced within the East Hararge zone (eastern Oromia) where ECHO reported mid-September that 50,433 IDPs are in need of humanitarian assistance.

As of 12 September, ECHO also reported that inter-communal clashes in Kenya (Moyale area, along the southern border with Ethiopia) have caused an estimated 25,000 to cross into Ethiopia since mid-July. Urgent needs include water, food, medicine, and cash assistance.

In addition to the newly arrived Kenyan refugees, UNHCR reported that Ethiopia is hosting 423,850 refugees, including 242,580 Somalis, 77,000 Eritreans, 68,000 South Sudanese, and 32,000 Sudanese as of end September.

Disaster: ECHO reported on 10 September that heavy rainfall causing floods in August affected an estimated 195,000 people (39,000 households) in 219 districts, killing 40. Flooding damaged livestock and over 30,000 hectares of crops. Most affected areas are North Shoa, South Wollo, North Wollo, Oromiya (of Amhara region), North Gonder, and East and West Gojam. OCHA noted on 9 May that floods have affected an estimated 50,000 people across the country since April. Oromia and Somali regions were the most severely hit.

Over 8,300 hectares of belg cropland were destroyed by armyworms in Wolayita zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples’ Region (SNNPR), an area that suffered from heavy rains which had already damaged belg crops. The damage caused by armyworms further reduced the expected July to September harvest. The infestation spread to Boricha, Bona Zuria, Dara, Dale, Hawassa Zuria and Loko Abaya woredas of Sidama zone, Loma and Mareka woredas of Dawro zone (SNNPR), and in drought prone
areas of East and West Hararge zones of Oromia region. In Borica woreda, more than 655 hectares of belg cropland was destroyed in a week.

**Food Security:** As of October, FAO reports that 2.7 million people are estimated to need food assistance due to consecutively below average belg and sugum rains. The Ministry of Agriculture reported that as of September, due to recurrent droughts in past seasons leading to low crop production, deterioration of livestock, and asset depletion, more than 2.6 million people will need emergency food assistance in the second half of 2013. The most affected regions are Oromia (897,000 people in need), Somali (690,970), Amhara (548,000), Tigray (321,400), and Afar (152,600).

Other estimates suggest that the total number of people affected by food insecurity might be as high as 3.5 million. Recent reports indicated that East and West Hararging zones in eastern Ethiopia have deteriorated into food insecurity Crisis (IPC Phase 3) following two consecutive, poorly-distributed rainy seasons and a below average meher harvest in October-November 2012. Crops in most agro-pastoral areas in Afar, northern Somali, and the lowlands of Guji, Borena zones in Oromia region are performing well.

According to OCHA, delayed belg rains in most belg-receiving parts of the country, including SNNPR, north eastern Amhara, eastern and southern Tigray, and central and eastern Oromia regions, have led to late planting of belg crops. FEWSNET asserts that poor households in affected areas will not be able to meet food needs through the next harvest without depleting livelihoods assets. Most households have turned to the market to access food as early as January as their food stock from the 2012 belg and meher harvests is exhausted.

According to FAO, prices of the main cereals continued in recent months to follow the upward seasonal trend that started at the beginning of the year, with prices of maize increasing by 6-20% from June to August. FAO reported on 10 September that in Addis Ababa, prices of maize and red sorghum were 24% and 35% higher, respectively, than 12 months earlier, while prices of wheat, white sorghum and tef were at around the same levels.

FEWSNET reports that the above normal precipitation in August and September in highland areas continued to cause waterlogging, flooding, and landslides that have damaged crops, primarily in SNNPR. Flooding in Shashego woreda in Hadiya, Humbo in Wolayita, and Loka Abaya in Sidama damaged crops in more than 3,000 hectares of land. Torrential rainfall, hail, and strong winds in Shebedino woreda in Sidama zone destroyed crops including maize, coffee, chat, haricot beans, and enset on around 4,000 hectares. Reports from North Gondar zone in Amhara revealed that snow and hail fell in Debark, Gondar Zuria, and Adiarkay woredas, damaging 5,700 hectares of crops.

**Health and Malnutrition:** Since the beginning of the outbreak in early September, 536 cases of measles and eight deaths have been reported in SNNPR as of 21 October.

On 23 August, a polio outbreak in the Horn of Africa was reported to have spread into Ethiopia. According to WHO as of 28 October, two additional polio cases were reported, bringing the national polio caseload to six. All cases were reported in woredas which share borders with Somalia where the polio outbreak in the region started in May.

The Yellow Fever outbreak declared in mid-May by authorities continues in South Omo, Segen and Arbaminch zones, SNNPR with 141 cases reported and 55 suspected deaths (still to be confirmed) in North Ari, South Ari, Benatsemay, and Selmago woredas, reported OCHA. Past weeks have seen a decrease in reported cases in parallel with the spread of the outbreak to neighbouring zones. Reported cases have gradually declined since mid-June.

OCHA reported on 28 August that in East Hararge zone (Oromia region), admission of children suffering from SAM to therapeutic feeding programs decreased by 24% between July and August, and 13% between August and September, bringing the monthly number of admissions to 2,403, consistent with the downward trend seen in the zone since February. September's rate is still 7% higher than the SAM caseload in September 2012.

**WASH:** According to the UN, critical water shortages continue in Afar region. Water availability has deteriorated over the past month in Tigray region. Water shortages were reported in Adadle and Kebridehar woredas. Though seasonal rains have fully replenished water sources in Somali and SNNP regions and in nearly all woredas of Oromia and Amhara regions, over 566,000 people still need water trucking across Ethiopia, down from 720,500 people in March.

**Political and Security Context**

Even though Kenya is considered to be relatively stable, the eastern region of the country is regularly affected by the presence of the armed group Al-Shabaab, a Somali group of insurgents, which is active along the border, including the areas of Mandera, Bute, El Wak, Dif, Dabdaab, and Garissa. On 21 September, a group of heavily armed Al-Shabaab fighters attacked a shopping centre in the capital Nairobi and took dozens of hostages. Multiple firefights followed during a four-day siege, killing 67 people and wounding over 180. On 29 September, the Kenya government announced that no hostages were left in the building. Al-Shabaab reportedly claimed the attack in retaliation for the involvement of Kenyan troops in Somalia.

On 26 September, two police officers were killed in an Al-Shabaab-claimed attack on a security post in Mandera (near the Somali border). Such attacks against police and other targets are frequent along Kenya’s porous border with Somalia. The incursion of Somali Islamists in Nairobi is a source of concern, as the insurgents are not usually active beyond the eastern border area.

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**Highlights**

**As of late October,** a food security assessment conducted in the semi-arid Turkana region (northwest of the country) indicated that more than 346,000 people are in dire need of food assistance, and 500,000 head of cattle are at risk as water and pasture have run out.

**Political and Security Context**

Even though Kenya is considered to be relatively stable, the eastern region of the country is regularly affected by the presence of the armed group Al-Shabaab, a Somali group of insurgents, which is active along the border, including the areas of Mandera, Bute, El Wak, Dif, Dabdaab, and Garissa. On 21 September, a group of heavily armed Al-Shabaab fighters attacked a shopping centre in the capital Nairobi and took dozens of hostages. Multiple firefights followed during a four-day siege, killing 67 people and wounding over 180. On 29 September, the Kenya government announced that no hostages were left in the building. Al-Shabaab reportedly claimed the attack in retaliation for the involvement of Kenyan troops in Somalia.

On 26 September, two police officers were killed in an Al-Shabaab-claimed attack on a security post in Mandera (near the Somali border). Such attacks against police and other targets are frequent along Kenya’s porous border with Somalia. The incursion of Somali Islamists in Nairobi is a source of concern, as the insurgents are not usually active beyond the eastern border area.
On 24 September, the Society for Threatened People reported that this latest attack by Islamist extremists may have serious consequences for the Muslim population (which comprises about 11% of the 40 million inhabitants) and for the Somali refugees in Kenya. On 25 October, Kenyan authorities have called for Somali refugees to be repatriated, claiming that refugee camps were being used as a safe haven for Islamist militants and are a threat to national security. Over the past year, five Muslim clerics were killed in the coastal city of Mombasa (Kenya’s second largest) on allegation that they were terror suspects recruiting in mosques for the militant group Al Shabaab. Early October, Mombasa erupted in riots after the killing of a Muslim preacher. Rising sectarian tensions also affect the city’s Christian community, as shown by the two separate attacks conducted on 19 October which claimed the lives of two Christian clerics.

Mid-August, an attack blamed on Somali Islamist insurgents killed at least four people in Garissa, southeastern Kenya, and displaced hundreds of people. Dadaab has experienced high levels of insecurity due to the volatile situation in Somalia where clashes are occurring between the Garre and Degodia ethnic Somali clans, who have been feuding in Mandera county since March 2012. Tension and conflict between the two communities has historically revolved around competition for natural resources. Since March 2013, emerging tensions are attributed to political disagreements over governance issues under the new devolution structures. Inter-clan violence has spread to neighbouring Wajir county. Leaders from the warring Garre and Degodia clans signed a peace agreement on 23 June to stop the clashes, but violence resumed on 24 June. The Kenyan Red Cross reported that conflict between Garre and Degodia clans in Mandera County left over 85 people dead as of 25 June. From June 2012 to May 2013, Dadaab camp has seen kidnappings of humanitarian workers, explosions, grenade attacks, random shootings, and increased banditry. In 2010/2011, Dadaab experienced a huge influx of refugees from Somalia.

In the north of the country, inter-clan clashes have erupted over the last two months, in a region where communities have historically fought over resources. Local sources reported that inter-clan clashes exacerbated at the end of August, with two days of inter-community fighting between the Borana, the Burji, and the Gabbra in the areas of Somare and Teti. The clashes caused the death of at least 20 people and displaced over 25,000. On 11 July, OCHA reported that since January 2013, at least 181 people have been killed, 217 injured, and many displaced as a result of inter-communal conflict in Kenya.

In Narok county (southwest of the country), violence erupted on 2 September in three villages of Trans Mara West district, killing eight people and causing an unknown number to flee. Local authorities reported that the clashes followed a land dispute between the Kisii, Maasai, Kipsigis and Kuria communities. Tensions remain high in part of Nitrango and Loliondo.

In unrelated violence in western Kenya, tension is high along the West Pokot and Turkana county borders after two people were killed early October by raiders suspected to be Turkans. End of June, a raid killed three herders, and repeated incidents in August and September caused an unknown number of families to flee the area of Bargoi in Samburu county. Motives behind the attacks are unclear but are suspected to be in retaliation of the killing of a Turkana boy by Samburu raiders. The western province saw a surge in indiscriminate attacks by various armed groups and gangs in early May, affecting the cities of Bungoma and Busia. However, the two communities recently held talks where they agreed to peacefully resolve feuds between them.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Displacement:** On 11 June, OCHA reported that inter-communal conflict has caused over 52,000 people to be displaced since January 2013. According to ECHO on 12 September, inter-clan clashes in the area of Moyale displaced over 25,000 people, mostly across the border of neighbouring Ethiopia. IDPs are currently staying with relatives in Moyale and in Marsabit and Wajir counties.

According to OCHA, rains had displaced 12,380 people as of 17 May 2013, with an additional 2,000 displaced in Marigat district after the waters of Lake Baringo rose, flooding farms and homesteads at end July.

According to UNHCR as of June, the influx of Somali refugees into Kenya continues, with a total number of 494,704. ECHO reported however on 9 September that the verification exercise conducted in Dadaab by UNHCR showed a reduction by almost 16% of the camps’ population, from approximately 475,000 to 402,455. The Kenyan Government estimated the number of Somali refugees in Kenya at 600,000 people as of late June 2013. In July, Kenya and Somalia signed a deal for “voluntary repatriation”, though the actual modalities remain to be agreed.

Population displacement from Jonglei state in South Sudan to Kenya has been reported, with 5,000 refugees registered with UNHCR in Kenya since May 2013.

**Disaster:** At the end of July, local media reported that heavy rains increased water levels of Lake Baringo in western Kenya, forcing around 2,000 people in Marigat district to flee their homes for higher ground. More than 800 acres of food crops were destroyed and local leaders said many people were at risk of starvation. The western district of Pokot was affected with floods destroying maize crops, local media reported on 14 August.

**Food Security:** The food insecure population declined to 1.1 million in February 2013 from 2.1 million in August 2012 according to the Kenya Food Security Steering Group 2013 short rains assessment. This was attributed to near average short rains crop production occurring between the Garre and Degodia ethnic Somali clans, who have been feuding in Mandera county since March 2012. Tension and conflict between the two communities has historically revolved around competition for natural resources. Since March 2013, emerging tensions are attributed to political disagreements over governance issues under the new devolution structures. Inter-clan violence has spread to neighbouring Wajir county. Leaders from the warring Garre and Degodia clans signed a peace agreement on 23 June to stop the clashes, but violence resumed on 24 June. The Kenyan Red Cross reported that conflict between Garre and Degodia clans in Mandera County left over 85 people dead as of 25 June. From June 2012 to May 2013, Dadaab camp has seen kidnappings of humanitarian workers, explosions, grenade attacks, random shootings, and increased banditry. In 2010/2011, Dadaab experienced a huge influx of refugees from Somalia.

In the southeastern and coastal marginal mixed farming livelihood zones in Kenya, the average to above average rainfall in March and April 2013 was followed by a dry spell in May, which ceased during a critical stage of maize development. FEWSNET reported in August that poor households are likely to be able to meet minimum food requirements, however they remained at Stressed levels (IPC Phase 2) through September 2013 in localised parts of Makueni, Kitui, Taita Taveta, and Kwale counties. FEWSNET also estimated the number of Somali refugees in Kenya at 600,000 people as of late June 2013. In July, Kenya and Somalia signed a deal for “voluntary repatriation”, though the actual modalities remain to be agreed.

In the northwest of the country, a food security assessment conducted in October in the semi-arid Turkana region indicated that more than 346,000 people are in dire need of food assistance, and 500,000 head of cattle are at risk as water and pasture have run out.
**Health:** In the Horn of Africa, the outbreak of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) has reached 31 cases in total. According to OCHA on 16 August, ten cases were registered in Kenya, all in Dadaab in the northeast. This is the first WPV outbreak in Kenya since 2011. To date, two rounds of outbreak response activities have been undertaken, targeting 1.35 million people, including all age groups in Dadaab.

According to UNHCR, eleven epidemic outbreaks were reported in 2012. The situation is expected to deteriorate due to an influx of new arrivals following the Government’s decision to transfer Somali refugees from urban areas to camps around Dadaab.

Updated: 05/11/2013

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**LESOTHO FOOD INSECURITY**

**Highlights**

No new updates. Last updated: 22/10/2013.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

According to FAO as of early October, an estimated 223,000 persons require assistance due to constrained food access. The Food and Nutrition Security Working Group (Southern Africa) (FNSWG) reports that this number includes some 15% of the rural population.

The number of food insecure marks a decrease of 70% compared to the previous year, mainly due to strong production gains made in 2013 compared to the drought-affected harvest of last year. Production output has doubled compared to 2012.

Meanwhile, FEWSNET reports that generally stable or increasing incomes, stable food prices, and ongoing poverty reduction programs facilitate relatively average to good food access, sufficient to meet minimum food needs (IPC Phase 1: Minimal) in most parts of the country at least through December.

Rains in Lesotho begin around October/November or November/December and are strongest between January-March. The 2013/14 rains are forecast to be near average for Lesotho.

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

Reviewed: 05/11/2013

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**MADAGASCAR FOOD INSECURITY**

**Highlights**

No new updates. Last updated: 29/10/2013.

**Political and Security Context**

On 25 October, the people in Madagascar voted in the country’s first presidential election since the 2009 coup. The elections were hailed by international observers as free, transparent and peaceful, despite isolated incidents of violence as well as some organisational flaws that prevented some from casting their ballots. The results from the first run have been delayed and are not reported as of 5 November. In total, 33 candidates participated in the presidential race. According to Madagascar’s national electoral commission preliminary results showed that Jean Louis Robinson, a candidate associated with ousted leader Marc Ravalomanana, was leading followed by Hery Rajonaniraminananina, a former finance minister under Rajoelina. To win in the first round, a candidate must get more than 50%, a scenario deemed unlikely in the current elections. A second run-off election between the top two candidates is scheduled for 20 December.

Following the army-backed coup by current President Andry Rajoelina, who ousted President Marc Ravalomanana in 2009, Madagascar has been mired in turmoil. The current elections are designed to end the deep political crisis. The new dates were reached following three earlier postponements this year, amid a lack of funding and controversy over the candidacies of three top contenders. After the presidential polls, a parliamentary vote will follow on 20 December, along with the second run-off.

An electoral court last month dropped the names of strongman Rajoelina, the wife of his exiled rival Lalao Ravalomanana, and a former president after the three refused to withdraw from the presidential race. The international community has repeatedly called for both men not to run in the election. Their candidacies, which did not meet electoral rules, had been internationally condemned.

Pre-election tensions have escalated recently, with a series of explosions the past months. Four blasts rocked the country in September, one of which killed one person in the capital Antananarivo. A suspected bomb-maker was killed in Madagascar’s capital Antananarivo on 14 October when an explosive device self-detonated.

A group calling itself Defenders of National Sovereignty claimed responsibility for the first blast which went off outside a hotel in the capital early this month, citing interference by the international community in the country’s electoral process as main reason.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Food Insecurity:** According to the crop and food security assessment undertaken by FAO and WFP, as many as 4 million people, or 28% of the households in rural areas, of Madagascar are food insecure following this year’s reduced harvest. A further 9.6 million people are at risk of food insecurity. The south of the island – already a chronically food-insecure area - has been particularly affected, with severe food insecurity being significant in the regions of Androy, Atsimo Asinanana and Atsimo Andrefana. The regions of the southern plateau, including Hirombe, and in the food basket region of Alaotra Mangoro are also reported to experience high rates of food insecurity. FEWSNET reports that as of late October, poor households in these areas are having difficulties meeting nonfood needs and are currently at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of food insecurity. As the lean season progresses, these households will face some slight food deficits and acute food security
Outcomes are expected to deteriorate to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels.

The sharp decrease in harvest output, is attributed to several factors including flooding caused by Cyclone Haruna earlier this year followed by a period of poor rains, uneven rainfall distribution and a persistent locust plague.

Damage caused by cyclone Haruna in February 2013, resulted in widespread crop losses in south-western parts.

Uneven rainfall distribution (both temporally and spatially), and a delayed start of the 2012/13 rainy season by one to two months, were observed in the rice producing regions in the north and center of the country. As a result significant reductions in the rice output were estimated in north-eastern regions, of up to 60%, relative to 2012’s harvest.

In addition, since April 2012, Madagascar has been facing a plague of the Malagasy Migratory Locust, which threatens the livelihood of 13 million people in the country according to FAO. The locusts have expanded beyond their endemic areas in the southwestern quadrant of Madagascar to affect over two-thirds of the country. Recent estimates indicate that resulting rice crop losses range from 10-40% in 17 of Madagascar’s 22 regions. This has both damaged crops and discouraged farmers from planting. The impact of the locust plague has been most severe in the southwest, which contributes on average about 7% to the national rice output. The impact of the locust plague has been comparatively limited on the national rice production, but has a significant impact on the livelihoods of the households in affected areas. In addition, the locust plague, which has already reached some of the main rice producing regions in the north, is expected to have a serious impact on next season’s crop, if not controlled.

In total, according to the FAO/WFP Report, Madagascar’s 2013 rice output is estimated at 3.6 million tonnes, which is about 21% below the above-average level of 2012. Maize and cassava production are also estimated to have declined compared to the previous season, by 15 and 14% respectively. The country is estimated to have a rice deficit of about 240,000 tonnes for the 2013/14 marketing year (April/March), while approximately 48,000 tonnes of imported maize would be required to satisfy the national deficit.

Reviewed: 05/11/2013

MALAWI FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

No new updates. Last updated: 29/10/2013.

Political and Security Context

On 11 October Joyce Banda, the president of Malawi, dismissed her entire cabinet of 25 ministers amid a corruption scandal. Up to 10 government officials have been arrested. They have been charged with money laundering, misuse of public office and corruption. Nine senior police officers were each jailed for 14 years last month for their roles in a $164,000 fraud.

On 15 October Paul Mphwiyo was appointed new finance minister. The government official, who was seen as an anti-corruption crusader, was shot and seriously injured last month in an apparent effort to silence him.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Food Security: Results from the 2013 Vulnerability Assessment Committee’s (MVAC) evaluation, released in July, indicate that some 1.46 million people in Malawi are food insecure, and will continue to be so until March 2014. The estimated affected population comprise 9.5% of the national population, located in 21 of the 28 districts in Malawi, suggesting that areas of need are more widely spread than last year and include the traditional surplus areas of central and northern Malawi. While the overall figure represents a drop of about 26% from the 1.97 million people food insecure recorded in 2012, it is about 57% above the five-year average. The largest numbers of food insecure persons are located in Kasungu (Central Region) and Mzimba (Northern Region) districts, reflecting production declines in 2013.

The August 2013 IPC round concluded that emergency (IPC phase 4) situation exists in four districts in the south while a crisis (IPC phase 3) exists in central and northern areas, due to food production declines.

The number of people in need of assistance is likely to increase to up to 1.9 million people as people’s livelihoods have started to deteriorate, influenced by negative coping strategies. For example, asset bases are depleting as a result of recurrent food shortages. In southern Malawi, October normally marks the start of the lean period, when households exhaust their food stocks and depend more on markets for food purchases. However, in central and northern Malawi, the lean period normally begins in December, but has already started in October this year as well. This development is mainly due to poor households having experienced a reduction in their own production last season, leading them to turn to market purchase.

The main driver of food insecurity this year has been the rising price of maize. Higher transportation and production costs, following the devaluation of the currency (kwacha) in 2012, and production decreases relative to the previous year have sustained high prices across the country.

The continuing high price of both food and non-food commodities has contributed to stressing food security conditions, with many households experiencing a severe contraction in their purchasing power, as reported by FAO. In September 2013, the national average maize price was 114.47 Malawian Kwacha (MK) per kg compared to 56.18 MK per kg same time last year, showing an increase of 104 %.

According to FAO, the 2013 cereal production in Malawi is estimated at 3.89 million tonnes representing a 5% increase over last year’s production of 3.84 million tonnes. The country has also recorded a 4.4% increase in the production of roots/tubers. Malawi is one of the few countries in the region that have recorded cereal surplus, estimated at about 305,000 tonnes. Malawi has recorded surpluses in maize (269,000 tonnes); rice (19,000 tonnes); sorghum/millet (56,000 tonnes) and a deficit in wheat of 39,000 tonnes. However it will be insufficient to cover the domestic demand.
NIGERIA INTERNAL UNREST, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

31 October - 2 November: Suspected Boko Haram fighters killed an estimated 70 people and wounded a dozen in three separate attacks in the state of Borno.

As of October, inter-communal conflict in Nasarawa State between 13 and 15 September left 70 people dead, wounded at least 500, and triggered the displacement of 40,000 people. The clashes opposed the Alago and the Eggon ethnic group and caused the destruction of approximately 1,000 houses.

Political and Security Context

Despite the deployment of forces to the north east of the country, recent attacks attributed to the Islamist insurgent group Boko Haram has created concern that violence will only escalate as 2015 elections draw closer. In mid-May, Nigerian President Jonathan declared a state of emergency (SOE) in the border states of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa. Fighting between government troops and the Boko Haram has intensified in the last three months, particularly in remote areas. Over the past few weeks, several hundred people have died in attacks, and observers report that the army offensive has only succeeded in pushing attacks away from large towns toward vulnerable rural areas.

Boko Haram is an Islamic militant group founded in Maiduguri, capital of Borno state, more than ten years ago, that has been leading an insurgency to create an Islamic state in Nigeria’s mostly Muslim north. Since 2009, the insurgency has cost more than 3,600 lives, including 400 since the beginning of 2013. In May, the group took control of part of Borno state, prompting authorities to deploy large numbers of troops. In the aftermath, the Islamist group dismissed the possibility of participating in a peace resolution committee set up in April to frame potential peace talks with authorities.

Over the last week, suspected Boko Haram fighters killed an estimated 70 people and wounded a dozen in three separate attacks in the state of Borno. On 31 October, 70 gunmen attacked a convoy of trucks and killed 27 people in Bama. On 2 November, militants attacked a bus in the same area, killing 13 people. On the same day, an attack by armed men on the axis Bama-Banki, between Adamawa and Borno state cost 30 lives.

From 21 to 25 October, Nigeria’s military launched a series of ground and air assaults on Boko Haram camps in Borno State and reportedly killed 70 suspected insurgents. In a separate outbreak of violence, Islamists militants conducted coordinated raids in Damaturu (Yobe State), local authorities reported that 25 rebels died in these attacks. On 20 October, Boko Haram Islamists killed 19 people along the Nigerian border with Cameroon, in retaliation after their failed attempt to attack the border town of Gamboru Ngala two days earlier, when they were repelled by soldiers and local vigilante. On 5 October, rebel fighters claimed five lives in an attack on a mosque in Damboa town in Borno state, before being repulsed by soldiers who killed 15 of the insurgents, according to military sources.

On 29 September, heavily armed Boko Haram gunmen attacked an agricultural college in Gujba, roughly 30 kms from Yobe’s capital of Damaturu, killing 40 students. According to Amnesty, during 2013 alone, at least 70 teachers and scores of pupils have been killed and wounded. Fifty schools have been burned or seriously damaged and more than 60 others have been forced to close. Boko Haram has claimed responsibility for many, but not all, the attacks. On 25 and 26 September, suspected Boko Haram fighters conducted attacks in the states of Yobe and Borno, killing respectively six and 27 people. On 17 September, suspected Boko Haram insurgents set up checkpoints in the Benisheik area (northeast), and allegedly gunned down travellers on a highway. As of 22 September, the death toll rose to at least 142. Local sources reported that residents from Borno were especially targeted, and while motivation behind the assault is unclear, Boko Haram members have repeatedly carried out revenge attacks against residents in retaliation for the emergence of vigilante groups among the population. On 8 September, clashes in Benisheik between Boko Haram members and a vigilante group caused the death of 13 vigilantes and five insurgents. The insurgents had been conducting repeated attacks on villages in the region following the creation of the auto-defence Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), a local vigilante group formed by young civilians. On 31 August, 38 people were reportedly killed in attacks by militants, with another 34 missing. Gunmen allegedly conducted two attacks in Borno state, one in a village where they killed 14 herders, and the other in the forest where they killed 24 members of a vigilante group.

On 10 and 12 September, government forces reported that two military strikes on Boko Haram camps killed over 150 insurgents in the Konduga area of Borno state. On 20 September, Boko Haram fighters allegedly opened fire on security agents in the capital Abuja, starting a gunfight which caused at least seven deaths.

Since the SOE declaration, Boko Haram has allegedly committed at least 46 violent attacks across the three northern states. While the militants’ assaults focus mostly on security forces and government officials, the group has also targeted Christian and Muslim worshippers, as well as schools and markets, spreading instability across the north and to the capital Abuja.

On 19 August, authorities claimed that Abubakar Shekau, the leader of the Boko Haram group, may have been killed in a clash with government troops. In mid-August, the cross-border Multi-National Joint Task Force, a group fighting Boko Haram in Nigeria, Chad, and Niger, reported that Nigerian soldiers killed two top insurgent commanders during a battle in Adamawa state. According to observers, Boko Haram may be taking advantage of the porosity of borders with Chad and Niger that allow criminal groups, including weapon dealers, to freely migrate between the countries. Nigeria’s authorities are also trying to curb the activity of the less operational Islamist group Ansaru that is linked to al-Qaeda.

In central Nigeria, inter-communal conflict in Nasarawa State between 13 and 15 September left 70 people dead, wounded at least 500, and triggered population displacement. The clashes opposed the Alago and the Eggon ethnic groups and caused the destruction of approximately 1,000 houses.

In unrelated violence in September, armed men suspected to be cattle rustlers killed ten members of a family and engaged in a firefight with security forces in the central Plateau state. This central state, which lies between the Christian-dominated south and mainly-
Muslim north of the country, has been plagued by years of communal and ethnic-religious violence, which has caused hundreds of people to be killed.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

The ongoing conflict in north eastern Nigeria has displaced a significant number of people, restricted population movements, disrupted food inflow, and limited agricultural activities. An interagency assessment was conducted in September in seven northeast states affected by the violence between Boko Haram and the Nigerian army. The assessed areas included the three states of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa where a State of Emergency (SOE) was declared by the government in May, as well as surrounding states affected by the spillover of the conflict and population displacement. This assessment estimated that 5,975,700 people are impacted by the crisis in the SOE states, with over four million in Borno. Women and children represent three million of the population of concern, and most urgent needs include food, WASH and protection.

**Displacement:** According to the UN on 28 August, thousands of Nigerians were crossing into Niger due to ongoing military offensives against Islamist militants. As of 9 September, UNHCR reported that an estimated 17,000 people (mainly women and children) had been forced to flee inside Nigeria or seek refuge in neighbouring countries (Niger, Cameroon, and Chad). The ongoing violence continues to trigger internal and international displacement, particularly in Borno and Yobo states. An inter-agency assessment conducted in mid-July indicated that IDPs are mostly living with host families, adding serious strain to already overstretched resources of local communities. IDPs reported no limitation of movements. Reasons for displacement include: increasing insecurity, limited access to social services; and the rising cost of commodities.

Though a large number of IDPs are reportedly present in Nigeria, reliable estimates are lacking. In April, OCHA stated that at least 22,000 new IDPs were displaced by inter-communal conflict, political crisis, disaster and insurgency, particularly in the central region.

According to OCHA, inter-communal conflict from 13-15 September in the central Nasarawa state caused the displacement of 40,000 people, who are presently sheltered in school buildings.

**Disaster:** As of 11 September, OCHA reported that floods, which occurred between 14 April and 17 August in Nigeria, affected an estimated 81,500 people. According to the National Emergency Management Agency, the worst affected states are Abia, Bauchi, Benue, Jigawa, Kebbi, Kano, Kogi, and Zamfara. ECHO reported on 12 September that heavy rainfall on 7-8 September caused floods in Plateau State, destroying 300 houses. To date, no information on the numbers of IDPs is available, but hundreds of people were reportedly displaced in Katsina state, namely in Kankia, Charanchi, Mashu, Daura, and Zango which were affected by the collapse of Kankia Dam.

To date, severe flooding has affected more than 400,000 people across nine countries of the Sahel region in Africa. The areas affected by heavy rains in August were still recovering from the 2012 floods, allegedly the worst experienced by Nigeria in 40 years.

**Access:** On 22 August, OCHA reported that humanitarian access is being granted to all three states where the SOE was declared in May. However, insecurity and limited communication have hampered humanitarian actors on the ground, with continued terrorist attacks leading to the interruption of all development activities.

**Food Security:** On 22 August, OCHA reported that an estimated 8.3 million people in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states are threatened with limited access to markets and decreased household income due to ongoing insurgency and the SOE, which are disrupting farming activities in the region. Since the Boko Haram occupation in January, 20,000 farmers have reportedly abandoned their farms in the fertile New Marte District in northern Borno, along the Lake Chad Basin.

In September, FEWSNET reported that conflict in the northeast continued to impact food security for many Nigerians. Due to above average food prices and the residual impact of conflict on livelihoods, poor households in the northeast will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity through September and Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity following the below average October harvest expected in areas experiencing conflict.

As of September, the recovery among poor households affected by flooding in 2012 remained slow, particularly along the floodplains of major rivers in the country, and affected households remained Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in September, FEWSNET reported.

Food access and availability are predicted to increase with the start of the main harvest in October, although production is expected to be below average in several areas impacted by flood. In parts of central and northern zones, rain deficits will likely result in an average to below average main harvest.

Households not impacted by the Boko Haram conflict are expected to meet food needs with their own stocks through at least December, resulting in a change to Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity between October and December.

**Health and Malnutrition:** Health officials reported on 23 October that cholera has killed 50 people in Zamfara state over the last ten days, nine people in the central Plateau state in October, and eight people in the southwestern Oyo State in September. The disease also infected several hundred people across the three states. The 2010 and 2011 rainy season epidemics killed nearly 2,000 people over two years. High population density combined with poor sanitation make Nigeria highly vulnerable to further outbreaks.

According to UNICEF in October, Nigeria has reported a total of 49 cases of polio so far in 2013, which represents a decrease compared to the 102 cases reported over the same period in 2012. 72% of the cases are recorded in Borno, Yobe, and Kano states, where insecurity is slowing the polio immunization campaign.

In mid-August, ECHO reported that 492,000 children in northern Nigeria are severely malnourished. According to UNICEF, GAM rates are the highest in Sokoto state, at 16.2% (international emergency threshold: 15%), while Kano state, at 9.2%, has the lowest.

**Updated:** 05/11/2013

**ZIMBABWE FOOD INSECURITY**

**Highlights**
Humanitarian Context and Needs

Food Security: According to the results from the 2013 Annual Rural Livelihoods Assessment (ARLA) by the National Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC), released in July, 802,603 persons in rural areas are currently (July-September) food insecure in Zimbabwe. The current number marks a seasonal decline form the 1.67 million people assessed to be food insecure in the first quarter of 2013. According to WFP, the current food insecurity is due to various factors including adverse weather conditions, the unavailability and high cost of agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilisers, and projected high cereal prices due to the poor maize harvest. The ARLA assessment reports that the number of food insecure is projected to rise to 2.2 million people (25% of the rural population) during the peak lean period January-March 2014, with numbers starting to rise in October. This would be the highest number of food insecure in Zimbabwe since early 2009. The affected populations are mostly comprised of very poor and poor households in marginal areas and with limited assets that were affected by poor rainfall and harvests during the 2012/13 season. The projected increase is mainly due to the lower domestic harvest.

The provinces of the south and west of the country generally have the highest rates of food insecurity reflecting those areas that experienced unfavourable weather conditions and consequently poor cereal harvests in 2013, according to FAO. Zimbabwe has five natural regions, each with varying suitability for growing crops. The drought-prone provinces of the south and west, such as Masvingo and the South and North Matabeleland provinces, are typically ranked as the most unsuitable areas for crop production. The highest proportions of food insecure households are currently estimated to be in Zhishavane (52%), followed by Binga (50%). In an October assessment, FEWSNET reports that many households in the southern and western regions are currently at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

Overall, the aggregate cereal harvest in 2013 is estimated at about 1 million tonnes, close to 150,000 tonnes below the 2012 output and about 27% below the five-year average. Maize production has been particularly low in 2013, estimated at about 798,000 tonnes, which is 17% lower than the below-average output in 2012. Poor rainfall during the main cropping season (November-June) in southern and western provinces, as well as an overall contraction in the area planted, contributed to this year’s production decline, FAO reports. By contrast, production of sorghum, which is generally more tolerant to water deficits, is estimated to have increased slightly by 6% to about 69,000 tonnes. The inter-wheat crop, to be harvested in October, is expected at a similar level to last season’s output.

The average price of maize grain in rural areas has gradually increased since June. This is significantly earlier than the normal start of seasonal price increases, starting in October. This development further confirms the current maize deficit across the country. The price differences between grain deficit and grain surplus areas are large, and continue to widen. Moreover, prices this year have been much higher than prices from the same time last year as well as the average. September prices were 23% higher than the price recorded same time last year, and 28% higher than the 3-year average.

Displacement: According to UNHCR at the end of August, Burundi is currently hosting over 46,000 refugees and 7,700 asylum seekers, marking an increase of 2.3% compared to July. Refugees are mainly located in the border regions of Ngozi (north, along Rwanda), Ruyigi (east, along Tanzania) and Bubanza (west, along DRC). Most (more than 40,000) are fleeing violence and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). UNHCR reported a significant increase in the number of arrivals from DRC over the last three months and indicated that over 6,000 new refugees arrived between January and August 2013, compared to 3,500 over the same period in 2012. Most of the newly displaced are hosted in two transits centres in the west (Cishemere in Cibitoke and Kajaga in Bujumbura) before their transfer to other refugee camps in the east of the country. As of 20 August, an average of 150 new arrivals per day was recorded at the western border; the number of refugees hosted by the local population was still under assessment.

On 12 September, UNHCR reported that at least 25,000 Burundian refugees living in Tanzania have been forcibly repatriated during August, and are now back in Burundi where they are living in dire conditions. The civil war, which followed the coup in 1993, displaced up to a million Burundians who fled to the more stable Tanzania. Most of these refugees returned after the conflict ended in 2006. Tanzanian authorities seem to be increasing their expulsions of refugees from Burundi, DRC and Rwanda.

IDMC reported that though there has been no new displacement recorded since 2008, there are still up to 79,000 IDPs in the country, mostly ethnic Tutsis displaced by inter-communal violence following the coup in 1993. They are mainly located in northern and central Burundi.

Food Security: As of August, the Food Security and Nutrition Working group reported that 76,450 people in Burundi are facing Emergency and Crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and 4). In June, WFP indicated that 46% of households had poor to borderline food consumption, which represents a slight improvement compared to the 49% in April 2012. Market prices increased during the lean season, and the depreciation of the Burundian Franc (BIF), the Burundian currency, continues to limit food imports, but heavy rains during the first and second cropping seasons of 2013 have helped to improve food availability.

Prices of locally produced beans and cassava flour, the main staples, increased from June to August by 6 and 17%, respectively, due to a below average season harvest. Retail prices of maize increased by 7% in June and remained at record level of about BIF 1 000
Food Security:

The Government forecast suggests that the prolonged dry period during the 2012-13 cropping season (November-June) will result in a decrease in the main cereal production in the following months.

Overall, the 2013 cereal production is provisionally forecast at about 260,000 tonnes, about 7% lower than the five year average due to unfavourable weather conditions that affected the previous cropping seasons earlier in the year. For 2014, the whole country is forecast to receive average to above average rainfall amounts along the season, with favourable effects on crop yields and pasture conditions.

Health: July marked the tenth consecutive month of a cholera epidemic, the longest seen in the country. As of 23 July, over a thousand people have been affected, and at least 17 died.

Reviewed: 05/11/2013

DJIBOUTI FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

As of late October, FEWSNET reported that food security is improving for most pastoral households and stands at Stressed levels (IPC Phase 2) across the country, due to recent increases in income from livestock products. Continued Stressed acute food insecurity is expected for most poor urban households, but the July-September food voucher programme has reportedly improved access to food.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: The continued influx of refugees from Somalia is leading to an increase in humanitarian needs in both rural and urban areas. UNHCR reported that as of 10 September, there are 18,725 Somali refugees in Djibouti, including 630 who have arrived since January 2013.

Food Security: As of October, FEWSNET reported that food security is improving for most pastoral households and stands at Stressed levels (IPC Phase 2) across the country, due to recent increases in income from livestock products. The July to September rains were near average to above average and well distributed, which should allow food security to remain at steady levels from October through March.

Continued Stressed acute food insecurity is expected for most poor households in Djibouti City’s urban areas of Balbala, Radiska, and Baulaos and is anticipated to heighten through December. High unemployment rates (up to 48%) and high staple prices are causing urban to peri-urban migration to areas such as Balbala. The food voucher programme for vulnerable households (from July through September covering Ramadan and Eid), in addition to humanitarian and food assistance programmes, has reportedly improved access to food.

Several consecutive years of drought have led to a critical food security situation in Djibouti. Most households affected by severe and moderate food insecurity are concentrated in the rural areas of Ali Sabieh, Dikhil and Obock. According to the April WFP report, food insecurity in Djibouti has increased since November 2012, while households’ own food production has decreased from 14.6% to 5.1% due principally to delayed rainfall and persistent cold.

Health and Malnutrition: According to FEWSNET and WFP, as of August, General Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates for children <5 stood at 17.9% while chronic malnutrition was 35.2%. Roughly 33% of children <5 are underweight, and 15% of women of reproductive age are acutely malnourished.

Updated: 05/11/2013

NAMIBIA DROUGHT

Highlights

As of late October, the food security conditions are critical as the drought impacts continue to take its toll on vulnerable populations. According to FAO, an estimated 780,000 people are food insecure, of whom about 331,000 persons are in need of assistance.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Food Security:

The food security conditions are critical as the drought impacts continue to take its toll on vulnerable populations. According to FAO as of late October, an estimated 780,000 people are food insecure, of whom about 331,000 persons are in need of assistance. Estimations in July by the Food and Nutrition Security Working Group for Southern Africa, suggested a higher number, of 463,600.

On 17 May, the President of Namibia declared a national drought emergency and called for assistance from the international community. Results of an Inter-Agency Emergency Food Security Assessment also indicated that agricultural production will be very poor due to the lowest seasonal rainfall for decades.

The Government forecast suggests that the prolonged dry period during the 2012-13 cropping season (November-June) will result in a decrease in the main cereal production for 2013 by an estimated 42% compared to 2012 production levels. Grazing pastures have also been severely affected in six regions where many households rely on livestock production: 4,000 livestock deaths have been recorded. The cumulative rains between January and March were approximately one-third of the average. The northern regions have been worst affected by the drought, with the largest number of food insecure assessed to be in northern region of Kavango.

Many households have employed several coping strategies to mitigate the impact of the drought, including reducing the number of meals and increasing their consumption of wild foods. Water levels are decreasing, and 40-50% of water points no longer function. Many farmers are forced to sell cattle, due to lack of pasture, while cow-herds from Angola, which also suffer from the drought, are reportedly crossing the border in search of food, fuelling tribal tensions as competition for scarce pastures intensifies. The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) has been activated in mid-September 2013. Its
main role is the monitoring of the overall drought response. It is still unclear when the Emergency Response Plan, which is to be led by Government with support from humanitarian partners, will be adopted. The biggest challenge remains the issue of water stress for livestock and human consumption.

As reported by IFRC, the initial response of the government’s food aid only targeted rural communities. However, it has been reported that people in urban areas, especially those in informal settlements in Kunene, are equally affected by the drought. Local authorities in Kunene have appealed to the government to include people in urban areas on the beneficiary list of its food aid.

Droughts are recurrent in Namibia, impacting local economy and food security. The northern regions of the country have been historically most affected by droughts and are particularly vulnerable due to high population density. The situation is expected to worsen with the dry season and predicted to last until December.

Health and nutrition: IFRC noted that six cases of cholera were reported in Kunene region on the border with Angola at the end of July. These are now said to be under control. A screening centre was opened at the border of Namibia and Angola. At the end of 2011, Angola suffered a severe cholera outbreak.

The Namibia Red Cross Society reported in July that there are about 109,000 rural children <5 at risk of malnutrition because of lack of food and poor sanitation.

WASH: An assessment in the four regions of Kunene, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Kavango found that due to high food insecurity and malnutrition levels, and as only a few people practice household water treatment, the risk of water and sanitation related diseases from possible water contamination at household level is high. Of particular concern are regions with the lowest access to water and sanitation, and prone to diseases like cholera, including Kunene, Ohangwena and Kavango regions.

Updated: 05/11/2013

**SENEGAL** FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

**Highlights**

**Late October:** According to FAO, the National Agricultural Statistics Service has forecasted a below-average cereal harvest this year. Delayed rains and prolonged dry spells have affected the 2013 crop production in several parts of the country, notably in the centre and the north. The most affected regions include Louga, Matam, Diourbel, Kaffrine and Fatick. In spite of the good crop gathered last year, coarse grain prices have remained relatively high. Millet prices in August 2013 in Dakar were 6% higher than last year’s. Higher prices are also reported in cereal producing regions such as Fatick and Kolda. By contrast, prices of imported rice have remained relatively stable in recent months. Rice prices increased steeply in the country from December 2011, but Government intervention in the form of price control has kept prices stable since April 2012.

**Political and Security Context**

Although Senegal enjoys a reputation for stability in a largely volatile region, the country has yet been unable to resolve the conflict in the Casamance area. Separatist movements are still opposing the authorities along Senegal’s southern border with Guinea-Bissau in a conflict that is however mostly dormant. In March, attempts to restart talks between the warring parties were undertaken, while rebels warned against demining the region.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Disaster:** On 13 September, ECHO reported that heavy rainfall caused flooding, which affected 163,212 people in the western regions of Fatick, Kaolack, and Thies, as well as in the capital Dakar, which registered the highest number of affected persons (88,466). To date, the floods caused three deaths and damaged a significant number of houses and infrastructure. Senegal’s rainy season lasts from July to September, with a peak in August, and this year’s floods particularly impacted urban areas, most notably in Grand Yoff (Dakar). Most urgent needs include shelter, food assistance and non-food items, and operations of disinfection of stagnant water in urban centres are a priority, to avoid a deterioration of the situation.

To date, severe flooding has affected more than 400,000 people across nine countries of the Sahel region in Africa.

**Food Security:** Nationally, an estimated 739,000 people (6% of the population) are affected by food insecurity, according to FAO. Results from a joint mission (Government/ActionAid/Senegalese Red Cross/FAO/WFP) carried out in late December 2012 showed critical levels of food insecurity in Bakel (65%), Matam (64%), Medina Yoro Foula (63%) and Linguere (55%). Food insecurity is low in all areas of the regions of Fatick and Kaffrine where it is less than 15%, while it is moderate in the departments of Dagana and Podor.

According to FAO in October, the National Agricultural Statistics Service has forecasted a below-average cereal harvest this year. Delayed rains and prolonged dry spells have affected the 2013 crop production in several parts of the country, notably in the centre and the north. The most affected regions include Louga, Matam, Diourbel, Kaffrine and Fatick. In spite of the good crop gathered last year, coarse grains prices have remained relatively high. Millet prices in August 2013 in Dakar were 6% higher than last year’s. Higher prices are also reported in cereal producing regions such as Fatick and Kolda. By contrast, prices of imported rice have remained relatively stable in recent months. Rice prices increased steeply in the country from December 2011, but Government intervention in the form of price control has kept prices stable since April 2012. Nevertheless, according to FEWSNET, because of the availability of the October to December harvest and continued regular income earning activities, poor households will remain in minimal food insecurity (IPC Phase 1) through March 2014.

Aggregate 2012 cereal production was estimated at about 1.67 million tonnes, about 52% up on 2011 drought affected harvest, and a 15% increase relative to the five-year average.
Health and Nutrition: According to UNICEF as of late September, four northern regions are estimated to surpass the emergency threshold of 15% of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM): Matam (20%), Kanel (18%), Podor (17%), and Ranerou (16%). UNICEF has reported that the Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) caseload for children <5 more than doubled the expectations of 2012. For 2013, the SAM burden is estimated at 63,323 children <5, and the Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) is estimated at 255,675 cases. UNICEF reported on 2 September that since the beginning of the response in 2012, 23,000 children have been admitted in treatment for SAM, including 1,559 new admissions reported in July (data from 36% of nutritional facilities). The 2012 SMART survey further identified 16 of 45 departments as critical. Based on this geographical breakdown, 11 of 14 regions were identified as in need of emergency support based on prevalence of malnutrition and aggravating factors such as diarrhoea and ARI: Diourbel, Fatick, Kafririne, Kedougou, Kolda, Louga, Matam, Saint Louis, Sedhiou, Tambacounda, and Thies.

Updated: 05/11/2013

**ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY**

**Highlights**

**31 October:** The Government of Eritrea communicated that rain shortage in 2013, and poor follow-up would negatively affect farming and reforestation activities. Unwise land usage, deforestation and over usage of grazing could were cited as additional causes for decreasing agricultural produce.

No confirmed data on the food security situation or food price levels is available. Therefore, Eritrea is not included within the Global Overview prioritisation.

**Political and Security Context**

According to the Human Rights Watch, Eritrea is still plagued by human right abuses, including torture, arbitrary detention, and severe restrictions on freedom of expression, association, and religious freedom. Military conscription is compulsory and can last for an indefinite period of time.

Between 5,000 and 10,000 political prisoners are being held in this country of about 6 million people. The UN Human Rights chief has accused the Eritrean government of torture and summary executions.

On 21 January, dissident Eritrean soldiers with tanks laid siege to the Information Ministry, forced state media to call for the release of high-profile political prisoners, and demanded implementation of the constitution, which was never enacted by Parliament. However, calm reportedly returned to the capital Asmara on 22 January. No further information is available on the events.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Displacement:** According to UNHCR, Eritrean refugees crossing to neighbouring Ethiopia are on the rise, while the number entering Sudan has dropped compared to 2012. Since January, UNHCR and the Ethiopia government’s refugee agency, the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), have registered over 4,000 new Eritrean refugees. As of June, Ethiopia hosts nearly 72,000 Eritrean refugees, a record high, in four camps in the northern Tigray region and two others in the Afar region in north-eastern Ethiopia.

According to UNHCR, eastern Sudan receives an average 500 Eritrean refugees per month in 2013, down from 2,000 a month in 2012. Sudan reportedly shelters at least 114,500 Eritrean refugees.

Djibouti also receives an estimated 110 Eritreans each month.

According to UNHCR as of 10 September, Eritrea is currently hosting 3,468 Somali refugees.

**Disaster:** Although information remains limited, Eritrean authorities have indicated that heavy rains and the damaging of a major diversion canal in Hashenkit area have caused flooding on 5 August in Haikota sub-zone, resulting in the destruction of at least 20 houses. Heavy rains have been recorded in the area since mid-July.

Extensive floods that affected tens of thousands of people were recorded in nearby Sudan.

**Access:** There is a lack of updated and reliable data on the humanitarian situation due to limited humanitarian access and a ban on humanitarian organisations assessing needs.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** An estimated six million people in Eritrea are food insecure (98% of the population). Local food and fuel prices are likely to remain high, putting severe pressure on vulnerable groups’ coping mechanisms. The government of Eritrea officially denies any food shortages within its borders and refuses food aid.

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Updated: 05/11/2013
Highlights

1 November: At least nine people were injured, including children, after a bomb blast in northern Baghlan province.

30 October: During a summit held in London, a breakthrough in negotiations on the stalled peace process with the Taliban between Afghan President Karzai and Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif was reportedly achieved. A delegation comprised of senior Afghan officials is set to travel to Pakistan in November to meet former Taliban second-in-command Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar. In late September, after repeated calls from Kabul, Islamabad released Baradar who remains under close Pakistani supervision.

In September, after a visit by President Karzai to Islamabad in late August, Pakistan released a group of detained Afghan Taliban, including senior commander Mansoor Dadullah, who were similarly not directly handed over to Afghan authorities. Taliban commanders detained in Pakistan are seen by the Afghan authorities as instrumental in bringing the Taliban to the negotiation table.

In mid-August, as reported by a senior Afghan peace negotiator and former Taliban commander Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, in late September, after repeated calls from Kabul, Islamabad released Baradar who remains under close Pakistani supervision. Baradar, a founder of the Taliban insurgency, is seen by Kabul as a respected figure who could bring moderate Taliban commanders to negotiate with Afghan authorities. In early October, a meeting was cancelled after Taliban commanders refused to meet Baradar in Peshawar, allegedly because the latter was accompanied by Pakistani security agents.

Political and Security Context

International and Regional Political Context: During a summit held in London in late October, a breakthrough in negotiations on the stalled peace process with the Taliban between Afghan President Karzai and Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif was reportedly achieved. A delegation comprised of senior Afghan officials is set to travel to Pakistan in November to meet former Taliban second-in-command Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar. In late September, after repeated calls from Kabul, Islamabad released Baradar who remains under close Pakistani supervision. Baradar, a founder of the Taliban insurgency, is seen by Kabul as a respected figure who could bring moderate Taliban commanders to negotiate with Afghan authorities. In early October, a meeting was cancelled after Taliban commanders refused to meet Baradar in Peshawar, allegedly because the latter was accompanied by Pakistani security agents.

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In mid-August, as reported by a senior Afghan peace negotiator and former Taliban diplomat now working with the Karzai government, resumption of peace talks in Qatar with the Taliban is unlikely. Fresh talks in Turkey or Saudi Arabia appear to be a more realistic option for Kabul. No Western source has commented on the statement, though it is unlikely that negotiations with the Taliban would be conducted without the US.

International Military Presence: On 12 October, US Secretary of State John Kerry and Afghan President Hamid Karzai ended two days of talks on a bilateral security pact without a deal because they could not agree on the issue of legal immunity for US troops in Afghanistan. The talks, prompted by an unannounced visit by Kerry to Kabul, were meant to determine how many US troops would remain in Afghanistan after 2014 when most foreign combat troops are due to withdraw. Nevertheless, according to Karzai, the talks allowed for progress on another core disagreement: the US request to run independent counter-terrorism missions on Afghan territory. According to local reports, the future of US troops in Afghanistan after 2014 is likely to be decided by an assembly of tribal elders in late November.

A few month before the planned 2014 April presidential elections that will bring a new leadership to Kabul, the talks are crucial in determining the future of US-Afghanistan cooperation. US officials have openly stated that the zero option (a complete pull out of all US troops after 2014) remains on the table if no deal is reached with Kabul. This possibility is seen as an implicit warning to Afghanistan as most observers believe that the Afghan security forces would be unable to hold against the insurgents without international backing on the ground.

Most of the 86,000 international troops stationed in Afghanistan are scheduled to withdraw by end 2014. Over 75% of the country was expected to be under national security control by end-July 2013, following the formal handover of national security from the US-led NATO coalition to Afghan forces in June. Within the US-led NATO coalition, there is widespread concern regarding the capacity of the 352,000-strong Afghan security forces to cope with the insurgency. As reported by an Afghan official in early September, police deaths have nearly doubled as the NATO forces have started withdrawing and handing over security to local troops. An estimated 1,792 Afghan policemen died and over 2,700 have been wounded in the last six months.

National Political Context: On 16 September, candidate nominations opened for Afghanistan’s presidential election scheduled for 5 April 2014. As reported by Human Rights Watch on 9 October, 2014 presidential candidates include former military and militia commanders implicated in serious rights abuses, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Karzai, Afghan’s only leader since US intervention in 2001, is constitutionally barred from running for a third term. According to international observers, there are currently no favourites to succeed Karzai, as the country is growing increasingly turbulent. Several local and international observers have voiced concerns regarding election transparency after 16 presidential candidates were disqualified by the Independent Election Commission on 23 October for contravening to the election rules.

The Taliban movement officially announced on 6 August that it did not intend to participate in the 2014 presidential elections and would continue fighting until all foreign troops left the country. In June, the US leadership was forced to delay planned talks in Qatar, following the Afghan government’s anger over being bypassed in the negotiations, and over the opening of a Taliban political office in Qatar. To date, Kabul is refusing to participate in peace talks that are not Afghan-led.

Security Context: Since they vowed to start a new campaign of attacks on 27 April, launching insider attacks as a key tactic against foreign and Afghan military forces targets, the Taliban have intensified offensives in Afghanistan. Since May, insurgents have largely targeted foreign military and humanitarian targets and deliberately target civilians who are seen to cooperate with the government. A Taliban spokesperson indicated in late June that the insurgents have no intention of changing their tactics in conflict-plagued Afghanistan despite possible peace talks and the scheduled presidential elections.

On 1 November, at least nine people were injured, including children, after a bomb blast in Baghlan-e-Markazi of northern Baghlan province. On 27 October, a roadside bomb in eastern Ghazni province killed 18 civilians. On 26 October, a gunfight broke out between Afghan and foreign soldiers on the outskirts of Kabul, killing one Afghan serviceman and injuring several others in an incident that may be an insider attack although it was not
officially labelled as such. On 18 October, Taliban insurgents attacked a convoy of foreign vehicles in Kabul with gunfire and a suicide car bomb, the first major incident in the capital since July. At least two Afghan civilians were killed and another four wounded in the attack. On 15 October, a bomb killed the Afghan provincial governor of Logar as he made a speech at a mosque after Eid prayers. Eight people were wounded in the explosion for which no group has yet claimed responsibility. On 13 October, a man in an Afghan army uniform shot dead a US soldier in Paktika province in another insider attack, according to NATO officials. The latest incident is the tenth such attack this year and the fourth in less than a month, bringing the death toll of foreign personnel killed in insider attacks to 15 since the start of 2013.

In September, several attacks were recorded across the country with two insider attacks in Paktia province, an ambush on a military Afghan convoy reported from Badakshan province, and assaults and attacks occurring in Helmand, Ghazni, Wardak, Kunduz, Herat, and Nangarhar provinces. In August, militant attacks were recorded in Nangarhar, Kunduz, Ghazni, Helmand, Farah, Herat, and Paktia provinces with dozens of Afghan military and civilians killed. Over the past two months, attacks conducted by armed groups increasingly targeted foreign troops and bases with, for instance, a high-profile attack conducted against a military a base operated by Polish and Afghan forces in Ghazni province and one striking the Indian consulate in Jalalabad, Nangarhar province in August. In May, attacks against ICRC and IOM compounds in Afghanistan were recorded.

According to a July UN report, the number of civilians killed and injured in Afghanistan rose by 23% since early 2012, with homemade landmines the principal threat to Afghan civilians. From January to June 2013, 1,319 civilians were killed and a further 2,533 injured. The UN reported that 74% of casualties were caused by insurgents, 9% by pro-government forces, and 12% from ground fighting between the two sides. These numbers are a significant increase compared to the first half of 2012 and close to the record casualties recorded during the same period in 2011. The increase in attacks underscores rising levels of violence as international troops have started to disengage from the country.

Military Operations: Against this background, military operations are ongoing. On 11 October, US forces reportedly captured senior Pakistani Taliban commander Latif Mehsud in a military operation in eastern Logar province. Other reports suggested that Mehsud was seized from an Afghan government convoy in the province as Afghan officials were trying to recruit him to launch peace talks several weeks ago, contributing to the current tensions between Washington and Kabul. The arrest of Mehsud could represent a blow to Tehreek-e-Taliban in Pakistan while the movement is reportedly facing dissention over Islamabad's attempts to launch peace talks.

On 6 October, four NATO soldiers were killed in an operation in southern Afghanistan where the Taliban have been recovering ground, as forward operating bases were shut as part of the NATO disengagement plan. On 4 October, a retaliatory NATO airstrike in Nangarhar province after the insurgents shelled a joint NATO-Afghan base near Jalalabad resulted in the deaths of five civilians, according to authorities. The last incident came less than a month after another NATO air strike allegedly killed nine civilians in the Watapur district of Kunar province. Both incidents are currently under investigation. Casualties of Afghan civilians and military caused by air strikes conducted by NATO-led forces have been a major source of friction between Kabul and its international allies over the years.

According to Afghan military sources, insurgent numbers are up around 15% on last year's summer fighting months.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Afghanistan south and southeastern provinces are particularly vulnerable, ranking high in numbers of security incidents, civilian casualties, and conflict displacement, and low in health and nutrition indicators. An estimated 7.7 million people in Afghanistan are in need of protection. The security situation cross the country is becoming increasingly volatile.

Displacement: To date in 2013, conflict-induced displacement is the main cause of acute humanitarian need, with a marked increase in previously stable provinces in the north, particularly in Faryab and Badakhshan, noted OCHA. As of 30 September, there were 612,000 conflict-induced IDPs in Afghanistan.

According to UNHCR and IOM, as of 30 September, there were an estimated 2.4 million Afghan refugees in Iran, including 1.4 million undocumented Afghans. Over 2.9 million Afghan refugees, including one million undocumented refugees, reside in Pakistan. An estimated 200,000 Afghan refugees are registered in other countries, placing an increased humanitarian burden on neighbouring countries, triggering tensions as Iran and Pakistan push for their repatriation.

Pakistan recently agreed not to expel Afghan refugees who had permission to stay in the country until June; Kabul and Islamabad also agreed, at an UN-backed meeting, to continue efforts to solve the protracted refugee situation. On 5 July, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a Pakistan province hosting roughly 60% of Afghan refugees, officially opposed extending Afghan refugees' stay in the country and suggested that should the need arise, registered Afghans be equally distributed among the four Pakistani provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab, and Baluchistan.

Disaster: On 9 September, rainfall and consequent floods and landslides affected several villages in Zebak district, Badakshan province. As of 10 September, local and international media reported 20 people dead and 20 missing in a landslide, while 34 houses were damaged, livestock killed and roads destroyed.

Access: As reported by OCHA, 34 incidents against humanitarian personnel were recorded in 16 provinces in September. Active hostilities and threats of violence continued to impede humanitarian access. This is a significant increase compared to August when 25 violent incidents against aid workers were recorded. Security incidents involving aid workers have been on the rise in 2013 compared to 2012 with high-profile attacks against ICRC and IOM compounds happening last May.

September incidents included one death, twelve injured, the abduction of nine staff, as well as vehicle hijackings, robberies, small arms fire, intrusion and search of humanitarian facilities and health centres; detention and interrogation of personnel, threats, intimidation and collateral impacts; and an attack on a food relief convoy. The majority of incidents were in the eastern region where increased hostilities and scrutiny of aid agencies continued to lead to interferences with aid workers in rural Nuristan, Nangarhar, and Laghman. Conflict related hostilities in Badakshan, Wardak, Kabul, Logar, Nangarhar, Kunar, Kandahar, and Hilmand provinces continued to interfere with access. September
saw the highest number of incidents against health facilities and personnel this year, with 11 incidents reported from Wardak, Helmand, Nuristan, and Kunar provinces.

Against this background, movement restrictions are increasingly applied on aid workers and relief organisations are reviewing security protocols. The humanitarian space in Afghanistan continues to shrink as security becomes increasingly precarious.

Food Security: OCHA reported in mid-June that 4.5 million people in Afghanistan are food insecure, with 2.25 million people severely food insecure and targeted with humanitarian aid. Households in the extreme northeast, especially in Badakhshan province, central highlands, low-income and disaster-affected households across the country, and IDPs are especially vulnerable to food insecurity.

As reported by OCHA in late September, vulnerable families are facing a tough winter after dryness in the growing season caused crop failures in Ghor, Daykundi and Bamyan provinces in the central highlands of Afghanistan. A WFP/FEWSNET mission reported that 80% of rain-fed areas and 24% of irrigated areas were affected.

According to a mid-August WFP report, a preliminary forecast put the 2013 wheat production at 4.9 million tons, slightly below the 2012 harvest, which was the second highest on record for the last 35 years. However, large differences exist between provinces. Smaller wheat harvests were gathered in Faryab, Ghor Jawzjan, and Khost due to dry spells and early rains combined with wheat rust in some areas. Despite bumper harvests in 2012 and 2013, wheat and wheat flour prices in some provinces have been increasing since June 2012. Flour prices recorded higher increases reflecting limited availability of domestic flour.

Continuous depreciation of the Afghani over the last two years has amplified the price increase in local currency.

Health and Nutrition: War-related hospital admissions increased by 42% from January to April 2013 compared to the same period in 2012. In Helmand province, there has been an almost 80% increase in hospitalised injuries caused by conflict this year. The Health Cluster reported a 40% increase in security incidents from January to April 2013 compared to 2012.

As reported by OCHA in mid-June, 125,692 children <5 suffer from GAM, including 28,650 suffering from SAM.

**SYRIA CIVIL WAR**

### Highlights

#### 4 November: The Government of Syria stated that remarks made by US Secretary of State John Kerry regarding how Washington and its allies share the goal of a handover of power by President al-Assad to a transition government could cause the proposed peace talks in Geneva to fail. Ahmad Jarba, the President of the Syrian National Coalition, meanwhile indicated that the opposition would not attend peace talks unless there was a clear timeframe for President al-Assad to leave power and that the presence of Iran would not be accepted. The Geneva peace talks have repeatedly been postponed due to disagreements over preconditions to the talks and over which countries should participate.

#### 3 November: Turkish authorities reportedly seized a large quantity of chemicals from a convoy trying to illegally enter Turkey from Syria. The Turkish Government stated that these chemicals could be transformed into weapons.

#### 31 October: The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) reported that all declared equipment and sites for producing chemical weapons in Syria were rendered unusable, in line with a UN Security Council resolution according to which Syria’s chemical weapons are to be eliminated by mid-2014. A joint UN-OPCW team, which has been in Syria since the start of October, inspected 18 of 23 declared sites, destroying production equipment in almost all of them.

#### 31 October: Saudi Arabia initiated a draft UN General Assembly resolution to strongly condemn “widespread and systematic gross violations of human rights” by the Syrian Government and abuses by anti-government armed groups. It is unclear if and when the resolution will be put to a vote. Unlike Security Council resolutions, General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding, but do carry moral and political weight.

#### 27 October: According to US officials, Israeli warplanes attacked a shipment of Russian missile inside the governorate of Lattakia. The shipment was allegedly on its way to the Lebanese group Hezbollah. Israel has not commented on the allegations, but warned at the start of the year that it will take action to prevent weapons from falling into the hands Hezbollah.

#### Political and Security Context

The conflict continues in large parts of the country, with high levels of conflict reported in areas around Damascus city and the southern governorate of Aleppo. Although the international diplomatic community is continuing its efforts to end the fighting, the Syrian opposition is divided over whether or not to attend proposed peace talks in Geneva, while the Government of Syria will not enter discussions if President al-Assad is forced to resign.

International Political Context: While the international community has renewed efforts to set a Geneva II peace conference, the same factors that led to an impasse at Geneva I are still in play, namely that many opposition groups will not come to the table without the presence of Iran would not be accepted. The Geneva peace talks have repeatedly been postponed due to disagreements over preconditions to the talks and over which countries should participate. Conversely, the Government of Syria will not enter discussions if this demand is met. In addition, the Syrian president indicated that peace talks can only take place when foreign states withdraw assistance.

Though several Western and Arab powers agreed with Syrian opposition leaders that President al-Assad should play no future role in a Syrian Government during a conference in London, the opposition is becoming increasingly divided on whether to take part at all in the peace talks. After a number of armed groups engaged in battles in Syria publicaly
dismissed the authority of the Syrian National Coalition earlier this month, 19 other opposition groups stated on 27 October that negotiating with the Government of President al-Assad would be an "act of treason". The Syrian National Coalition is due to decide on participation in the Geneva peace talks.

The Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) confirmed on 1 November that the Government of Syria has completed the functional destruction of critical equipment for all of its declared chemical weapons production facilities. The Joint OPCW-UN Mission has inspected 21 of the 23 sites declared by Syria, and 39 of the 41 facilities located at those sites. The two remaining sites were not visited due to safety and security concerns. The next milestone for the mission will be 15 November, by which time a detailed plan of destruction submitted by the Government Syria to eliminate its chemical weapons stockpile must be approved.

Meanwhile, on 3 November, Turkish authorities reportedly seized a large quantity of chemicals from a convoy trying to illegally enter Turkey from Syria.

Regional Security Context: The conflict continues to spill over into neighbouring countries, especially Lebanon where the border region is subject to shelling. Clashes re-ignited on 21 October in the northern city of Tripoli between communities that support the opposing sides within Syria. These clashes between residents of rival neighbourhoods date back to Lebanon’s civil war, and tensions have spiked since the outbreak of Syria’s uprising.

Armed Conflict: The stalemate which characterised the conflict during September and October has reportedly been broken, with the Government taking control of areas around Damascus and south of Aleppo. At the same time, Kurdish armed groups have taken control of strategic border areas with Turkey and Iraq in the north of the country.

On 31 October, the Syrian Armed Forces took control of the town of Sfeira, in Aleppo governorate. The capture of Sfeira opens an important supply route to Government controlled areas of Aleppo and central Syria. In addition, the area is important because of the presence of several arms factories. At the start of October, Government forces secured a victory in the strategic town of Khanasser that led to a route being opened permitting supplies to enter parts of western Aleppo city that for many months had been besieged by opposition forces.

The Government has tightened its siege around areas south of Damascus, where opposition forces are positioned. Heavy clashes are taking place north, east, and south of the capital. Both central Damascus and Jarmanah, an area on the outskirts of Damascus which hosts a large number of IDPs, have become under frequent shellfire by opposition groups in the past weeks.

According to a US official, Israel targeted a military base in Lattakia governorate on 27 October, to prevent weapons being transferred to Hezbollah in Lebanon. Israel has repeatedly warned that it will take military action to stop the movement of advanced weapons; several air strikes were allegedly carried out by Israel in January 2013.

Inter-Fighting: In northern Syria, Kurdish fighters made progress in their battle against Al-Qaeda-linked armed groups in Al-Hasakeh governorate. On 2 November, Kurdish groups took over several villages and military positions surrounding Ras al-Ain, an actively contested area which borders Turkey. Kurdish armed groups are now reportedly in control of a stretch of 25 kms along the Syrian-Turkish border. The advance comes less than a week after Kurdish fighters took over the Yaarubiye border crossing with Iraq on 25 October.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), an extremist armed group linked to al-Qaeda, is enlarging its areas of control in the north, at the expense of other opposition groups. At the same time, mainstream opposition groups are fighting alongside more extremist armed groups in some areas. In Homs, for instance, the different armed groups pressed an advance mid-October against Government troops aimed at capturing major weapons depots.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Revised estimates indicate that the number of people in need in Syria has increased to 9.3 million from April estimates of 6.8 million. A recent Syrian Centre for Policy Research on the socio-economic impact of the crisis estimates that over half the population now lives in poverty, of whom around 4.5 million in extreme poverty (unable to fully meet their basic needs).

Displacement: An estimated 6.5 million are internally displaced. The majority of new displacements from June to September were in Homs, Idlib, Aleppo, and the north-eastern part of the country.

Due to high levels of conflict and deteriorating access to services, Syrians continue to flee to neighbouring countries, despite restrictions to entry in place in Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and Lebanon. As of 31 October, the total number of refugees registered and waiting to register stands at 2,200,886. Around 812,000 Syrians are registered or awaiting registration in Lebanon (Government estimates 1.3 million Syrians in total, including a large number of Syrian refugees), over 543,000 in Jordan (Government estimates 600,000 Syrians in total), over 507,000 in Turkey, 198,000 in Iraq, and over 126,000 in Egypt (Government estimates up to 300,000).

Access: On 2 October, the UN Security Council issued a non-binding Presidential Statement encouraging all parties to the conflict to permit safe and unhindered humanitarian access. However, access has remained severely limited, with active fighting, bureaucratic impediments, increasing road blockages, and a proliferation of non-state actors controlling transit routes, continuing to slow or stall the delivery of humanitarian aid. International organisations have identified over 140 hard to reach areas, where access is limited due to high levels of conflict or lack of Government permission. ISIL, who controls parts of northern Syria, has put tight restrictions on relief work including a ban on women carrying out work.

In besieged and hard to reach areas, shortages of food and medicine are creating life threatening situations. The siege on areas in Western Ghouta has been tightened, with the Syrian Armed Forces sealing off remaining smuggling routes into the area. 37 other locations are identified as under siege, including: Daraya; Yarmouk; Hajar Aswad; Yalda; Babila; Sbineh; Douma; Jobar; Qaboon; Zamalka; and Erbeen.
Health and Nutrition: As of 17 October, WHO reported 10 cases of wild poliovirus out of 22 suspected cases detected at the start of October 2013 in Deir-ez-Zor governorate. This is the first outbreak of polio in the country since 1999. The Ministry of Public Health has launched a vaccination campaign targeting 2.4 million people against polio, measles, mumps, and rubella, but experts fear the disease will be hard to control. Polio vaccination rates have significantly decreased since the start of the crisis, and the UN estimates that 500,000 children have not been sufficiently immunised. More disease outbreaks are feared as the health system and WASH infrastructure have been significantly affected by the crisis.

In July, 60% of public hospitals were affected by the conflict while doctor/population ratios fell from 1:660 in 2010 to an estimated 1:4,000 by June 2013. WHO says it is already seeing increased cases of measles, typhoid and hepatitis A. UNICEF reports an upward trend in the number of children being treated with moderate and severe acute malnutrition.

Updated: 05/11/2013

YEMEN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

30 October – 5 November: Heavy clashes broke out between Shia Muslim Houthi rebels and their Sunni Muslim Salafi rivals in the northern town of Damaj. Shelling overnight caused a self-reported 100 deaths on the Salafi side. A fragile cease-fire took place on 4 November, only to be breached hours later. As of 5 November, clashes are still ongoing. The area remains largely blocked for humanitarian actors and the needs and damages are uncertain. Fighting broke out as Houthi fighters accused Salafi rivals of recruiting foreign fighters to prepare an attack against them.

Political and Security Context

Political Context: Yemen remains highly strategic for the US in its efforts to contain threats from al-Qaeda affiliated militants and separatist tribes and for Saudi Arabia’s access to the nearby sea where oil tankers pass. The US, supported by Yemeni authorities, continues its drone strike campaign against the militants. Since late July, drone attacks have killed at least 40 people in Yemen, including four suspected al-Qaeda militants in al-Bayda province.

Reports state that the Islamist militants have regrouped since being driven out of former strongholds during the 2012 military offensive carried out by the US-backed Yemeni army. The alleged aim of the Islamist militants is to set up an Islamist State in eastern Yemen.

The National Dialogue Conference (NDC), aimed at finding a common political agreement and recommendations for a new constitution and voting system was due to complete its work on 19 September, opening the way for full democratic elections in February 2014. Despite numerous protests and violent incidents in Sana’a and Aden governorates, all 565 NDC participants have agreed to install Yemen as a federal state. Southern secessionists wish to divide Yemen into two regions, giving the south significant control over its own affairs, while northern parties favour a multi-region federation.

Participation of southern separatists remains uncertain with threats to withdraw support to NDC, despite government assurances that the future of the south will be thoroughly discussed. In late August, Yemeni authorities apologised to southern separatists and northern rebels for wars against them in an effort to encourage their continued participation in the NDC. On 9 October, the southern separatist al-Hirak and northern Shia al-Houthi movements staged a sit-in protest over a lack of consensus on the future of their respective regions and demanded approval of a post-NDC roadmap before agreeing to any resolution. The renewed boycotts suggest that further delays to the process are likely, although it was scheduled to resume on 26 October.

The Southern Movement will continue to boycott the final plenary unless the south is given the right to self-determination and the southern issue resolved. The Houthis are reportedly insisting that victims of the Sa’adah wars be provided compensation. The ongoing boycott indicates the extent of differences between the Houthis, the Southern Movement, and the broader NDC. Given the extent of the divisions, it is unlikely that major solutions will be found, particularly regarding the north-south issue, within the current time frame allotted to the NDC.

Safety and Security: Suspected al-Qaeda militants continue their campaign in Yemen’s Lahj, Hadramout and Hajjah provinces. On 20 September, at least 31 Yemeni soldiers and policemen were killed in attacks in Al-Shabwa governorate, the deadliest attack since May 2012, when a suicide bomber killed more than 90 soldiers at a parade in Sana’a. The Ministry of Interior is preparing to deploy more soldiers and security forces to prevent attacks on civilians.

Local security forces have been on high alert since early August amid fears of an imminent attack by al-Qaeda in Sana’a. Earlier reports indicated that al-Qaeda militants entered Sana’a from the Hadhramaut, Abyan, Marib, and Al-Shabwa governorates, potentially planning a large-scale terrorist bomb attack. The Ministry of Interior has bolstered security measures at government installations, the presidential palace, the airport, embassies, foreign installations, and the Mövenpick Hotel, which is hosting the NDC. On 6 October, one person was killed in what was reported to be a failed attempt to kidnap the Ambassador of Germany. In response, several diplomatic missions suspended activities outside their embassies.

There is a high risk of abduction of foreigners, particularly in large cities, including Sana’a. There have been nine abductions/attempted abductions of expatriates in Sana’a since February 2013.

The Yemen-based branch of al-Qaeda stated on 14 October that its attack on the army base in the city of al-Mukallain (in the south-east) on 30 September, targeted an operations room used by the US to direct drone strikes against militants. Amid threats of similar assaults, Yemeni officials denied that the army base contained a joint US-Yemen operations room, stating that its task was to prevent piracy in the nearby Arabian Sea.

Conflict Patterns: Violence and insecurity continue across Yemen with inter-tribal fighting in the north, fighting between the Government and armed groups in the southern governorates, and civil unrest in urban centres of the west and central governorates. Yemen is home to one of the most active wings of al-Qaeda – al-Qaeda in the Arabian...
On 30 October, heavy clashes broke out between Shia Muslim Houthi rebels and their Sunni Muslim Salafi rivals in the northern town of Damaj. Shelling overnight caused a self-reported 100 deaths on the Salafi side. The total number of dead and injured remains uncertain. A fragile cease-fire took place on 4 November, only to be breached hours later. As of 5 November, clashes are still ongoing. The area remains largely blocked for humanitarian actors and the needs and damages remain uncertain. The ICRC reported to have gained temporary access on 4 November, enabling them to evacuate 23 people and provide medical supplies to the town.

Fighting initially broke out as Houthi fighters, who control most of the area, accused Salafi rivals of recruiting foreign fighters to prepare an attack against them. The Salafis maintained that the foreigners are students who travel from abroad to study Islamic theology at Dar al-Hadith academy. The academy and student dormitories were allegedly main targets for the first Houthi attacks. Tribal clashes over scarce resources frequently result in casualties. The recent escalation comes despite a year-long cease-fire agreement reached in Amran between tribesmen loyal to the Al-Houthi and tribesmen loyal to the Salafi Al-Ahmar family on 14 September.

A confrontation between qat farmers and Government forces over the exploration of new water wells broke out on 6 October in Wadi Al-Ghail of Al-Qaeda district, in Ibb governorate. Water cuts in Al-Qaeda district, which occasionally last for two months, force locals to find other solutions including purchasing water at a high cost or bringing it from Dhi Al-Sifal district by car. The six day drilling operation has reportedly resumed, with the support of ten military vehicles stationed in the area to protect the site. Clashes over water resources between the Qurada and Al-Marzooh villages in Taiz governorate renewed on Saturday.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

An estimated 13.1 million people (55% of the population) in Yemen needs humanitarian assistance, according to OCHA.

Displacement: As a result of widespread conflict, according to the UN in early September, over 306,000 IDPs remain in Yemen's north, including Sana'a. Improved security has allowed 162,000 IDPs to return to areas of origin in the southern Abyan governorate and neighbouring areas. Further returns are ongoing, according to UNHCR, despite authorities' challenges in meeting the needs of the returnees. UNHCR recorded the arrival of over 46,000 asylum seekers, refugees and migrants from the Horn of Africa during the first six months of 2013, with an estimated 39,000 from Ethiopia and the rest from Somalia. Although this number if noticeably lower compared to 56,000 in the same period for 2012, the overall number of asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants in Yemen has been rising for the past six years. A record 107,500 people made the journey to Yemen in 2012. UNHCR states that Yemen hosts more than 242,000 refugees. According to IOM, 22% are women and girls who have been victims of repeated gender-based violence. Yemen requested assistance from IOM on 5 July in a potential repatriation of 200,000 Yemeni migrant workers forced to leave Saudi Arabia as part of a crackdown on undocumented migrants. Despite a Saudi amnesty for undocumented migrants that was scheduled to expire in early July and was extended until November, the Government reports that approximately 200,000 people have returned to Yemen since April. IOM reports that over 108,000 returns were between June and August. The majority of returnees are undocumented migrant workers with daily arrivals numbering 600-700 people in September, with most traveling through the Al Tuwal border crossing in Hajjah governorate. According to local sources, 300,000 to 500,000 people could ultimately be deported to Yemen as a result of the policy.

Disaster: Since mid-August, heavy rains and flooding have affected 26 districts in nine governorates of Yemen. The number of affected has reached 50,000 people in southern and central regions. Since mid-August, 37 people have been killed and several are still missing due to the floods. Affected governorates include Taizz, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah and Ibb, and the Arqaa area between Shabwah and Abyan governorates. Though information remains limited, there are reports of displacements and loss of livestock, livelihoods, and infrastructure in several regions of Yemen. In some areas, scarcity of drinking water has been reported.

The flash floods had a severe impact on three IDPs camps near Haradh in Hajjah governorate, affecting about 12,000 people and destroying half the tents. According to OCHA, the heavy rains washed away over half the IDP shelters in Camp 1 and Camp 3. On 4 September, OCHA reported that the new flash floods in western Yemen wiped away the main road connecting Mudhaykhirah, Al Hammadi, and Taizz, and damaged crops, farms, and houses. Local media reported on 12 September that over 100 people were displaced.

Access: Information about humanitarian needs remains difficult to ascertain due to humanitarian access being hampered by insecurity and the risk of abduction of aid workers. Since the start of the NDC, civil disobedience campaigns have disrupted humanitarian work and educational institutions in southern Yemen.

Food Security: WFP reported a decrease in the number of severely food insecure people, from five million people identified by the 2012 Comprehensive Food Security Survey to 4.5 million people in September 2013. Food security is generally better than the acute 2011 figures, when conflict significantly disrupted food access. Despite the national trend of decreasing food insecurity, some parts of the South, particularly Abyan and neighbouring Shabwa were reportedly worse in June 2013 than in 2011. Food security conditions are also of major concern in adjacent governorates of Aden and Lahij, where 90% of households are food insecure and 30% severely food insecure. The overall number of food insecure people remains at ten million.

The primary underlying causes of food insecurity are extreme poverty and high unemployment, compounded by conflict and insecurity. Populations of greatest concern include the displaced or recently returned.

According to FAO, recent surges in prices that reached their highest level since 2011 in April are likely due to conflict in several southern areas.
Despite the below-average March-May rains in the main cropping areas of the west, the preliminary crop production estimates suggest that the 2013 cereal harvest is forecast to be 13% higher than the five-year average. Recent reports indicate that the desert locust situation has further deteriorated in Yemen and is potentially dangerous to the crops, especially given limited survey control operations, which are heavily constrained by insecurity. Most infestations are along the foothills near Marib and Bayhan, but important populations are present in remote and isolated areas north of Wadi Hadhramat and on the edge of the Empty Quarter between Al Abr, Hazar and Thamud. These areas are difficult to access. It is here that an outbreak occurred in 2007, which led to a swarm invasion in the Horn of Africa. Desert locust populations are expected to remain in Yemen. However, if northern winds develop over the Gulf of Aden and persist for several days, there is a risk that swarms could move south from the interior of Yemen, cross the Gulf of Aden, and reach northern Somalia and adjacent areas of eastern Ethiopia.

Because Yemen imports up to 90% of its staple foods, the locusts are not expected to have a large impact on domestic food prices and availability.

Health and Nutrition: A collapse of public services following the civil unrest in 2011 severely disrupted access to health services, clean water, and basic sanitation. The UN reported that an estimated six million people did not have access to health care across the country in May. In 2012, 170 children died from measles.

As of 15 October, UNICEF reported that 1,060,000 children <5 are estimated to be suffering from acute malnutrition, of whom 279,146 suffer from severe malnutrition. Previously, UNHCR reported that 998,000 children <5 are acutely malnourished, with the 15% emergency threshold exceeded in six governorates.

Updated: 05/11/2013

**IRAQ DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY**

**Highlights**

**4 November:** The authorities passed a new election law, opening the way for the parliamentary polls to be held in April 2014 and alleviating concerns that the parliamentary elections would be delayed because of rising insecurity. The voting on the election bill had been long delayed because of ongoing dispute between the central authorities and the regional authorities in Iraqi Kurdistan.

**3 November:** While visiting Washington for the first time in two years, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki openly blamed the resurgence of al-Qaeda affiliated armed groups in Iraq on regional unrest rather than acknowledging issues within Iraq. During his trip to the US, Maliki is scheduled to discuss possible increased military assistance to Iraq amidst growing displeasure in Washington over his handling of the country.

**29 October:** At least 11 military and police officers were killed and 19 wounded in a double suicide bombing outside a Sunni militia leader’s house in northern Baghdad. In a separate incident, in the northern city of Mosul, capital of the Sunni Nineveh province, a suicide bombing killed at least eight people. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks. According to the monitoring group Iraq Body Count, as of early November, over 7,000 people have been killed in violence in Iraq so far this year.

**Political and Security Context**

**International and Regional Context:** In early November, while visiting Washington for the first time in two years, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki openly blamed the resurgence of al-Qaeda affiliated armed groups in Iraq on regional unrest rather than acknowledging issues within Iraq. Most observers believe, however, that the unrest in Iraq is largely related to the divisive policies implemented by the authorities in Baghdad. During his trip to the US, Maliki is scheduled to discuss possible increased military assistance to Iraq amidst growing displeasure in Washington over his handling of the country.

The civil war in Syria is an important contributing factor of tensions between Sunni, Shi’ite, and Kurdish communities in Iraq. In July, the UN warned that escalating violence in Iraq can no longer be separated from the Syrian war due to an increased presence of Iraqi armed groups in Syria.

On 30 August, in another indication of the regional aspect of sectarian Islamist militancy, an Iraqi Shi’ite militia group al-Nujaba’a, an umbrella movement including Iraqi Shi’ite militants who have crossed into Syria to fight alongside troops loyal to Syrian President al-Assad, officially stated that it would attack US interests in Iraq and the region, if Washington carries out a military strike on Syria.

**Political Context:** Escalating violence in Iraq is largely linked to the country’s long-running political dispute between the authorities and armed militias opposing the allegedly sectarian policies of the Shia-led Government. Since the start of 2013, the widespread discontent of the Sunni Muslim minority has fuelled unrest, with tensions at their highest since US troops left the country two years ago.

On 4 November, the authorities passed a new election law, opening the way for the parliamentary polls to be held in April 2014 and alleviating concerns that the parliamentary elections would be delayed because of the rising insecurity. The voting on the election bill had been long delayed because of ongoing dispute between the central authorities and ethnic Kurds, who run their own region in the north. The upcoming general elections are seen as a crucial test of the country’s political stability, amidst growing sectarian strife.

In April, the provincial or governorate elections, the first ones held since the departure of US troops, served as a proxy indicator of the country’s stability ahead of next year’s national elections. Although it failed to win a majority in any district, the current Prime Minister’s State of Law coalition came top in the elections.

**Security Context:** In 2013, violence has surged in Iraq, bringing the country closer to general destabilisation due to increasing sectarian tensions between Iraqi Shi’ite and Sunni Muslims, as well as Kurds. The ongoing violence is increasingly putting pressure on Iraqi authorities who are blamed for their inability to diffuse the sectarian conflict. Most observers expect violence to increase ahead of next year’s elections.

According to the monitoring group Iraq Body Count, as of early November, over 7,000 people have been killed in violence in Iraq so far this year as the country is witnessing...
levels of violence unseen since 2008, amidst the rising activism of Islamist armed groups. According to the UN, an estimated 1,000 people were killed and over 2,000 wounded in September with Baghdad, northern, northern-central and western areas the most affected. The Baghdad area alone accounted for 89% of civilian deaths. In 2013, July has been the deadliest month to date with 1,057 killed and 2,326 more wounded, the highest casualty numbers recorded in the country since April 2008. Over the past weeks, attacks have largely targeted military facilities and checkpoints, as well as public places such as cafes and markets.

On 29 October, at least 11 military and police officers were killed and 19 wounded in a double suicide bombing outside a Sunni militia leader’s house in northern Baghdad. In a separate incident, in the northern city of Mosul, capital of the Sunni Nineveh province, a suicide bombing killed at least eight people. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks. On 27 October, a string of car bombings, a blast at a market in Baghdad, and a suicide attack in Mosul killed at least 62 people. Over the week, an additional 33 people were killed in attacks mainly targeting Shi’ite areas across the country and claimed by the Iraqi wing of al-Qaeda.

Over the previous months, deadly violence has affected large parts of the country with most attacks claimed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), an al-Qaeda affiliated group which reportedly relies on strongholds Al Anbar, Nineveh, Kirkuk, most of Salah ad Din, and parts of Babil, Diyala, and Baghdad areas.

**Iraqi Kurdistan Political Context:** While tensions persist between central authorities in Baghdad and in Kurdistan, both sides have made attempts to move closer as exemplified by the passing of the new election law in early November. Better relations with the Kurds should help ease pressure on Iraq’s Shi’ite leadership, which is facing increased sectarian strife that it blames on Sunni Islamist insurgents.

In September, Kurdistan’s main opposition party came in second in the semi-autonomous region’s parliamentary election, beating the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) while the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of regional President Massoud Barzani came largely ahead. Since 2005, KDP and PUK have ruled through a coalition government as part of a wider deal which has seen them divide up posts in Irbil and Baghdad. As of late October, it was still unclear how or if the results would affect the long-standing power-sharing agreement.

The regional Government delayed local presidential elections to 2015, extending the term of Kurdish leader Barzani, a move that the opposition has denounced the extension as illegal.

**Kurdish Regional Security Context:** Although a senior Iraqi Kurdish official indicated in August that Iraq’s northern Kurdistan region had no plans to send troops to Syria to defend fellow Kurds as fighting between Kurds and Islamist anti-government forces in northern Syria continues, the region seems to be becoming increasingly dragged into the Syrian conflict. Other dynamics also come into play as Kurdish armed groups are active across Syria, Iraq and Turkey.

On 27 October, Kurdish armed groups captured the Yaaroubiyeh post in north-east Syria, after three days of clashes with jihadist groups, including Jabhat al-Nusra and ISIL. An Iraqi intelligence official confirmed that Kurdish rebels now held the crossing point, one of two main crossings with Iraq, adding that Baghdad brought reinforcements to the area.

In late September, militants launched a coordinated attack on the headquarters of the security services in the capital of Kurdistan, killing 11 people in the first major assault in the relatively calm area since 2007. The blasts occurred one day after results of the region’s parliamentary elections were announced. ISIL claimed responsibility for the attack, stating that it was carried out in revenge for the region’s support for Kurds fighting Islamists in Syria. ISIL has claimed responsibility for attacks on both sides of the border and has fought Kurds affiliated with the Democratic Union Party, which dominates in Syria and is aligned with the Turkish Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK).

As of early September, the withdrawal of Kurdish militants from the PKK from Turkey to Iraqi Kurdistan had stopped, with fighters citing failures by the government to take steps agreed under the peace process. Despite the start of the withdrawal on 14 May, the Turkish Government stated in August that only 20% of PKK fighters had left Turkey and they were mostly women and children. The arrival of former PKK insurgents is likely to strain already tense relations between the regional Kurdish authorities and Baghdad. It is also unclear what impact the withdrawal of the PKK militants from Turkey will have on the civil war in Syria.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Displacement:** UNHCR has warned that the significant increase of sectarian violence across Iraq threatens to spark a new internal displacement of Iraqis fleeing insecurity. Since the start of 2013, bombings and rising sectarian tensions have displaced 5,000 Iraqis, with people mostly fleeing from Baghdad into Anbar and Salah Al Din governorates, and caused displacement in Diyala and Nineveh governorates.

As of September 2013, an estimated 1.13 million Iraqis were displaced in Iraq, according to local sources, though figures remain difficult to ascertain. Over 467,000 IDPs, returnees, and squatters reportedly live in over 382 settlements on public land or in public buildings with limited access to basic services.

While over 68,000 Iraqis have returned to the country from Syria since mid-July 2012, with Baghdad receiving the largest number, Syrian refugees continue to cross into Iraq through the Peshkabour crossing in Duhok governorate, following the re-opening of the border on 15 August after a closure in mid-May. As of 5 November, over 199,000 people had crossed into Iraq from Syria with a surge in arrivals since mid-August. Between mid-August and early October, an estimated 60,000 people, mainly women and children, had entered into Iraq from Syria. As of mid-September, the flow of Syrian refugees to Iraqite Kurdistan remained steady at 800-1,000 people per day, according to UNHCR. The rate is consistent with earlier flows in April and May 2013, prior to the closure of the Fishkhabour border crossing.

According to local reports, the Iraqi authorities have been attempting to limit the influx to 3,000 refugees allowed to cross per day. To date, Kurdistan hosts over 90% of these refugees.
The situation at Domiz camp, in northwest Iraq's Dohuk Governorate, is especially worrying. The camp houses over 70,000 Syrian refugees in critically overcrowded conditions. Another 90,000 refugees are scattered in and around urban centres in Iraqi Kurdistan while a dozen of camps and centres are currently under construction in the Kurdish region, many of which are on former military bases with a danger of unexploded ordnances, mines, and other explosive weapons.

**Access:** Although humanitarian access is less restricted, security threats for international staff remain high, particularly in Baghdad, the north, the central governorates, and the Disputed Territories. According to reports, access to Al Qa'im refugee camp remains difficult, though missions can be carried out by helicopter.

**Health:** Overcrowding in Domiz camp is impacting health and sanitation, which is already below humanitarian standards, with inadequate water and sanitation facilities increasing the risk of water borne diseases. Measles has been reported in new camp arrivals.

Updated: 05/11/2013

**MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS**

**Highlights**

5 November: According to unverified local reports, seventeen ethnic armed groups were attending a conference in northern Kachin state and were reportedly close to signing a comprehensive agreement that may be a first step toward a nationwide ceasefire. Over the previous week, violence was however still flaring up between government troops and insurgents in Kachin state.

Early November: UNHCR reported that an increasing number of people, at least 1,500 over the previous week, from Rakhine state, mainly Muslims, are setting out to sea on smugglers' boats from the Bay of Bengal. Numbers remain difficult to ascertain.

**Political and Security Context**

**Political Context:** As of 5 November, according to unverified local reports, seventeen ethnic armed groups were attending a conference in northern Kachin state and were reportedly close to signing a comprehensive agreement that may be a first step toward a nationwide ceasefire.

Since August, central authorities have made progress toward the pacification of Myanmar, signing several ceasefire agreements with various insurgent groups representing ethnic minorities. Against this background, and although violence flared up in parts of Myanmar in September and October, the government still plans to hold a ceremony at which an alleged nationwide ceasefire, promised by President Thein Sein in July, would be signed with the country’s many armed militant groups.

On 10 October, authorities signed a fresh peace deal with Kachin rebels. The deal, which followed three days of negotiations, is aimed to open the way for political dialogue and end the conflict in Kachin. Prior to the deal, authorities released a group of political prisoners in a presidential amnesty, the third such move since the start of 2013. In July, President Thein Sein promised to free all prisoners of conscience by end 2013. The latest amnesty allowed for the release of members of ethnic minority armies with whom the government is seeking peace deals.

In May, a seven-point peace agreement was achieved between the Government and the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO). The KIO, seeking greater autonomy for the one million Kachin people, is essentially chairing the alliance of 11 ethnic armed groups, the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC). Fighting between the Government and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the armed wing of the KIO, reigned in June 2011 after a 17-year old ceasefire crumbled.

In early August, the All Burma Students’ Democratic Front, a once outlawed student movement, signed a state-level ceasefire agreement with Karen state government representatives. The deal was seen as a step toward broader national reconciliation. In mid-June, an agreement to push ahead with a national ceasefire between authorities and the Union Peace-Making Committee and Karen National Progressive Party, representing the Red Karen in Kayah state, was reached.

**Security Context:** On 17 October, several small bombs exploded in northeastern Myanmar in Namkham, a town in Shan state bordering China, where ethnic groups have been fighting government forces. These incidents are the latest in a string of low scale attacks that have been hitting the country since the start of October. The explosions killed one person and injured another two. On 14 October, a rudimentary time-bomb exploded in a hotel in Yangon, wounding one foreign tourist. Although authorities have suggested that these explosions are part of a coordinated series of bomb attacks across Myanmar by a group targeting tourist haunts, a Buddhist temple, and other public places, no clear connection between the attacks has yet been established. Moreover, it is unclear if the attacks are related to ongoing inter-communal strife or the protracted insurgencies affecting parts of the country. Since 11 October, multiple blasts have been recorded across the country, leaving at least four dead and several injured.

In June and October 2012, sectarian confrontations between ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and the Muslim minority shook western Rakhine state, displacing tens of thousands of people. According to reports, clashes between Buddhists and Muslims since June 2012 have killed at least 237 people, including 192 in Rakhine state. In recent weeks, human rights infringements were reported, and tensions remained high with authorities imposing restriction measures on the displaced Muslim minority in an increasingly tense local context.

Multiple violent incidents have been reported with fresh inter-communal violence between Buddhists and Muslims surging near Yangon in early October and in Thandwe, a coastal township in western Rakhine state, in late September where it led to casualties.

In August, outbreaks of communal violence were reported from remote Htan Kone in Myanmar’s northern Sagaing region while several communal incidents were reported from Rakhine’s Thandwe, Pauktaw, and Mrauk-U townships in July and June. On 20 July, authorities eventually lifted the state of emergency imposed around Meikhtila where heavy clashes and attacks, which resulted in 44 people killed and over 70 injured, occurred in March and April. Several thousands of people are still displaced in the area as of October.
Military Operations: As reported by local media in late October, despite progress of the peace talks between the authorities and insurgent movements, new violent clashes were reported from 22-28 October in Kachin state’s Mann Si township between government troops and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) with an unknown number of people trapped by the violence in the area. Renewed fighting happened less than two weeks after authorities and Kachin insurgents signed a fresh ceasefire in mid-October. No report on casualties is available to date.

Heavy fighting in northern Kachin state and in the northern part of neighbouring Shan state was reported in September as the authorities reinforced their troops in these areas. Local and international organisations reported various human rights abuses being committed in Kachin state.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: As reported by OCHA in October, over 649,000 people are currently internally displaced in Myanmar because of violence.

In western Rakhine state, an estimated 143,000 people are displaced because of the inter-communal violence between Rakhine Buddhists and the Muslim minority that occurred in June and October 2012. An estimated 36,000 people across 113 isolated villages face ongoing tension and movement restrictions and are considered crisis-affected and needing humanitarian assistance. In early November, UNHCR reported that an increasing number of people, at least 1,500 over the previous week, from Rakhine state, mainly Muslims, are setting out to sea on smugglers’ boats from the Bay of Bengal. Numbers remain difficult to ascertain.

In central Mandalay region, near Meikhtila, an estimated 5,500 people are displaced following violence in March and April.

An estimated 100,000 people have been displaced by conflict across Kachin and northern Shan states, including over 53,000 in areas beyond Government control. Many have been displaced for up to two years, triggering renewed and additional needs for provision of basic services, livelihoods, and protection. The most urgent needs in displaced communities include education, health care, renovation of shelter, replacement of NFIs, and WASH facilities. In late October, an additional up to 1,500 people have been displaced by violence near the Mann Si township.

Up to 400,000 people across 36 townships continue to be displaced in the southeast following years of conflict, according to OCHA.

In June, UNHCR reported that 28,000 Rakhine Muslims were registered as refugees in Malaysia. However, according to groups representing them, the real number of Myanmar Muslim immigrants is much higher and has surged this year because of the violence.

Disaster: According to the UN, heavy monsoon rains and flash floods have displaced almost 50,000 people across the country this year, though most people have since returned home as of late September. During the monsoon season, heavy rains and flash floods were reported in different parts of Myanmar, notably in Yangon in late August and in the northern parts of the country in the first half of September.

In September, WFP reported that affected rural people would require food assistance until the harvest season in November-December as floods have destroyed food stocks and paddy fields. An estimated 70,000 acres of farmland have been flooded or destroyed this year.

Access: Access has reportedly improved as major highways in Kachin state, closed since the outbreak of hostilities between the Government and the KIA in 2011, were reopened on 17 March following the renewal of talks between the two sides.

In early September, OCHA reported that an 11-truck humanitarian convoy led by the UN and other humanitarian partners delivered food, medicines, and other items to displaced communities living in the Woi Chyai Camp in Laiza town in Kachin state. This is the first time that cross-line missions have been permitted to deliver humanitarian assistance to Laiza since December 2011. These missions supplement aid delivered on a regular basis by local NGOs. In June, for the first time in nearly a year, an UN-led aid convoy was allowed into other non-government controlled parts of Kachin state.

Access to affected populations in Rakhine state remains difficult, complicated by media campaigns based on claims of favouritism by international aid agencies towards the non-Rakhine Muslim minorities. According to OCHA, as of mid-April, access to IDPs is still seriously hampered by ongoing intimidation of national and international aid workers. In early July, OCHA encouraged humanitarian providers to adopt a “conflict-sensitive” approach to aid distribution with clear communication with the communities to explain the basis of aid distribution to mitigate the perception among the Rakhine population that assistance had been disproportionately provided to Muslim minorities.

Food Security: As reported by FAO in mid-June, the food security situation has improved across most of Myanmar. However, a poor harvest due to below average seasonal rains in lower Sagaing, western and central parts of Mandalay and most of Magway, is expected to lead to a deterioration of food security conditions in these areas. In Rakhine, southwest, Kachin, and Northern Shan states, where thousands of people have been displaced, food security remains a concern.

Health: Even though the numbers of dengue cases and related deaths were lower than expected for this year’s rainy season, health authorities still recorded 16,000 cases and 75 deaths for 2013, as of 12 September. In June, the cumulative number of dengue cases had surpassed the total for all of 2012, and officials feared that the monsoon season would worsen the epidemic.

As noted by OCHA in mid-July, a vulnerability mapping exercise showed that 36,000 people in 113 isolated villages in Rakhine state have no or limited access to basic services, including markets, education, and health care. Access to services is impeded by ongoing tension and restrictions on freedom of movement. This is in addition to the estimated 140,000 people displaced by 2012 inter-communal violence.

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OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES COMPLEX
Highlights

1 November: An Israeli air strike killed three militants in the Gaza Strip, as reported by a spokesman of the Islamist Hamas movement. In the aftermath, a clash allegedly killed a fourth Palestinian gunman and wounded five Israeli soldiers. The Israeli military said its aircraft targeted a tunnel inside the southern Gaza Strip, used by militants for attacking Israelis. These events marked the worst violence between Israelis and Palestinians in the coastal enclave since a ceasefire ended an eight-day conflagration in November last year.

Political and Security Context

International and Regional Political Context: On 19 July, an initial agreement between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) on direct final status negotiations was announced. On 28 July, the Israeli government approved the release of 104 Palestinian prisoners as a sign of its readiness to revive the Middle East peace process. The peace talks opened formally in West Jerusalem on 14 August, and Israel freed 26 of the promised 104 long-serving Palestinian and Israeli Arab prisoners on the same day. The Israeli government approved the release of another 26 Palestinian prisoners on 28 October. The remaining prisoners will be released in four groups over the next seven months depending on progress in the newly-resumed peace talks with the Palestinian authorities. Negotiators were holding peace talks in Jerusalem on 16 September, although Israeli sources refused to confirm the meetings.

Two rockets fired at a southern Israeli coastal city on 28 October from the Gaza strip may have been meant to spoil the peace negotiations. During the previous prisoner release in August, Gaza militants fired rockets across the border and Israel responded with air strikes. The negotiation process has been disrupted several times and is frequently in danger of collapsing due to political developments in both countries.

On 29 November 2012, the General Assembly voted to grant Palestine non-member UN observer State status, while expressing the urgent need for the resumption of negotiations between Israel and Palestine to move toward a permanent two-State solution.

Local Political Context: While the negotiation process is expected to be lengthy, an ease of access and movement for the population in the OPT and for goods is pressing as recent action to counter illegal activities and insecurity in the Sinai has included imposing severe restrictions on movements of people through the Rafah Crossing into the Gaza Strip and closing down smuggling tunnels on the Egyptian-Gaza border. Around 1.7 million people are affected by the restrictions in the Gaza Strip, as reported by OCHA in late September.

On average, fewer than 398 people per day have crossed the Rafah Crossing in both directions since July 2013, about 29% of the numbers who crossed in the first half of 2013. On 11 September, Cairo closed the Rafah crossing completely following the crash of two explosive-laden cars into a security building on the border zone, which caused the death of six Egyptian soldiers. The crossing has been closed frequently for up to a week in a row, and even when open, hours have been reduced from nine to four and days from seven to six.

Egyptian authorities did not say how long the ban would remain in force. The Israeli army said the tunnel was buried 18m underground, made of concrete and ran for 1.7km extending into Israel. Hamas Islamists in the Gaza Strip claimed responsibility for the tunnel beneath the heavily fortified Israel-Gaza frontier.

Due to the closure or destruction of these tunnels, the Gaza strip suffers from a lack of basic goods such as fuel for cooking and heating, affecting businesses, agricultural production, and health services, according to the UN. The fuel crisis has meant Gaza’s daily power cuts last up to eight hours. Prices of basic foodstuffs have risen: flour is up 9%; cooking oil 5%.; and sugar 7%.

Gaza’s economic situation is deteriorating with several thousand jobs in the construction industry affected, livelihoods eroded, and prices increasing. The Hamas government has paid only 77% of its $25 million August payroll for Gaza’s 50,000 civil servants. A special payment of 1,000 shekels ($280) to employees before the Eid al-Adha holiday was announced. However, it remained unclear whether full September salaries would be paid.

According to WHO, an average 300 patients leave Gaza each day to access medical treatment. The Rafah Crossing is the primary exit and entry point to the Gaza Strip for Palestinians. Movement across the other crossing points Erez and Kerem Shalom in northern Gaza Strip has been severely restricted since September 2000. Kerem Shalom, the only functioning official crossing for goods to and from Gaza, was closed for 52 days during the first four months of 2013.

Safety and Security: The peace negotiations face several severe challenges, one of which is the issue of Israeli settlements.

On 30 October, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered officials to press ahead with plans to build 3,500 more homes for Jewish settlers. The order came only hours after Israel had freed 26 Palestinian prisoners, and the decision was seen by some as a way to satisfy hardliners who had criticized the release of prisoners. 1,500 units would be built in Ramat Shlomo, a settlement in an area of the occupied West Bank that Israel considers part of Jerusalem. The other 2,000 settler housing units would be built in other parts of the West Bank, according to unconfirmed government sources.

On 16 August, Israel announced that it was moving forward with plans to build 1,300 new housing units in East Jerusalem and the West Bank and another 890 units in Gilo settlement, East-Jerusalem. Construction of new homes in illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank has increased by 70% in the first half of 2013, as reported by the Israeli NGO Peace Now. On 17 October, the group said that 1,708 new homes were started between January and June, compared with 995 in the same period in 2012. Israeli media reported in May that Prime Minister Netanyahu ordered a freeze on new tenders for...
settler homes. Most of the new construction is taking place in areas where tenders are not required, circumventing the freeze.

Excessive use of lethal force continues to impact civilians in the OPT. On 1 November, an Israeli air strike reportedly killed three militants in the Gaza Strip, according to the Islamist group Hamas. Hours later, an overnight clash allegedly killed a fourth Palestinian gunman and wounded five Israeli soldiers. The Israeli military said its aircraft targeted a tunnel inside the southern Gaza Strip, used by militants for attacking Israelis. International media reported that the events marked the worst violence between Israelis and Palestinians in the coastal enclave since a ceasefire ended an eight-day conflagration in November last year.

Direct peace talks were briefly cancelled in August after clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces erupted in the West Bank. Four people were killed and 24 wounded in a clash in the West Bank’s Kalandia refugee camp. UNRWA reported on 27 August that one of its staff members was shot dead and another one wounded by Israeli forces during an operation in Kalandia refugee camp. Credible reports say both men were on their way to work and were not engaged in any violent activity. An UNRWA investigation is ongoing.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

According to OCHA, the humanitarian situation in OPT remained unchanged during 2013. Longstanding protection threats affecting the Palestinian population, including movement and access restrictions, continue to generate high levels of humanitarian need.

**Access:** Combined with the heavy Egyptian military deployment along the border and severe access restrictions on people and vehicles into the border area, a dramatic decline in the transfer of goods and fuel through the tunnels between Egypt and Gaza has been reported.

On 20 September, Israeli forces seized a vehicle carrying tents from an international humanitarian organisation destined for Khirbet al-Makhul, West Bank, where 48 Palestinians, including 16 children, urgently need emergency shelter following repeated demolitions by Israeli authorities. The forces confronted members of the humanitarian and diplomatic communities who were present on site. The UN and the European Union have condemned the halt of humanitarian aid to the population in need.

**Food Security:** According to OCHA, 2.1 million people need humanitarian assistance in the Palestinian territories, with protection of the civilian population, improvement of food insecurity, provision of access to basic services, and prevention of forced displacement being the highest priorities. Over 770,000 people are food insecure in the West Bank alone as of 17 June, according to the UN. WFP estimates that in the event of a complete closure of the tunnels in the Gaza-Strip, it will need to meet the needs of an extra 50,000 - 60,000 people.

As reported by WFP since early July, the food supply in Gaza, has further deteriorated due to disruptions in tunnel trade with Egypt resulting in price increases (+7% for oil, +33% for rice). Economic pressure on Gaza could impact the number of persons in need of humanitarian assistance in 2014. The unemployment rate, which is normally around 30%, is expected to rise as construction and tunnel-trade employment stagnates. Prior to the tunnel closure attempts, the WFP Socio–Economic and Food Security Survey revealed an increase in the food insecurity in Palestine, showing that 1.6 million people (34% of households in Palestine) were food insecure, a rise from 27% in 2012. The deterioration was most pronounced in Gaza, where food insecurity levels surged from 44 to 57%.

**Health and Nutrition:** One third (30%) of essential medicines and 51% of medical disposables are at zero stock in the Gaza Ministry of Health Central Drug Store, noted OCHA. More than half the chemotherapy drugs and ophthalmic drugs are at zero stock.

**WASH:** As reported by OCHA, an estimated 600,000 people in the Gaza Strip may not have access to adequate and safe water and sanitation services as a result of increased power outages and lack of fuel. Approximately 150,000 people, who currently rely on 12 water wells operated by only standby generators, are at risk.

*Updated: 05/11/2013*

**PAKISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT, EARTHQUAKE**

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<th>Highlights</th>
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<td><strong>4 November:</strong> US Secretary of State John Kerry officially supported the latest drone attacks, although refused to comment or confirm reports on Mehsud’s death. The killing of Mehsud may have significant repercussions on US-Pakistan relations in the short-term. In Pakistan, several politicians have already called for a suspension of US military supply lines into Afghanistan. Such a move would represent a major setback for Washington in the region.</td>
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<td><strong>2 November:</strong> The Pakistani Taliban promoted Khan Said, known as Sajna, as its new leader. To date, it is unclear to what extent this change in leadership will impact the negotiations with Islamabad. Although the Taliban have vowed revenge for the attack, Said is still seen as a relative moderate within the Pakistani Taliban. Unofficial sources within Pakistani authorities and the Taliban suggested that the talks may still proceed.</td>
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<td><strong>1 November:</strong> In a major setback for the Pakistani Taliban, Hakimullah Mehsud, the leader of the Pakistani Taliban was killed in a US drone strike in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), along with three other militants. In the aftermath, Islamabad openly denounced the attack as a US bid to sabotage the ongoing peace talks with the Taliban.</td>
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<td><strong>Early November:</strong> Local sources reported that the FATA Secretariat was possibly in contact with the Taliban through a tribal Jirga for early removal of the ban on polio vaccination in North Waziristan Agency.</td>
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<td><strong>30 October:</strong> A breakthrough in negotiations on the stalled peace process with the Taliban between Afghan President Karzai and Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif was reportedly achieved. A delegation comprised of senior Afghan officials is set to travel to Pakistan in November to meet former Taliban second-in-command Mullah Baradar. In late September, after repeated calls from Kabul, Islamabad agreed to release Baradar who has since remained under close Pakistani supervision.</td>
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30 October: Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif announced that the authorities had started talks with the Pakistani Taliban in an attempt to put an end to the insurgents’ attacks across the country.

Political and Security Context

US-Pakistan Context: On 1 November, in a major setback for the Pakistani Taliban, Hakimullah Mehsud, the leader of the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP), the Pakistani Taliban, was killed in a US drone strike in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), probably in North Waziristan, along with three other militants. The strike occurred as the Pakistani authorities started negotiations with the TTP. In the aftermath, Islamabad openly denounced the attack as a US bid to sabotage the peace talks.

An increasing number of drone attacks in FATA have been reported, with at least seven occurring since Sharif was sworn in on 5 June. As reported by Pakistani authorities in late August, 339 drone attacks have been recorded since 2004 resulting in the deaths of an estimated 2,200 people, including 400 civilians and 200 victims deemed probable non-combatants in FATA. No official US data on the number of people killed in drone strikes is available, though the numbers released by Islamabad have been put in doubt by independent organizations. In late October, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch released separate reports voicing criticisms over the recourse to drone strikes and detailing the deaths of dozens of civilians in such attacks.

Seeing these US-led attacks as a breach of Pakistani sovereignty, the Prime Minister Sharif has repeatedly called for an end to US drone strikes against militants, although such attacks have led to the deaths of the two top TTP commanders since May. On 4 November, US Secretary of State John Kerry officially supported the latest drone attacks, but refused to comment on or confirm reports of Mehsud’s death. In August, John Kerry promised that US drone attacks in Pakistan territory would soon stop.

Mehsud’s death may have significant repercussions for US-Pakistan relations in the short-term. It may put into question recent improvement that were demonstrated by the restart of US security assistance to Pakistan that had been largely suspended after relations became strained in 2011. In Pakistan, several politicians have already called for a suspension of US military supply lines into Afghanistan as had been done between November 2011 and July 2012. While NATO’s withdrawal from Afghanistan is ongoing, the suspension of the supply lines running through Pakistan are likely to derail the whole US regional strategy.

India-Pakistan Context: On 8 October, and though recent talks to appease bilateral relations between Islamabad and New Delhi were conducted, India’s military continued to accuse Pakistan of helping insurgents to push into Indian Kashmir as foreign forces withdraw from neighbouring Afghanistan. According to the Indian military, eight militants were killed in an operation as the military continue to fight a group that crossed into India in September. Pakistan has denied it is helping militants to cross into the Indian part of the contested region.

On 29 September, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, amid heightened tensions over their shared Kashmir border. During the meeting, both leaders announced their intention to try to restore calm as an initial step toward reconciliation.

On the eve of these talks, on 26 September, new incidents were reported along the border, with Indian forces reportedly killing three militants who allegedly infiltrated Indian Kashmir from Pakistan and attacked Indian police and soldiers. According to local media, at least nine people were killed on the Indian side, while the Indian authorities reported that they killed all three militants. In a separate incident, the Indian military reported that it had killed at least a dozen militants from a group of 30 to 40 heavily-armed fighters that had crossed from Pakistan into northern Kashmir. The latest attacks were widely seen as an attempt to derail the high-level talks between Islamabad and New Delhi.

Tensions have been running high along the India-Pakistan contested border in Kashmir, with international observers fearing that the November 2003 ceasefire and stalled peace talks between the two countries may be put into question. Since 6 August, violence has spiked between New Delhi and Islamabad after Indian authorities blamed Pakistani troops for killing five soldiers in a border attack. Islamabad has denied being behind the attack. In the aftermath, several fatal incidents were reported in August across the Line of Control, which marks the de facto border in the disputed region. India and Pakistan have been trading blame for the incidents that killed at least 44 members of the security forces since the beginning of the year, up from 17 for all of 2012, according to the South Asia Terrorism Portal, which monitors the violence. Meanwhile, on 6 September, an Islamist rally was openly staged in Islamabad where several thousand people allegedly called for holy war against India.

In mid-August, several sources in the Pakistan-based Islamist terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba commented that the group is preparing to reignite the fight over Kashmir once Western troops leave Afghanistan next year. The bombing of the Indian consulate in the Afghan city of Jalalabad on 3 August, for which the Taliban has denied responsibility, might be an early indication of this change of strategy.

New Delhi has accused Islamabad of trying to push militants onto its side of Kashmir to revive a decade-old revolts there. On 11 September, Indian paramilitary forces allegedly killed a man during a demonstration in Shopian district, which triggered violent protests and led authorities to impose a curfew in parts of Indian Kashmir. Several protests have recently sparked in Indian Kashmir with three people killed on 9 August in a demonstration in Jammu. Underscoring Indian concerns, protesters allegedly unfolded a Pakistan flag and shouted pro-Islam, pro-independence slogans after offering Eid prayers.

Afghanistan-Pakistan Context: During a summit held in London in late October, a breakthrough in negotiations on the stalled peace process with the Taliban between Afghan President Karzai and Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif was reportedly achieved. A delegation comprised of senior Afghan officials is set to travel to Pakistan in November to meet former Taliban second-in-command Mullah Baradar. In late September, after repeated calls from Kabul, Islamabad released Baradar who has since remained under close Pakistani supervision. Baradar, a founder of the Taliban insurgency, is seen by Kabul as a respected figure who could bring moderate Taliban commanders to negotiate with the Afghan authorities. In early October, a meeting was cancelled after Taliban commanders refused to meet Baradar in Peshawar, allegedly because the latter was
accompanied by Pakistani security agents. On 9 October, the Afghan Taliban stated that Pakistan has still not freed Mullah Baradar, as promised.

In September, after a visit by President Karzai to Islamabad in late August, Pakistan released a group of detained Afghan Taliban, including senior commander Mansoor Dadullah, who were similarly not directly handed over to Afghan authorities. Taliban commanders detained in Pakistan are seen by Afghan authorities as instrumental in bringing the Taliban to the negotiation table.

On 11 October, US forces reportedly captured senior Pakistani Taliban commander Mehsud in a military operation in eastern Logar province. Other reports suggested that Mehsud was seized from an Afghan government convoy in the province, as Afghan officials were trying to recruit him to launch peace talks several weeks ago, contributing to current tensions between Washington and Kabul. The arrest of Mehsud could represent a blow to TTP in Pakistan, while the movement is reportedly facing dissolution over Islamabad’s attempts to launch peace talks.

Iran-Pakistan Context: As reported by the Iranian media, 14 Iranian border guards were killed and three others captured in an attack by armed men on the southeastern frontier with Pakistan. In response, the Iranians executed 16 people that were allegedly elements of terrorist groups. In the aftermath, and while few details are available, Iran appealed to Pakistani authorities requesting Islamabad to tighten control of its border. No official reaction from Pakistan is yet available.

National Political Context: On 30 October, while at a summit in London, Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif announced that the authorities had started talks with the Pakistani Taliban in an attempt to end the insurgents’ attacks across the country. However, in the aftermath, the leader of the TTP, Hakimullah Mehsud, was killed in a US drone strike and, according to Taliban sources, the TTP promoted Khan Said, known as Sajna, as its new leader. To date, it is unclear to what extent this change in TTP’s leadership will impact negotiations with Islamabad. Although the Taliban have vowed revenge for the attack, Said is still seen as a relative moderate within the TTP. Unofficial sources within Pakistani authorities and the Taliban suggested that the talks may still proceed. To a large extent, the TTP is a fragmented movement comprising several factions that may pursue different agendas. Some groups were reportedly unsupportive of both the talks and the appointment of Said.

Some groups were reportedly unsupportive of both the talks and the appointment of Said.

Since coming to power in May, Sharif has repeatedly suggested that his administration is ready to negotiate with the Pakistani Taliban. On 10 September, politicians from the main coalition and opposition parties backed Sharif’s calls for a dialogue, a united move that was welcomed by a Pakistani Taliban spokesman. On 16 September, the Pakistani Taliban set conditions for participating in the peace talks, demanding that the government release prisoners and withdraw troops from its tribal areas. This declaration is raising doubts about prospects for negotiations. In August, the Prime Minister publicly indicated his desire to welcome the TTP to the negotiation table while leaving open the possibility to continue using force. The issue is highly controversial in Pakistan. It is unclear if the influential Pakistani military welcome such talks, and tensions between military officials and the authorities are reportedly on the rise over the matter.

On 9 October, Hakimullah Mehsud, a Senior Pakistan Taliban leader unrelated to Latif Mehsud, who was arrested in Afghanistan by US troops, suggested that he was open to peace talks with the Pakistani authorities while complaining that Islamabad has not yet taken any serious steps to begin dialogue. Mehsud reiterated that, in the meantime, the TTP would continue to target the US and its allies and demanded that any ceasefire in Pakistan must include an end to US drone strikes.

In September, Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and located near the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) where Islamist militants have strongholds, was hit by several bloody attacks. TTP leadership has denied responsibility for the attacks and stressed that it mainly targets “legitimate military assets” in its fight against the authorities. However, some observers have suggested that the last series of attacks may point to deep divisions running through the Pakistani Taliban movement between those ready to respond to the government’s offer to negotiate and hardliners. While some officials within the TTP unofficially acknowledged the existence of rifts within the movement, Pakistani authorities seem to remain reluctant to launch full-scale military operations against the TTP.

Security Context: Tensions are running high in Pakistan with regular Taliban attacks being reported across the country. According to an independent count conducted by the Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), 4,286 persons were killed and 4,066 injured between January and 31 August in targeted killings, militant attacks, incidents of terrorism, and security operations by the armed forces and intelligence agencies.

As reported by the CRSS in late October, September was the deadliest month so far this year in Pakistan. The death toll was 493 with another 555 people injured in attacks, the bulk of the victims were civilians. This number marked a significant increase of 35% compared to August. According to the report, the death toll due to violence was the highest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, followed by Sindh, the FATA, and Baluchistan respectively. At the district level, large urban centres such as Peshawar, Karachi, and Quetta were the most targeted by attacks.

On 21 October, at least five passengers were killed and 16 wounded after a bomb exploded on a train travelling towards Quetta in western Baluchistan. It was not immediately clear what group was responsible for the bombing. On 16 October, a suicide bombing west of Dera Ismail Khan in northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province killed the province’s law minister and seven others while wounding an additional 30 people in an attack claimed by an armed group allied to the Pakistani Taliban. On 10 October, bomb attacks hit four major cities – Quetta, Lahore, Peshawar, Karachi, as well as the semi-tribal area of Bannu in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The string of attacks killed nine people and wounded 60. On 7 October, a bomb exploded near a polio vaccination team in Peshawar, and killed two people in the latest Taliban insurgent attack to date. On 3 October, a Taliban attack against a pro-government rival armed group in northwestern Orakzai tribal district killed at least 17 people. On 2 October, a suicide bomber killed at least three people and wounded 12 others at a southwestern border crossing point between Afghanistan and Pakistan. On 2 October, a bomb killed two soldiers and wounded three others involved in relief operations related to the earthquake near Mashkay town in Baluchistan province. The attack was claimed by ethnic Baluch separatists who have been fighting in the area for years and have promised to further step up attacks against military personnel.

On 29 September, a blast outside an ancient market in Peshawar killed 42 people and
wounded over 100. A Taliban spokesman condemned the attacks that have not yet been claimed by any group. On 27 September, a bomb hit a bus on the outskirts of Peshawar, killing 18 people and wounding 40. On 25 September, a bomb attack by militants in Mohmand tribal district, on the Afghan border, resulted in three civilians killed and two others kidnapped. On 23 September, a bomb targeting police and claimed by the Taliban killed five people in Pishin district, north of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province.

On 22 September, in one of the deadliest attacks to date against Christians in the predominantly Muslim country, two suicide bombers blew themselves up outside an Anglican church in Peshawar. At least 80 people were killed while dozens were injured in the attack claimed by the Taliban-linked militant group TTP Jundullah. Following the bombing, the Prime Minister Sharif significantly toughened his stance regarding dealings with the Islamist militants, but fell short of calling for outright military action against the insurgents. The scale of the attack targeting Christians may have major repercussions on how authorities’ deal with the Pakistani Taliban movement. On 20 September, suspected militants threw grenades at a mosque in Peshawar, killing at least three Islamic preachers and wounding 18 others, according to local sources. On 15 September, two high-ranking Pakistani military were killed by the Taliban in separate attacks in the Upper Swat and the Upper Dir districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Since the beginning of September, attacks have been reported from Quetta and from the troubled North Waziristan region.

In August, terrorist attacks and armed assaults were recorded in the southern port city of Karachi, Gilgit-Baltistan territories in the north, and Punjab province. During the Muslim festival of Eid al-Fitr, attacks surged in the area of Quetta with over 70 people killed and dozens injured. Quetta is at the forefront of militant Islamist violence, a Baluch separatist insurgency, and violence against the Shiite Muslim minority that constitute a little over 10% of the country’s population. In July, Pakistan was plagued by almost daily violence that killed over 200 people, with attacks increasingly targeting the Shiite Muslim minority. On 30 July, a Taliban attack on a prison in the city of Dera Ismail Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, near the Afghan border, allowed insurgents to free 250 prisoners, including Taliban militants.

On 8 October, rising tensions between Hindus and Muslims were reported in Pakistan's increasingly unstable Sindh province. According to local reports, a crowd of Islamic fundamentalists dug up the grave of a Hindu man and dragged it through the streets of the southern town of Pangrio in a dispute over the location of the grave. According to the authorities, the situation was brought under control before tensions escalated.

Military Operations: As of early November, according to reports, a large number of Pakistani troops are still deployed to Swat Valley in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in a counterinsurgency operation, started in 2009, against militants that are allegedly hiding in nearby Afghanistan. The withdrawal that should have happened in September was reportedly put on hold on the 15th after a bomb blast killed the top Pakistani commander in the area.

Meanwhile, and although reports remain scarce, counterinsurgency operations are ongoing in the Pakistani tribal areas between government troops and Taliban insurgents.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: According to authorities, an estimated 300 people were displaced in Kashmir on 26 August, following shelling from the Indian side.

OCHA reported that, as of mid-October, more than one million people are displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA due to protracted conflict. Since mid-March, government military operations against the Taliban and clashes between militant groups in the Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency have led to additional and massive population movements. As of early June, UNHCR reported an estimated 80,000 people displaced from Khyber Agency to safer grounds in Peshawar, Kohat, and towards the camps of New Durrani in Kurram Agency and Jalozai in Nowshera District. An estimated 60,000 additional people began to flee their homes in Kurram Agency in mid-May due to the government's security operations against armed non-state actors. As of 6 June, 51,582 people were registered in New Durrani camp. As of 18 July, according to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, about 66,000 IDPs had returned to their homes in Kurram, South Waziristan and Bajaur.

According to OCHA as of 15 July, an estimated 1.03 million IDPs were still in need of humanitarian assistance, 45% located in the Peshawar area. Local sources suggested in November that up to 1.6 million IDPs from FATA and from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are located in the Peshawar area. As noted by OCHA in early August, 90% of IDPs live with relatives or in rented houses. Most IDPs are subsistence farmers. Displacement has forced them to leave their farms and relocate to the Peshawar area where employment and livelihood opportunities are limited. At present, many IDPs have switched to irreversible coping strategies, taking on debt and selling assets to pay for food. Most of the 1.64 million Afghan refugees located in FATA require humanitarian assistance.

In June, the Government agreed not to expel Afghan refugees who had permission to stay in the country until then, with Kabul and Islamabad agreeing, at an UN-backed meeting, to continue efforts to solve the protracted refugee situation. Pakistani media reports that the presence of Afghan refugees is triggering tensions in host provinces while the authorities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a province hosting an estimated 60% of Afghan refugees, have already called for registered Afghans be equally distributed among the four Pakistani provinces.

According to OCHA on 15 September, 1.62 million Afghan refugees remain in Pakistan. An additional estimated 2.4 million undocumented Afghan refugees are reportedly residing in Pakistan and Iran.

Disaster: According to the Pakistan Red Cross Society, an estimated 185,000 people have been severely affected by the 7.7 magnitude earthquake on 24 September and its main 7.2 magnitude aftershock on 28 September in the southwestern districts of Awaran (160,000 people affected) and Kech (25,000 affected), 350km south of Quetta in Baluchistan province. According to the Baluchistan authorities, at least 200,000 people have been affected by the two quakes. As of mid-October, at least 376 people have been killed and an estimated 824 injured by the tremors. The death toll is expected to rise as rescue teams reach remote villages. The districts of Awaran, Kech, Gwandar, Pajgur, Chaghi and Khuzda were affected, and entire villages were reportedly flattened across these impoverished and sparsely populated areas of Baluchistan. According to local reports, the earthquake destroyed over 21,000 houses.
In April 2013, a 7.8 magnitude quake in neighbouring Iran killed 41 people and affected more than 12,000 in Baluchistan.

According to authorities, as of 6 September, monsoon rains have affected 1.5 million people across the country. 53% of those affected are in Punjab with Narowal (222,260 people affected), Muzzafargarh (173,444), Jhang (127,230), and Rajanpur (95,171) the hardest hit districts. Other parts of the country were severely affected including Kashmore (105,515 people affected), Sukkur (79,005), Khairpur (74,830), and Jamshoro (65,559) as the hardest hit districts in Sindh. Floodplains from Sibi to Jaffarabad districts (148,889 people affected) were the most severely affected in Baluchistan. As of mid-October, significant humanitarian needs, notably with regard to food insecurity and livelihood support, remained in the affected areas, according to OCHA.

In addition, 75% of the affected 1.46 million acres of crops are in Punjab, triggering food security concerns for the affected population. To date, the number of people displaced in camps has reduced from over 12,000 people to 4,155 in 408 relief camps across the three provinces. The floods have reportedly killed at least 193 people and injured over 1,100 people.

According to OCHA as of late April, around 1.5 million people still needed critical services in Baluchistan, Punjab, and Sindh provinces, following the flash floods triggered by heavy rains in September 2012. Many affected districts are still struggling to recover from the 2010 and 2011 flooding and have large inundated areas.

Access: Aid response to the earthquakes that hit Baluchistan in September have been complicated by the remote region being home to separatist insurgents who fear that the army, which is overseeing aid operations, may take advantage of the crisis to move more forces into the area. Attacks on helicopters carrying aid workers were reported in September. On 10 October, new attacks by Baluch militants against security forces and government officials engaged in relief operation were reported. As of 9 October, aid workers reported that several foreign agencies have been denied permission to work in the Awaran district, the epicentre of the earthquakes, confirming ongoing difficulties to get the authorities’ clearance to work in the affected areas.

Assessments and humanitarian operations are hampered by difficult access due to insecurity and administrative delays. In June, OCHA reported 44 attacks against aid workers between January and April, with 18 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, 15 in Sindh province, four in Baluchistan province, one in the capital Islamabad, and six in FATA. The total figure for last year was 42 across Pakistan. Several deadly attacks on polio vaccination teams in FATA have been reported since the beginning of 2013.

Food Security: Food insecurity is at emergency levels with an estimated 60% of Pakistan’s population considered food insecure. Inflation, rising fuel prices, and stagnating domestic productivity are pushing up food prices. Seven districts face IPC phases 3 (Crisis) and 4 (Emergency).

In June 2013, food inflation rose by 8.1% from 2012, against 4.4% for non-food inflation. Prices of wheat and wheat flour have steadily increased since June 2012, underpinned by higher producer support prices.

Health and Nutrition: On 19 September, authorities in the northwestern Swat Valley, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province near the Afghan border, declared a health emergency after nearly 5,000 cases of dengue fever were reported in a month. As reported by OCHA in mid-October, over 7,000 people tested positive for dengue in the province since September. To date, at least 28 people have died from the disease that is currently affecting areas that do not fall in the traditional endemic belt for dengue, a significant difference with usual cyclical dengue outbreaks affecting Pakistan. It is believed the disease spread from Lahore, where an outbreak killed 362 people and infected over 21,000 in September 2011. In Punjab province, at least seven people have died from dengue as of early November.

On 28 August, health officials warned of a polio outbreak after the disease was detected in 16 children in North Waziristan, a tribal district where militant groups have banned vaccination. As reported by local media on 28 October, the latest string of cases has brought the national polio count to 53 so far this year, with 38 cases being recorded in the FATA. In 2012, 58 polio cases were recorded in the country. Children are an especially vulnerable group, with most children affected being <5. According to authorities, over 240,000 children in North and South Waziristan are at risk with a Taliban ban on vaccination continuing to exacerbate the serious polio outbreak. In early November, local sources reported that the FATA Secretariat was possibly in contact with the Taliban through a tribal Jirga for early removal of the ban on polio vaccination in North Waziristan Agency.

Since the start of 2013, 269 deaths from measles have been reported. According to local media, 141 children have died of measles since January in Punjab province alone. Sindh province, hardest hit by the measles outbreak, was also affected by flash flooding that occurred in September 2012. WHO described the situation in Pakistan as alarming due to a steady increase in fatal measles cases. According to OCHA, in Punjab and Sindh provinces, 54% of 8,844 children assessed between January last year and mid-May this year were not vaccinated against the disease.

Malnutrition rates in some flood-affected districts were beyond emergency thresholds before the recurrent floods in 2012 and are predicted to worsen. According to WFP, as of June, 15% of Pakistani children are severely malnourished, and 40% suffer from stunted growth.

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BANGLADESH INTERNAL UNREST, CYCLONE

Highlights

5 November: More than 100 small bombs were exploded in different areas of the capital Dhaka during the second day of a 60-hour-long nationwide hartal (general strike) called by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) — led 18-party opposition alliance on 2 November. To date, at least 21 people have been killed and an additional 650 injured, including among the security forces, in civil unrest that started on 25 October.

5 November: A court sentenced to death more than 150 people, from among the...
hundreds of insurgents accused of murder and other atrocities during a mutiny at the headquarters of Bangladesh’s border guards unit in 2009. The decision has been widely criticized by Human Rights Watch who reported serious violations of fair trial standards. It is unclear how the long-awaited decision will play out with the ongoing political crisis.

3 November: A Bangladesh war crimes court sentenced to death in absentia two men accused of committing offenses during the country’s war of independence from Pakistan in 1971. As both men are currently not in Bangladesh, the sentence may further the ongoing political crisis. Since the beginning of 2013, the tribunal has brought down eight convictions, with six defendants sentenced to death, including senior members of the BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI).

Political and Security Context

Political Crisis: In 2011, the ruling Awami League (AL) scrapped a caretaker government, a system in which neutral leaders take over the leadership three months before elections and oversee polls. In mid-October, the AL refused to step down by 24 October, as should have happened ahead of the January elections. Several critics argued that AL is trying to stay in power up to the elections to influence their outcome. The move set the stage for an ongoing political crisis that may end up derailing the planned January 2014 elections. To date, no agreement between authorities and the BNP has been achieved to stop the protests despite ongoing talks.

On 5 November, more than 100 small bombs were exploded in different areas of the capital Dhaka during the second day of a new 60-hour-long nationwide hartal (general strike) called by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) – led 18-party opposition alliance on 2 November. According to authorities, street battles were recorded across the country between thousands of supporters of the ruling party and the opposition, including Islamic elements from the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), the second biggest opposition party. The opposition continues to demand the prime minister’s resignation and the establishment of a non-party government. In Dhaka, massive civil unrest led the police to fire several blank rounds and teargas canisters to bring the situation under control.

As of 5 November, at least 21 people have been killed and an additional 650 injured, including among the security forces, in civil unrest that started on 25 October when the opposition staged mass rallies to protest against the elections’ arrangements, amid a growing political crisis. With thousands of security forces deployed in the streets, shops and businesses are to remain closed across the country at least until 6 November. During the protests, the international organization Reporters Without Borders reported several attacks on offices of media outlets and journalists in Dhaka and across the country, particularly by elements of JI.

In 2006, prolonged clashes between the two main parties resulted in dozens killed and an intervention of the military establishment that cancelled elections and set up a military-backed caretaker government.

On 5 November, a court sentenced to death over 150 people, from among the hundreds of insurgents accused of murder and other atrocities during a 2009 mutiny at the headquarters of Bangladesh’s border guards unit. Almost 850 people are accused of involvement in the bloody rampage that broke out in Dhaka and spread to a dozen other urban centres, killing 74. The decision has been widely criticized by Human Rights Watch (HRW) that reported serious violations of fair trial standards. It is unclear how the long-awaited decision will play out with the ongoing political crisis.

Security Context: Since the beginning of 2013, tension between Islamic groups and secular activists, and between the authorities and the opposition, have run high. Over the year, Bangladesh has seen recurrent hartals called by JI or the BNP to protest against the arrest and conviction of senior party officials for committing offences during the 1971 War. The hartals have caused significant disruption to business and losses to the economy.

On 3 November, a Bangladesh war crimes court sentenced to death in absentia two men accused of committing offenses during the country’s 1971 war of independence from Pakistan. As both men are currently not in Bangladesh, the sentence may further the ongoing political crisis. Since the beginning of 2013, the tribunal has brought down eight convictions, with six defendants sentenced to death, including senior members of the BNP and the JI. In October, two senior members of the BNP were sentenced, one to death and one to life imprisonment, stirring however only limited protests across the country.

On 18-19 September, a two day national hartal was enforced after a senior leader from JI was handed the death sentence, overturning a previously imposed life sentence, for crimes committed during the war. In the violence that erupted after the verdict, one person was killed in the southern coastal district of Noakhali and dozens injured across the country. In mid-August, police and protesters clashed during a 48-hour hartal, called by JI. While the JI strike triggered tensions, it was only minimally supported by the BNP, allied to JI. The strike followed a Bangladeshi court ruling that declared JI illegal on 1 August, largely forbidding it to take part in the general elections scheduled in early 2014. In the wake of the decision, party activists took the streets in Dhaka and other towns including Bogra, Jessore and Gaibandha. Several hartals have been recorded since January 2013.

While authorities struggled to contain the demonstrations, HRW reported in late July that Bangladeshi security forces have frequently used excessive force in responding to street protests, killing at least 150 protesters and injuring over 2,000 since February 2013. HRW has criticized the trials indicating that the tribunal’s procedures fall short of international standards. Several critics also suggested that the trials were used by the AL as a mean to undercut the two biggest opposition parties, the BNP and JI. Several BNP and JI leaders are still officially on trial.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: In early August, OCHA reported that following inter-communal violence at the border town of Tripura, northeast Bangladesh, around 1,500 people sought refuge and protection in India.

Disaster: As of mid-October, communities in southwestern Bangladesh are affected by water-logging, with stagnant water remaining in the fields, according to OCHA. According to local assessments, an estimated 120,000 people are affected in Satkhira and Jessore districts in the coastal southwestern part of the country.

As of 15 September, local authorities stated that flash floods starting on 10 September in
Jamalpur, Rajshahi, Gaibandha, Kurigram, and Sirajganj districts affected over 178,000 people. The northern Dhaka division is among the most affected areas. In July, torrential rainfall and consequential onrush of water from upstream resulted in floods in several northern districts, notably Thakurgaon, Gaibandha, Dinajpur Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Lalmonihart, Kurigram, Jamalpur, and Sirajgonj. To date, an estimated 124,000 people were affected and nine killed.

Bangladesh was spared significant human impact from Cyclone Mahasen that was weaker than expected. Nonetheless, the cyclone caused damage, including 49,000 destroyed and 45,000 partially destroyed houses, mostly in Patuakhali, Bhola, and Barguna districts. Government sources report that 14 people were killed and 65 injured by the cyclone. As of 22 May, over 1.2 million people were affected by the cyclone with 1.1 million people having been evacuated.

Bangladesh is considered one of the world’s most hazard-prone countries.

Food Security: Some 40% of the population is food insecure. The lingering effects of frequent natural disasters, including floods at end June, in mid-July, in late September in 2012, in mid-May in 2013, and violent demonstrations and disturbance, and other localised problems have raised the level of food insecurity of a high number of households.

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CAMBODIA FLOODS, TYPHOO

Highlights

As of 30 October, as reported by Humanitarian Response Forum and the authorities, 188 people have reportedly been killed, while over 1,735,000 people, more than 10% of the country’s population, were affected by weeks of extensive floods that hit 20 out of 24 provinces in Cambodia. Over 144,000 people have been evacuated from affected zones to safer areas.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: As of 30 October, as reported by Humanitarian Response Forum and the authorities, 188 people have reportedly been killed, while over 1,735,000 people, more than 10% of the country’s population, were affected by weeks of extensive floods that hit 20 out of 24 provinces in Cambodia. Over 144,000 people have been evacuated from affected zones to safer areas. Over 160,000 houses, 1,354 schools, 69 health centres and hospitals, and 498 pagodas along with roads, bridges and infrastructure were flooded and damaged.

The floodwaters have also washed landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) from contaminated to cleared areas, increasing risks to the affected population. As of late October, waters were reportedly receding across the country but more slowly than expected in the worst affected provinces of Battambang and Banteay Meanchey in the northwest. Siem Reap and Otdar Meanchey provinces area also reportedly severely affected.

According to the first coordinated assessments, immediate needs of the affected populations centre on the provision of safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and awareness raising, medicine, shelter and some localised food assistance in areas that have not yet been reached by humanitarian assistance.

Since the third week of September, heavy rains were reported throughout the northwest and along the Mekong River in central and southern Cambodia. The 20 provinces of Otdar Meanchey, Banteay Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Battambang, Pailin, Siem Reap, Pursat, Stung Treng, Ratanakiri, Kratie, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Thom, Prey Veng, Phnom Penh, Svay Rieng, Preah Sihanuk, Mondolkiri, Takeo and Kandal were affected.

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JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

As of 5 November, over half a million Syrian refugees (544,300), including those awaiting registration, have crossed into Jordan since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, according to UNHCR.

Political and Security Context

After six days of relative calm along the Syria-Jordan border, coinciding with the Eid Al Adha holiday, a resurgence of heavy shelling was reported on 20 October in the southern Syrian villages of Daal, Nawa, Sheikh Al Maskin, Al Tufs, and Daraa. The Jordan Armed Forces said only around 400 Syrians crossed into Jordan on 26 October, marking a drop from the Eid Al Adha holiday, which saw 4,900 Syrians flee to Jordan over a five-day period, the largest refugee influx in nearly two months.

The border region with Syria has seen increased fighting over the last weeks, as the opposition has pushed to gain more ground. On 9 October, opposition fighters reportedly took control of the Hajanah border post, near the Syrian city of Dar’a, after besieging it for two months and fierce clashes erupted around it lasting a month. The border post is adjacent to an old customs post seized by opposition fighters on 28 September. With its capture, opposition forces now control a ribbon of territory along the border from outside Dar’a to the edge of the Golan Heights.

On 28 September, after four consecutive days of fighting, Syrian opposition forces, including members of an al-Qaeda linked group, captured the Ramtha military post on the outskirts of Dar’a city, at the border with Jordan. The Government of Jordan sent the Syrian authorities a letter of protest after a shell landed in Ramtha, inside Jordanian territory during the clashes. The military advance of opposition forces is also felt within Jordan where officials stated this week that al-Qaeda linked militants of the al-Nusra Front have been recruiting Jordanians for the fight against Syrian President al-Assad.

While Jordan’s economy and its social fabric have been significantly impacted by the large...
influx of Syrian refugees, the country has remained politically stable and secure. However, this balance is fragile.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

The alleged chemical weapons attack on 21 August drove thousands of displaced Syrians towards Jordan; roughly 10,000 civilians fled the Damascus governate on 21 August, with border towns receiving mass waves of hundreds of IDPs. However, the number of Syrians entering Jordan is still lower than in previous months due to fighting on the border.

**Displacement:** In June, fighting along the Jordanian-Syrian border closed main access routes into Jordan, forcing displaced Syrians to use more arduous desert routes to enter the country. According to Syrian opposition groups, heavy clashes and shelling blocked off routes into southwest Syria, forcing opposition forces to restrict cross-border activity to *essential movement* of fighters and medical supplies and continue to suspend mass refugee crossings. Refugees are reportedly waiting two to three days in border regions before crossing into Jordan often delayed further due to increased security measures put in place to deal with the numbers of forged documents.

Syrian activists and rebel officials said 80 displaced people have died from starvation on the border, as heavy shelling prevents refugees from entering Jordan, raising the number of displaced people stranded on the border to 70,000. However, this number is not confirmed and estimates range from 10-100,000. On 15 September, Syrian activists and rebel officials said heavy shelling is preventing some 5,000 civilians from entering Jordan.

**As of 5 November, 544,300 Syrian refugees**, including those awaiting registration, have crossed into Jordan according to UNHCR. This influx has swelled Jordan’s population size by 11%, placing enormous pressure on national resources. Recent reports warn of rising tensions between Jordanians and Syrian refugees, especially in communities hosting large numbers of displaced Syrians.

Around 23% of Syrian refugees live in camps, the rest in local communities. Most refugees are in northern areas near the Syrian border, e.g. Irbid, Mafraq, Ramtha, and Zarqa. Recent statistics from the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization note that urban refugees comprise 75% of the total refugee population: 30% in Amman; 45% in the north; 15% in the middle; and 3% in the southern region.

On 9 October, protesters blocked the Irbid-Amman road, near the Azmi al-Mofi Palestinian refugee camp, and clashed with security forces attempting to secure the area. This is the latest in a series of recent incidents that underscore the persistent threat of unrest in Jordan's outlying areas, including major cities like Irbid. Riots have re-erupted in Jerash, as a tribal altercation between residents of the Al-Hadada neighbourhood and those of the Gaza Palestinian refugee camp evolved into clashes between Palestinians and the Jordanian police force. The riots are said to be led by pro-reform Jordanian youth who are angry about the contracting economy.

Jordan's Za'atari refugee camp is the equivalent of an entirely new city, equivalent to the country's fifth largest with over 130,000 residents. The lack of security in certain parts of Za'atari camp impedes refugees' access to services. Limits of transportation impact accessibility to health services for the most disadvantaged, including persons with disabilities, older mobility-challenged refugees, and pregnant women. Security incidents in Za'atari camp are frequent. On 6 October, refugees clashed with the staff while asking for the registration process to be sped up. Police intervened and restored order.

Jordan's King Abdullah II has asked for support for the swelling number of Syrian refugees, warning on 25 September that his country was overwhelmed. Based on trends from January to March 2013, it is likely that one million Syrians could need support in Jordan by end 2013, with as many as 300,000 hosted in camps and 700,000 with local residents, according to UNHCR. The government said on 26 September that it needs US$850 million in international assistance to meet the needs of this many refugees. Jordan's Minister of Foreign Affairs predicted that Syrian refugees could make up 40% of Jordan's population by mid of 2014 unless the crisis ends.

On 21 October, the Jordanian Labour Minister stated that the country will deport 5,723 illegal Syrian workers in November unless they obtain government permits. According to the Ministry, there are currently 15,000 illegal workers, including 5,723 Syrians.

In August, officials said that Jordan was finalising preparations for its third Syrian refugee camp, with the capacity to receive its first refugee families in September (Mkheizen Al Ghariiba camp in the eastern city of Azraaj). The camp is designed to host up to 500,000 Syrians in its initial phase, according to the UN, with an expandable capacity of up to 130,000. To date the camp remains unopened.

Nearly 9,000 refugees in Jordan left for Syria in June, bringing the number of returnees to over 68,000 in the past two years. Many returnees only spend a short amount of time in Syria and then re-enter Jordan. According to UNHCR as of 7 October, refugee returns from Jordan to Syria average 300 people per day.

**Food Security:** As a result of the refugee influx, Jordan’s economy, water, energy, education, and housing resources remain strained. Commodity prices are higher in Jordan than in Syria, and the purchasing power of refugees to cover basic needs keeps decreasing. Jordan also has high unemployment (around 14%), inflation, and poverty.

Due to increased demand, cereal import requirements in 2013/14 (July/June) are forecast to exhibit a slight increase (about 5%) on the 2012/13 level of 2.19 million tonnes. According to the National Department of Statistics, the monthly rate of food price inflation (year-on-year) reached 4.4% in June 2013, fuelled by increases in vegetable prices. By contrast, bread and cereal prices declined by 1.4% due to Government support schemes.

All humanitarian programming is now required to include interventions to support poor Jordanians as a way of sharing the burden of the government to meet ongoing needs of both refugees and its own vulnerable population. The socio-economic conditions in poor and food-insecure areas are not expected to improve in the short or medium term and could deteriorate with the continuation of the crisis.

In early August, the UN reported that some Syrian refugees are donating to poor Jordanians or selling them extra food received from aid agencies at a discounted price. Northern governorates have been hit particularly hard by the refugee influx and demands on basic service provision. In Mafraq governorate, where locals are heavily affected by prices and irregular water supply, food, blankets, tents, and other items with UNHCR and
other agency logos are publicly for sale.

In Jordan, coping behaviour varies between camp and non-camp refugees. Those in host communities are resorting to more severe coping strategies due to a lack of readily accessible services, including provision of free food. According to WFP, the most recurring consumption-based coping strategy is reliance on less preferred and less expensive food. Many adults also restrict their own consumption to feed small children. UNHCR reports that 23% of community-based refugees exhibit a ‘poor’ or ‘borderline’ Food Consumption Score compared to 18.5% of refugees in camps, highlighting the needs of both refugees and host communities.

To accommodate the spike in water demand, Jordan is drawing on additional water resources, including buying water from private wells. The extra demand on water and sanitation services will cost the Government over $700 million dollars per year, even as Jordanians receive less water per capita.

**Health and Malnutrition:** New cases of water-borne and water-related diseases are appearing in Zaatari camp on a weekly basis, including diarrhoea, scabies, leptospirosis, rotavirus, and hepatitis A. Other communicable diseases related to hygiene conditions have been reported, including acute jaundice syndrome, chicken pox, lice, and measles. While these diseases are often seasonal or endemic in the region, there have been alerts issued for a measles outbreak (six cases in Zaatari camp from 9 November 2012 to 14 June 2013, according to UNHCR) and higher-than-usual levels of jaundice, scabies, and lice.

**Political and Security Context**

As stated by the UN, floods have damaged 14,000 hectares of rice with important loss of livestock also reported. Multiple public buildings and infrastructure, including schools, bridges, irrigation systems, water and sanitation systems were damaged in floods areas.

**Health:** As of 16 September, 50,000 cases of dengue fever have been recorded across all provinces since January 2013. The outbreak is the worst in the country’s history, with cases reported in all 17 provinces according to OCHA. The number of cases this year is four times higher than in 2010 and 11 times higher than in 2012. To date, 92 deaths have been reported this year with around 70% being children <15 years. The case-fatality rate is 0.2%.

The provinces in the far northwest, centre and far south of the country are among the worst affected. The highest concentrations of cases have been recorded in the capital Vientiane (4,617 cases) and the Champasak province (3,306 cases) in the southwest as of August. WHO indicated on 12 September that even though the numbers remained above the epidemic alert level, the weekly trend has been decreasing over the last month. The epidemic was expected to worsen as the rainy season is ongoing and previous epidemics have historically peaked in August and September.

**LEBANON CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST**

**Highlights**

2 November: Clashes between rival factions in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli continued with a wave of sectarian attacks which wounded 19 people. This followed the weeks-long battle between Alawite and Sunni militants which caused the death of 14 people and wounded up to 50 in the areas of Jabal Mohsen and Bab Tabbaneh. Many residents of the two impoverished neighbourhoods, which have suffered frequent rounds of fighting since the outbreak of conflict in Syria in 2011, have fled their homes for other parts of the city.

As of 31 October, UNHCR reported that the number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon stands at 812,200 people.

**International Context:** Widespread involvement of Hezbollah alongside Syrian Government troops in the offensive against the opposition-held stronghold Qusayr has prompted the Free Syrian Army and Jabhat al-Nusra to independently warn that their fighters could start fighting Hezbollah inside Lebanon. On 10 July, the UN Security Council called on Hezbollah to end all involvement in the Syrian conflict. Hezbollah leader Nasrallah denied on 23 September that his group had received chemical weapons from...
Syria after members of the Syrian National Coalition opposition group accused President al-Assad of transferring chemical weapons to the Lebanese Shi'ite group to avoid inspection after agreeing to put them under international control.

The first major clashes between Lebanese Hezbollah militiamen and Syrian opposition fighters inside Lebanese territory were reported in June. In the aftermath, shelling of Lebanese territory, including the eastern town of Hermel, a reported Hezbollah stronghold, from an area in Syria allegedly controlled by opposition forces, resulted in new deaths. Shelling from Syria in the border regions frequently results in casualties. At least 15 Syrian shells hit several towns in the northern district of Akkar, on 14 October.

**National Context:** Insecurity in Lebanon has grown with renewed fighting between different sectarian groups. The Syrian conflict is increasingly spilling into Lebanon, with almost daily shelling and sporadic clashes in the north and eastern border areas. With repeated inter-sectarian strife reported in Tripoli, fears are rising that the Syrian conflict may become a regional one between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims.

On 23 August, 47 people were killed and more than 500 wounded in blasts that exploded outside two mosques in a Sunni neighbourhood of Tripoli. While local officials tried to play down the sectarian nature of the attack, the twin blasts came as a stark reminder of the increasing carryover of the Syrian war into Lebanon along sectarian lines. To date, no group has claimed responsibility. In June, intermittent clashes between supporters of the different Syrian parties, split along different neighbourhoods in Tripoli, were reported.

Attacks on Hezbollah strongholds and Hezbollah related groups in Lebanon have become more frequent. This week, the Lebanese security forces defused a car bomb in the Mamora area, in the southern suburbs of Beirut. Security forces intervened on 15 October to restore calm in Al-Tariq Al-Jadideh after the presence of masked gunmen from Resistance Brigade, a group linked to Hezbollah, sparked tension in the Beirut neighborhood.

On 15 August, a car bomb in Beirut's Ruwais district, another stronghold of the Lebanese Shi'ite armed movement Hezbollah, killed 27 and wounded over 330 people. A previously unknown group, the Battalion of Aisha, said it carried out the attack because of Hezbollah's involvement in the Syrian war. On the same day, the Syrian opposition National Coalition warned against the emergence of a cycle of violence in Lebanon if Hezbollah continued to send fighters to help the Damascus regime.

On 9 July, the Lebanese Parliamentary Speaker announced that the March 8th coalition, a major bloc in the Lebanese political system, collapsed after a frail alliance between two of its major parties, the Amal Movement and the Free Patriotic Movement, ended. The expiration of the March 8th alliance is expected to give a major boost to efforts to form a new Cabinet which has been delayed several times.

On 31 May, the Lebanese Parliament unanimously voted to extend its mandate by 17 months after failing to adopt a new electoral law at a time of deep internal divisions over the war in Syria. Elections that were originally planned for June were postponed. On 1 June, President Sleiman lodged an appeal with the Constitutional Council to challenge the Parliament's decision to extend its mandate and delay elections.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

Both host and refugee populations are impacted by increasing pressure on the health and education systems, housing, employment opportunities, and food prices. Tensions are rising between host communities and refugees over strained resources, particularly with regard to overwhelmed health facilities and employment. Many Lebanese families see their livelihoods eroding as wages decrease and rent prices soar, with hard-pressed Syrian refugees working for less money and sharing single-family homes with multiple families to save on rent. Real economic growth was 7% in 2010, fell to 1.8% in 2013 and is expected to be at 2.1% in 2014. In June 2013, general inflation reached almost 9% year-on-year (compared to 2% in June 2012). Food inflation eased from 5.7% in June 2012 to 3% in June 2013. Unemployment rates are expected to double to 29% in 2014.

**Displacement:** As of 31 October, UNHCR reported that the number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon stands at 812,200 people, including 87,000 awaiting registration. According to UNHCR, an additional 100,000 persons are unwilling to register.

Refugees now represent over 18% of the country’s population and continue to cross into Lebanon daily. With no formal camps, refugees are spread across 1,500 locations of which 400 are informal settlements. Vulnerable Syrian families are settling in communal areas in Beirut (highway underpasses, green spaces between major roads, etc.); 69% of refugees stay in rented accommodation including unused shops, worksites and tents in makeshift settlements, half-finished buildings, and cramped apartment blocks, often in unhygienic conditions and with little access to food, water, and medical care.

An increasing number of evictions in some areas of Lebanon has been observed during in October, due to rising tension between Syrian refugees and host communities. This is particularly noted in informal settlements. It is now extremely challenging for these refugees to find alternative accommodation, especially as winter approaches.

According to the Lebanese General Security Authority, there are currently two million Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Lebanon’s population has grown by 25% in under two years, while health, education, water and sanitation systems have all exceeded their capacities. According to media sources, the Lebanese government is implementing strict entry controls on Syrians attempting to enter the country at all border crossings. Only Syrians with valid identification cards or passports can enter. The measures reportedly aim at preventing extremist and anti-Lebanese groups from entering the country. While the majority of Syrian continues to be granted access to Lebanon according to UNHCR, there is a reported increase of arrest and detention of Syrians for illegal entry and stay.
On 23 July, Lebanese Social Affairs Minister first stated that special teams would start shutting down unlicensed Syrian-run businesses.

Access: Security in Tripoli and in northern and eastern border villages remains volatile with rocket and shelling hitting a number of towns, impeding humanitarian access, and restricting activities, and the availability of services.

The lack of funding continues to hamper humanitarian response in Lebanon. On 7 June, a Revised Regional Response plan was launched, requesting $1.2 billion for humanitarian operations in Lebanon. The Lebanese Government has requested an additional $500 million to provide aid to Syrian refugees and host communities.

According to the UN, the highly fragile situation in Lebanon, with intensified hostility in the north, South and Bekaa, is affecting programme delivery and staff movement. Access to unregistered Syrians detained in Lebanon remains challenging.

Food Security: According to a World Bank assessment, the continuing refugee inflow will increase national vulnerability. Should refugee inflows continue, more than 170,000 additional Lebanese could fall into poverty by 2014, due to competition with refugees for unskilled labour. Currently, one million Lebanese live in poverty. The study estimates that the unemployment rate in Lebanon could double, exceeding 20% and affecting 320,000 people. An estimated US$1.6 billion will be needed to restore quality and access to health, education, and social safety nets to pre-crisis levels. According to the Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees conducted in May 2013, 70% of Syrian refugee households cannot meet basic food and non-food needs. The number of people requiring food assistance continues to increase, putting stress on existing resources.

Health and Malnutrition: UNHCR reported in July that access to health care is challenging for Syrian refugees living in remote locations. Outstretched available resources, short working hours, and non-availability of trained health personnel limit the appropriate provision of care for the displaced who suffer from trauma, substandard living conditions, and depletion of savings and assets. Common needs include reproductive health care, family planning, child health care, treatment for acute illnesses, chronic disease, and mental health.

According to UNHCR, the current supply of medicines for acute and chronic diseases is insufficient to cover the rising demand. Prevention of disease control and outbreaks in view of already crowded living conditions, poor water and sanitation, presents a challenge.

Updated: 05/11/2013

PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON

Highlights

5-8 November: The Tropical Depression Thity, locally known as Wilma, is forecast to strike the western coast of Palawan province on 5 November. On 8 November, the tropical storm Haiyan is forecast to strike the central eastern part of the country.

3 November: Typhoon Krosa, locally known as Vinta, hit Cagayan province in northern Luzon on 31 October. To date, local authorities have reported three dead, one injured and two missing, and more than 220,000 people affected, of which almost 66,000 were displaced.

3 November: To date, the death toll from the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit on 15 October stands at 222 people with eight still missing, and 976 injured. Over 3.2 million people across six provinces of Central and Western Visayas regions were affected and more than 348,500 people have been displaced by the disaster.

Political and Security Context

Political Context: Village elections held in the Philippines on Monday 28 October went off relatively peacefully, but according to officials, violence in certain rural areas resulted in two killings, shootouts, and burning of a voting centre. According to a police official, the police and troops were on high alert for the elections as a result of 22 people killed and 27 injured in pre-election violence in the month before the election.

Situation in Mindanao: OCHA reported on 7 October that fighting between a faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) around Zamboanga City in Mindanao ended. It is unclear if rebels are still hiding in areas where clearing operations for unexploded ordinance (UXOs) continue. As of 22 October, UNHCR reported an estimated 202 casualties and 324 people injured in Zamboanga City.

On 27 September, according to authorities, the AFP captured an additional several dozen rebels, with about 300 captured overall to date, and reportedly rescued the last civilian hostages held by the Muslim insurgents. Although numbers are difficult to ascertain, an estimated 200 people, including 166 rebels, were killed and almost 140,000 displaced during the three weeks of fighting in Mindanao according to local reports. On 9 September, fighting had broken out in coastal villages at the outskirts of Zamboanga City, in the west of Mindanao Island, between a splinter group of the MNLF and AFP. Heavy fighting has left entire neighbourhoods razed to the ground. As reported by Human Rights Watch, Philippines security forces and Muslim rebels have committed serious abuses during fighting in Zamboanga.

On 23 September, Muslim rebels of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) clashed with the AFP and took hostages in a fresh outbreak of violence in the central part of southern Mindanao Island. During the clashes, at least four fighters on each side were killed as the rebels reportedly took 15 hostages who were later released. According to authorities, BIFF fighters retreated as the AFP received reinforcements. The attack came as the confrontation between the AFP and another Muslim insurgent group elsewhere in Mindanao entered its third week. The BIFF claimed that the incidents were not related.

The latest attacks in Mindanao are seen as an attempt to sabotage talks to end decades of conflict between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) – the biggest insurgent groups in the area – and the government. The MILF officially signed an historic peace deal with authorities in October 2012 and has been conducting final negotiations with the Government over the past year. It is expected to take over an expanded autonomous Muslim region in the south by 2016. Talks resumed in August amid deadly attacks by the
Mindanao has been plagued by a decade-old rebellion by Muslim fighters that has left thousands dead. The original MNLF fought a 25-year guerrilla war for independence, until the signature of a peace treaty in 1996 granted it limited self-rule in the southern Muslim area.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Displacement:** OCHA reports that torrential rains caused by the southwest monsoon and the effects of Typhoon Danas, locally known as Ramil, from 4-8 October caused flooding and landslides across the Zamboanga peninsula including Zamboanga city and the municipalities of Siocon and Sirawa in Zamboanga del Norte province and Tungawan municipality in Zamboanga Sibugay province. This has resulted in additional displacement in an area where, according to IOM, almost 140,000 people had already been displaced by fighting in September. As of 22 October, UNHCR reported that 105,700 people are displaced in Zamboanga city (79,214 displaced by conflict and 26,486 by flooding), and 9,693 people are displaced in Basilan province (8,450 from flooding and 1,243 from conflict).

As of 22 October, according to OCHA an estimated 131,748 people were affected in Zamboanga city and 18,226 people affected Basilan province. As reported by ICRC in mid-October, some of the 41,000 people living in 29 evacuation centres will have to stay there for the next two months, as shelving or flooding has damaged their houses.

**Disasters:** On 15 October, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit southern Philippines, southeast of Manila near the town of Carmen in Bohol province. The initial quake struck at an estimated depth of 35 km around Bohol Island, to the north of Mindanao Island, and aftershocks were recorded. As of 3 November, authorities have reported 222 people dead, eight missing, 976 injured, and more than 3,220,000 people affected across six provinces of Central and Western Visayas regions. An estimated 348,500 people have been displaced by the disaster, of whom just under 80,000 people are in 392 evacuation centres across affected areas. The typhoon destroyed/damaged 73,002 houses, 41 bridges, and 18 roads and caused power cuts.

Typhoon Krosa, locally known as Vinta, hit Cagayan province in northern Luzon on 31 October and moved away from the Philippines on 1 November. As of 3 November, the authorities have reported three people dead, one injured, and two missing. More than 220,440 people were affected and of these, 65,946 people were displaced. 28,220 houses have been reported damaged by the typhoon.

Tropical Depression Thirty, locally known as Wilma, formed over the Philippines Sea on 3 November and started moving towards Mindanao. It is forecast to strike on the west coast of the country in the Province of Palawan on 5 November.

Tropical storm Haiyan is forecast to strike the central eastern part of the Philippines, close to the province of Eastern Samar, as a typhoon on 8 November.

In September and October several tropical storms struck the Philippines. Typhoon Nari (category 2) locally known as Santi, struck central Philippines, north of Manila, bringing further rains. As of 16 October, an estimated 871,000 people had been affected mainly in Central Luzon and Ilocos Regions. The typhoon destroyed/damaged over 53,000 houses, as well as roads, bridges, and crops according to authorities. Power supply was cut sporadically across all affected areas. The typhoon left the archipelago on 13 October.

In late September, monsoon rains worsened by Typhoon Usagi, locally known as Odette, have pounded the country. The most severely affected area was the town of Subic, 80 kms northwest of Manila. Some affected areas experienced further heavy rains as tropical depression “Paolo” hit the area on 27 September. As of 27 September, OCHA reported that Typhoon Usagi and the monsoon rains have displaced over 100,000 people and left 30 dead since 23 September. Nearly 600,000 people across six provinces, Bataan, Zambales, Rizal, Batangas, Cavite, and Occidental Mindoro, have been affected by heavy rains, and over 123,000 remain displaced as of 27 September, in an area that has been hit by several severe disasters over the past weeks.

**Access:** On 31 October, humanitarian organizations have reported that assistance to the areas affected by the Bohol earthquake remained hampered as a result of damages to roads and bridges.

**Health:** According to OCHA, congestion in the evacuation centres hosting IDPs in Zamboanga remains a significant problem. The WASH cluster reported that 53% of water samples collected from storage tanks and jerry cans in evacuation centres tested positive for bacteria (coliiform).

As noted by local health authorities, an epidemic caused by water contaminated with rat urine has hit a flood-ravaged region in the north of the country. To date, six people were killed by the ongoing epidemic, and 132 people have been affected by leptospirosis in and around the northern city of Olongapo.

According to the Department of Health, 1,528 dengue cases were reported in the first quarter of 2013 in Soccsksargen region, of whom 669 (41% of cases) are children <10. In Korondal City, South Cotabato province, the municipal government declared a state of calamity on 27 June after a dengue outbreak was declared in the town. According to authorities, 239 dengue cases have been recorded as of 8 June, more than the 159 cases recorded in 2012. Dengue has also surged in central Philippines, particularly in the province of Iloilo, south of Manila, where the number of people affected is already 71% higher than the number recorded for the same period in 2012.

**Updated:** 05/11/2013

**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY**
No new development this week. Last update was on: 23/09/2013.

No current data on child mortality, food security, food price levels, and the general magnitude of humanitarian needs is available. Therefore, DPRK is not included in the Global Overview prioritisation.

**Political and Security Context**

**Political Context:** On 17 September, UN human rights investigators released a report that documented human rights abuses of inmates in North Korea’s prison camps suffering from starvation, torture, and other unspeakable atrocities. The inquiry, based on testimonies from North Korean exiles, came after pressure from Japan, South Korea, and Western powers to investigate and begin building a case for possible criminal prosecution. The report was rejected by Pyongyang and may strain relations between the North Korean regime and the international community that have only lately begun to improve.

On 5 September, North Korea agreed to restore a cross-border military hotline with South Korea, in a sign of easing tensions between the rival states. The line had been shut down in early spring.

On 14 August, North and South Korea agreed to reopen the joint industrial park in Kaesong after a series of talks concerning this rare bilateral economic cooperation. The two countries announced on 10 September that the facilities would be reopened. In April, Pyongyang pulled its 53,000 workers out of the park at the height of tensions with Seoul and Washington over its nuclear programme. On 7 August, Pyongyang announced that it was ready to reopen the joint industrial zone. The statement came only an hour after Seoul, exasperated by the North’s lack of responsiveness, signalled its willingness to let the facility close definitively. Prior to closing, Kaesong was a rare source of hard currency for North Korea.

The reopening of Kaesong appears to be a step toward improving Pyongyang’s relations with the West. After the souring of the relations between Pyongyang and the West in early spring, relations with Seoul improved after an unexpected reversal on 6 June from Pyongyang, which proposed opening a dialogue. On 9 June, North and South Korean officials held their first talks in years in a positive end to months of military tension.

On 27 June during a meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his South Korean counterpart Park Geun-hye in Beijing, Chinese authorities agreed to push for new talks between the two Koreas and appeared to favour a denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Disaster:** In mid-July, heavy seasonal rain resulted in flooding in many parts of DPRK. Particularly affected are the provinces of North and South Pyongan. According to the Red Cross, Anju City, in South Pyongan province, was 80% flooded after the Chongchon River caused embankments to break on the morning of 21 July.

Noted by OCHA on 23 August, floods in DPRK have affected 800,000 people and left almost 49,000 homeless. Farmland has been inundated with at least 10,000 hectares affected, and 1,000 hectares of crops destroyed. Damage to agricultural land is extensive with up to 40% of the land in Pakchon county, including 80% of paddy, affected. An assessment conducted by the Health Cluster on 6 August documented damage to roads, bridges, houses, and public buildings, limiting the access of affected persons to basic health care and services. An increase in the number of diarrheal diseases was reported due to extensive damage to the water system. An estimated 678,000 people need basic health care, essential drugs, and hospital supplies for life-saving interventions.

On 9 August, authorities reported that the floods affected 73 counties and caused severe damage in 22 counties. Over 11,000 buildings were reportedly damaged. The number of affected was given at 788,000 people, including 56,000 children <5 and 14,800 pregnant women. In early August, authorities estimated the death toll at 33 dead with 18 people still missing. An estimated 59,000 people were displaced. According to WFP, IDPs are suffering from a lack of access to safe drinking water. This comes after flooding and a subsequent typhoon in July and August 2012, which affected roughly 700,000 people, damaging health facilities and reducing access to primary and secondary health care.

**Access:** Humanitarian access to the country is limited. In early June, WFP approved a new two-year operation for DPRK starting on 1 July and targeting 2.4 million people, almost all children and pregnant and nursing women, with about 207,000 MT of food assistance.

**Food Security:** Little up-to-date information is available on the food security situation in DPRK. According to an August OCHA report, an estimated 16 million people, of a total population of 24.6 million, are chronically food insecure and an estimated 2.4 million people need food assistance. OCHA further reports that although the humanitarian situation has improved slightly over 2013, the structural causes of vulnerability persist and external assistance is needed, notably targeting the most affected northeastern provinces.

Despite the UN reporting that the main 2012 harvest and 2013 early season crops will see a 10% increase compared to a year earlier, which allegedly should result in the smallest cereal deficit since at least the early 2000s, the food security situation remains grim. According to OCHA, the lack of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertiliser and plastic sheets) remains the main challenge for food production.

**Health and Nutrition:** Despite a slight improvement, malnutrition rates continue to be alarming. According to the 2012 National Nutrition Survey quoted in OCHA’s August 2013 report, the chronic malnutrition (stunting) rate among children <5 is 27.9%, while 4% remain acutely malnourished (wasting). Chronic under-nutrition is a public health problem and a major underlying cause of maternal and child mortality.

Reviewed: 05/11/2013
NORTH AMERICA

HAITI FLOODS, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update: 29/10/2013.

Political and Security Context

Riot police in Haiti broke up an anti-government demonstration attended by thousands of people to mark the anniversary of the 1991 ousting of the former President Aristide on 1 October. A small group of protesters responded by setting ablaze barricades that blocked a major thoroughfare through the heart of downtown Port-au-Prince. Haiti was to have held legislative and local elections in 2011, but infighting among various government branches has delayed the vote. The current head of state, Martelly, has said that elections will be held this year, however, this seems unlikely to happen before end 2013.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: As of 22 October, nearly 3½ years after the earthquake, an estimated 172,000 people remained displaced in Haiti, according to IOM, 107,000 fewer than reported in early July. This is the highest decrease in the IDP population since April 2012. Between July and September, 46 IDP sites have closed. In June, the Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster anticipated the number of IDPs to further reduce to 211,000 by December 2013; this has now been exceeded.

Currently, 306 IDP sites and camp-like settlements host the remaining IDPs. Of the 306 sites, 72 (24%) are reportedly on public land, while 75% (229) are on private property. The status of the remaining four sites could not be determined by IOM. The situation in the sites on private land is problematic with 75,000 IDPs possibly facing illegal forced eviction by land owners in the coming months. Camp-settlements are vulnerable to floods and landslides, putting the IDP population at risk in the upcoming hurricane season.

In addition, 300,000 people could be affected by the ruling of the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic that children of undocumented migrants, even if born in the Dominican Republic and registered as Dominicans, are not eligible for Dominican citizenship. If this sentence is applied, it means up to 300,000 people of Haitian origin could become effectively stateless. Without documents, they would be unable to access health and education services, get married, or own property.

Disaster: Haiti remains highly fragile and highly exposed to external shocks. The resilience of the population and its capacity to cope with new crises is extremely low.

Reports indicate that 119 of Haiti’s 140 municipalities have been severely affected by drought, the tropical storm Isaac and/or hurricane Sandy in 2012, displacing at least 58,000 people.

In early May, FEWSNET reported that seasonal rainfall in the Nippes, Sud, and Grand’Anse departments was less than 50% below average. Seasonal rainfall in the Ouest and Sud-Est departments has also been below-average. The largest seasonal deficits occurred across the southwestern peninsula in the Nippes, Sud, and Grand’Anse departments. An increase in rain during the first week of August helped relieve the dryness over parts of Haiti. However, moderate seasonal precipitation deficits remain in many areas in the northwest and the south. Continued below average rainfall could further increase moisture deficits and negatively impact crops.

Torrential rains caused by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 led to massive flooding, affecting 1.5 million people. Ouest, Sud-Est, Nippes, Grand’Anse, and Sud were the most severely affected departments. As of early April 2013, 72,000 people affected by Hurricane Sandy still needed humanitarian assistance, according to OCHA. Forecasts by the Directorate for Civil Protection anticipate that 600,000 people could be affected and 200,000 displaced by adverse weather conditions this year.

Food Security: According to a report by the National Coordination for Food Security as of 16 October, three million Haitians are food insecure. This figure is 44% lower than OCHA’s early October estimate. According to the report, the number of severely food insecure people has also declined in 2013, from 1.5 million to 600,000 people.

In early October, OCHA reported that 1.5 million people across Haiti were still severely food insecure and faced a nutritional crisis; another 5.2 million people face moderate food insecurity. These 6.7 million people struggle to meet their own food needs on a regular basis according to WFP; 44 of 140 municipalities are affected, with over half the population facing high food insecurity. An estimated 800,000 people suffering from severe food insecurity had reportedly not received any emergency assistance and have begun implementing negative coping mechanisms.

The June IPC round in Haiti indicated that most departments faced stressed food security conditions (IPC phase 2). Some households in these areas, such as the agro-pastoral areas of North, Artibonite and Central Highlands, were in crisis food security conditions (IPC phase 3). The poor and very poor in municipalities in the Sud-Est, Ouest, and Nord-Est departments face crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) and have switched to irreversible coping strategies. Poor seed availability due to increasing prices, which are 20-30% higher than the 5-year average, is threatening this year’s crop yields.

The 2013 harvest of the main cereal season was completed in September. Despite below average precipitation during the sowing period, the absence of tropical storms and flooding has resulted in good maize yields. Preliminary official estimates point to an increase of 30% in production from 2012’s sharply reduced levels. Planting of the secondary season has begun under favourable weather conditions. With the arrival of the new harvest into the
markets, prices of local maize meal, an important staple, have declined. In remote areas, such as Jeremie and Hinche, prices were higher than in September 2012 due to access difficulties. Prices of imported rice, the main staple in the country, remained stable in most markets in September.

Health and Malnutrition: In July, rains triggered localised cholera outbreaks in several departments, especially in Artibonite, Nord-est, and Centre; 992 new cholera cases and six deaths were reported in the week of 13-19 July alone. Nationally, the number of new cases in September was 5,641 compared to 5,136 in July. New cholera cases surged from 3,357 in May. From 19-26 October, WHO reported 1,512 new cases and 31 deaths in one week. All ten departments of Haiti have registered new cases. According to OCHA on 11 October, the number of reported cases since the beginning of 2013 is 41,701 and the number of deaths 360. Artibonite is the most affected and most vulnerable department, with just seven partners involved in the cholera-response.

Since the beginning of the epidemic in October 2010 until 10 October 2013, the total number of cholera cases reached 682,573, of whom 379,870 were hospitalised (56%) and 8,330 people died. Some 60,000 new cholera cases are expected before end 2013, with the caseload already at over 40,000 people affected. Funding for the cholera response is covered by the least funded component in the Humanitarian Action Plan, only 23% of funding requirements for the health sector were met as of October. Contamination of rivers, unhygienic conditions, and inadequate sanitation are the principal causes for the spread of cholera. Some 42% of the population does not have access to clean water.

Human rights lawyers reported that they plan to seek compensation for Haitian victims of a cholera epidemic they blame on UN peacekeepers. The decision to file suit in New York comes after the UN said earlier this year that it would not pay hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation claimed by cholera victims in impoverished Haiti.

An estimated 73,000 children <5 suffer from acute malnutrition, down from 82,000 as previously reported, including 18,000 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Rural children are especially affected.

Reviewed: 05/11/2013

Highlights
No dew development this week. Last update: 29/10/2013.

Political and Security Context

More than 60 people were injured and 29 killed in fighting on 23 August between inmates at the maximum security area of Palmasola jail in the city of Santa Cruz. Overcrowding is a major challenge for Bolivia’s prison system. Already running at almost double capacity, 2011 saw a 20% rise in the number of inmates, presenting a fertile breeding ground for criminal gangs. Budget constraints and overcrowding also affect the way prisons are run in the country; with funding for guards tight, the insides of Bolivian prison facilities are often effectively run by the inmates themselves.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Several cumulative disasters have affected Bolivia since the beginning of the rainy season, having a severe impact on livelihoods and food security.

Disaster: On 15 October, a chain of several earthquakes in the eastern region of Bolivia affected up to 2,000 people (440 families), but no casualties were reported. According to the Observatory of San Calixto based in La Paz, the largest material damages occurred in three Guarani communities (namely Cotoca, Las Cutas and Yateirenda) of the municipality of Cabezas, in the province of Cordillera, belonging to the department of Santa Cruz. The main quake, measuring a magnitude of 5M, was registered just after 16h local time and had its epicentre 21.1 kilometres deep, located 78 kilometres Southwest of the city of Santa Cruz. Some 32 aftershocks were recorded in the following days. The eastern regions of the country are particularly vulnerable since they are regularly affected by drought, floods and earthquakes.

On 19 June, the Government issued a National Emergency Decree due to drought in the Departments of Tarija, Chuquisaca, El Chaco, Santa Cruz, and southern Cochabamba. As of 15 October, an estimated 340,000 people are affected by drought and an estimated 87,000 hectares of crops have sustained damage.

The department of Tarija is the worst hit with around 44,400 hectares of crops estimated to have been lost. Santa Cruz recorded the highest number of affected cattle with approximately 29,400 dead. In Cochabamba, 24,805 hectares in 594 communities reported damage during the first half of 2013. The most serious damage was caused by flooding (51%), drought (33%), and other lower-impact weather events.

On 25 October, the Bolivian Civil Defense reported that it had begun the distribution of 300 tons of food to 120,000 families in 15 municipalities affected by drought in the department of Cochabamba. Water tanks, pipes and other material support will also be delivered.

On 28 August, the Government reported that heavy snowfall and frost have affected the six departments of Cochabamba, Potosi, Oruro, La Paz, Santa Cruz and Chuquisaca. Authorities reported that around 53,500 people have been affected. Some 1,270 hectares of crops were damaged and 2,830 heads of cattle killed. Livestock is the only livelihood for
most affected families in these areas.

In March, several southern departments were severely affected by damaging levels of torrential rain and floods, especially in Chuquisaca, Potosi, Tarija and Cochabamba. Overall, the floods impacted 145,000 people in nearly 25% of Bolivia’s municipalities. In Cochabamba alone, 40,000 people were affected between 18-25 March.

**Food Security:** FAO reported that the 2013 aggregate cereal production is forecast to decrease by 11% compared to the previous year. The recently harvested 2012-13 main season maize crop was severely affected by drought during the vegetative period.

Results of a multi-sectoral assessment from August 2013 confirmed a deterioration of the food and nutrition security situation of the affected households. Many families have significantly reduced the frequency and quantity of food consumed. Many workers have migrated from their communities in search of casual labor. The affected households are not expected to recover until the next harvest in April/May 2014.

WFP noted at the end of July that the impact of price changes of staple foods on the cost of the basic food basket from April to June severe. The seasonally adjusted price increases for rice and maize both stood at 43%. After declining in the previous months, the price of wheat flour, which is mostly imported, rose sharply in the first half of June, increasing by 19% and 36% in the major cities of La Paz and Santa Cruz respectively, and remaining significantly higher than a year ago.

According to the Ministry of Rural Lands and Development, at least 15,000 hectares of crops were damaged by the torrential March rains in the south of the country, but the Ministry has discounted the possibility of food security risks. However, according to WFP, at least 25,000 people needed food assistance in March. Subsistence farmers who normally cultivate crops at the riversides were the most affected. The floods hit at the end of the lean season, as farmers were about to harvest their crops and food reserves were at the lowest. Families that traditionally store their harvested potatoes and onions in the fields also lost reserves.

**COLOMBIA INTERNAL UNREST, DISPLACEMENT**

**Highlights**

No new development this week. Last update: 29/10/2013.

**Political and Security Context**

As of late September, social unrest continued with many protesters congregated in several areas across the country, including Meta in central Colombia and Cesar on the Caribbean coast. In Córdoba in the north-west, a new indigenous movement launched a protest against mining operations on their native territories. In Antioquia, protesters denounced the installation of new military bases in their towns. In all of these areas, with the exception of Boyacá, which was the scene of major protests by farmers during August, conflict has had persistent humanitarian impacts over several years. These protests have not led to blockades and confinements as in past months, and the humanitarian community has created a strategy to ensure it can reach people in need during large protests.

On 13 September, OCHA reported that major protests were held throughout the month of August in 20 of Colombia’s 32 departments, with the population demanding improved social conditions in the country. Due to severe restrictions on mobility, several major cities were cut off, causing the rapid depletion of food stockpiles. Along with critical humanitarian access restricted in the southwest, central Colombia and the south, severe impact was recorded on basic services. Approximately 443,000 people were affected, and 15 municipalities in central Colombia were among the most affected due to confinement. As of 30 August, negotiations with the protesters ended the strikes in that area, but civil unrest is on-going in other regions.

On 13 October, a 15th round of peace negotiations between the Government and FARC ended with the parties trading accusation over responsibility for the slow pace of the talks and for the first time failing to issue a joint statement on their progress.

End of August, the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—People’s Army, the country’s largest guerrilla group) resumed peace talks with the Government, following a brief interruption in reaction to a proposal that any agreement be put to a national referendum. National dialogue was initiated in August 2012 to seek an end to the conflict, but the Government called off the ceasefire several times, alleging violations of the truce by the FARC. In May, the two parties reached an agreement on one of the most contentious issues: land reform and compensation. Early July, the FARC announced they would be working with the ELN (National Liberation Army, the second largest guerrilla group in Colombia) to find a political solution to the social and armed conflict. End of August, President Santos announced that the Government was ready to begin peace talks with the ELN.

The Colombian government wants a peace accord by November- the start of a national electoral cycle with a presidential vote in May 2014, a deadline both parties and observers now say is unlikely to be met.

Colombia has said it is ready to integrate up to 40,000 of demobilised rebels into society, as peace talks between FARC rebels and government negotiators entered their 15th round. Nevertheless, fighting has continued despite the resumption of peace talks on 3 October. On 5 October, two people were killed in an attack by FARC guerilla forces in Solano, Caquetá department.

In addition, on 7 October, Colombia’s second most important oil pipeline, the Cano Limon-Covenas, has been temporarily shut down after having been damaged by three bomb attacks. No group has claimed responsibility so far. A separate attack last week blamed on the FARC forced the temporary closure of the 190-mile (306 km) Transandino pipeline in southern Colombia.

In May, Colombia witnessed a 28% increase in armed actions, as compared to April, particularly in urban centres, including Cali, Medellin, Bucaramanga and Cartagena. Organised crime and urban violence are huge challenges to security and access to basic services in Colombia.
Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: OCHA reported on 31 August that the protests affected 443,000 people, including 241,000, which suffer severe humanitarian impact. Natural disasters account for around 38,000 people affected in September, the vast majority due to flooding and wind storms along the Caribbean and Pacific coasts.

The official meteorological institute, Instituto de Hidrología, Meteorología y Estudios Ambientales, reported that Colombia’s second rainy season began on 15 September. It typically lasts through mid-December, and forecasts indicate a likelihood of increased rainfall in central Colombia and along the Pacific and Caribbean coasts. The highest precipitation is likely to occur in October and November, with wind storms also predicted.

As of 10 September, OCHA reported that at least 78,530 people were affected by floods in 12 municipalities of the department of Putumayo. Hundreds of homes and 30,000 ha of crops were destroyed, and estimates of at least 1,000 people have not received assistance due to the limitation of movement as a result of the strikes. Authorities warned about the beginning of the second rainy season in the Andean and Pacific regions, which will run until early December.

The first rainy season of between mid-March and mid-June 2013 affected 140,000 people in one third of all municipalities in the country. The most affected zones were on the Pacific Coast in Chocó department with 64,215 people affected, followed by Cauca and Antioquia departments.

Displacement: Beginning of August, the Victim’s Registry reported that between 1985 and 2013, 5,800,000 people were registered as internally displaced because of long-term conflict, with an estimated 127,714 IDPs in 2012 alone. Nearly 20,000 IDPs have been displaced in 82 mass events so far in 2013, 820 of them in September.

On 25 September, two mass displacement events were reported from the border with Venezuela, Norte de Santander, with at least 800 people displaced in the municipalities of Cucuta and Sardinata. The population is in need of shelter, potable water and food. The food stocks were estimated to last until 28 September.

Access: Limited humanitarian access in Colombia is a major constraint of both humanitarian assistance provided to affected populations as well as access of population to aid and assistance.

A total of 33,636 people were reported as being confined in May, bringing the new total for 2013 to 71,659 people as reported by OCHA Colombia is suffering from chronic displacement. This makes it the worst month for confinement since monitoring began in January. The most significant event was a major restriction on the mobility of civilians by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—People’s Army (FARC-EP) in north-west Colombia around the municipality of Briceño in Antioquia. towns in the region.

Attacks on medical missions are one of the most worrying humanitarian problems and one of the least reported, as well as the serious consequences for people who depend on medical services. Concerns arise about the increase observed in 2013, largely due to incidents in the context of protests in July and August. In addition there are serious constraints imposed by non-state armed groups in the form of APM/UXOs. Thus far in 2013, 305 victims were recorded of them 132 were civilians.

PARAGUAY DROUGHT

Highlights

30 October: According to the IFRC, more than 50,000 people living in the Paraguayan Chaco, stretching over northern and western Paraguay, are currently facing one of the most severe droughts in years. The population’s access to safe water is scarce, and the critical level the drought has reached is endangering the livelihoods of these communities, who are mostly dependent on subsistence agriculture as well as labour related to livestock and soy, sorghum and cotton farming.

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The government of Paraguay declared a state of emergency on September 16 for 90 days. The National Secretariat of Emergency (SEN) reports that some 15,200 families (76,000 people) are affected in the departments of Presidente Hayes, Boquerón and Alto Paraguay. The worst affected districts in President Hayes are Lieutenant Irala Fernández, Puerto Pinasco and Villa Hayes. In Boqueron, the worst affected districts are Mariscal Estigarribia, Philadelphia and Loma Plata, and in the department of Alto Paraguay, almost all districts are severely affected.

Authorities have reported that the crisis is acute but rainfall are expected to be received soon. Food stocks have rapidly decreased and many labourers and workers have lost their livelihoods due to the drought. In addition, significant loss of pasture has resulted in mortality of cattle, which has been observed to be up to 25-30% in some communes.

As of late October, authorities have been distributing water and non-perishable food to the affected areas in response of the drought that affects rural and indigenous communities. The affected population faced floods in the same zone last year.

On 21-22 September, a local severe hailstorm hit parts of Paraguay. According to the SEN, several departments of the country were affected by the storm, among which the worst affected are Central, Cordillera, Caaguazú and San Pedro. In total, an estimated 70,000 across the country were affected as of late September.

According to the SEN, 99 schools were damaged in the violent storm, leading to disruption...
of activities. The departments hardest hit by the storms were reported to suffer large crop losses according official reports. Despite favourable weather conditions during most of the cropping season, severe frost at the end of July and during August in the main producing areas of Alto Parana, Itapua and Caaguazu caused severe damage to the crop. Preliminary official estimates anticipate a reduction of the harvest between 30 and 40% and this year’s output could decline up to 840,000 tonnes, well below the early production forecast of 1.4 million tonnes. Moreover, it is anticipated that the quality of this year’s wheat will also be negatively affected.

**Health and Nutrition:** On 26 October, the Paraguayan Ministry of Health reported 400 cases of dengue per week in the sole metropolitan area of the capital Asunción. The cities of San Lorenzo and Capiata are among the most infected with approximately 150 new cases per week. The dengue outbreak has killed 362 people and infected more than 133,000 in the country so far in 2013.

*Updated: 05/11/2013*
Introduction to the Global Emergency Overview Update

The Global Emergency Overview is a weekly update that provides a snapshot of current humanitarian priorities and recent events. The Global Emergency Overview collates information from a wide range of sources, including Reliefweb and media sources, and displays this information in a manner that allows for quick comparison of different humanitarian crises. The primary objective of the Global Emergency Overview is to rapidly inform humanitarian decision makers by presenting a summary of major humanitarian crises, both recent and protracted. It is designed to provide answers to four questions:

1. Which humanitarian crises currently exist? (World map)
2. What has happened in the last seven days? (Highlights and Snapshot)
3. What is the situation in the country affected by a crisis? (Highlights Box and Narrative)
4. Which countries could be prioritised in terms of humanitarian response? (Prioritisation)

The Global Emergency Overview consists of three main sections:

First, the world map provides an overview of how the countries are prioritised, indicated by different shades of blue. The countries are subdivided by four priority levels: “on watch”, “situation of concern”, “humanitarian crisis”, and “severe humanitarian crisis”.

The priority levels are assigned on the basis of:
- the number of people affected by recent disasters
- the level of access to the affected population
- the <5 mortality rate
- the level of development of the country
- the number of protracted IDPs and refugees.

If a country experienced a disaster in the seven days prior to an update or witnessed an escalation of an on-going crisis, a country is highlighted by a yellow dot on the map.

Second, the snapshot briefly describes what has happened in the last seven days from the date of publication, by outlining the crises that have occurred in the different highlighted countries.

Third, narratives for each country included in the Global Emergency Overview reflect major developments and underlying vulnerabilities of a country over the last months. Narratives are written based on secondary data. For each country, a specific highlights box is also added to put emphasis on the major developments that happened over the past 10 days.

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.

Update

The Global Emergency Overview will be updated once a week and the results will be available every Monday before midday (Central European Time/Central European Summer Time). In case of major new humanitarian events or an escalation of an on-going crisis which triggers a change of prioritisation, the Global Overview will be updated on an ad-hoc basis.

Disclaimer

While ACAPS has defined a methodology striving to ensure accuracy, the information provided is indicative and should not be used in isolation from alternate sources of information for any decision making. ACAPS is not responsible for any damage or loss resulting from the use of the information presented on this website.

More information on the Global Emergency Overview Methodology can be found in the Global Overview Methodology Brief and the Frequently Asked Questions.