GLOBAL EMERGENCY OVERVIEW
December 2015

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

Humanitarian crisis
- Burundi  Kenya
- Cameroon  Lebanon
- Chad  Malawi
- Colombia  Mali
- DPRK  Niger
- Djibouti  oPt
- Ethiopia  Pakistan
- Haiti  Ukraine

Situation of concern
- Côte d'Ivoire  Madagascar
- Dominican Republic  Myanmar
- El Salvador  Nepal
- Guatemala  PNG
- Honduras
- Jordan  Tajikistan
- Uganda

Snapshot 9–15 December 2015

Burundi: 87 people were killed in Bujumbura on 11 December in the worst violence since April. Opposition to President Nkurunziza’s third term has become increasingly violent since August, with a harsh response from security forces. Over 223,000 refugees have now fled to neighbouring countries, and at least 15,000 IDPs are reported. Insecurity has severely weakened the economy and disrupted agriculture, leaving an estimated 700,000 Burundians food insecure despite relatively good growing conditions. Heavy rains and landslides threaten to exacerbate a fragile humanitarian situation in the coming months.

Côte d'Ivoire: An estimated 218,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes in Côte d'Ivoire, resulting from the combined effects of civil conflict that ended in 2011 and recent drought. The civil strife’s impact is still reflected in agricultural production and food markets. Worst affected areas are in the north.

Ethiopia: Food security continues to deteriorate rapidly, with 10.2 million people estimated in need of food assistance as of December, an increase of nearly 2 million since mid-September. The situation is having an impact on acute malnutrition. The number of priority areas for nutrition intervention has increased by 30% since August. The most affected areas are in Afar, eastern Oromia, Amhara, Tigray, and Sitti zone of Somali region.
Tajikistan: At least 124,500 people were affected by the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck the district of Murghob, 111km southwest of Karakul, in the autonomous region of Gorno-Badakhshan (GBAO), on 7 December. At least two people died, 14 were injured, and over 7,960 were displaced. 1,320 houses were either damaged or destroyed, throughout five districts.


Updated: 15/12/2015. Next update: 22/12/2015
AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

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

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

13 December: Violent clashes in Bangui’s PK5 neighbourhood during the constitutional referendum killed five people and injured more than 20. Incidents of voter intimidation were reported throughout the country (AFP).

9 December: Preliminary results of the 2015 Emergency Food Security Assessment indicate 2.5 million people in moderate or severe food insecurity, about half of the overall population (WFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- Conflict has caused over 6,000 deaths (Enough Project, 02/09/2015).
- Around 2.7 million people, over half of the population, are reported to be in immediate need of humanitarian assistance (The Global Observatory, 11/09/2015).
- 447,500 IDPs, including 58,000 in Bangui (UNHCR/OCHA, 27/11/2015).
- 452,250 CAR refugees in neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 27/11/2015).
- 2.5 million people are moderately or severely food insecure (WFP, 09/12/2015).
- Only 55% of health facilities are functioning (WHO, 27/04/2015).

OVERVIEW

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

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

Politics and security

In September 2015, the biggest surge in violence since October 2014 killed at least 79 people and injured 512 (OCHA, 16/10/2015). Interim President Catherine Samba-Panza has called for a more robust mandate for MINUSCA and for a disarmament process for all armed groups (Reuters, 03/10/2015). On 4 November, she called for a loosening of the arms embargo against the national army (Reuters, 02/11/2015).

Until that point, conflict had been low-intensity, but frequent: more than 2,054 security incidents were recorded between January 2014 and July 2015 (OCHA, 10/08/2015). Hotspots are Ouaka, Ouham, and Nana-Mambere prefectures (OCHA, 31/08/2015). Ceasefires have been agreed by the warring parties, but never accepted by the transitional government, nor fully enacted (USAID, 10/04/2015).

A transitional government and interim President have been in place since August 2014, after the Seleka’s short-lived seizure of power in 2013 and subsequent conflict throughout the country between the ex-Seleka, who are from the north, and anti-balaka militias. The transitional government’s term was initially due to end 17 August, but has been extended (AFP, 12/08/2015).

A constitutional referendum took place 13 December (AFP, 31/10/2015). Violent clashes in Bangui’s PK5 neighbourhood during voting killed at least five people and wounded 20 others (AFP, 14/12/2015). A grenade that exploded near a voting centre in the Gobongo neighbourhood injured an additional three people (AP, 12/12/2015).

Incidents of intimidation were reported in other parts of the country. Voter turn-out was particularly low in Ndele, Birao, and Kaga Bandoro, where the Popular Front for the Renaissance of Central Africa (FPRC) of the former Seleka group has strongest influence. The FPRC had called for a boycott of the elections and reportedly...
threatened voters (AFP, 13/12/2015).

Presidential and legislative elections are scheduled for 27 December, with a second round to take place on 31 January, 2016 (MINUSCA, 12/12/2015). The political situation is unstable, and the presidential elections are expected to trigger further destabilisation (Cordaid, 16/09/2015). The candidates have signed a Code of Conduct promising to act within their powers to ensure an electoral process free of violence or intimidation (MINUSCA, 10/12/2015).

1.9 million Central Africans have reportedly registered to vote in the upcoming elections (MINUSCA, 12/12/2015). However, there have also been reports of people not being able to register because they had lost identity documents (AFP, 29/07/2015; IRIN, 15/09/2015). 26% of Central African refugees in neighbouring countries have registered to vote (AFP, 10/12/2015).

Stakeholders

Ex-Seleka: Seleka was an alliance of parties based in the north of the country created in 2012. It advanced south and took the capital in March 2013; one of its leaders, Michel Djotodia, took the presidency, and then dissolved Seleka in late 2013. However, many fighters remained and were dubbed ‘ex-Seleka’. Most moved out of the capital, but remained in control of much of central and northern CAR in 2014. Bambari, Ouaka, reportedly became their headquarters. 17,114 fighters were confined to three military camps in Bangui (IRIN, 17/09/2014). Internal conflict, involving in particular the Front Démocratique du Peuple Centrafricain (FDPC), has grown over 2015, weakening the alliance significantly (IRIN, 12/01/2015; international media, 30/09/2014; Enough, 17/06/2015). Fighters associated with the ex-Seleka are estimated to be in Kemo and Nana-Grebizi prefectures (ICG, 21/10/2015; UN, 12/10/2015).

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

LRA: The Lord’s Resistance Army, a faction of Ugandan insurgents, is active in eastern CAR (Stratfor, 26/08/2015; LRA Crisis Tracker, 22/09/2015). LRA has been responsible for 31 attacks and 70 abductions in CAR so far in 2015. This represents the lowest level of violent LRA activity in CAR since 2011 (Invisible Children/Resolve, 30/09/2015).

UN peacekeeping mission (MINUSCA): MINUSCA officially took over peacekeeping operations on 14 September 2014. In March 2015, the number of peacekeepers was increased by 1,000, to better protect infrastructure and senior officials in Bangui, bringing the total to 13,000 uniformed personnel (Reuters, 26/03/2015). The United Nations is sending approximately 1,140 extra troops to bolster security ahead of the elections (AFP, 10/11/2015). The head of MINUSCA was replaced in August after allegations of sexual abuse by peacekeepers, and accusations that peacekeepers were responsible for the death of two civilians in Bangui (UN, 14/08/2015; Reuters, 12/08/2015; Aljazeera, 11/08/2015). Peacekeepers have been repatriated, and had their salary suspended (United Nations, 11/09/2015). New allegations of sexual abuse are currently being investigated (UN, 11/11/2015).

MINUSCA took over from African Union forces (MISCA) backed by France, who were deployed in December 2013. The African Union had already deployed troops to CAR prior to Seleka’s assumption of power, but they had been overwhelmed by the severity and scope of the conflict.

French forces: The French peacekeeping operation was formally handed over to MINUSCA on 19 May (French Ministry of Defence, 22/05/2015). Around 900 French soldiers remain in the country and will stay until at least the elections at the end of December (AFP, 05/12/2015).

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

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

Conflict developments

Fighting persists between ex-Seleka and anti-balaka, Muslim and Christian communities, and pastoralists and farmers. About a million cattle have been reported killed or stolen, and around 1,000 livestock farmers belonging to Mbororo ethnic group have been killed by anti-balaka (AFP, 02/09/2015). Violence surged at the end of September, mainly in the capital.

Bangui: Violence in the capital over 26–30 September left at least 79 people dead and injured 512 (OCHA, 16/10/2015). By 1 October the situation had stabilised. However, since mid-October violence has again been on the rise, with clashes between armed groups and intercommunal violence. Dozens of people have been killed and hundreds of homes burned (AFP, 16/10/2015, 27/10/2015, 31/10/2015, 02/11/2015; OCHA, 02/11/2015). According to hospital sources, 232 people were injured between 29 October and 11 November (Health Cluster, 12/11/2015). The predominantly Muslim PK-5 neighbourhood continues to be a hotspot and at least 100 people have been killed in PK-5 since 25 September (HRW, 26/11/2015). On 1 December, the head of the traders’ association in PK-5 was killed (AFP, 01/12/2015).

Ouaka: 13 people were killed during an attack on an IDP camp in Ngakobo town, near
Bambari on 3 December, including eight residents and five ex-Seleka who led the attack. On the same day, an anti-balaka group attacked a commercial convoy travelling from Bangui to Bambari (AFP, 04/12/2015; AP, 04/12/2015). Over 6–9 November, clashes between anti-balaka and the Union for Peace in Central African Republic (UPC – an ex-Seleka member), took place in and around Bambari. Eleven people were killed and 30 injured (Health Cluster, 12/11/2015; OCHA, 17/11/2015). Ten people in the village of Ndassima were targeted and killed by an armed group that then went on to attack the nearby village of Mala, where they abducted eight people (Reuters, 13/11/2015; Reuters, 09/11/2015). At least ten people were wounded in Bambari, and 15–20 houses were reportedly set alight during the violence at the end of September (01/10/2015).

Ouham: On 12 November, an armed group reportedly affiliated with the former Seleka attacked an IDP camp in the town of Batangafo, in retaliation for the killing of two young Muslims in the camp earlier in the day (UNHCR, 12/11/2015).

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

Natural disasters

Floods

Floods in the city of Nola, Sangha-Mbaere prefecture, due to rising water levels of the Mambere River, affected 960 households in November. 90 households in Nola are staying with host families. Approximately 100 households from Bomandjoko village were relocated to a makeshift camp 2km outside the village. Another 100 households from Molongo were displaced. IDPs have since begun to return home (Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale, 29/11/2015). Much of the local sanitation infrastructure has been damaged, making WASH a high priority (Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale, 11/11/2015).

Displacement

447,500 IDPs are estimated to be in CAR as of November, an increase of 18% since early September, when the number of IDPs was estimated to be 378,400 (UNHCR, 27/11/2015). About half are thought to be staying with host families (OCHA, 16/10/2015).

IDPs

Priorities for IDPs include food security, healthcare, WASH, shelter, and basic household items (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Bangui: As of November approximately 58,000 IDPs are in Bangui, up from 27,315 prior to the latest surge in violence (OCHA, 27/11/2015; UN, 27/09/2015). The displaced are spread across 36 sites (OCHA, 16/10/2015).

Mpoko IDP site still hosts an estimated 19,000 IDPs, about 7,200 of whom were displaced at the end of September, despite the government’s intention to close the site so the building can be used by the airport (OCHA, 27/11/2015; OCHA, 01/10/2015). IDPs in other sites are also at risk of eviction.

Ouaka: Violence at the end of September displaced an estimated 1,940 people, on top of the 5,200 IDPs already in Bambari (ACTED, 11/10/2015). An attack by an armed group on the Ouaka displacement site on 29 September caused the entire population to flee to Kouango town, where they settled with host families and in administrative buildings. More people fled to Kouango from the islands around Ubangi River due to fighting in October, bringing the total of displaced people in Kouango to 1,230 (ACTED, 23/10/2015). On 30 November, an attack in the town of Ngakobo, about 60km south of Bambari, killed 10 people and injured five. An attack on the IDP site of Ngakobo on the night of 3 December killed an additional 8 people (OCHA, 07/12/2015).

On 6 November, an attack on Awatche village, 25km from Bambari, caused 900 people to flee to a refugee camp for South Sudanese in Pladama Ouaka (UNHCR, 13/11/2015).

Ouham: An attack on an IDP camp in Batangafo on 12 November killed ten people, destroyed 730 shelters, and caused the majority of the camp population to flee. An estimated 10,000 IDPs sought refuge at a nearby hospital, 5,200 at an NGO office, 3,500 at a MINUSCA base, 4,300 at a Catholic Parish, and 900 at a local orphanage (OCHA, 16/11/2015; 12/11/2015). The majority of the displaced have returned to the site (OCHA, 25/11/2015).

Ouham Pende: On 21 November, fighting in the towns of Bouzou and Sangre prompted the inhabitants to flee towards surrounding villages of Mokonzi-Wali, Yade, and Mbikamba (OCHA, 07/12/2015).

Nana Grebizi: There are 261 displaced households at a site in Oudanga, primarily herders fleeing inter-communal violence around the villages of Bukara, Grimari, and Bambari. Sanitation conditions on the site are poor, with only 18% of households having access to latrines. The local school has been closed for a year since the government’s intention to close the site (Solidarités International, 04/11/2015). On 24 November, the village of Sango 2 in Mbres sub-prefecture was stormed by an armed group, causing the entire population to flee (OCHA, 07/12/2015).

Nana Mambere: An attack near the town of Yelewa at the end of November killed one person and seriously injured four. 6,000 people fled to a nearby MINUSCA base. The displaced are in urgent need of food and healthcare (OCHA, 07/12/2015).
As of 30 August, 7,714 refugees are hosted in CAR (UNHCR, 30/08/2015).

CAR refugees in neighbouring countries

As of 31 October, 452,247 CAR refugees were reported in neighbouring countries, including 254,115 in Cameroon, 66,382 in Chad, 101,866 in DRC, and 29,884 in Congo (OCHA, 27/11/2015).

2,000 CAR refugees fled to DRC from 26–29 September (UNHCR/WFP, 08/10/2015). The first three weeks of November have observed another surge of about 1,200 new CAR refugees fleeing attacks from armed groups in the prefectures of Basse-Kotto and Ouaka (UNHCR, 27/11/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

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

Dozens of humanitarian organisations’ offices in Bangui were looted between 26 and 29 September (01/10/2015). Offices in Kaga Bandoro were also looted (OCHA, 29/09/2015). UN, NGO, and private vehicles are becoming regular targets on main roads (IOM, 02/02/2015). Kidnapping of humanitarian workers is also frequent (USAID, 27/04/2015; OCHA, 20/10/2015). 321 acts of violence against humanitarian organisations have been recorded since January 2014 (OCHA, 14/11/2015). On 9 December, armed groups attacked three humanitarian organisations in Bossangoa, Ouham prefecture. Their offices were looted and more than 20 staff were temporarily detained during the attack (OCHA, 12/12/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

As of 15 September, around 36,000 Muslims are trapped in seven besieged communities, targeted by anti-balaka fighters, who regularly carry out attacks and prevent access to the distribution of medical supplies, food, and humanitarian aid (OCHA, 30/11/2015; ODI, 20/11/2015; Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, 15/09/2015).

In Bangui’s PK-5 district, movement is restricted by anti-balaka and associated armed groups, cutting residents off from commerce or humanitarian assistance (AFP, 25/11/2015).

Physical and security constraints

Truck drivers in Cameroon are periodically refusing to transport food and humanitarian assistance into CAR during surges in violence (VoA, 20/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Preliminary results of the 2015 Emergency Food Security Assessment find 2.5 million people moderately or severely food insecure, about half of the overall population (WFP, 09/12/2015). Displaced people, returnees, and host families are considered to be the most vulnerable to food insecurity and are predicted to continue to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes through March 2016 (FEWSNET, 30/11/2015). Livelihoods have been severely affected by fighting and looting of livestock, which has caused an increase in food prices and a decrease in household income (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Until the new displacement at the end of September, food security had been gradually improving as increasing numbers people returned home to tend to agriculture and livestock (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015).

Food availability

A shortfall in domestic production is likely this year, given the combination of poor rainfall and prolonged insecurity (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015). Food crop production in 2014 was 58% below 2012, as a result of insecurity, looting, and the killing of livestock, but 11% higher than 2013 (FAO, 29/07/2015; OCHA, 04/03/2015). 75% of Central Africans rely on agriculture for their food and income.

Food access

Markets are expected to have below-average stocks for the remainder of 2015 (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015). Displaced populations are dependent on market purchase for 60% of their food. Markets are charging very high prices in some villages in southern prefectures of Basse-Kotto and Nana-Mambere, where food stocks cover a week or less (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food shortages have been reported in Mosquée centrale, Benz-Vi, and Castor IDP camps (IFRC, 19/10/2015).

Health

Two million people need access to health services (OCHA, 22/12/2014; 31/08/2015). Malaria, acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea, and physical trauma are the biggest health issues among displaced people and in host communities (WHO, 20/11/2015).

Nationwide, 28% of health centres are completely or partially destroyed (UNICEF, 28/08/2015). 55% of health facilities are functioning, but only 25% of those offering services have functioning sources of energy, and 21% have access to water (WHO,
There are only 250 medical doctors in the country, which amounts to five for 100,000 inhabitants (WHO, 20/11/2015).

From June to August, measles outbreaks were reported in Birao (Vakaga prefecture), Bangassou (Mbomou prefecture) and Kaga Bandoro (Nana-Grebizi prefecture). 583 cases and six deaths were reported by the end of July (WHO, 20/10/2015). The last measles outbreak in 2013 had 600 confirmed cases (OCHA, 29/11/2013).

**Healthcare availability and access**

Thousands of people in enclaves or cut off from services by violence are not able to securely access healthcare facilities and depend on visits from mobile clinics (Reuters, 24/11/2015).

Logistical gaps in Bangui often hinder the timely transportation of injured people to hospitals (Health Cluster, 12/11/2015).

**Nutrition**

As of end October, more than 20,433 children under five have been admitted for treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) since July 2015 (UNICEF, 30/11/2015). SAM prevalence stands at 1.9%, and beyond the 2% emergency threshold in some prefectures (UNICEF, 28/08/2015). A SMART survey of enclaves and IDP sites in Kaga Bandoro, Bambari, and Batangafo indicated that global acute malnutrition was approaching 9.2%, and SAM at 2.2% (UNICEF, 08/09/2015).

**WASH**

At 31 August, less than 25% of the population is reported to have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities (OCHA, 31/08/2015). Newly displaced people in sites in Cotonnerie in Bambari, and PK-8 in Bangui have reported difficulties accessing water (ACTED, 07/10/2015; OCHA, 29/09/2015). If displaced people remain in sites, the need for WASH facilities in displacement sites will increase (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

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

**Shelter and NFIs**

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

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

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

**Education**

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

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

**Protection**

Crimes against humanity and war crimes have been reported. The prefectures where protection concerns are the highest are Ouham, Nana-Grebizi, Ouaka, Mambere-Kadei, Haute Kotto, Ouham Pende, and Haut-Mbomou (OCHA, 30/11/2015).

36,000 people are estimated to be trapped in enclaves and unable to move around freely, including 26,000 in PK-5 in Bangui, 8,374 in Boda, 523 in Carnot, 229 in Yaloke, 1,200 in Bouar, 115 in Dekoa, and 425 in Berberati (OCHA, 30/11/2015).

Ex-Seleka and anti-balaka groups are both listed for child recruitment, killing, rape and other forms of sexual violence. The ex-Seleka are also listed for attacks on schools and/or hospitals (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 03/12/2015).

**Gender**

The risks of sexual violence, early and forced marriage, and insufficient gender-based violence (GBV) response are highest in Bambari, Ouaka; Mbres and Kaga-Bandoro, Nana-Grebizi; Kabo and some villages in Nana-Mambere (OCHA, 28/05/2015). 9,685 cases of
gender-based violence were reported in October, up from 6,396 in September (OCHA, 30/11/2015). More than 60,000 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were registered by the UN Population Fund during the first 10 months of 2015 (UNHCR, 10/12/2015).

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

Children

At 2.4 million, children make up half of the population affected by crisis in CAR (UNICEF, 17/11/2015). The number of children recruited into armed groups has risen to 6,000 –10,000, from 2,500 at the beginning of the crisis (UNICEF, 28/08/2015). Between August and October, 369 children were released from armed groups (UNICEF, 30/11/2015).

Documentation

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

Updated: 14/12/2015

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

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

9 December: 100,000 people became homeless in Kinshasa due to flooding. The worst affected districts are Ndanu, Salongo and De Bonhomme. A water treatment plant was damaged in N’djili, cutting supply of drinking water to much of Kinshasa for several days (AFP; Radio Okapi).

9 December: More than 14,000 IDPs have arrived in Irumu from Beni after armed clashes in Eringeti. The most urgent needs are WASH, shelter and food (OCHA).

9 December: The hospital in Beni lacks capacity. Patients are sleeping on the floor (Radio Okapi).

7 December: Anti-balaka militias crossed the border from CAR and attacked several villages in Bosobolo territory, Sud-Ubangi, where CAR refugees are staying (Radio Okapi).

KEY FIGURES

- 7.5 million people need humanitarian assistance (OCHA 07/12/2015).
- 1.6 million IDPs (OCHA 27/10/2015).
- 2.5 million children under five are suffering from severe malnutrition (WHO 27/09/2015).
- 7.3 million school-aged children are not attending school (Radio Okapi 10/03/2015).
- 6.5 million people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes (IPC 17/11/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food security, particularly in Punia (Maniema), Nyuzu and Manono (Tanganyika), Irumu (Ituri), Beni and Walikale (Nord-Kivu) and Shabunda (Sud-Kivu).
- Health, particularly in the conflict-affected provinces in the east.
- Protection in the eastern provinces.

OVERVIEW

DRC has been in a complex emergency for more than 20 years. Ongoing conflict between foreign, self-defence and other armed groups, mainly impacting the eastern provinces, has left the country in a state of prolonged, severe humanitarian crisis. Although the security situation has improved slightly since 2013, and the M23 defeat in Nord-Kivu, humanitarian needs remain at the same levels and people continue to be displaced due to recurrent conflict and armed attacks. Violent clashes between armed groups and the DRC armed forces (FARDC) are affecting populations mainly in Sud- and
Nord-Kivu, Ituri, Tanganyika, and Haut-Katanga provinces. 1.6 million people have been displaced and 7.5 people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Food security is a priority: the number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) has risen by half million in 2015. Health is a priority due to recurrent measles, cholera, and malaria outbreaks and protection concerns are high because of serious human rights violations perpetrated by armed groups and the FARDC in the eastern provinces. Access remains volatile in the east due to insecurity, and lack of infrastructure is a general problem across the country.

Politics and security

President Kabila’s second term ends in November 2016, but the ruling coalition is attempting to prolong his presidency beyond the constitutional two-term limit. This led to violent protests in September 2014, January 2015, and again in mid-September 2015 in Kinshasa (AFP 15/09/2015). The ruling party is now thought to be using the scheduling of elections to extend Kabila’s time in office: the majority is pushing for local elections – which have never been held in DRC – to take place before the presidential poll (RFI 10/08/2015). The ruling coalition claims that presidential polls must be delayed by between two or four years, to enable the necessary measures to be put in place to meeting the electoral timetable (International Peace Institute 27/10/2015; Reuters 01/11/2015). In November, Kabila announced imminent organisation of ‘national dialogue’ in order to facilitate organisation of the elections. Oppositional parties are refusing to participate (ICG 01/12/2015).

Decentralisation – written into the constitution in 2006 – became official on 16 July 2015 (The National Law Review 07/10/2015). On 29 October, Kabila appointed special commissioners to administer the newly created provinces until governors are elected (Radio Okapi 29/10/2015). The opposition party criticises the appointments as anti-constitutional (Radio Okapi 31/10/2015). The decentralisation may cause tensions, particularly in the former Katanga province, where the new divisions mean that impoverished northern areas will not benefit from the redistribution of resources from southern areas.

Rwanda and DRC launched a new round of security talks on 27 September 2015. The two countries have said they are committed to cooperating on the repatriation of FDLR combatants as well as former members of the M23 armed group (Africa Times 27/09/2015).

Stakeholders

At least 70 armed groups are operating in the east of the country. Each one usually does not number more than 200 soldiers and recruits largely along ethnic lines (Congo Research Group 25/11/2015). They range from local militias set up initially as self-defence groups (among these are the Mayi-Mayi), to secessionist groups, and forces first set up by fighters from Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. The UN peacekeeping mission (MONUSCO) and an EU mission has been providing assistance to security sector reform since 2005 (EU 25/09/2014). Efforts to demobilise armed groups are ongoing (Radio Okapi 06/04/2015).

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

Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU) is a militant group founded in the 1990s in Uganda. Their main interest in DRC is to make use of gold mining and logging to support their activities. MONUSCO and FARDC launched an operation in Nord-Kivu against the group in January 2015 (Radio Okapi 07/01/2015). As of October, the operation is still ongoing and clashes continue to be reported (Radio Okapi 24/09/2015).

Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) are Hutu Rwandans who were allegedly linked to the genocide. An estimated 1,500 fighters are active, primarily in the Kivu regions (IBT 13/07/2015). Despite an FARDC offensive since January, FDLR’s positions in Nord- and Sud-Kivu have not been weakened (Radio Okapi 28/10/2015).

Front of Patriotic Resistance in Ituri (FRPI) was set up in November 2002 from among the Ngiti ethnic group to fight for the region’s natural resources (TRAC 2015). Attacks increased in Irumu, Ituri, in 2015, after a failed disarmament programme at the end of 2014 (OCHA 19/04/2015). FARDC launched an offensive against the group in June 2015 (AFP 24/06/2015).

Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) was founded by Joseph Kony in Uganda in 1989 and spread to South Sudan, then to DRC and CAR (IBT 29/10/2015). Since October 2015, they have been active in Haut- and Bas-Uele (Radio Okapi 08/11/2015; 21/10/2015).

Mayi-Mayi: At least 20 Mayi-Mayi groups, formed by local leaders along ethnic lines, are active in Nord-Kivu, Sud-Kivu, and former Katanga. The number of fighters can range from 100 to 1,000 in one group. They target civilians and UN peacekeeping forces for looting (AFP 2013; IriNews 15/06/2010).

The Patriotic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (FPLC) has a few hundred combatants and is active in Nord-Kivu (IBT 29/10/2015).

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

In spite of ceasefire agreements after the conflicts of the 1990s and 2000s, many armed groups continue to exist, and fighting between them, and with FARDC continues. Nonetheless, the situation has been calmer over the last 12 months compared to previous years. Regions most affected by conflict are Ituri, Nord- and Sud-Kivu, Tanganyika, and Haut-Katanga.

Nord-Kivu

2.29 million people are affected by armed conflict in Nord-Kivu (OCHA, 02/06/2015).

Beni territory: On 29 October, FARDC and MONUSCO launched a new offensive to destroy ADF positions used for attacking civilians (Radio Okapi 29/10/2015). ADF attacked a military headquarters in Eringeti on 29 November, and 30 people were killed in the ensuing clashes (AFP 30/11/2015; Radio Okapi 29/11/2015; Reuters 30/11/2015). Since mid-October, ADF has been attacking cars on the road between Beni and the border with Ituri province (AFP 10/11/2015). In 2015, ADF has killed over 400 civilians (Radio Okapi 13/10/2015).

Walikale territory: Intensified clashes have been observed between the Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS) and FARDC in Kashebere since mid-September (Radio Okapi 24/09/2015; 06/11/2015). Since mid-November, FDLR has been occupying several villages in Lubero and Walikale, and has restricted gatherings and telephone communications (Radio Okapi 20/11/2015).

Masisi territory: Fighting between the FARDC and APCLS is ongoing around the villages of Lukweti and Lwibo (Finn Church Aid 06/11/2015).

Sud-Kivu

Armed groups in Kalehe and Shabunda territories are allegedly trying to create a coalition in order to attack FARDC positions and mining areas (Radio Okapi 24/11/2015). Several villages in Kalehe territory, Sud-Kivu, are being occupied by Raiya Mutomboki and RM Butachibera, who are looting homes and extorting ‘taxes’ (Radio Okapi 19/11/2015). In Fizi territory, Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba attacked FARDC positions and killed two soldiers on 9 November (Radio Okapi 09/11/2015).

Ituri

In 2015, on average at least three armed attacks per day have been reported (Caritas 23/11/2015). Mayi-Mayi are threatening to attack villages in Mambasa territory (Radio Okapi 09/12/2015).

Tanganyika

Pygmies and Luba have agreed to end conflict in Kalemie after several weeks of clashes (Radio Okapi 10/10/2015). In Nyunzu territory, the situation calmed in November. Conflict between Luba and pygmies has killed 200 people since January 2015; 60 women have been raped; 113 villages have been burned (Radio Okapi 15/11/2015; 03/06/2015).

Haut-Uele

Niangara territory: The LRA has been active since the beginning of October, carrying out armed attacks along the Niangara–Nambia road and in Garamba Park (Radio Okapi 21/10/2015; 06/12/2015).

Maniema

Since 21 October, armed members of the Kumu community have reportedly been attacking non-Kumu in Lubutu and Zimba territory, Kasongo, Maniema. 60 houses have been burned and 1,600 people displaced to Kingasani (Radio Okapi 25/10/2015; OCHA 03/11/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

Three weeks of torrential rains in Kinshasa caused widespread flooding. 100,000 people became homeless and 31 were killed. The most affected districts are Ndanu, Salongo and De Bonhomme, in which homeless people are forced to sleep on the streets. A water-treatment plant in N’jilili was badly affected and deprived most of Kinshasa of drinking water for several days. A third of the average annual rainfall fell in less than three weeks in the capital. Heavy rains are expected until the end of December (AFP 09/12/2015; Radio Okapi 09/12/2015).

In Tshopo, Orientale province, 220,000 people have been affected and 16,000 displaced by flooding since the end of October. More than 25,900 houses have been destroyed. 67 schools and 49 health centres have been badly damaged by flooding. Markets are closed and food prices have increased sharply. The most urgent needs are shelter, NFIs, health care, education and food. The situation could aggravate the cholera epidemic in the province. As of 9 December, people remain without humanitarian assistance. The situation is expected to deteriorate, as heavy rains will continue until the end of December (Radio Okapi 15/11/2015; OCHA 26/11/2015; WHO 30/11/2015; OCHA 09/12/2015).

On 8 November, more than 700 houses were destroyed by heavy rains in Kindu, Maniema. More than 3,600 people are without shelter and thousands are in houses that are at risk of collapse. There are fears that cholera cases will increase (OCHA 11/11/2015).

Kalehe territory, Sud-Kivu, was hit by heavy rains on 28 October. More than 50 houses
were destroyed. The village of Bushushu remains inaccessible due to damaged bridges (OCHA 10/11/2015). 750 people displaced by heavy rains a year ago and living in a remote area of Kalehe territory, Sud-Kivu, do not have access to running water or latrines, and do not have enough means to access education and health facilities (OCHA 29/10/2015). 18 people died in flooding in Bukavu on 11 December (AFP 12/12/2015).

45,900 people have lost shelter and harvest in Bumba territory, Mongala, due to floods. Nearly 400 houses have been destroyed. Authorities are asking for humanitarian assistance (Radio Okapi 20/11/2015; Radio Okapi 07/10/2015).

Between 2,000 and 8,000 people affected by floods in September in Dungu, Faradje and Niangara in Haut-Uele, have not received any humanitarian assistance (OCHA 26/11/2015).

**Displacement**

Displacement in DRC occurs repeatedly and almost daily due to recurrent armed attacks and intercommunal clashes. As of end of September, 1.6 million IDPs were reported in DRC, 100,000 more than in March. More than half are in Nord-Kivu province and the rest are mainly in Sud-Kivu and the former Katanga provinces. More than 90% have been displaced due to armed clashes. The worst displacement typically occurs where the national army is conducting counterinsurgency operations. This is currently the case in the east of Beni (Operation Sukola I), as well as on the border of Masisi, Walikale, and Rutshuru territories (Operation Sukola II) (Congo Research Group 25/11/2015).

IDPs are usually in a dire humanitarian situation, sometimes inaccessible in the bush. Over 1.2 million IDPs live in host families (OCHA 27/10/2015). Returnees often find their houses have been burned down or looted.

In addition, DRC hosts nearly 250,000 refugees (OCHA 21/10/2015).

**IDPs**

Internal displacement can be short-term, but frequent, depending on the security threats in the area. From July to September, 260,000 people were displaced due to armed clashes; the majority in Nord-Kivu and Ituri (OCHA 27/10/2015). 220,000 were displaced between March and June 2015 (OCHA 20/07/2015). Over the last 18 months, the number of returnees has decreased significantly due to growing insecurity (OCHA 27/10/2015).

**Nord-Kivu**

Nord-Kivu hosts 744,000 IDPs as of October. The number of IDPs has been increasing since May. 537,000 live with host families. The main cause of displacement is armed clashes (OCHA 05/10/2015). 190,000 IDPs live in 53 displacement sites coordinated by IOM and UNHCR. They come mainly from the border area between Masisi, Rutshuru and Walikale territory (IOM 25/11/2015).

**Beni:** There were 259,500 displaced people in Beni as of 25 September (OCHA 05/10/2015). Since September, armed conflict has been causing displacement in the north of Beni (OCHA 11/11/2015). 14,000 IDPs, primarily pygmies, are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in Mamove; medical assistance has been limited (Radio Okapi 26/09/2015). 2,000 have been displaced from Eringeti to Ituri after clashes between FARDC and ADF. Some are staying with host families, some are without shelter (Caritas 02/12/2015; Radio Okapi 30/11/2015).

**Rutshuru:** 92,700 people were displaced in Rutshuru as of 25 September (OCHA 05/10/2015). Between 10 September and 7 October, 10,000 people were displaced due to clashes between the FARDC and armed groups in Bukombo, Congo. They are staying in Kanaba and Kabizo in the east of Rutshuru (OCHA 07/10/2015).

**Lubero:** Since 22 November, over 35,000 people have been displaced, including 38 unaccompanied children, from Walikale territory to Lubero due to clashes between Mayi-Mayi, FARDC and ADF. They are in need of humanitarian assistance (Radio Okapi, 26/11/2015; OCHA 09/12/2015). In the western part of the territory, clashes between armed groups have displaced an unconfirmed number of people to the south (OCHA 24/11/2015). 201,100 people were displaced in Lubero as of 25 September, of whom nearly 35,000 were displaced July-September (OCHA 05/10/2015).

96,249 people were displaced in Walikale as of 25 September. 205,967 people were displaced in Masisi as of 25 September (OCHA 05/10/2015).

**Sud-Kivu**

As of 30 September, 322,331 IDPs were in Sud-Kivu (OCHA 13/10/2015). 310,000 live with host families. The main cause of displacement is armed clashes (OCHA 09/10/2015). Shabunda hosts 56,391 IDPs. Mwenga hosts 36,505 IDPs. Walungu hosts 21,200, Kalehe hosts 109,785, Kabere 26,975, Uvira 19,360, and Fizi 52,115 (OCHA 09/10/2015). More than 90% have been displaced due to armed clashes between the FARDC and armed groups in Bukombo, Congo. They are staying in Kanaba and Kabizo in the east of Rutshuru (OCHA 07/10/2015).

14,000 IDPs, primarily pygmies, are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in Mamove; medical assistance has been limited (Radio Okapi, 26/11/2015; OCHA 21/10/2015).

18 people died in flooding in Bukavu on 11 December (AFP 12/12/2015).

**Ituri**

Ituri hosts 146,651 IDPs as of 30 September, 50,760 were displaced between July and September (OCHA 27/10/2015). Half of them are staying at temporary sites, and the other half with host families (OCHA 20/10/2015). The most affected territory is Ituri, with 34,405 IDPs (OCHA 27/10/2015). Since the end of October, FRPI attacks have displaced 10,000 people in southern Ituri (OCHA 26/11/2015).
More than 14,000 IDPs have arrived to Ndalya, Irumu territory, from Beni territory after armed clashes in Eringeti. The most urgent need is WASH, mainly latrines, and rehabilitation of drinking water sources. The shelter situation is also critical: up to three families per one host family. A lack of food is also being reported. The IDPs do not want to return until security is restored and the recent wave of displacement could lead to intercommunal clashes over land. Tensions between the host community and IDPs have been high since 2014 when first IDPs arrived from Beni (OCHA 09/12/2015).

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

Tanganyika

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

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

Haut-Katanga

2,600 returnees in Kalenge, Pweto territory, are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA 27/11/2015).

Maniema

Maniema hosts 132,370 IDPs as of 30 September (OCHA 27/10/2015). The majority fled armed clashes in Sud-Kivu and are staying with host families in Punia, Pangi, Kasongo and Kabambare territories (OCHA 20/10/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

DRC hosts nearly 250,000 refugees. 103,000 are in Nord-Kivu, over 90,000 in Sud-Ubangi, Nord-Ubangi, and Mongala. Sud-Kivu hosts over 30,000 refugees (OCHA 21/10/2015). DRC provincial authorities insist that assistance should only be delivered within camps, making it difficult to support refugees in host communities. New arrivals are registered mainly from CAR and Burundi. 117,300 Rwandan refugees are in DRC and no new arrivals have been reported in 2015 (UNHCR 28/02/2015; UN 30/12/2014).

From CAR: As of 9 December, there were 102,000 CAR refugees in DRC (WFP 09/12/2015). Since the beginning of the crisis in CAR in March 2013, more than 65,000 arrivals have been registered. They are staying in five camps established in Nord- and Sud-Ubangi and Bas-Uele. The situation is precarious in Zongo. In 2015, 10,000 arrivals have been reported (OCHA 26/11/2015; WFP 09/12/2015). A spike was registered between September and October when more than 2,700 refugees arrived in two weeks following a surge in violence in Bangui (Radio Okapi 13/10/2015; UNHCR 06/10/2015; OCHA 04/10/2015).

On 16 November, 700 new arrivals from CAR were registered in Nord-Ubangi (UN 16/11/2015). At the beginning of December, anti-balaka militias crossed the border from CAR and attacked several villages in Bosobolo territory, Sud-Ubangi, where CAR refugees are staying (Radio Okapi 07/12/2015).

From Burundi: As of 15 November, 18,382 Burundian refugees have arrived in DRC in 2015 (UNHCR 17/11/2015). Almost 10,000 fled over April-May but the influx has been stable since. Around 1,000 refugees are arriving each month. Half are under 12 years old. The majority are in Sud-Kivu. Some 6,000 are staying with host families. Priority needs are WASH and health; Fizi, Uvira, and Nundu health zones report cholera cases. Lusenda camp, Fizi territory, has reached full capacity, at 10,500 people (WHO 15/09/2015; UNICEF 06/11/2015; WFP 19/11/2015). A rising number of SGBV incidents has been reported (UNHCR 23/10/2015). The remaining refugees are in transit centres and temporary sites (WFP 16/09/2015). Tensions between host communities and refugees are being reported (UNHCR 17/11/2015). FDLR presence in hosting areas is a concern. Prior to the recent influx, there were 9,000 Burundian refugees in DRC (UNHCR 05/06/2015; OCHA 27/05/2015).

An influx of nearly 4,000 South Sudanese refugees and over 1,700 DRC returnees has been reported in Haut-Uele since mid-November. They have been fleeing clashes in Ezo. 90% are women and children. Most of them are staying with host families. They are in urgent need of shelter, food, NFIs and medical care. Very few humanitarian organisations are present in the province (OCHA 26/11/2015; 09/12/2015; UNHCR 07/12/2015).

DRC refugees in neighbouring countries

There are over 550,000 DRC refugees in neighbouring countries, mainly in Uganda (187,710), Rwanda (73,662), Burundi (53,800), Tanzania (103,401), Congo (23,449), South Sudan (16,467), Angola (12,944), Zambia (19,107), and CAR (5,470) (OCHA, 21/10/2015). The number of DRC refugees has been increasing, and has almost doubled in Tanzania in the last six months. On 11 November, 881 refugees from Nord-Kivu arrived in Uganda. Average weekly arrivals have been above 600 since the beginning of 2015: 25,780 refugees have crossed to Uganda since January, the majority women and children (EastAfrican, 21/11/2015).

Humanitarian access
Insecurity is a major constraint in the east, and accessibility changes often, according to conflict dynamics. Most security incidents and attacks against relief agencies’ personnel and facilities occur in Nord-Kivu.

Another major issue is lack of infrastructure and bad road conditions across the country. Access worsens during the rainy season.

Access of relief actors to affected populations

In the first half of 2015, 17 security incidents, including theft of aid supplies and physical attacks, were reported by humanitarian workers. Most were reported in Nord-Kivu (Aid in Danger 02/11/2015). On 31 October, 14 aid workers were kidnapped in Katwigu, Rutshuru territory, Nord-Kivu, allegedly by FDLR. They were liberated by the FARDC on 1 November (Radio Okapi 01/11/2015; AFP 02/11/2015). FRPI attacked and robbed four MSF staff near Koni, Walendu Bindi, in October. In mid-November, Caritas’ car was attacked and robbed by an ex-M23 combatant (Radio Okapi 01/12/2015). Five attacks against humanitarian workers have been reported in Ituri since January 2015 (Radio Okapi 20/10/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Nord-Kivu: Rain has made roads impassable and armed group activity is constraining access in Walikale, Beni and Lubero territories. Several humanitarian organisations, including ICRC, have suspended operations. More than 16,000 people cannot access humanitarian assistance (OCHA 11/11/2015, Radio Okapi 12/11/2015). 9,000 households have been displaced to Beni-Eringeti area and are also unable to obtain assistance (OCHA 27/10/2015). There has been an increase in the number of security incidents on the road between Beni and Eringeti, Nord-Kivu (OCHA 07/10/2015). FARDC prohibits driving on the road between Bunia and Luna at night, due to insecurity (Radio Okapi 06/12/2015).

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

Bas-Uele: 4,500 IDPs in Bili, Bondo territory, have been without assistance due to access constraints since April. Movement in the province is very limited due impassable roads and damaged bridges (OCHA 31/10/2015).

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

Food security and livelihoods

6.5 million people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes as a result of armed conflicts and displacement (IPC 17/11/2015). Irumu (Ituri), Punia (Maniema), Shabunda (Sud-Kivu), Manono and Nyuzu (Tanganyika), and Beni and Walikale (Nord-Kivu) are all in Emergency phase. A total of 1.05 million people are in Emergency food insecurity – an increase of 500,000 compared to January 2015 (IPC 17/11/2015).

Food availability

44,000 people in Mahagi territory, Ituri have lost their harvest due to flooding on 8 October and are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA 18/11/2015).

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

Food prices in Kisangani, Tshopo, doubled in a single week due to access constraints. Poor road conditions and insecurity mean a journey that normally takes three days now takes one month (Radio Okapi 11/11/2015).

Food and NFIs price have increased by 40% in Masisi, Nord-Kivu, in the last three weeks, due to bad road conditions (Radio Okapi 25/11/2015).

Food access

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

Healthcare availability and access

Nord-Kivu: 60% of the population in Uvira, Fizi, and Walungu territories do not have healthcare (OCHA 29/06/2015). There is a lack of medical supplies in all five health zones in the province (OCHA 09/07/2015).

Ituri: 140 health facilities in Bunia are functioning, but without trained health personnel and without adequate supplies of medicines (Radio Okapi 30/06/2015).
Nord-Kivu: The health centre in Eringeti remains closed following an ADF attack on 29 November (Radio Okapi 07/12/2015). The hospital in Beni lacks capacity due to a quickly expanding population in the area. It has only 120 beds, but receives around 40 patients every day. Some patients must sleep on the floor (Radio Okapi 09/12/2015).

Cholera

On 23 September, the Ministry of Public Health declared a cholera epidemic in DRC (Radio Okapi 23/09/2015). The outbreak has been spreading westward from Kindu along the Congo River to Tshopo province via boat passengers (UNICEF 25/10/2015). Since the beginning of November, cholera cases have been decreasing in all the affected provinces, with 200-300 new cases reported every week (WHO 17/11/2015; UNICEF 02/12/2015). In Tshopo, 586 cases, including 55 deaths, were recorded between 1 September and 29 November. CFR is 9.3%. The situation could worsen due to flooding (OCHA 30/11/2015).

19,705 cases of cholera, including 297 deaths, were recorded 1 January–10 December in Maniema, Sud-Kivu, Tshopo, and Tanganyika. CFR is 2%. The total number of cholera cases so far in 2015 has surpassed the total in all of 2014 (WHO 17/11/2015; OCHA 30/11/2015).

Malaria

All the country is prone to malaria. 1,005 malaria cases, including one death, have been reported in Walikale, Nord-Kivu, in the last four weeks. The illness has been spreading due to poor living conditions for IDPs who have fled APCLS attacks (Radio Okapi 17/11/2015).

Measles

At least 39,250 measles cases have been reported since the beginning of 2015 in DRC, the majority in the former Katanga province due to lack of vaccination (OCHA 27/11/2015). The epidemic has spread quickly, with 1,000 new cases reported every week (WHO 22/10/2015). Humanitarian intervention has led to a significant decrease in cases since the beginning of October (OCHA 27/11/2015). The current caseload exceeds the sum of cases over the past three years. More than 500 people have died. 24 health zones have declared an epidemic by November – up from 11 in May. Manono, Nyunzu, and Kalemie territories have not been covered by humanitarian response due to security constraints and bad road conditions. Most cases are reported in Manono, Ankoro, and Kiambi health zones in Manono territory (OCHA 22/10/2015; 05/11/2015).

Nutrition

As of September, 2.5 million children under five are severely malnourished (WHO 27/09/2015). Acute malnutrition is at 8% (OCHA 07/12/2015). The situation has been static over recent years. The Congo Basin, especially the former Equateur, Kasai and Kasai Central provinces show a high prevalence of malnutrition (Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences 30/11/2013).

As of 30 August, in Bili refugee camp, Bossobolo territory, Nord-Ubangi, the SAM rate for children under five is 2.4%, and GAM 6.5% (UNHCR 30/08/2015). IDPs returning to Manono territory, Tanganyika, are suffering from malnutrition (Radio Okapi 09/10/2015).

WASH

18.2 million people are in need of WASH, representing around 25% of the population. The figure has remained constant over the past two years (OCHA 30/06/2015; 07/2014). Only 22% of the overall population has access to drinking water (Bond for International Development 31/07/2015; OCHA 07/12/2015). The situation remains serious in Nord- and Sud-Kivu. 4.3 million people require WASH assistance in Nord-Kivu, which represents nearly 80% of the population (OCHA 20/05/2015).

Water

Only 22% of the population has access to drinking water (Bond for International Development, 31/07/2015). People across the Bas-Uele province face drinking water shortages (Caritas Australia, 06/10/2015). 42% of the population (1.9 million people) of Sud-Kivu does not have access to drinking water (OCHA, 13/10/2015).

A lack of safe drinking water in Bafwasende territory, Tshopo, has caused five deaths from diarrhoea since October (Radio Okapi 25/11/2015).

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

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

Sanitation

80% of the population (3.7 million people) of Sud-Kivu does not have access to toilets (OCHA 13/10/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Over 3.5 million people are in need of shelter. This figure has remained stable for the past three years. Continued clashes generate displacement and need for shelter, particularly in Nord- and Sud-Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika. Returnees often find their houses burnt or destroyed (OCHA 30/06/2015; 07/2014). As of July, over 70,000 people were in need of shelter in Sud-Kivu (OCHA 28/08/2015).
5,000 IDPs in Biakato, Ituri, are in need of household items (OCHA 17/09/2015).

Education

7.3 million children aged 5–17 (28% of the school-aged population) are not attending school (Radio Okapi, 10/03/2015). This number has remained stable over the past years. Violence in Sud-Kivu, and in the former Katanga and Orientale provinces is preventing access to education.

Access and learning environment

19,000 children cannot go to school due to flooding in Tshopo (Radio Okapi 11/12/2015). In Beni territory, Nord-Kivu, 75% of children cannot go to school due to insecurity (OCHA 27/10/2015). In Bas-Uele, 500 children cannot go to school due to LRA attacks (Radio Okapi 28/10/2015). In Sud-Kivu, on average, 12,300 students cannot access schools every month, due to conflict and natural disasters (OCHA 10/06/2015).

Teaching and learning

In Fizi territory, Sud-Kivu, classes in 20 schools in Lulenge have been suspended for more than one month because teachers are not being paid (Radio Okapi 26/11/2015).

Protection

Military, militias, and other armed groups are accused of abuse of civilians, including arbitrary arrest, extortion, looting, child conscription, sexual violence, and executions. The majority of protection incidents occur in the former Katanga and the Kivus (OCHA 14/10/2015). The number of protection incidents in the former Katanga has been rising sharply over the last three years. Nearly 20,000 incidents occurred between January and September 2015, compared to 2,000 in 2013 (OCHA 14/10/2015; 29/07/2015).

Between 1 January and 30 September, an increasing number of human rights violations have been registered in relation to the electoral process. Summary executions, death threats, arbitrary detentions, restrictions of the freedom of expression and freedom of gathering have been reported. The violations occurred mainly in Kinshasa, Nord-Kivu, Sud-Kivu, Lomami and Sankuru provinces (UN 08/12/2015). In October, seven opposition demonstrations were prohibited or brutally repressed (Radio Okapi 19/11/2015). Activists and political leaders who speak out against attempts by the President to stand for a third term in office are being subjected to arbitrary arrest and prolonged incommunicado detention. Protests calling for the release of those detained have been systematically repressed (Amnesty International 25/11/2015).

On 6 December, 47 people were kidnapped near mining sites between Niania (Ituri) and Isiro (Haut-Uele) by unknown gunmen (Radio Okapi 09/12/2015).

Gender

Sexual violence is used as a weapon of war in eastern DRC. On 13 September, 17 women were raped by suspected Mayi-Mayi in Mambasa territory, Ituri. Between January and August, 1,198 SGBV cases were reported in Ituri. Anti-SGBV activities have been interrupted due to funding shortfalls (OCHA 17/09/2015). Members of FARDC were accused of raping 14 women in Sud-Kivu in late September (ICG 01/12/2015).

Updated: 14/12/2015

ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

No significant developments this week 14/12/2015.

KEY CONCERNS
- 1.2 million people, including 696,000 children under 18, are in need of humanitarian assistance (UNICEF, 15/01/2015). There is a lack of updated and reliable data on the humanitarian situation due to limited humanitarian access.
- Over 60% of the Eritrean population was reported as undernourished between 2011 and 2013 (WFP).
- Torture, arbitrary detention, and indefinite national service are reported (UNHRC, 04/06/2015).
- Thousands of Eritreans flee the country every year; most of an estimated 320,000 Eritrean refugees are living in Ethiopia and Sudan (OCHA, 20/04/2015; UNHCR, 30/06/2015, 01/12/2014).
- Operations and maintenance of established humanitarian systems remain a significant challenge (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).
Politics and security

Eritrea is a one-party state governed by President Isaias Afwerk and his party People’s Front for Democracy and Justice. No national elections have been held since Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993. Eritrea signed a peace agreement with Ethiopia 2001, but an ongoing state of hostility, characterised by the Eritrean regime as “no war, no peace” persists.

Military service is mandatory for all Eritreans. Since late 2014, government officials have asserted that mandatory service would be limited to 18 months. However, researchers have found no discernable change in practice (Amnesty, 02/12/2015).

Displacement

Refugees

As of November 2015, there were 2,672 Somali refugees in Eritrea (UNHCR, 19/11/2015).

Eritrean refugees in neighbouring countries

The entire Eritrean refugee population is estimated to constitute more than 321,000 people (Guardian, 21/04/2015). UN estimates that some 5,000 Eritreans, among them hundreds of unaccompanied minors, are fleeing the country every month to escape government repression (OHCHR, 08/06/2015). The majority of Eritrean asylum seekers cite mandatory indefinite military conscription as the primary reason for fleeing (Amnesty, 02/12/2015). The high proportion of unaccompanied minors who cross from Eritrea to Ethiopia is a priority concern (UNHCR).

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

Ethiopia: At the end of November, there were 152,555 Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR, 30/11/2015), mainly settled in four camps in the northern Tigray and Afar regions (UNICEF, 21/04/2015).

Sudan: Sudan reportedly hosts at least 119,980 Eritrean refugees (UNHCR, 01/12/2014).

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

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

Humanitarian Access

Providing direct humanitarian assistance remains a challenge due to limited access, and absence of assessments and humanitarian space (UNHRC, 04/06/2015).

Food security

Abnormal dryness was reported across western Eritrea in July (FEWSNET, 24/07/2015). Drought conditions were reported in eastern Eritrea in May (FEWSNET, 30/05/2015).

It is estimated that Eritrea produces only 60% of the food it needs, and markets appear to be dysfunctional. These two factors suggest that a significant part of the population may be in need of food assistance. Due to extensive national service, farmers are routinely absent during harvest periods (Economist, 10/03/2014). In addition, local food and fuel prices are likely to be high, putting severe pressure on household coping mechanisms. The government officially denies any food shortages within its borders and refuses food aid (ECHO, 2009).

Nutrition

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

Protection

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

Mines and ERW

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

Updated: 14/12/2015
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
11 December: Representatives from the two rival parliaments have agreed to sign an accord for a National Unity Government (UN).

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

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

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

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

The mandate of the House of Representatives government expired on 20 October (WP, 20/10/2015). The House of Representatives (HoR) was elected in June 2014, and moved to Tobruk in early August (AFP, 12/11/2014). Its government, led by Prime Minister Al Thani, was sworn in in September. In October, the HoR officially endorsed former General Haftar and his Operation Dignity (now known as the Libyan National Army).

The Islamist-dominated General National Congress (GNC), sitting in Tripoli, preceded the House of Representatives and never stood down. It is supported by an alliance of groups called Libya Dawn. On 6 November, the Tripoli-based Supreme Court ruled the House of Representatives unconstitutional. Members of the House of Representatives declared they did not recognise the ruling (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

Peace talks
UN-brokered peace talks between the rival parliaments have been ongoing since March 2015 (AFP, 06/03/2015; 11/03/2015). In October both the GNC and the HoR formally rejected the peace deal put forth by the UN (Reuters, 19/10/2015, 02/11/2015).

On 5 December, members of both the GNC and HoR announced that they had agreed on a joint declaration of principles during talks in Tunis. The talks were not previously publicised and the parties had excluded the UN. Lawmakers on both sides also claimed that they were not aware of the negotiations (AFP, 06/12/2015).

Following a renewed push by regional and international powers, as of 11 December, representatives of the GNC and HoR have agreed they will sign a unity accord on 16 December (UN, 11/12/2015).

Stakeholders
The conflict in Libya is being fought by between 1,000 and 1,700 armed groups, comprising a complex web of allegiances to the main stakeholders

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

Libyan National Army

Former General Khalifa Haftar launched Operation Dignity in May 2014, in support of the House of Representatives. Operation Dignity and its supporters have since been renamed the Libyan National Army (LNA), with Haftar as army chief (ICG, 05/01/2014; Middle East Eye, 24/02/2015). 40-80% of the supporting forces are thought to be neighbourhood militias (NYT, 02/10/2015). Support also comes from the Al Qa’qa’ and Al Sawai’q brigades, allied with the city of Zintan, and fighters from the Warshefana region west of Tripoli. The House of Representatives has repeatedly appealed to the international community for more weapons (Reuters, 06/06/2015).

Islamic State and allies

The Shura Council of Islamic Youth operates under the direct control of IS’s central command (NYT, 28/11/2015). **IS has an estimated 2,000-3,000 fighters in Libya** and their numbers are reportedly growing, as new recruits and seasoned militants from Syria and Iraq join their ranks (AFP, 14/12/2015; Reuters, 16/11/2015; IBT, 19/10/2015). IS, backed by local militias and militias from Misrata, reportedly seized control of Sirte in March, and is estimated to control 250 km of coast near Sirte (NYT, 28/11/2015; BBC, 29/05/2015). Overall, however, territorial gains made between January and March 2015 reportedly dwindled between March and September (ACLED, 19/09/2015). On 14 November, a US military airstrike killed the group’s leader in Libya (Guardian, 14/11/2015).

**Abu Salim Martyr’s Brigade**

Abu Salim Martyrs Brigade, linked to Al Qaeda, are among the militias fighting IS, and they have been joined by civilians (VoA, 15/06/2015).

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

UNSMIL was established in 2011 as a political mission to help restore state institutions. In September, its mandate was extended for six months, until 15 March 2016, with a focus on supporting the political process towards the creation of the government of national unity (UNSC, 11/09/2015).

Regional involvement

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

Experts see links between Islamist fighters in the south, who have been pushed out of Mali, and Islamist militias in the north and east (AFP, 26/10/2014). Palestinian, Sudanese, and Syrian nationals have been banned from entering Libya (Libya Herald, 05/01/2015). Tuareg from Mali and, reportedly, Tebu from Chad have joined their respective Libyan tribe members in fighting over Ubari (Al Jazeera, 05/12/2014).

Conflict developments

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

**Tripoli and Western Libya:** Tripoli is largely under the control of Libya Dawn. In March, the LNA announced an assault to recapture Tripoli, but have not been successful (Reuters, 23/03/2015). The intensity of violence has reportedly decreased as of early October (ACLED, 09/10/2015). A helicopter carrying Libya Dawn military officials was shot down on 27 October, killing at least 19 passengers (NYT, 27/10/2015). The LNA both claimed and denied responsibility (Libya Herald, 28/10/2015; ICG, 02/11/2015). After the attack, militias from Zawiya city, which support Libya Dawn, fought militias from Washafana town (Reuters, 27/10/2015). On 24 November, a car bomb east of Tripoli killed five GNC guards and wounded 16 people. No group claimed responsibility (Reuters, 24/11/2015).

**Sirte:** On 30 October, airstrikes were carried out by unidentified warplanes on areas of Islamic State control. No causalities were reported (Reuters, 30/10/2015). In August, in clashes between IS and armed residents, IS reportedly shelled parts of the city and beheaded 12 opponents (ALJ, 17/08/2015).

**Benghazi and Eastern Libya:** IS entered Benghazi in mid-2015, joining the fight against the LNA (Reuters, 15/06/2015). Fighting between the LNA and IS-aligned armed groups is ongoing (Reuters, 25/10/2015). On 19 October, an attack claimed by IS struck Al Jalaa hospital, killing five people (AFP, 19/10/2015). On 23 October, demonstrators protesting against the proposed peace deal were hit by a missile: 12 were killed and 39 injured (AFP, 25/10/2015). 16 people were killed during heavy fighting between LNA and IS on 11 November (Reuters, 11/11/2015). IS reportedly launched an offensive on Ajdabiya, about 110 km east of Sirte and strategically positioned in relation to key oil ports, in the first week of December (Guardian, 06/12/2015). LNA is conducting airstrikes against IS the area (Libya Herald, 07/12/2015).

**Derna:** IS was reportedly pushed out of its stronghold in June by Abu Salim Martyr’s Brigade and the LNA, and in August launched an offensive to retake Derna (Reuters, 13/08/2015; ISS, 02/10/2015). Abu Salim Martyr’s Brigade and other militias continue to control the city, but clashes with IS fighters continue (AFP, 16/11/2015). On 9 August, a car bomb killed three people and wounded 13 (Reuters 09/08/2015). Derna has been hit by
airstrikes several times, both by pro-HoR and Egyptian planes (Reuters, 05/05/2015; 23/02/2015).

Southern Libya: Tebu and Tuareg tribes have been fighting since September 2014 and is particularly concentrated around Ubari, Sabha, and Kufra (OHCHR, 16/11/2015). On 23 November, representatives of both tribes signed a peace deal brokered by Qatar that includes a ceasefire and withdrawal of armed forces from Ubari (Reuters, 23/11/2015). However, reports indicate that the agreement has been breached and that clashes in Ubari continue (Middle East Monitor, 30/11/2015).

Economic crisis

The Libyan economy contracted over 23% in 2014, and is expected to contract an additional 10% in 2015, depending on domestic stability as well as international oil prices. Oil production is down to 400,000 barrels a day, compared to 1.6 million before mid-2014 (Bloomberg, 03/11/2015). The HoR seized the key oil-exporting port of Zueitina in early November and has threatened to cut off all oil exports if foreign companies do not start wiring payments to its Central Bank in Tobruk (Bloomberg, 03/11/2015; AP, 04/11/2015).

Displacement

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

IDPs

435,000 people are estimated to be internally displaced, up from 63,985 in April 2014, before the political crisis began. The majority live with host families in urban areas but over 100,000 are estimated to live in schools or other public facilities (OCHA, 01/10/2015). At least 56,544 IDPs have been displaced since 2011 (IDMC, 23/09/2014).

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

Tripoli and its surroundings hosted 269,000 IDPs at end March (IDMC, 30/03/2015). Near Tripoli, an estimated 83,270 people are living in settlements, schools and abandoned buildings (UNHCR, 16/01/2015).

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

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

Refugees and asylum seekers

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

Others

Third-country nationals face extreme difficulties leaving the country, as passage through Libya’s borders with Egypt and Tunisia is restricted. Migrants continue to embark on unseaworthy vessels to reach Italy. More than 920,000 people have tried to cross the Mediterranean so far in 2015, about 145,000 using Libya as their starting point. Nearly 3,000 people have died trying to reach Europe from Libya this year (IOM, 14/12/2015, 26/11/2015). The Libyan Naval Coast Guard intercepts many boats, which has increased the number of migrants in need of urgent assistance in Libyan ports (IOM, 12/05/2015). In 2014, 170,000 migrants departed from Libya and arrived in Italy. An estimated 3,200 people died crossing the sea (IOM, 31/03/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Since July 2014, most humanitarian agencies have relocated out of Libya, the majority to Tunisia. Armed groups often limit access. The national agency tasked with leading the humanitarian response evaluates its own response capacity as almost non-existent (IRIN, 07/08/2014). Fuel shortages are further limiting access (OCHA, 23/11/2015; AFP, 19/05/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Indiscriminate fighting has led to movement restrictions. Since September 2014, conflict in Ubari has blocked off the main road to Ghat, where a number of displaced people are staying (IRIN, 02/12/2015).

On 25 November Tunisia closed its border with Libya. The closure follows a suicide bombing in Tunis, claimed by IS, that killed 12 presidential guards (AFP, 25/11/2015). The Salloum border crossing between Libya and Egypt has been closed indefinitely (Libya Herald, 21/01/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

1.28 million people are thought to be food insecure, including 175,000 IDPs, and the prices of staples such as flour, rice, and sugar have tripled since May 2014 (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

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

Food access

Warehouses (both public and private) are situated in conflict areas, and fuel shortages are aggravating food access (Save the Children, 18/06/2015). Basic food items in Benghazi are only available in areas controlled by the LNA (Save the Children, 18/06/2015). 600 displaced households in sites near Ubari in southern Libya face severe food shortages (IRIN, 02/12/2015).

Health

1.9 million people are in need of healthcare. An estimated 20% of hospitals and 18% of primary healthcare facilities are not functioning. 60% of hospitals were closed or made inaccessible at least once due to the conflict between April and October 2015 (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

In a June assessment, 24% of households reported having little or no access to health facilities (UN, 31/07/2015). The situation is worse for refugees and migrants, with 44% of refugees and 33% of migrants reporting limited or no access to health facilities, and those without documents often being denied healthcare. Civilian access to secondary care is particularly limited in conflict-affected areas such as Sirte, Zintan, Sabha, Kikla, and Al Kufra due to influxes of wounded civilians and fighters requiring priority treatment (OCHA, 01/10/2015). Incidents of armed groups entering hospital premises and threats against medical personnel have been reported (OCHA, 16/11/2015).

Large numbers of expatriate medical personnel have left Libya, and such staff make up 80% of all medical personnel, according to the Ministry of Health. Severe shortages of medical supplies are also reported throughout the country (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

WASH

Disruptions to the main water network has led to an estimated 680,000 people needing water and sanitation assistance (OCHA, 01/10/2015). Lack of adequate WASH facilities has been reported in detention centres in and outside Tripoli where refugees and migrants are held (Human Rights Watch, 21/05/2015). Inadequate sanitation and hygiene conditions are reported in the nine displacement camps hosting Tawerghas (UNICEF, 01/06/2015).

Shelter

An estimated 104,160 IDPs are in need of shelter support: 65,100 are residing in schools or other public spaces and 39,060 are in unfinished houses and apartments. An additional 200,000 people are estimated to be in need of NFIs (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

Education

An estimated 150,000 children are at risk of no longer having access to education (OCHA, 01/10/2015). Benghazi is particularly affected, with enrolment rates as low as 50%. Only 65 out of 239 schools in the city are functioning, with 110 schools inaccessible due to insecurity, and 64 occupied by IDPs (UNICEF, 02/09/2015; OCHA, 01/10/2015). Many schools in the northeast and south are occupied by IDPs (Save the Children, 18/06/2015).

Protection

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

Abductions, looting, burning of homes, and other acts of revenge have all been frequently reported (UN Security Council, 05/09/2014). In some districts of Benghazi, civilians have reported movement restrictions (Human Rights Watch, 26/05/2015). Human rights defenders and justice sector officials are targeted, intimidated, and frequently attacked (UNSMIL/OHCHR, 25/03/2015).

626 people are reported to have been abducted between February 2014 and April 2015, including an estimated 378 whose whereabouts continue to be unknown. 508 were abducted in Benghazi (Amnesty, 04/08/2015). In the first half of 2015, IS kidnapped and executed Ethiopian Christians, Coptic Christians, and foreign oil workers (AFP, 19/04/2015; HRW, 24/02/2015; BBC, 09/03/2015). On 8 November two Serbian embassy staff were abducted in the coastal city of Sabratha, which is controlled by militias loyal to the GNC (AFP, 08/11/2015). Serbian officials assert that the captives are still alive and that negotiations for their release are ongoing (local media, 25/11/2015).

Mines and ERW

Incorrectly armed fuses or faulty ammunition have resulted in large quantities of unexploded ordnance in conflict areas (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). In a June assessment, 57% of informants reported landmines/UXO in their communities (UN, 21/09/2015).

Children

An assessment in May found a high incidence of child recruitment, with over 67% of informants in western Libya reporting recruitment of children from their communities, and 90% of informants in southern Libya (OCHA, 01/10/2015). Children as young as 14 are...
imprisoned alongside adults in GNC-controlled detention facilities (HRW, 03/12/2015).

**Vulnerable groups**

Third-country refugees and asylum-seekers, including unaccompanied children, face arbitrary arrest and indefinite detention for migration control purposes by both state and non-state actors. Torture, including whippings, beatings and electric shocks, has also been reported (Human Rights Watch, 21/05/2015). As of May, 16,000 people, mainly African migrants, were reported to be in detention, mainly in the Tripoli region and in Misrata (Reuters, 24/05/2015). There are 18 government-run detention centres and 21 operated by armed militias (PI, 05/2015; Save the Children, 18/06/2015). The centres are reported to be overcrowded and lack adequate WASH facilities (HRW, 03/12/2015; OCHA, 16/11/2015). Access to medical care is either non-existent or inadequate (OCHA, 16/11/2015).

Journalists and media professionals in Libya are subject to attack and threats (OCHA, 16/11/2015). At least 31 attacks on journalists have been reported so far this year (RSF, 11/11/2015). Health workers are also sometimes targeted due to perceived political allegiances based on who they treat (OCHA, 16/11/2015).

Many women fear moving around unaccompanied (OCHA, 23/11/2015).

**Documentation**

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

Updated: 14/12/2015

**NIGERIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

12 December: Nigerian troops carried out an attack against the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) killing members and arresting its leader Ibrahim Zakzaky (AFP 14/12/2015).

10 December: 14 people were killed in the village of Kamuya in Borno State after a raid by Boko Haram (BH) militants (AFP 14/12/2015).

6 December: BH gunmen attacked Takulashi village in Chibok local government area, looted food supplies and burnt more than 100 houses (AFP 08/12/2015).

**KEY FIGURES**

- 7 million people in need of humanitarian aid, including 2.2 million IDPs (OCHA 06/12/2015; IOM 31/10/2015).

- 1.3 million children are displaced (OCHA 06/12/2015).

- Around 8,290 deaths from Boko Haram-related violence between January and October 2015, including over 5,200 in violence against civilians (ACLED 24/10/2015).

- 1.7 million are in need of nutrition assistance, including 461,000 children under five forecast to have SAM in 2015 (OCHA 17/09/2015).

- 2.2 million people are in need of WASH assistance; 1 million in need of shelter and NFIs; 2.2 million in need of protection; and 3.5 million people in need of healthcare (OCHA 06/2015).

**KEY PRIORITIES**

- Displacement: 2.2 million IDPs have been identified, 88.6% of them due to BH insurgency.

- Food Security: 4.6 million people in the northeast are food insecure, including 3.5 million severely (OCHA 08/06/2015; WFP 25/09/2015).

- Protection: Thousands of people dead in BH violence against civilians. 2.2 million people are in need of protection (OCHA 09/07/2015). 1.3 mil children are displaced (OCHA 06/12/2015) Women and girls are at particular risk of sexual violence and abductions.

- WASH: 2.2 million people are in need of WASH assistance.
OVERVIEW

Violence has displaced close to 2.2 million people, restricted movement, disrupted food supply, seriously hindered access to basic services, and limited agricultural activities. People affected by violence in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, and neighbouring Bauchi, Taraba, and Gombe states are in urgent need of protection, shelter, food, and access to health services and education. Some 9.7 million people, including IDPs, are staying in the 34 areas worst affected by the Boko Haram insurgency. The entire population of northeast Nigeria – 24.5 million people – is indirectly affected; 7 million are in need of humanitarian aid (OCHA 30/04/2015, 09/07/2015, 06/12/2015).

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

Politics and security

Armed Islamist group Boko Haram’s (BH) insurgency in the northeast began to gain momentum in 2014. Since the end of 2014, the conflict has taken on a more regional dimension, with attacks in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, and a strengthened multinational force (UNHCR 22/05/2015). Military offensives in 2015 have regained territory in Nigeria from BH, but the group continues to have strongholds in areas that are hard to access, including the Sambisa forest, the Mandera mountains, and the Lake Chad islands (AFP 23/10/2015). As of 24 October, 84 suicide attacks had been recorded in Nigeria in 2015, compared to 38 in all 2014 (ACLED 24/10/2015). Between January and October 2015, nearly 400 BH-related incidents and 8,290 deaths have been reported in Nigeria, the vast majority in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states, with others in surrounding states. Nearly half the incidents – 184 – were against civilians, and resulted in 5,215 deaths.

Since President Buhari came to power in May, several towns have been taken back from BH, and hostages have been rescued, though much of the northeast remains dangerous and attacks against civilians continue (AFP 19/09/2015, 22/09/2015, 28/10/2015). Presidential handover and election-related violence

Muhammadu Buhari was sworn in as President on 29 May, succeeding Goodluck Jonathan, whose party had led the country since 1999. Buhari is a former president and military ruler from northern Nigeria (Local Media 29/05/2015; AFP 02/04/2015). The transition was less violent than expected. However on 8 November, clashes between the main political parties in Wukari, Taraba state, resulted in seven dead and 15 injured. The election tribunal had overturned the governorship election in favour of the All Progressives Congress (AFP 08/11/2015). On 5 December, a woman was shot dead in violence during elections for a new governor in Bayelsa state (AFP 05/12/2015).

Pro-Biafran rallies sparked by the arrest of Nnamdi Kanu, leader of separatist organisation Indigenous People of Biafra, have swept through Delta and Rivers state. Demonstrators were forcefully dispersed and arrested by police. Allegations of extrajudicial killings were denied by the police (ICG 01/12/2015).

Stakeholders

Boko Haram (BH)

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

Nigerian troops

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

Regional forces

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF) has reached 8,700 military and civilian personnel, including contingents from Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria (BBC 03/03/2015). Deployment of the troops, which was expected in August, has been delayed (AFP 31/07/2015, 03/10/2015). The scope and remit of the regional force is unclear (AFP 11/06/2015, 25/04/2015, 20/03/2015).

Conflict developments

Military operations are pushing BH further east and south in Borno state, and towards neighbouring Gombe, Yobe, and Adamawa (UNHCR 17/08/2015). BH has changed tactics, sporadically attacking areas it had not previously targeted and reverting to village raids, abductions, bombings, and suicide attacks, increasingly targeting civilians (AFP 23/03/2015, 05/10/2015; US Institute of Peace 09/01/2015; BBC 03/10/2015). The raids tend to follow a similar pattern, with houses set on fire, food
and cattle seized, and a number of villagers killed (AFP 20/07/2015). During November, Nigerian troops overran over a dozen BH camps, mainly in Borno state, and freed a number of captives (ICG 01/12/2015).

During November, in 24 BH related incidents, 187 people were killed (ACLED 14/12/2015). In October, at least 548 people died in BH-related violence, including 235 who died in 17 incidents of violence against civilians. The majority of attacks were in Borno, followed by Adamawa (ACLED 24/10/2015). In September, 282 people were killed in 13 BH attacks on civilians (ACLED 10/10/2015). July has been the deadliest month since March, with 980 fatalities due to violence. 67% were related to BH (ACLED 07/08/2015). There are often discrepancies between the number of deaths reported by media and hospitals, and government agencies (AFP 23/10/2015).

Borno state: On 10 December, 14 people were killed in the village of Kamuya in Borno state after a raid by BH militants (AFP 11/12/2015). On 6 December, BH gunmen attacked Takulashi village in the Chibok local government area (LGA), looted food supplies and torched more than 100 houses (AFP 08/12/2015). During November, the government regained territory from BH and cleared several camps, releasing hostages. However, BH suicide attacks and raids continued leaving at least 22 people dead while many more were abducted (ACLED 14/12/2015). During October, at least 166 people died and more than 100 were injured in suspected BH attacks and suicide bombings (ACLED 10/11/2015; AFP 21/10/2015).

Adamawa state: In November, more than 34 people were killed and more than 80 injured in BH related attacks (International media 17/11/2015; ACLED 14/12/2015). On 23 October, an explosion in a mosque in Yola killed at least 27 people and injured 116 (AFP 23/10/2015). On 18 October, at least 11 people were killed in a suspected BH attack on Dar village, close to the border with Borno state (AFP 18/10/2015).

Yobe state: In November, 7 people were killed in a BH related attack. (OCHA 24/11/2015; ACLED 11/2015). In October, 135 people were killed in BH attacks and in classes with the government (ACLED 14/12/2015).

Kano state: In November, 41 people were killed in BH suicide attacks (ACLED 24/12/2015).

Inter-communal violence

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

In Taraba state, at least seven people were killed by gunmen in inter-communal attacks against returning IDPs, after they were told by local authorities to return home and take back confiscated land. Several other returning IDPs were killed as they were clearing their farmland and rebuilding their houses (UNHCR 06/10/2015). In Plateau state, daily conflict continues, causing displacement. 25 villages have been destroyed (UNHCR 06/10/2015).

On 12 December Nigerian troops carried out an attack against the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) killing members and arresting its leader Ibrahim Zakzaky. The IMN seeks to establish an Islamic state (AFP 14/12/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

Adamawa: Since 30 August, 302,200 people have been affected by floods in 15 local government areas, including 42,800 who have been displaced or evacuated (OCHA 29/09/2015, 10/11/2015). The floods were caused by a technological breakdown between Dadin Kowa dam in Gombe state and Kiri dam in Adamawa state, exacerbated by heavy rainfall (OCHA 04/09/2015). Seven people were killed (TCV News 13/09/2015). Farmland, houses, and livestock have been lost (Premium Times 30/08/2015).

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

Sokoto: In September 2015, 25,000 people were affected in almost half of the state, 7,000 houses have been damaged and 43,000 hectares of farmland washed away (OCHA 10/11/2015).

During August and September 2015, floods affected 11 states across the country: Adamawa, Anambra, Benue, Delta, Kaduna, Kebbi, Niger, Ondo, Sokoto, Taraba and Zamfara. A total of 53 people died and 100,420 were displaced (OCHA 10/11/2015).

Displacement

More than 2.2 million have been displaced internally by conflict, and more than 170,000 have fled abroad. The continued repatriation of Nigerian refugees, in particular from Cameroon and ongoing counter-insurgency operations are likely to increase the number of displaced in need of assistance by up to 100,000–250,000 (Inter-Agency Standing Committee 02/11/2015).
The registration of IDPs in Nigeria is self-selecting: only those who are in need of assistance register. The total number of people who have fled their homes is unknown (OCHA 10/11/2015).

IDPs

As of late October, more than 2.2 million IDPs have been identified in Abuja, Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Kaduna, Nasarawa, Plateau, Taraba, and Yobe states (IOM 31/10/2015). 88.6% have been displaced by the BH insurgency, 10.1% by inter-communal violence, and 1.3% by natural disaster. 57% of IDPs are children; half are under five (IOM 31/10/2015).

The percentage displaced by the insurgency has fallen from 95.3% in August, and the percentage displaced by inter-communal violence has risen, because Kaduna and Plateau states were included in the latest assessment (IOM 31/10/2015).

More than 1.9 million IDPs are staying with host families; the rest are staying in camps and camp-like sites. More than 1.6 million (72%) are in Borno, which is the state of origin for 81% of IDPs. 144,302 (7%) are in Yobe and 135,605 (6%) in Adamawa. People displaced by inter-communal violence are mostly in Taraba and Nasarawa states (IOM 03/09/2015, 31/10/2015).

About 67% of IDPs were displaced in 2014, and 31% in 2015 (IOM 03/09/2015, 31/10/2015). Many people have been displaced several times (OCHA 24/09/2015).

IDPs report food as a priority need, followed by shelter and NFIs. Among host families, 83% declared that food was their primary need (IOM 03/09/2015, 31/10/2015). Conditions in IDP sites are deteriorating, and needs are unmet in WASH, education, health, and shelter (UNHCR 17/08/2015).

Returns: 320,365 returning IDPs in northern Adamawa state are in urgent need of assistance (IOM 03/09/2015, 31/10/2015). Shelter and food are reported as priority needs. Other priorities include restoration of WASH and transport infrastructure, and repair of schools and health facilities. Farming inputs, including equipment, fertiliser, and seeds, are also needed. Returnees face sporadic attacks (UNICEF 01/09/2015).

The Nigerian government has announced plans to start closing IDP camps in Adamawa state at the end of the year, and in January in Borno State. There is a risk that IDPs will be forced to return (IRIN 17/11/2015). Many returning IDPs have found their houses and land destroyed or occupied by others (Reuters 03/12/2015).

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

Returnees

As of November, more than 17,000 Nigerians have been forcibly returned from Cameroon. Deportations began after a series of suicide bombings by BH in Cameroon’s Far North region, as authorities fear links between Nigerian nationals and BH (UNHCR 11/12/2015). A smaller number of returnees have arrived from Chad (UNHCR 05/11/2015). Nigerian refugees have been forcibly returned from Cameroon, following BH attacks in the country (UNHCR 25/10/2015). 4,281 have returned to Maiduguri, Borno state. 8,796 have returned in Adamawa state, with 3,848 living with the host community (UNHCR 17/11/2015). The majority of returnees arrived in August (UNHCR 25/10/2015).

Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries

850,473 Nigerian refugees are in neighbouring countries. 462,909 registered refugees are in Cameroon and 29,243 are in Chad. More than 358,321 Nigerians have crossed the border into Niger (UNHCR 07/12/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Humanitarian assistance is very limited in remote areas, rural areas and areas that are or were formerly under BH control (UNHCR 30/06/2015; FEWSNET 31/10/2015). Host communities receive very little assistance, as access remains difficult and needs are hard to assess (OCHA 31/07/2015).

Security and physical constraints

In July, an estimated 2.3 million people did not have access to humanitarian aid and were in critical need of assistance (INGO Forum 17/07/2015).

The security situation in the northeast continues to impair access to affected populations, especially in remote areas (ACF 30/06/2015).

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

As of September, an estimated 4.6 million people in the northeast are food insecure, including 3.5 million severely (OCHA 08/06/2015; WFP 25/09/2015). 875,000 people in worst-affected areas of Borno and Yobe states face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes. Most other areas in the three northeastern states will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes (FEWSNET 31/10/2015; WFP 20/11/2015).

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

Livelihoods

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

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

Food availability

The harvest for staples in most areas across the country is expected to be average to slightly below average. But in the northeast, conflict has negatively affected the area planted and farmers’ ability to look after their crops. The October harvest is expected to be significantly below normal for a third consecutive year, limiting market supply and household stocks (FEWSNET 31/10/2015). Households in flood-affected parts of Adamawa, Yobe, Bauchi, Kaduna, Jigawa, Kebbi and Niger states are harvesting below-average production for both staple and cash crops (FEWSNET 24/11/2015).


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

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

Cattle rustling and inter-communal conflict in the Middle Belt affects households’ access to income and markets, limiting their access to food (FEWSNET 31/10/2015).

Health

In the northeastern Nigeria, 3.5 million people need health support (OCHA 16/10/2015). Mortality rates are increasing and vaccination programmes are severely hit. There is an increased risk of children dying from malaria, measles, and diarrhoea due to the disruption of health services (Inter Press Service 26/08/2015). Malaria is the most prevalent health problem among IDPs in camps (IOM 31/10/2015).

A nationwide cholera outbreak is ongoing, with 5,056 cholera cases reported so far in 2015. The case fatality rate is 3.6 % (UNICEF 14/11/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Routine health services, including immunisation and maternal and child care, have been disrupted in areas affected by the insurgency. Many health workers have fled and those who remain are not able to access people in need (UNICEF 30/09/2015). Less than 40% of health facilities are operational in areas affected by the conflict (Inter Press Service 26/08/2015; IRIN 02/11/2015). In Borno state, only half of the local government areas had access to healthcare facilities in May (USAID 17/06/2015).

IDPs lack access to adequate healthcare and medicine, which is resulting in high mortality rates for common illnesses (ECHO 18/09/2015). In the majority of IDP shelters, malaria is the most prevalent health problem. In 45 shelters, IDPs reported not having access to medicine (IOM 31/10/2015).

Cholera

In early 2015, 13 of 36 states recorded cholera cases, with Anambra, Kano, Rivers, and Ebonyi states the worst affected (Red Cross Movement 30/11/2015). As of late November, 5,172 cholera cases had been reported. The case fatality rate (CFR) is
November, 5,172 cholera cases had been reported. The case fatality rate (CFR) is 3.8%, with 184 deaths countrywide (UNICEF 02/12/2015).

The cholera outbreak in Maiduguri in Borno state has affected ten IDP camps as well as some communities in the surrounding areas (ECHO 18/09/2015; MSF 17/09/2015; UNICEF 11/2015). As of 5 November, 949 cases have been reported since 7 October, with 17 deaths and a 1.8% CFR. There has been a steady increase in the proportion of cases in communities around camps, now reaching 54% of all cases compared to 33% before (UNICEF 11/2015). The outbreak is thought to be due to overflowing sewage after heavy rainfall, and inadequate water supply (WHO 24/09/2015). The majority of IDPs are outside official camps, where access to WASH facilities is severely limited (ECHO 18/09/2015; MSF 17/09/2015).

In 2014, there were 35,996 reported cholera cases, but with a much lower fatality rate, of 1.9% (UNICEF 14/11/2015, 20/10/2015).

Measles

A measles outbreak has been reported in Gubio camps, in Maiduguri, among IDP returnees from Yola. 123 cases were reported with 12 deaths, and a 9.7% CFR (UNICEF 11/2015).

Nutrition

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

A survey in Chibok, Askira, and Uba in Borno state, and Michika in Adamawa, showed 32.4% global acute malnutrition (GAM), which far exceeds the WHO critical threshold, and 3.0% SAM (FEWSNET 31/10/2015). Malnutrition is thought to be worse among IDPs in host communities, as they lack access to nutrition services (OCHA 19/08/2015). The proportion of children found with severe acute malnutrition among screened children in IDP camps is 3.2%, which is similar to the overall estimates in the host community (UNICEF 11/2015).

WASH

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

WASH conditions in IDP host communities are critical (IDMC 16/04/2015). In the northeast, only 46% of the population have access to improved sources of drinking water and 21% to latrines (UNICEF 13/01/2015). In 29 shelters, less than 50% of water sources are functional (IOM 31/10/2015). More than 75% of IDP camps lack handwashing and drainage facilities. The number of people sharing a toilet far exceeds the Sphere standard (USAID 23/07/2015). In Gombyo, one of the camps outside Maiduguri, each latrine is shared between around 100 people (IRIN 02/11/2015). In 57 shelters, the toilets are in poor condition. In eight shelters, toilets are not usable. In most shelters, there are no separate male and female toilets (IOM 31/10/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

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

IDP sites are often overcrowded (IRIN 05/06/2015). The number of IDPs in formal camps has increased since April, and shelter and other basic needs have risen (OCHA 08/06/2015). There is a reported need for shelter repair materials in half of IDP sites. IDP sites include schools, government buildings, self-made tents and community centers (IOM 31/10/2015).

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

Education

10.5 million children are out of school in Nigeria, of whom 60% in the north of the country (UNICEF 04/2015). Schools and universities have been particular targets of BH. 300,000 children in Borno state have been unable to attend school for more than a year (USAID 17/06/2015). Between 2009 and October 2015, BH murdered more than 600 teachers, with half of these deaths in Borno State. More teachers have been threatened, injured or kidnapped. Another 19,000 teachers have fled their posts because of the violence (IRIN 07/12/2015).

Almost 450 schools have reopened in Borno state for the first time in a year and a half, though many teachers and pupils are reluctant to return because of persistent violence (Reuters 01/12/2015). Teachers and students have been deliberately targeted by attacks (UNICEF 30/09/2015). Classes are held just two days a week, and when school is in session armed guards stand at the entrance (IRIN 07/12/2015).

In Yobe, school enrolment rates have fallen by between 2% and 59% (UNICEF 09/11/2015). Low numbers of qualified teachers, scarcity of teaching materials, and fear of sending children to school are main concerns for IDP children’s access to education (UNICEF 01/06/2015).

Protection
2.2 million people are in need of protection (OCHA 09/07/2015). Reported protection incidents include killing of civilians, forced displacement, destruction of property, and arbitrary detention. Priorities for IDPs are the denial of access to assistance and family separation (UNHCR 31/08/2015; UN 29/09/2015).

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

IDP camps are facing a significant threat from militant infiltration; cases of BH militants disguised as IDPs have been reported from Maiduguri (UNHCR 29/05/2015). BH has forcibly recruited young men, and carried out executions (Amnesty 13/04/2015).

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

Large-scale demolitions and evictions in an informal housing settlement in Badia, in Lagos, have made thousands of people homeless. More than 30,000 people are expected to lose their homes, businesses and livelihoods, if demolitions continue as planned. There are reports of people forced to leave their houses without prior notice in the middle of the rainy season, with police sometimes resorting to violence (UN HRC 23/11/2015).

Gender

Women and girls kidnapped by BH have experienced physical and psychological abuse, forced marriage and labour, and sexual slavery (OCHA 24/09/2015). Women are at particular risk of sexual violence and trafficking in displacement sites (OCHA 30/04/2015).

So far in 2015, women and girls have been used extensively by BH to carry out suicide attacks. There are reports that BH is using intellectually disabled women to bomb civilian areas. They have also started using young boys (Action on Armed Violence 10/08/2015; International News 05/12/2015).

Children

Nearly 1.2 million children, half of whom are under five, have been forced to flee their homes, and have increased protection needs (UNICEF 30/09/2015). Physical and emotional abuse of children is reported in many IDP sites. The majority of unaccompanied and separated children are in Borno state, followed by Yobe and Adamawa (IDMC 16/04/2015; UNICEF 13/04/2015; OCHA 07/07/2015; Protection Sector Working Group 17/07/2015). In Borno, Gombe, Yobe and Adamawa, 3,401 unaccompanied and separated children have been identified as of November (UNICEF and Protection Cluster 30/11/2015). The increasing use of children and women for suicide bombings is of great concern (UNHCR 29/05/2015; OCHA 25/09/2015).

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

Updated: 14/12/2015

SOMALIA CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

13 December: Fighting broke out in the town of Beledweyne, Hiraan region, killing 14 people and injuring more than 20 (international media 13/12/2015, 14/12/2015; local media 13/12/2015, 14/12/2015).

13 December: A suspected Al Shabaab attack was attempted on Mogadishu airport (local media 14/12/2015).

12 December: The Somali government recaptured Geriley from former Al Shabaab members who have pledged allegiance to ISIS (local media 12/12/2015).

KEY FIGURES

- 4.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA 02/12).
- 1.1 million IDPs, mainly in the south-central region, with high concentrations in Mogadishu (UNHCR 04/11/2015), and 60,000 people have been displaced due to flooding (UNHCR 20/11/2015).
- 2.8 million people need safe water (OCHA 09/11/2015).
- 3.2 million are estimated to need emergency health services (OCHA 11/09/2015).

- Over 1.0 million people are facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes (FSNAU 04/11/2015).

- Some 308,000 children under five are estimated to be acutely malnourished, mainly in south-central Somalia, including 56,000 severely malnourished (FSNAU 04/11/2015).

- 1.7 million children are out of school (OCHA 09/11/2015).

- Nearly 1 million Somali refugees live in neighbouring countries, mostly Kenya, Ethiopia, and Yemen (UNHCR 06/10/2015).

OVERVIEW

Protracted conflict, consecutive years of drought, natural hazards, and disruption of basic infrastructure have led to large-scale displacement in Somalia and across the region. Almost half the population of Somalia, around 4.9 million people, is vulnerable to external shocks and lacks access to basic goods and services. Insecurity and bureaucratic impediments hinder humanitarian access.

Politics and security

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

Armed conflict

Al Shabaab continues attacks on civilians, humanitarian personnel, and government officials. In 2015, Al Shabaab has made substantial advances in Lower Shabelle region, taking control over Kurten-warey and Janale after withdrawal of government and African Union troops (FSNAU 04/11/2015; Horseed media 18/09/2015; Reuters 06/09/2015). In Middle Juba, military forces do not have control over major commercial and administrative towns (FSNAU 04/11/2015).

Between January and November, more than 1,010 incidents involving Al Shabaab were reported, causing 3,236 deaths. Nearly 20% of all reported incidents were attacks against civilians. Throughout 2015, an average of 16 attacks against civilians have been reported per month (ACLED 28/11/2015). However, for many incidents no number of casualties is confirmed, and the actual number is likely much higher than what is reported.

Stakeholders

Al Shabaab

Al Shabaab is a militant Islamist group and off-shoot of the Islamic Courts Union. It took over most of southern Somalia in 2006, seeking to establish an Islamic state. Numbering 7,000–9,000 militants, Al Shabaab typically targets Somali government officials, AMISOM forces, and perceived government allies. Attacks in urban centres and along transport axes are common, although a shift in tactics has seen Al Shabaab concentrate attacks on small and remote AU bases in 2015 (CNN 03/09/2015). Al Shabaab has also carried out a number of attacks in Kenya. Al Shabaab was forced out of Mogadishu in 2011 and Kismayo in 2012, and lost Barawe, Lower Shabelle, in October 2014.

SNAF-AMISOM offensive

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) force counts 22,000 troops. Its mandate has been extended until 30 May 2016 (UNSC 28/07/2015). The Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF) and AMISOM started a military offensive against Al Shabaab-held areas in March 2014 (OCHA 05/2014). New offensives began in July (AMISOM 19/07/2015; OCHA 20/08/2015).

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

Conflict developments

Bakool, Banadir, Bay, Gedo, Hiraan, and Shabelle regions are all affected by violence. In November, 64 incidents related to Al Shabaab, and 241 fatalities were reported (ACLED 07/12/2015). Often, numbers of fatalities are not confirmed and the number of deaths from Al Shabaab-related violence is expected to be much higher.

Inter-Communal Violence

On 13 December, fighting broke out in the town of Beledweyne, Hiraan region. 14
people were killed and more than 20 injured, including women and children. Several houses and business places were damaged (international media 13/12/2015, 14/12/2015; local media 13/12/2015, 14/12/2015).

On 22 November, fighting erupted between Puntland and Galmudug armed forces over disputed land. At least 20 people were killed, 120 injured and over 90,000 were displaced, including 40,000 IDPs who fled from displacement settlements (UNSM 28/11/2015; local media 09/12; OCHA 08/12/2015). Most of the people fled to nearby villages, IDP settlements, or schools or health facilities on the outskirts of North and South Galkayo. Relative calm has returned to Galkayo since a ceasefire agreement was signed on 5 December. Some IDPs have gone back to their homes and previous settlements, while many are still reluctant to return (OCHA 08/12/2015).

Al Shabaab related violence

On 13 December, an attack was attempted on Mogadishu airport by suspected Al Shabaab members, who approached the seaside airport in boats. The airport is protected by AMISOM and currently houses a number of foreign embassies, AU and UN representatives in its compound (local media 14/12/2015).

On 12 December, Somali government soldiers recaptured Geriley, a location in the border between Kenya and Somalia, from former Al Shabaab members who recently declared themselves part of IS (local media 12/12/2015).

Kenyan troops have reportedly captured an Al Shabaab base in Yantooy, along the Juba River. The attack was meant to disrupt militant supply lines to the Al Shabaab headquarters in Jilib (World Bulletin 26/10/2015; ABC News 25/10/2015).

Natural disasters

An estimated 145,200 people have been affected by floods and tropical cyclones since mid-October (OCHA 04/12/2015). El Nino conditions have led to drought in Somaliland and heavy rains in other parts of the country (WFP 01/12/2015). In the coming months, over 600,000 people are expected to be affected by flooding in south-central Somalia and Puntland, which is likely to lead to displacement, additional health concerns, and restricted access to affected areas. 60,000 people have been affected by drought in Somaliland (WFP 01/12/2015). Over 50% of IDPs in Galkayo are at risk of being affected by the weather (UNHCR 31/10/2015).

Flooding

An estimated 60,000 people have been displaced due to flooding. Low-lying areas of Mogadishu were flooded on 18 November. Shelters and latrines were destroyed, affecting around 1,800 IDPs. Some 12,000 IDPs have lost their shelters (OCHA 13/11/2015, 20/11/2015). In areas of the Lower Shabelle region, moderate rains have led to river floods and flash floods (FAO, 08/12/2015) 28,000 people in the region have been affected in areas along the river, including Balcad, Mahaday, and Jowhar. IDPs are particularly affected (OCHA 06/11/2015, 27/10/2015). In the week of 13 November, new flooding was reported in Jowhar, and areas of Lower Juba (OCHA 13/11/2015).

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

On 29 November, heavy rains in Mogadishu, Banadir region, caused the water reservoir in Sigaale, Hodan district, to overflow. Flooding affected 12 IDP settlements in ADRO, Al Cadaala, Bay iyo Bakool, Bismilahi, Buuryaqalin, Cali Adan, Daruur, Dharyaaile, Galgaduud, Hilaac, Jarirow and Tawakal (OCHA 04/12/2015).

There are risks of infectious disease outbreaks in flood-affected areas, with some cases of acute watery diarrhoea and cholera already reported (OCHA 20/11/2015).

Tropical storm

42,000 people have been affected by tropical cyclones Chapala and Megh since early November (UNHCR 20/11/2015). Bosaso, Puntland, is most affected, as well as nomads in Berbera district, Somaliland, who have lost livestock. The storms caused displacement and destruction of property, roads, buildings and boats (Red Cross 14/11/2015; FAO 10/11/2015).

Drought

60,000 people are in need of assistance in Somaliland, due to shortages of water and the deaths of livestock (WFP 01/12/2015).

Displacement

There are 975,670 Somali refugees in neighbouring countries and an estimated 1.1 million of IDPs in Somalia as of June 2015. As of April, 29,729 people have arrived from Yemen, although the arrival rate has fallen significantly since August.

IDPs

An estimated 1.1 million Somalis were IDPs in June 2015, 893,000 in the south-central region, 129,000 in Puntland, and 84,000 in Somaliland. 369,000 IDPs live in makeshift camps in Mogadishu (UNHCR 04/11/2015).
October–November floods have displaced at least 60,000 people. Most of the people have stayed in their villages, or moved to neighbouring villages. In Middle Shabelle, 11,000 people were displaced from Balcad, Jowhar, and Mahaday. 9,600 people have been displaced in Lower Juba, mainly in Bulale and Jilib districts; 9,300 in Middle Juba; and 9,000 in Hiraan. IDPs have moved from low-lying areas in and around Mogadishu to less flood-prone areas on the outskirts of the city (OCHA 20/11/2015, 13/11/2015). At least 1,500 people have been displaced in Galgkayo, Mudug (OCHA 06/11/2015, 27/10/2015). In Afgooye district, Lower Shabelle, 1,500 people have been displaced (OCHA 13/11/2015). In areas where floodwater has receded, people have started to return (OCHA 11/11/2015).

Tropical storms Chapala and Megh have displaced more than 500 families (over 4,000 individuals) in northern Somalia, most of whom are in Bosaso (IFRC 14/11/2015).

52,340 people were displaced between July and September, mainly due to military offensives (31%), forced eviction (24%), and other security-related reasons (FSNAU 04/11/2015). Between May and July, 46,000 people were newly displaced, mainly in Lower Shabelle and Bay regions (OCHA 20/08/2015, 10/08/2015, 16/07/2015; ECHO 21/07/2015; FSNAU 02/10/2015).

Returnees

Between 8 December 2014 and 6 December 2015, 6,020 Somalis have returned from Kenya, including 2,803 to Kismayo, 1,744 to Mogadishu, and 925 to Baidoa. 51% are women and 49% are men. 82 separated children have been reported (UNHCR 06/12/2015).

Returnees and refugees from Yemen

As of 10 December, 29,935 arrivals from Yemen have been registered since April, mainly through Bosaso, Puntland, and Berbera, Somaliland (IOM 10/12/2015). 89% of arrivals are Somali returnees, 10% Yemeni refugees, and 1% third-country nationals (IOM 19/11/2015). Many Somali returnees intend to continue to Mogadishu (UNHCR 09/11/2015). The arrival rate has fallen significantly since August, attributed to information on living conditions for new arrivals in Somalia reaching people who intend to leave Yemen, and because the conflict in Yemen is affecting the two main ports of departure to Somalia (IOM 15/10/2015; UNHCR 05/10/2015, 15/10/2015). A total of 4,209 Yemeni refugees have been registered between 28 March and 31 October 2015 (UNHCR 31/10/2015).

Somali refugees in neighbouring countries

There are 975,670 Somali refugees in neighbouring countries, of whom around 10,670 were registered in 2015. 420,670 are in Kenya, 251,692 in Ethiopia, and 249,060 in Yemen, with the remainder in Uganda, Djibouti, Eritrea, and Tanzania (UNHCR 04/11/2015, 31/10/2015; Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat 31/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

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

Access of relief actors to affected populations

At least 10 aid workers have been killed and 17 injured in Somalia so far in 2015. In the first six months of 2015, there were more than 60 security incidents involving aid workers. Five aid workers have been abducted, and 33 arrested or detained (OCHA 16/07/2015, 20/07/2015, 29/10/2015, 10/11/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Insecurity on the main roads continues to hamper aid delivery (WFP 30/09/2015). Bulo Burde, Hiraan region, is only accessible via an airstrip secured by AMISOM (FSNAU 02/10/2015). Roadblocks in Hudur, Bakool region, have eased somewhat in recent months, facilitating the movement of goods to the town. However, surrounding areas continue to be affected by violent clashes and cannot be accessed by humanitarian organisations (FSNAU 02/10/2015).

Floods have rendered main supply roads nearly impassable, including Mogadishu–Baidoa, Mogadishu–Kismayo, and Mogadishu–Belet Weyne. Some airstrips have become unusable (OCHA 20/11/2015). In Bay and Bakool, access to people affected by floods remains challenging, as the road between Baidoa and Burhakaba is almost impassable, affecting humanitarian and commercial supply to Burhakaba and Qansax Dheere. Access to flood-affected areas of Middle Shabelle is also difficult: affected areas in Mahaday district are only accessible by boat (OCHA 13/11/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Over one million people are estimated to face Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes through December, up from the 855,000 people projected in September, due to below-average production in July and August, followed by the dry season and intensified conflict in much of southern Somalia. 3.9 million people will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes. The increase is a result of...
Million people will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes. The increase is a result of revised population figures (FSNAU 04/11/2015, 02/10/2015).

Agropastoral areas in Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed are expected to remain in Crisis, even after the harvest, due to below-average gu/karan long-cycle crop production in November/December as a result of a drier than usual April to July. Riverine areas in Middle Shabelle are expected to remain in Crisis through December, as flooding delayed planting, destroyed crops, and prevented households from accessing markets. In Guban pastoral zone, poor households will remain in Crisis, despite the atypical, moderate rainfall in October and November, which increased pasture and water availability (FEWSNET 30/11/2015).

More than half of severely food insecure people are in Banadir; the majority are IDPs. Overall, IDPs make up 62% of the severely food insecure (FSNAU 04/11/2015).

Livelihoods

Rangeland conditions remain poor in Guban pastoral livelihood zone in Somaliland, where unusual livestock deaths are reported, and in Bakool, Gedo, and areas of Lower Shabelle. Livestock body conditions are poor in northeastern and central regions, and in most southern regions (FEWSNET 31/10/2015).

The tropical storms have killed around 3,000 livestock in Berbera district, Somaliland. Damage to crops and fisheries was also reported in Somaliland and Puntland (IFRC 14/11/2015).

Livelihoods is one of the main challenges reported in IDP settlements (DRC 24/10/2015).

A large proportion (23–49%) of households that receive remittances have reported that remittance receipts have declined over the past six months (OCHA 10/11/2015).

Food availability

In Buale and Sakoow districts, Middle Juba, flooding destroyed 40 hectares of crops, affecting over 1,000 people. Crops have also been damaged in Afgooye district, Lower Shabelle (OCHA 13/11/2015).

Food access

Cereal prices remain high in areas affected by conflict, due to unofficial taxation, and in areas with limited local production (FEWSNET 31/10/2015). Prices of essential staple foods in areas affected by trade embargos in Bakool, Gedo, and Hiraan have stabilised due to the delivery of aid, improved seasonal harvest, opening up of secondary supply routes, and adjustments by local traders for food transportation, but remain below the level of the previous year (FSNAU 02/10/2015; FAO 03/12/2015).

WFP has cut food rations and suspended some activities due to funding gaps, and is expected to scale back further in December, leaving up to one million people without food security and nutrition assistance (WFP 30/09/2015).

Health

Around 3 million people are in need of emergency health services, particularly in Bay, Bakool, Galgaduud, Middle Juba, and parts of Gedo. Children under five are a priority group (OCHA 09/11/2015; UNICEF 31/08/2015).

Serious crude death rates (CDR of over 0.5 deaths/1000 people/day) have been recorded in agropastoral areas of the Shabelle regions, among IDPs and urban populations in Mogadishu, and among IDPs in Dolow and Dhusamareb in Galgaduud. The highest CDR was observed among IDPs in Dhibley, Gedo (1.18), where, diarrhoea, malaria, and pneumonia are the main causes of death for children under five (FSNAU 16/10/2015). Flooding has caused a significant increase in acute watery diarrhoea cases in areas of Puntland and south-central Somalia (OCHA 20/11/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Overall, 3.2 million people are in need of health services (OCHA 09/11/2015). 1.5 million people are without access to primary or secondary health services due to funding shortfalls, including 300,000 children under five. Ten hospitals have closed or significantly scaled down services since May. Basic health posts and clinics are struggling to meet primary health needs. Many aid agencies have withdrawn health workers due to lack of funds (WHO 23/07/2015). In 2014, 20 health facilities closed due to limited funding (OCHA 16/07/2015).

Health facilities outside Hudur, Bakool region, are not functional and humanitarian actors cannot access the areas due to insecurity (FSNAU 02/10/2015). In Bari region, Alula hospital was damaged by tropical storm Megh (OCHA 13/11/2015).

Cholera

There are risks of a cholera outbreak following floods and consequent displacement in Kismayo, Galkayo, and other riverine areas. After the flooding, in Jowhar, Kismayo, and Mogadishu, several cases of cholera have been confirmed (UNHCR 20/11/2015).

Measles

Suspected measles cases continue to be reported in all zones of Somalia, though
Suspected measles cases continue to be reported in all zones of Somalia, though underreporting is probably underestimating the actual caseload (WHO, 31/08/2015). From January to September, 6,126 cases of measles were reported, mainly from Galgaduud, Banadir, and Lower Shabelle (UNICEF 30/09/2015). The measles outbreaks in 2015 and 2014 have each recorded at least double the caseload of 2013 (OCHA 14/07/2014).

Malaria

In Dolow, malaria cases increased from 300 to 377 from October to November, as flooding has led to an increase in mosquitoes. Most of the affected are children under the age of five (OCHA 04/12/2015).

Nutrition

308,000 children are thought to be acutely malnourished (FSNAU 04/11/2015). As of 23 November there are at least 147,064 cases of severely malnourished children in Somalia. The most affected areas are Togdheer, Awdal and North Galbeed in Somaliland and Middle Shabelle, Bay, and Gedo in south-central Somalia, while there are no sufficient data for Sanag and Sool areas and for the most part of Nugel and Galgaduud (UNICEF and Nutrition Cluster 23/11/2015). Nationwide, global acute malnutrition (GAM) is at 13.6%, including 2.3% SAM (FSNAU 08/09/2015, 16/10/2015).

85% of livelihood areas in south-central and northeast Somalia show a serious or critical nutrition situation, with more than 10% GAM. In south-central, priority groups for nutrition, where GAM is more than 15%, are pastoral, agropastoral, and riverine populations in Gedo region; people in Belet Weyne and Mataban districts in Hiraan region; Hudur in Bakool; coastal pastoral areas and the cowpea belt in Mudug and Galgaduud regions; Bay region; and IDPs in Dolow, Baidoa, Dhobley, Garowe, and Galkayo (FSNAU 16/10/2015). In Somaliland, GAM was 22.3% and SAM 5.9% in pastoral areas of northern Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed, as of September. Children up to 29 months and girls are at higher risk of SAM (FSNAU 02/10/2015).

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

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

IDPs

Malnutrition among IDPs is particularly critical. In Garowe, Galkayo and Dolow, acute malnutrition has been above 15% over the past two years. Among Dhobley IDPs, GAM has nearly doubled since the last assessment (October–December 2014), from 11% to 20.7%. SAM levels are above 4% in Baidoa, Galkayo, and Dolow (FSNAU 08/09/2015, 16/10/2015).

A rapid deterioration has been noted among Bossaso IDPs, in the northeast, with GAM levels rising from 12.5% to 16.8%. Alert levels of GAM (between 5% and 10%) were seen among IDPs in Burao and Berbera (FSNAU 30/11/2015). Critical levels of SAM were reported in two IDP settlements, Dolow and Baidoa, in the south-central region (FSNAU 30/11/2015).

WASH

2.8 million people are estimated to be in need of safe water. There is a need for maintenance of WASH infrastructure, particularly in displacement settlements and areas affected by drought (OCHA 09/11/2015).

100 latrines were destroyed and 30 water pumps submerged by flooding in Gedo region. Over 90 community latrines were damaged in IDP settlements of Mogadishu, and many others are likely to collapse. The waste is likely to pose health risks (OCHA 13/11/2015).

Poor WASH conditions are reported in 12 IDP shelters affected by floods on 29 November as latrines were destroyed and assistance is required to treat and drain stagnant water (OCHA 04/12/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

An estimated 1.1 million people are in need of shelter. Needs have increased due to forced evictions and conflict. IDPs in Mogadishu are living in makeshift shelters (OCHA 09/11/2015; UNHCR 07/09/2015).

In Banadir region, flooding destroyed the makeshift shelters and belongings of over 12,000 IDPs. Shelters and silos have also been destroyed in affected areas of Middle Shabelle, and Togdheer in Somaliland (OCHA 27/10/2015, 13/11/2015). 20,000 IDPs in Galgaduud affected by heavy rains live under poor shelter conditions and risk having to leave their homes (OCHA 13/11/2015). 1,500 IDPs in Galkayo are in urgent need of shelter. According to latest estimates available, around 42,000 IDPs are thought to be
living in Galkayo. Over 50% of are at risk of flooding and live in makeshift shelters under very poor conditions. IDP settlements in Baidoa district, Bay, were affected by heavy rains (OCHA 06/11/2015).

Education

1.7 million children are out of school. 78% are in south-central Somalia (OCHA 09/11/2015). Children of displaced families remain the most vulnerable and neglected regarding access to education (OCHA 02/06/2015). There is a lack of teachers and learning materials, and learning facilities are inadequate (OCHA 20/07/2015).

Flooding in Galkayo has blocked access to schools (OCHA 06/11/2015).

Protection

1.11 million people are considered in need of protection, mainly due to the physical insecurity resulting from the SNAF-AMISOM offensive and inter-clan fighting; SGBV, including cases of sexual violence during inter-clan conflict; child protection violations; separation of children; and forced/secondary eviction (UNHCR Protection Cluster 10/2014; OCHA 29/09/2015; UNFPA 31/08/2015). AMISOM forces have been accused on several occasions of killing civilians in their homes (HRW 13/08/2015).

In September and October, around 300 protection incidents were reported among displaced populations. Most incidents occurred in south-central Somalia in September. Incidents mainly include physical assault, killing, domestic violence, rape, illegal arrests, and abduction. Most incidents occurred in the area of settlement, but some during displacement. In September, Berbera, Hargeisa, and Iaas Caanood recorded the most violations in Somaliland (UNHCR 30/09/2015, 31/10/2015).

On 3 December, a Somali journalist was killed in Mogadishu when a bomb detonated under her car (AFP 03/12/2015).

Forced evictions

Forced evictions of IDPs have surged in 2015, as the appreciation of land is driving land-grabbing. Between January and September, 116,000 IDPs and urban poor were forcibly evicted from private and public buildings in Mogadishu, Kismayo, Baidoa, Bosaso, Galkayo, Hargeisa, and Luuq. They live on the outskirts of the city in IDP settlements where they face risks of exploitation and abuse, and scarce basic services and livelihood opportunities (OCHA 09/11/2015). 77,314 evictions have taken place in Mogadishu since January 2015 (UNHCR 31/10/2015).

Gender

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

Children

Both Somali national armed forces and Al Shabaab have been accused of killing and recruiting children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict 01/09/2015). Nearly 1,300 grave violations were recorded January–June 2015. Grave violations include recruitment or use of children, killing, maiming, rape or other sexual violence, and abduction (UNICEF). Boys are more affected than girls (OCHA 03/06/2015; UNICEF 31/05/2015, 30/06/2015).

Updated: 14/12/2015

SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, Floods, food insecurity, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

10 December: Increased fighting between government forces and opposition groups in Wau county, Western Bahr el Ghazal state, has forced at least 3,500 people to flee. They are taking refuge in schools in Wau town and are in need of food, water and medicine (Sudan Tribune, 10/12/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 6.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2015 (OCHA, 08/01/2015).
- 3.9 million people are estimated to be in Crisis (IPC phase 3), Emergency (IPC phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC phase 5) food security outcomes. 40,000 are in Catastrophe (OCHA, 06/11/2015).
- An estimated 250,000 children are severely malnourished (OCHA, 13/06/2015).
- 1.66 million IDPs since December 2013 (IOM, 13/11/2015).
- 265,700 refugees in South Sudan, mainly from Sudan (>80%), DRC, Ethiopia and CAR (UNHCR, 01/12/2015).
OVERVIEW

Violence spread across eastern and northern South Sudan in December 2013. A ceasefire agreement was signed in August 2015, but clashes continue. Strife has progressively adopted the characteristics of an inter-communal conflict between the Dinka tribe allied to South Sudan President Kiir and government forces, and the Nuer, loosely allied with former South Sudan Vice President Riek Machar.

The conflict is concentrated in the Greater Upper Nile states of Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity, with the central counties of Unity state most severely affected. The capital of Unity was transferred from Bentiu to Mankien (Mayom county) in April. Food insecurity and malnutrition rates are alarming. Insecurity is hampering the delivery of assistance. The UN reports widespread violation of human rights and targeted violence against civilians.

Politics and security

Civil War

President Kiir’s Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA), who are predominantly Dinka and backed by Ugandan troops, have been fighting a loose alliance of military defectors loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar, the Sudanese People’s Liberation Army-In-Opposition (SPLA-IO), and ethnic Nuer militia, since December 2013. By November 2014, approximately 50,000 people were thought to have died, although access restrictions make numbers hard to verify (ICG, 15/11/2014). Armed violence is mostly concentrated in Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile.

Security in Western Equatoria has also deteriorated in recent months. An unconfirmed number of armed groups have emerged in the area; some are aligned with the SPLM-IO, including the Revolutionary Movement for National Salvation (REMNASA) and the youth militia group known as the Arrow Boys (Al Jazeera, 21/11/2015; Sudan Tribune, 29/10/2015).

A peace deal was signed in August between Machar and President Kiir, but the agreement has not been implemented and ground fighting and aerial bombardment continue. There are reports that both the government and opposition are stockpiling arms and ammunition. Some observers have warned of an escalation of violence as the floods recede from November to January (AFP, 04/11/2015). The AU has warned that the peace deal is at risk of total collapse and has urged all parties to uphold their commitments, including a permanent ceasefire (News 24, 29/11/2015).

The military has ordered the shooting down of any aircraft flying in South Sudan’s airspace without government knowledge. This is due to fear that weapons are being illegally transported into the country. There are concerns about the risk this directive poses to relief agencies (VoA, 14/12/2015; Sudan Tribune, 13/12/2015).

Progress of the Peace Agreement

Out of a total of 32 key requirements agreed upon in the peace deal, only three have been fully implemented (14/12/2015).

During peace negotiations, the SPLM-IO pushed for the creation of a 21-state federal system. President Kiir rejected this, on the grounds that the plan ensured a Nuer majority in many areas. The final peace agreement established power-sharing on the basis of the existing 10-state structure. However, this agreement is at risk, as President Kiir recently announced plans to divide the country into 28 states via a constitutional amendment. This move would enable the SPLA to reduce the area controlled by supporters of the SPLM-IO and ensure a Dinka majority in many of the newly defined states. The SPLA-IO, as well as international sponsors (UK, USA, Norway), have warned that any restructuring decision will reduce the chances of implementing the peace deal (Sudan Tribune, 27/11/2015; 23/11/2015; 08/10/2015).

The government is adhering to some aspects of the peace deal: government troops have begun to withdraw from Juba to locations 25km outside the city (Sudan Tribune, 24/11/2015).

On 27 November the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (JMEC), responsible for overseeing the implementation of the peace deal, held its first meeting in Juba. Opposition groups failed to attend, but the SPLM-IO has said that it will be sending group delegates to Juba to act as an advance team to work towards implementation of the peace deal (VoA, 30/11/2015). There is currently disagreement between the two parties over the proposed size of the delegation. The SPLM-IO wants to send 650 delegates to Juba, whereas the government will accept a maximum of 30, due to security concerns (VoA, 14/12/2015).

Sudan–South Sudan

Relations between Sudan and South Sudan have been poor since South Sudan’s independence in 2011. The violence in South Sudan since December 2013 has exacerbated tensions, with additional concerns in Khartoum regarding an influx of refugees and arms, as well as disruption of oil flow. Sudan has accused South Sudan of using Sudanese militia groups to fight insurgents. South Sudan has made similar accusations.
The mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is set for review mid-December 2015 (All Africa, 29/11/2015). As of 28 February 2015, there were 11,700 uniformed UN personnel in the country. In August it was announced the mandate of the mission would be updated to include helping with the implementation of the peace deal. Ban Ki-moon has urged the Security Council to approve the deployment of an additional 1,100 UN troops to join UNMISS (All Africa, 29/11/2015).

Conflict developments

The ceasefire is not holding and violence and human rights violations continue, most significantly in Unity, Jonglei, and Upper Nile. Fighting has recently escalated in Western Equatoria (The Guardian, 08/12/2015; Sudan Tribune, 09/12/2015). Clashes have also occurred in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria. Government forces and the opposition have accused one another of being responsible (AFP, 08/12/2015; Sudan Tribune, 07/12/2015).

**Unity:** 1,000 civilians were killed in Unity state over a six-month period in 2015, and 1,600 women and children were abducted between April and September. Witnesses have said the SPLA were the main perpetrators (UNHCR, Protection Cluster, 25/09/2015). Fighting intensified again in October, with hundreds killed and displaced (Protection Cluster, 22/10/2015; IRIN, 09/10/2015).

**Western Equatoria:** Tensions escalated in Western Equatoria earlier this year after armed cattle herders brought their livestock to the state, destroying crops and threatening livelihoods (The Guardian, 08/12/2015). The security situation is has deteriorated over the past month: clashes between government forces and the Arrow Boys continue. In Ezo county, over 4,000 people, including around 1,200 DRC refugees, have fled to DRC since 15 November. An unknown number of people have fled to CAR. Those who have stayed are hiding in the bush and urgently need food and medicine. Aid workers have withdrawn (UNHCR, 04/12/2015; OCHA, 01/12/2015). More than 100 people are reported to have died in the state over the past month (The Guardian, 08/12/2015).

On 17 November, the Arrow Boys and the government agreed to a preliminary peace deal (Sudan Tribune, 18/11/2015).

**Central Equatoria:** Clashes are reported in Lainya county between government forces and an unidentified armed group. Vehicles were attacked in September and October including a passenger bus; five people are reported to have been killed (UNHCR, 28/10/2015; Sudan Tribune, 19/11/2015).

**Western Bahr el Ghazal:** Increased fighting between government forces and opposition groups in Wau county has forced at least 3,500 people to flee. They are taking refuge in schools in Wau town and are in need of food, water and medicine (Sudan Tribune, 10/12/2015).

**Inter-communal violence**

Violence between communities is frequent, but underreported. Ownership of cattle is a common source of tension, particularly among pastoralists (Protection Cluster, 25/09/2015; IRIN, 15/01/2015). Cattle herders are often heavily armed and closely connected to armed groups. Cattle moved on to fertile farmland often leads to clashes between the herders and the local population (Al Jazeera, 21/11/2015). Inter-communal violence is of particular concern in Unity, Central Equatoria, Lakes, Warrap, and Western Equatoria. Between July and November inter-communal clashes have killed at least 160 people and displaced as many as 30,000 (UNHCR, 08/2015; Sudan Tribune, 07/2015; 08/2015; 11/2015; Radio Tamazuj, 07/2015; 08/2015).

Over October and November several cattle raids resulting in fatalities were reported in Bor county, Jonglei state. Cattle raids in the area forced an unconfirmed number of women and children to flee to islands in swamps (Sudan Tribune, 12/11/2015).

 Violence is also reported in IDP camps. Overcrowding and inter-communal tensions threaten safety. UNMISS has responded to at least 3,000 security incidents at PoC sites (All Africa, 29/11/2015).

On 26 November the residence of the Ngok Dinka Paramount Chief in Abyei was attacked by unknown assailants. One peacekeeper from the United Nations force in Abyei (UNISFA) and a child were killed. Three others were injured (UN, 27/11/2015).

**Humanitarian access**

The delivery of aid is restricted by fighting, logistical constraints, and administrative impediments. The rainy season (now ended, although some flooding has not yet receded) and insecurity has forced humanitarian organisations to deliver aid via air drops. The food supply entering Upper Nile from Sudan has recently shrunk due to insecurity along the transit route (WFP, 24/11/2015). At least 250,000 people are without direct access to supply entering Upper Nile from Sudan has recently shrunk due to insecurity along the transit route (WFP, 24/11/2015). At least 250,000 people are without direct access to

**Access of relief actors to affected populations**

Threats against humanitarian staff and facilities are common, particularly in Unity and Upper Nile, (UNHCR, 02/10/2015; PI, 11/09/2015). Six people have been killed in Unity since May 2015 (UNHCR, Protection Cluster, 25/09/2015). **Overall, 41 aid workers have been killed since conflict began in December 2013 (All Africa, 11/12/2015).**

Assault, burglary, harassment, arrest, and detention have all been reported in 2015 (OCHA, 23/11/2015; 18/09/2015). In October, 32 attacks were carried out against aid
workers, including 15 in Juba. Most recently, on 20 November, aid workers in an NGO office in Juba were robbed at gunpoint (OCHA, 23/11/2015; Reuters, 23/11/2015).

There reports of armed groups from the SPLA and SPLA-IO actively blocking aid reached people in central Unity (AFP, 30/10/2015). Almost all UNICEF supplies in Buaw payam in Unity have been looted (UNICEF, 03/12/2015).

On 1 December it was reported that a local NGO in Mundri county in Western Equatoria was looted. Staff were forced to flee (Christian Aid, 01/12/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

A resurgence of fighting in Unity and threats against staff have led to all humanitarian organisations withdrawing as of 3 October. An estimated 250,000 people no longer have access to humanitarian assistance, although airdrops continue (Protection Cluster, 22/10/2015).

Aid workers withdrawn from Western Equatoria due to the increase in violence (OCHA, 01/12/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Humanitarian staff from several organisations have been evacuated from Katigiri, Central Equatoria (PI, 11/09/2015). Insecurity in Western Equatoria in September limited WFP’s movement (WFP, 21/09/2015). Vessels transporting fuel up the River Nile are vulnerable to attacks (UN, 29/10/2015; Reuters, 02/11/2015).

Much of South Sudan is inaccessible during the seasonal floods (May–October) (The Guardian, 27/03/2015). In some areas, floods are not expected to completely recede until January 2016, and access to Greater Upper Nile will remain restricted until then (FEWSNET, 2015). Major roads in Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile are closed (WFP, 04/12/2015).

Roads in Western Equatoria, Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal, and Warrap states remain passable only with light vehicles. High river waters have blocked the Yambio–Nzara–Tambura road at Bo river post at the border of Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal (Logistics Cluster, 01/11/2015). WFP has reported that the transit time from Juba to Mingkaman IDP camp in Lakes has increased by a week due to poor road conditions (WFP, 21/11/2015).

Displacement

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

As of 1 December, there are an estimated 1.66 million IDPs in South Sudan (UNHCR, 01/12/2015). Around 50% are children (UNICEF, 22/10/2015). This is an increase of over 35,000 since 16 August (OHCA, 15/09/2015). Confirming the location of people is difficult, but reports suggest the following number of IDPs in each state:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>IDP population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jonglei</td>
<td>463,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unity</td>
<td>576,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Nile</td>
<td>309,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakes</td>
<td>120,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Equatoria</td>
<td>93,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Equatoria</td>
<td>52,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Bahr el Ghazal</td>
<td>24,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Equatoria</td>
<td>8,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abyei</td>
<td>9,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrap</td>
<td>1,920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(OCHA, 08/10/2015).

Unity: 28,000 people displaced to Panyijar county are in need of WASH and shelter assistance (Radio Miraya, 29/09/2015).
Jonglei: As of 12 November, women and children – thought to be in their hundreds – have been displaced to islands in the swamps around Jale payam, Jonglei state. Education has been interrupted; suspected cases of whooping cough have been reported (Sudan Tribune, 12/11/2015).

Western Equatoria: Throughout September and October around 50,000 people were displaced by fighting between SPLA and opposition forces in West and East Mundri. Most fled to the bush, and are reported to be in need of food assistance, shelter and NFIs, healthcare, and safe water (OCHA, 06/11/2015; Protection Cluster, 10/12/2015). All urban areas in the two counties were reported to be deserted at the start of December (Protection Cluster, 10/12/2015). An unknown number of IDPs are residing with host communities, most notably in Kotobi, West Mundri, where food, water and shelter is being shared. There are reports that conflicts are emerging over the limited supply of resources (Protection Cluster, 10/12/2015).

Protection of Civilian sites
As of 27 November, 206,400 people are in UNMISS Protection of Civilian sites (PoCs) (IOM, 27/11/2015). Over half are in Bentiu, in Unity state, where the population has increased by more than 40% since July (IOM, 27/11/2015). Nearly 48,000 are in Malakal, in Upper Nile, and 28,000 are in Juba UN House (IOM, 13/11/2015). 2% of IDPs in PoCs are elderly, and 61% are children (OCHA, 09/11/2015). There were reports of IDPs moving from Malakal PoC to the town of Wau Shilluk in early November (UNICEF, 05/11/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers
As of 1 December around 265,700 refugees are in South Sudan (UNHCR, 01/12/2015). 101,800 registered refugees are in Unity, 133,000 in Upper Nile, 2,300 in Jonglei, 18,600, in Central Equatoria, and 9,400 in Western Equatoria (UNHCR, 30/10/2015).

88% of refugees are from Sudan. The rest are from DRC, Ethiopia and CAR (UNHCR, 30/10/2015). Local media reported the arrival of 600 Burundi refugees in mid-November, who are currently scattered in host communities. This number has yet to be confirmed by a UN agency (Radio Tamazuj, 13/11/2015).

Over 69,900 refugees are in Yida, Unity state, although the number is fluid as people move across the border depending on safety and needs. 14,589 have arrived from South Kordofan since December 2014 (UNCHR, 07/10/2015; PI, 03/07/2015). The South Sudan government wants to close Yida camp and relocate refugees further from the border to Ajuong Thok camp, also in Unity, which has a population of 31,280 (UNCHR, 16/10/2015; 07/10/2015).

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

Sudan: As of 12 November, 198,448 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since December 2013 (UNHCR, 31/11/2015). The Sudanese Government refuses to recognise them and instead considers them to be Sudanese citizens (UNHCR, 03/04/2014). UNHCR declared this constitutes an obstacle to accessing humanitarian assistance.

Ethiopia: 226,053 South Sudanese refugees (ECHO, 10/12/2015).

Uganda: 172, 497 South Sudanese refugees (ECHO, 10/12/2015).

Kenya: 49,514 South Sudanese refugees (ECHO, 10/12/2015).

Food security and livelihoods
As of October, 3.9 million people in South Sudan are estimated to be experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3), Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) food security outcomes. This is a drop from the peak of 4.6 million during the lean season, before the harvests began, but is an 80% increase compared to the same period last year (UN, 09/11/2015). 30% of the urban poor in South Sudan are estimated to be in Emergency food insecurity (IPC, 22/10/2015).

Large areas of Unity, Jonglei, and Upper Nile are expected to remain in Emergency throughout the harvest period as food stocks have been depleted (UNHCR, 01/12/2015). The 40,000 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) are mostly in the central counties of Koch, Mayendit and Leer in Unity state. ICRC reported in September that coping mechanisms in these areas are completely exhausted (ICRC, 12/09/2015). People are consuming one meal per day compared to the typical two meals (WFP, 30/09/2015). January is the onset of the dry season and the fish harvest is expected to fail. The situation is therefore likely to further deteriorate without immediate humanitarian assistance (WFP, 27/11/2015; IPC, 22/10/2015).

Food security has also deteriorated in the Greater Equatoria region due to market disruption, economic downturn, insecurity, and crop failures. It is the first time that such poor indicators have been reported for the Greater Equatoria region (IPC, 22/10/2015).

Food availability
Planting across the country has been affected by conflict, displacement and erratic rainfall. Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei states have been most affected. Significant soil moisture deficits have affected crop yields and pasture is declining (FAO, 29/10/2015; WFP, 30/09/2015). UNHCR reduced rations by 30% in August, in Doro and Gendrassa refugee
camps in Upper Nile (UNHCR, 15/08/2015) and has reduced rations in Yida camp, Unity. Families hosting refugees are the most vulnerable to the reductions (UNHCR, 28/10/2015).

Increasing insecurity around the town of Mundri, Western Equatoria, has caused local markets to close, placing further strain on food availability (Protection Cluster, 10/12/2015).

Food access

Food prices remain at a five-year high (WFP, 30/09/2015). 52% of households' food is purchased on markets, and most households spend 80–85% of their income on food (FAO, 02/07/2015; IPC, 27/05/2015; WFP, 30/09/2015). Fuel costs continue to increase across the country. Bentiu (Unity), Kapoeta (Eastern Equatoria) and Bor (Jonglei) have suffered severe shortages of fuel (WFP, 31/08/2015).

Health

4.6 million people need health assistance (UN, 12/06/2015). Health services are overwhelmed and there is a severe shortage of medical personnel and medicine. Malaria accounts for almost half of all medical consultations.

Healthcare availability and access

There is a severe lack of medical supplies in Malakal PoC in Upper Nile, and Bentiu PoC in Unity. This is largely due to overcrowding (Sudan Tribune, 28/10/2015). The number of patients at MSF’s hospital in Malakal is three times higher than it was in June and the number of ill children has increased fivefold (MSF, 18/11/2015).

Cholera

The cholera outbreak which began on 18 May in Juba PoC was declared over on 5 November (UN, 04/11/2015). 1,622 cases out of a total of 1,818 were in Juba (WHO, 18/10/2015).

Hepatitis E

In 2015, 1,823 cases of hepatitis E, including 22 deaths, have been reported: Bentiu PoC has reported a total of 1,571 cases, including 14 deaths, indicating a case fatality rate of 1.3% (WHO, 04/10/2015).

Malaria

Malaria has reached epidemic, and unprecedented, proportions, with a 56% morbidity rate (Sudan Tribune, 25/11/2015; UNICEF, 03/12/2015; WHO, 11/09/2015). 1.6 million cases of malaria, including 650 deaths, have been reported in 2015 (IOM, 27/11/2015; WHO, 25/10/2015). Malaria is currently the biggest cause of morbidity across almost all states and there is a severe shortage of antimalarial medicine in the country (UNHCR, 13/11/2015; WHO, 08/11/2015). Bentiu, Malakal, Warrap, Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Lakes are most affected (UNICEF, 03/12/2015). A dramatic increase in cases has recently been recorded in the Abyei area (MSF, 20/11/2015).

Bentiu hospital reported as many as 200 cases of malaria a day at the peak of seasonal flooding (August–October) (Sudan Tribune, 28/10/2015; OCHA, 06/11/2015). The caseload continues to increase in Yida and Ajuong Thok refugee camps. Over half of consultations in Yida camp are for malaria (UNHCR, 13/11/2015).

Measles

Measles is the fourth most common cause of death. 1,280 suspected cases have been reported this year (OCHA, 01/12/2015). Bentiu PoC has reported 487 confirmed measles cases (UNICEF, 19/11/2015). Only six of 79 counties have the minimum 80% pre-requisite for vaccination coverage (OCHA, 01/12/2015).

Kala azar

In 2015 there have been 3,036 cases of kala azar including 101 deaths. This is fewer than the number recorded in 2014. The decrease is expected to be due to a lower number of reporting health facilities and inability of people to access the facilities due to insecurity and flooding (WHO, 22/11/2015).

Nutrition

An estimated 4.1 million people are in need of nutrition assistance (OCHA, 15/10/2015). Global acute malnutrition exceeds the emergency threshold of 15% in over half the country (World Vision, 03/11/2015; WFP, 24/10/2015). More than 230,000 children are suffering from SAM (ECHO, 25/11/2015). SAM rates are above the 2% emergency threshold in all PoCs (WHO, 25/10/2015; UNHCR, 02/10/2015).

In Unity, GAM rates of between 20% and 34% have been recorded. The worst malnutrition recorded was in Bentiu PoC in August, with 10.5% SAM (WHO, 04/10/2015; 13/09/2015; UNICEF, 22/10/2015). In Koch, Unity, SAM is 7%, a dramatic increase from 0.9% SAM in September (UNICEF, 19/11/2015). In Ajuong Thok refugee camp, Unity state, SAM was at 4.3% in November (UNHCR, 13/11/2015).

Screenings in September found 9.1% GAM and 2.8% SAM in Upper Nile and 24.8% GAM and 3.9% SAM in Jonglei. Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap states have recorded 17.6% and 24.2% GAM, respectively (WFP, 30/09/2015).

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

WASH
6.4 million people are in need of WASH assistance (UN, 12/06/2015).

**Water**

In July it was reported that 80% of people in Juba lack access to clean water (OCHA, 01/07/2015). Due to the increasing cost of fuel, the price of water has dramatically increased, causing more people to get drinking water from unsafe sources (OXFAM, 31/07/2015).

Bentiu, and Malakal PoCs’ water coverage is not meeting emergency standards (15 L/p/d) (IOM, 13/11/2015). In Yida and Ajong Thok refugee camps, water coverage is higher, but also not meeting emergency standards at 14 L/p/d. and 12 L/p/d respectively (UNHCR, 13/11/2015).

**Sanitation**

Sanitation provision nationwide has generally remained stable, with some improvement in Melut PoC since July. Malakal PoC, Bentiu PoC, and Melut have 44, 21, and 26 people per latrine, respectively (IOM, 13/11/2015; 22/07/2015).

An estimated 3,500 IDPs and host community households in Canal county, Jonglei, have dire WASH conditions. Coping mechanisms are severely strained after an influx of IDPs (IOM, 20/11/2015).

**Education**

An estimated 2 million people in need of education assistance (UN, 12/06/2015). Only 6% of 13-year-old girls have completed primary school (Plan, 10/06/2015). Early marriage remains a barrier to education (UNMISS, 12/11/2015).

In Ajong Thok, Napere, and Makpandu refugee camps, the pupil: teacher ratio is 72:1, 52:1 and 43:1. All fall short of the UNHCR standard of 40:1 (UNHCR, 24/07/2015; 14/07/2015). There are reports of classes large as 100 (UNMISS, 12/11/2015).

**Protection**

Reports of torture, rape, censorship, and targeting of civilians are widespread. Journalists are vulnerable: seven have been killed in 2015 in allegedly targeted attacks (Reuters, 20/08/2015; AFP, 05/08/2015).

On 29 September, the African Union announced the creation of a court to look into suspected war crimes in southern Unity (BBC, 29/09/2015).

**Gender**

Rape is used as a weapon of war by government and opposition forces (HRW, 21/07/2015). In the last two years, the reported number of incidents of gender-based violence has increased five-fold (OCHA, 01/12/2015). At least 1,600 women and girls were raped between April and September 2015 in Leer, Mayendit, and Koch in Unity state (OCHA, 01/12/2015). Some were then burned to death inside their homes. The abduction of IDP women from outside PoCs continues to be reported (UNHCR, 12/06/2015).

Early and forced marriage, rape, and domestic violence have been reported in and around PoCs (MSF, 08/09/2015).

It is difficult to obtain SGBV figures as people collecting information on SGBV face intimidation and threats (UNHCR, 14/07/2015).

**Children**

A UN Security Council report stated that all parties to the conflict since December 2013 were responsible for grave violations against children, including killing and maiming, recruitment and use, abduction, rape, and other forms of sexual violence (UN, 30/12/2014).

In the second quarter of 2015, at least 166 incidents of child rights violations affected 4,184 children (OCHA, 01/07/2015). Child marriage has increased since the outbreak of conflict in 2013. Families facing economic difficulty have used it as a negative coping mechanism (OCHA, 01/12/2015).

In the third quarter of this year the number of children reported to be in psychological distress has risen by 46% (Protection Cluster, 22/11/2015).

15,000–16,000 children have reportedly been recruited by armed groups since the conflict began. This has increased from 13,000 at the start of June (Protection Cluster, 22/11/2015). Waterboarding has reportedly been used to torture children who resist joining armed groups (Reuters, 08/12/2015).

Around 8,570 children are separated or unaccompanied, including over 900 in southern Unity (UNICEF, 03/12/2015; Protection Cluster, 25/09/2015).

**Updated:** 14/12/2015

**SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT**

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

6 December: Since 29 August there have been 557 suspected cases of viral
Since 29 August there have been 557 suspected cases of viral haemorrhagic fever, including 130 deaths. The outbreak that began in Darfur has now spread to Kassala and the Kordofan states (OCHA).

Violence levels decreased after 2005 but then increased dramatically at the end of 2014 after the government began an extensive military operation aimed to end armed opposition in Darfur and the Two Areas. As a result, displacement in Darfur reached the highest level since 2004: some 400,000 people were displaced. A further 223,000 have been displaced this year. In South Kordofan and Blue Nile a total of 96,000 people have been displaced by armed conflict this year (UNHCR, 11/2015). Violent conflict continues between government forces, pro-government militias and opposition armed groups.

In August 2015, President al Bashir stated his willingness to offer an amnesty to armed groups in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur who were willing to join national peace negotiations, as well as a possible two-month ceasefire. On 18 October, the Sudan Revolutionary Front, made up of armed groups from Darfur and the Two Areas, declared a six-month unilateral ceasefire (Sudan Tribune, 18/10/2015). However, there have been sporadic clashes between government forces and the SPLM-N, a member of the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF), and the government has deployed more troops to Darfur and the Two Areas (Times Live, 07/12/2015; All Africa, 05/12/2015). The SPLM-N has also mobilised more forces in anticipation of an offensive.

On 19 November the AU hosted a joint opening session for talks between government delegations and armed groups from both Darfur and the Two Areas. They failed to make any progress, and the AU has suspended talks until further notice (Radio Dabanga, 26/11/2015; 24/11/2015). The government negotiating team from Darfur refused to attend on the grounds that the peace process had adopted a comprehensive, all-inclusive approach to two separate matters. The Darfur delegation has expressed willingness to begin a separate dialogue with Darfur’s armed groups (Sudan Vision, 23/11/2015; Dabanga Sudan, 20/11/2015; Sudan Tribune, 20/11/2015). This issue has long affected attempts at negotiation. The SRF insists on an all-inclusive approach. The government has since issued death sentences to captured members of the SLM-MM: a Darfur opposition armed group (Radio Dabanga, 01/12/2015; Sudan Tribune, 29/11/2015).

Violence in Blue Nile and South Kordofan grew significantly after South Sudan gained independence in 2011. Tensions continue to run high between Sudan and South Sudan.

Conflict has been ongoing in Darfur since 2003, when a number of groups took up arms in protest over perceived political and economic neglect of the region. In response, the government armed militia groups in order to defeat the uprising. In the Two Areas (Blue Nile and South Kordofan), violence has been ongoing since the 1990s, and has worsened since South Sudan’s independence and the discovery of oil inside the border states. The Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), a group founded by the SPLM following South Sudanese independence, currently controls areas in Blue Nile and South Kordofan.

Parliamentary and presidential elections were held in April. President Omar al Bashir and his supporters won a landslide victory. Voter turnout was reportedly extremely low (AP, 13/04/2015; international media, 19/04/2015). The Sudan Revolutionary Front, the National Umma Party, and other opposition groups boycotted the elections (Al Jazeera, 27/04/2015). Profound divisions within Sudan have persisted since independence in 1956. The government’s exploitation of inter-communal differences has aggravated the situation.

Tensions between Khartoum and Juba have persisted since South Sudan gained independence in 2011. Oil production is of key concern to both countries. Sudanese forces
moved towards the border with South Sudan’s Unity and Upper Nile states in July, reportedly in an attempt to protect Sudan’s interest in the oil-rich territory that straddles the border (World Bulletin, 13/07/2015). Borders disputes have not been resolved.

Each country has accused the other of supporting armed opposition groups inside its territory. Sudan has been accused of attacking areas of South Sudan hosting Sudanese refugees (AFP, 14/11/2014).

Regional intervention

In November, Sudan sent 850 soldiers to join the coalition ground forces supporting the government in Yemen (Sudan Tribune, 09/11/2015; Reuters, 18/10/2015).

Stakeholders

Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF)

The Sudan Revolutionary Front includes the SPLM-N, mainly active in Blue Nile and South Kordofan, and Darfur’s three largest opposition groups: the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM); the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel Wahid Al Nur (SLM-AW); and the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Arkou Minnawi (SLM-MM).

Pro-government forces

The Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) are the government forces of Sudan. The Rapid Support Force (RSF) was created by the government in 2013 to help defeat armed groups across the country (Human Rights Watch, 09/09/2015). There are a number of pro-government militias in conflict with opposition armed groups in Darfur and the Two Areas.

UN peacekeeping mission

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

Conflict developments

The government has deployed more troops to Darfur and the Two Areas. It has warned it will take back control of Kauda, the state capital of South Kordofan (Times Live, 07/12/2015). The SPLM-N has mobilised more forces in this area in anticipation of a major government offensive (Sudan Tribune, 29/11/2015).

Darfur

Large-scale violence by pro-government militia against the IDP population in Darfur continues in 2015, and airstrikes by the Sudanese Air Force (SAF) remain frequent. On 10 November, militia attacked IDPs in Sabag El Khali camp in Kabkabiya in North Darfur. No injuries were reported (Radio Dabanga, 12/11/2015). On 22 November, militia raided a village west of Tabit, in North Darfur. Residents were violently attacked and robbed, and the village was burned down. Three people, including two children, were killed (Dabanga Sudan, 22/11/2015).

The Two Areas: Blue Nile and South Kordofan

Information on Blue Nile and South Kordofan states is difficult to obtain, as government authorities severely restrict access. According to Human Rights Watch and local media, the government continues to target civilian areas of South Kordofan’s Nuba Mountains (SKBNCU, 03/2015). On 13 September, the SPLM-N accused the Sudanese army of bombing SPLM-N areas in South Kordofan (Sudan Tribune, 13/09/2015). In September, there were five times the number of attacks against civilians in South Kordofan than during the same period last year (Sudan Consortium, 31/10/2015).

Inter-communal violence

Conflict over resources and ethnic tension is common throughout Sudan. This year, clashes between Rizeigat and Ma’aliya tribesmen in East and South Darfur have led to over 100 deaths and the displacement of over 24,000 families (Sudan Tribune, 13/12/2015; Radio Dabanga, 27/10/2015). Clashes between these two groups continue: fighting on 12 December in South Darfur killed 17 people and injured 29 others (Sudan Tribune, 13/12/2015).

In North, South and Central Darfur, reports of herders raiding farms, physical assault, arson and rape remain common (Radio Dabanga, 14/12/2015; 07/10/2015; 25/10/2015). There has been an increase in reports of herders attacking farmers as they move their livestock across cultivated farms (OCHA, 06/12/2015; Radio Dabanga, 01/11/2015).

Over 2-3 December attacks by militia groups in East Jebel Marra displaced 4,700 people, mainly women and children, who fled towards the town of Tabit and are in need of shelter, food, medicine and blankets (Radio Dabanga, 05/12/2015; All Africa 11/12/2015). Four children have died due to lack of food and cold temperatures (All Africa, 11/12/2015). Villages north of Kutum in North Darfur were also attacked by militia. Possessions were stolen before property was torched. One person was killed and six were abducted. Attackers were allegedly connected to the government (Radio Dabanga, 03/12/2015).

People living along the Sudan–Ethiopia border are calling for a re-demarcation of the border. At least 28 Sudanese farmers have been killed by Ethiopian gunmen in a conflict over pasture on disputed land (Dabanga Sudan, 30/10/2015). Ethiopian militias reportedly
occupy more than 50 villages and approximately 400,700 hectares of farmland in Gedaref state (Radio Dabanga, 15/11/2015).

Natural disasters

Heavy rains and storms

At the end of October, 800 homes were damaged by heavy rains in Central Darfur. In Zalingei, 2,000 people are living in temporary shelters: 430 people are in need of emergency shelter and WASH assistance. In Delejii in the Wadi Salih locality, a further 2,000 people have been affected and are in need of shelter (OCHA, 01/11/2015). On 25 October, flash floods reportedly affected an estimated 3,900 people in the east of the Red Sea state. 650 houses were damaged or destroyed. 100 cattle were reported killed. People are in need of shelter and WASH assistance (Sudan Tribune, 25/10/2015; Radio Dabanga, 26/10/2015).

Drought

After below average rainfall during the rainy season, a water shortage is expected in North Darfur as the dry season sets in. Rural areas are most affected: the daily availability of water is less than 18L, compared to 36L in urban areas (Radio Dabanga, 21/11/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

3.1 million IDPs are in Sudan. 2.5 million are in Darfur, and 1.5 million of these are children (OCHA, 06/12/2015). 378,000 are in Blue Nile and South Kordofan (ECHO, 27/11/2015). 73% of displaced households in 2015 were female-headed (IOM, 31/08/2015). Since the start of 2015, 60,000 people have been displaced in Blue Nile, and 36,000 in South Kordofan (OCHA, 31/09/2015). 20,000 IDPs are in Abyei (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

Darfur

In Darfur, 223,000 people have been displaced by conflict in 2015 (OCHA, 01/11/2015). IDPs, including 82,530 orphans and 52,350 sick and elderly, reside in 46 camps and 68 settlements, according to a survey conducted by the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) from December 2013 to April 2014. Government policy to prevent the creation of new camps is obstructing the verification and registration of IDPs, according to OCHA (IRIN, 02/06/2015). Conditions are poor, with insecurity a major concern (IRIN, 02/06/2015).

North Darfur: As of 31 August, 82,702 IDPs are verified and 16,197 are reported but not verified as having been displaced in 2015. Another 25,319 have reportedly returned to their place of origin during 2015 (OCHA, 31/08/2015). Zamzam is the largest camp in the state, hosting 150,000 IDPs (OCHA, 20/11/2015).

Around 800 people are soon to return to Kokai village, North Darfur. The village is in need of water points, latrines, schools and health centres (OCHA, 06/12/2015).

Central Darfur: As of 31 August, 17,976 IDPs are verified and 47,712 are reported as having been displaced in 2015. Another 24,985 have reportedly returned to their place of origin (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

In Fanga Suk in Jebel Marra, 7,875 IDPs and 10,000 people from the host community are in need of emergency humanitarian assistance, particularly shelter and food. This was the first UN interagency visit in four years. An unknown number of people in a further 56 villages in the area also need humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 15/11/2015). 4,190 IDPS who have returned to their places of origin in Central Jebel Marra are in need of humanitarian assistance, including emergency shelter (OCHA, 08/11/2015).

East Darfur: As of 31 August, there are 17,976 verified IDPs and 6,197 reported but not verified as displaced in 2015 (OCHA, 31/08/2015). 13,200 IDPs have returned home to Labado village in East Darfur. Additional medical staff and supplies are needed (OCHA, 01/12/2015).

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

Around 1,400 returnees in Shushta village in West Darfur’s Beida locality are in need of protection, shelter and food assistance (OCHA, 22/11/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

There are over 375,700 refugees in Sudan (OCHA, 10/12/2015). Over 198,000 refugees are South Sudanese and have arrived since December 2013. There are over 168,500 refugees of other nationalities (OCHA, 06/12/2015).

From South Sudan: As of 26 November, there are over 198,000 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 26/11/2015). 109,300 live in White Nile (approximately 10,000 in the host community), 34,500 in Khartoum, 25,600 in West Kordofan, 400 in North Kordofan, 24,400 in South Kordofan, 3,700 in Blue Nile, and 160 in East Darfur (UNHCR, 20/10/2015). 2,500 displaced South Sudanese are living in the disputed area of Abyei (UNHCR, 26/11/2015). 91% of households are female-headed (UNHCR, 29/01/2015). Around 134,100 are children (UNHCR, 01/10/2015; UNICEF, 31/08/2015).

Kharasana refugee centre in Keilak locality, West Kordofan is overcrowded. 8,000 people are staying in makeshift shelters outside the registration point (OCHA, 06/12/2015).

Et Tibbun village, in Babanousa locality, West Kordofan, is home to 2,350 IDPs and
3,900 refugees. There is a need for health facilities and water in the village (OCHA, 06/12/2015).

Refugee returnees

In Central Darfur’s Um Dukhun locality, 24,000 returnees have arrived from Chad since June. This was in response to the Chadian government demanding that refugees either integrate in to camps or return home (OCHA, 01/12/2015).

As of 3 December there have been around 5,700 arrivals in Sudan from Yemen. The majority are returnees (IOM 03/12/2015).

Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries

As of 30 November there are 297,296 Sudanese refugees registered in Chad, 264,247 in South Sudan, 37,952 in Ethiopia, and 1,943 in Central African Republic (OCHA, 10/11/2015).

Humanitarian access

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

Access of relief actors to affected populations

In 2015, there have been 131 security incidents affecting humanitarian workers in Darfur. These include abductions, armed attacks, carjackings, looting, and theft (OCHA, 14/09/2015). An increase in carjacking targeting aid organisations has been reported (OCHA, 24/05/2015).

There has been no humanitarian access from Sudan to opposition-held areas in South Kordofan since October 2013. Between 90,000 and 250,000 people in SPLM-N areas of Blue Nile state and South Kordofan are without access to humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 31/09/2015). The government has said it will not agree to allow the direct cross-border delivery of aid from South Sudan or Ethiopia, as opposition groups may use aid vehicles to transport weapons (Radio Dabanga, 26/11/2015; 24/11/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

1,289,000 people are reportedly facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes. The displaced are most affected. In East Darfur, 59% of the population is facing Crisis or Emergency; 38% are at Crisis or Emergency in West Darfur; and just over 20% in North Darfur and South Kordofan (FEWSNET, 11/11/2015). An assessment found 4,350 IDPs in Khor Abeche, South Darfur, in need of food aid (OCHA, 29/10/2015).

In SPLM-N controlled territory of the Two Areas, food insecurity is increasing (FEWSNET, 30/11/2015). 23,000 displaced people in Ed Damazin, El Roseires, and Bau localities, in Blue Nile state are in need of food assistance (FEWSNET, 30/10/2015). Food insecurity was cited as the main reason for displacement (OCHA, 11/10/2015). Crop failures have left 30,000 people in Kurmuk (Blue Nile) and 15,000 people in Dallami (South Kordofan) in need of food assistance (OCHA, 22/11/2015).

Food availability

Poor rainfall at the start of the 2015 cropping season delayed planting and affected crop quality (FEWSNET, 02/09/2015). As a result, the amount of cultivated land has decreased from 714,000 hectares in 2014 to 504,000 hectares in 2015 (OCHA, 16/08/2015). In some areas, there is risk of a 30–50% crop loss (OCHA, 29/10/2015).

As a result of the below-average harvest this year, the lean season is expected to begin two months earlier than usual, in March rather than May. The number of food insecure people will likely increase (FEWSNET, 30/11/2015).

Food access

Conflict is preventing food production and distribution. Access to markets in central South Kordofan and West Jebel Marra is severely constrained (OCHA, 27/09/2015).

Health

5.2 million people are in need of health assistance (OCHA, 28/10/2015). There are indications that the health situation in Darfur is deteriorating; many have no access to healthcare, and malaria is a particular concern (Radio Dabanga, 28/07/2015). Maternal mortality has increased in the region, due to a rise in urinary fistula cases, which are most often a result of obstructed labour and the absence of skilled attendants during childbirth (Radio Dabanga, 15/10/2015).

General health conditions through Blue Nile are reported to have deteriorated in September and October. Cases of typhoid, dysentery, and tuberculosis are increasing (OCHA, 08/11/2015). In White Nile refugee camps, 50% of people seeking medical consultation are suffering from acute respiratory infections and malaria (OCHA, 04/10/2015). In South Kordofan and Blue Nile, 162,000 children under five are inaccessible to vaccination teams (WHO, 12/11/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

There is an acute shortage of doctors in South Darfur: the Health Ministry has stated a
need for 69 specialists and 138 general practitioners in the state (Radio Dabanga, 15/11/2015). Zamzam IDP camp in North Darfur lacks medical supplies (Radio Dabanga, 22/11/2015). In East Darfur, a health clinic in Labado has no medical staff, leaving 13,500 refugees without any access to health assistance (OCHA, 04/10/2015). The only health clinic in Bedia town in West Darfur is closed and there are no medical staff in the area (OCHA, 22/11/2015).

No routine vaccination has taken place in Fanga Suk in Jebel Marra since 2011. The nearest health facility is 100km away. The main concerns in the area are malaria, diarrhoea and reproductive health. There are few birth attendants and midwives (OCHA, 15/11/2015).

In areas controlled by the SPLM-N, 162,000 children have not received routine vaccinations since 2011 (OCHA, 22/11/2015).

Haemorrhagic fever

An outbreak of what is suspected to be severe dengue has been declared in all five Darfur states. 557 suspected cases were recorded between 29 August and 4 December, of which 130 people have died. West Darfur has been the worst hit, with at least 269 cases and 83 deaths. 65% of cases have been amongst children under 15 years old. A total of 40 cases have been reported in the three Kordofan states and five cases in Kassala state (OCHA, 06/12/2015; UNICEF, 30/11/2015; Dabanga Sudan, 8/11/2015).

Kala azar

In Zamzam IDP camp in North Darfur there are reports of an increase in kala azar (visceral leishmaniasis) cases. This disease, carried by sand flies, is almost always fatal if not treated. 150 cases were reported in 2010. 1,800 have been reported to far this year (Radio Dabanga, 22/11/2015).

Malaria

1,000 cases of malaria were recorded in El Geneina, Habila, and Kereinik, West Darfur, between 12 and 25 September. An increase in malaria cases has been reported in a camp near Nyala in South Darfur. There is a severe shortage of medicine in the region and prices are rising (Radio Dabanga, 20/11/2015). In Blue Nile, 38% more malaria cases were reported in September than in August (OCHA, 08/11/2015).

Measles

As of 1 November, 3,438 confirmed measles cases and 71 deaths (2.1% case fatality rate) have been reported in 2015 (OCHA, 04/12/2015). This is five times the usual number of confirmed cases per year (UNICEF, 30/09/2015). 50% of cases were in West Darfur, Red Sea and Kassala, although the highest number of deaths (23) was reported in North Darfur (OCHA, 18/10/2015). The outbreak began in late 2014. 73% of cases are among children under 15 years old. Vaccination coverage is below the 95% needed (OCHA, 04/12/2015).

Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

As of 1 November over 400 whooping cough cases have been reported in North Darfur’s El Sireaf locality (OCHA, 01/11/2015). This is an increase of over 80 cases since the start of October (OCHA, 11/10/2015).

Tuberculosis

Higher rates of tuberculosis have been reported in Kassala state over recent years. There is a lack of medical staff and medicine in the area (Radio Dabanga, 26/11/2015).

Nutrition

Two million people are in need of nutrition (ECHO 27/11/2015). National GAM is 16.3%. 550,000 children are believed to suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). According to UNICEF, the worst-affected areas are North Darfur and Red Sea state in eastern Sudan (Medical xpress, 22/11/2015; Radio Dabanga, 17/11/2015; ECHO, 27/11/2015). GAM rates above 25% are recorded in the three North Darfur localities of El Sireaf, Allielt, Dar El Salam, and Kalimendo (OCHA, 04/10/2015). 22.7% GAM and 3.4% SAM have been recorded among host and IDP communities in North Darfur’s Kutum locality (OCHA, 04/10/2015).

WASH

3.8 million people are in need of WASH facilities (OCHA, 28/10/2015).

Water

Across Sudan, approximately one in nine people do not have access to a safe water supply (Kimse Yok Mu, 24/06/2015). 75% of drinking water in South Darfur has been declared unsafe by government officials (Radio Dabanga, 17/09/2015). All refugee camps, except Dabat Bosin in White Nile, are below the standard of 20L of water per person per day (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

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

There is reportedly a severe lack of drinking water in Tabit and surrounding villages in Tawila locality, North Darfur (Radio Dabanga, 02/11/2015).

The population of 20 villages in Tendelti, White Nile, have left their homes for Khartoum and other towns, due to the lack of drinking water in the area (Radio Dabanga, 10/12/2015).
In Labado village in East Darfur, only four of 25 hand pumps are functional (OCHA, 01/12/2015).

Sanitation

In White Nile state all refugee camps, except Dabat Bosi, have dangerously low levels of sanitation (OCHA, 13/11/2015; 01/11/2015). In El Redis II refugee camp 186 people share each latrine (OCHA, 16/08/2015). In South Darfur’s Nyala camp nearly all 7,800 toilets are reported to be out of use (Dabanga Sudan, 04/11/2015).

In Jouri, El Kashafa, El Redis I and II, in the White Nile State, latrine ratios are also failing to meet emergency standards of 50:1 (UNHCR, 30/10/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

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

Education

40% of children aged 5–13 are out of school in Sudan (OCHA, 27/09/2015). 1.9 million are of primary-school age (UNICEF, 14/04/2015). The highest percentages of children not in education are in Blue Nile (47%), Kassala (45%), and West Darfur (46%) (OCHA, 13/09/2015). 70% of school closures are due to insecurity on the route to school (Education Cluster, 13/10/2015). Schools are frequently used as shelters for IDPs (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

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

In Fanga Suk, in Jebel Marra, only 243 out of 3,200 school-aged children are enrolled in a school in the area (OCHA, 15/11/2015).

In Et Tibbun village in Babanousa locality, West Kordofan, almost all children are not attending school, mainly because they cannot afford school fees (OCHA, 06/12/2015).

Protection

3.5 million people are in need of protection (OCHA, 28/10/2015). Human rights violations including torture, targeting of civilians, rape, censorship, and arbitrary arrest are widespread in Sudan. One human rights organisation reports that in October, 71 specific incidents of human rights abuses were committed, mainly by government forces or pro-government militias. These include the murder of 35 civilians, the destruction of nine villages, and aerial bombardment of civilian targets in Jebel Marra (SUDO, 31/10/2015).

Mines and ERW

250 locations covering an estimated 32km$^2$ are contaminated by mines and ERW, with the greatest concentrations in Kassala, Gedaref, Red Sea, Blue Nile, South Kordofan, and Darfur (UNMAS). South Kordofan is the most heavily mined area of Sudan, according to the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor.

Gender

The use of rape as a weapon of war is widespread. IDPs are especially vulnerable. Rape of IDPs by pro-government militia was frequently reported by local media in North, South, and Central Darfur and Jebel Marra in 2014. In October, 38 incidents of rape were documented. Nine of these cases were minors (SUDO, 31/10/2015).

Documentation

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

Updated: 14/12/2015

BUERUNDI FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, POLITICAL UNREST

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

14 December: Burundian refugees in Rwanda are reportedly being forcibly recruited by Burundian opposition groups and sent to military training camps (Refugees International).

13 December: Burundi’s government will cut spending by 16% in 2016 (Reuters).

11 December: 87 killed in Bujumbura in worst violence since April (Guardian; Reuters).

KEY CONCERNS

- 223,000 Burundians fleeing political unrest are registered as refugees in Rwanda, DRC, Tanzania, and Uganda (UNHCR, 14/12/2015).

- Over 300 people killed in political violence since April (Reuters, 13/12/2015; OHCHR, 10/11/2015).
700,000 people are severely food insecure, including 100,000 in need of immediate food assistance (OCHA, 12/11/2015).

OVERVIEW

The political turmoil is exacerbating a chronic situation of unmet humanitarian need. Over 223,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries since April. According to humanitarian contingency plans, a further 500,000 people could be affected as the situation deteriorates over the coming six months, including another 100,000 displaced to neighbouring countries. Priority areas are Kirundo, Cibitoke, Rumonge, Makamba and Bujumbura Rural provinces, and the city of Bujumbura. Immediate humanitarian needs have been highlighted in protection, food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance, WASH and essential healthcare services, and education.

Politics and security

High levels of political instability and frequent violence persist, having begun in April with demonstrations opposing President Nkurunziza's intention to run for a third term. The security situation deteriorated rapidly after Nkurunziza's re-election at end July, and risks degenerating into a renewed armed conflict, with possible repercussions in the region and the possibility of mass atrocities (IRIN, 12/10/2015; AFP, 08/12/2015). In November, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights reported that 240 people had been killed since April, including 63 in the first three weeks of October (OHCHR, 23/10/2015; 11/10/2015). The latest violence in December brings the total number of people killed well above 300 (Reuters, 13/11/2015).

Political instability

Large protests denouncing Nkurunziza's candidacy for a third term were held between April and July, mostly in the capital Bujumbura (OCHA, 12/05/2015; AFP, 05/06/2015; Reuters, 18/05/2015). A coup led by the former head of intelligence was attempted in May, but failed after two days of intense clashes (BBC, 13/05/2015). Several top officials have fled the country, including the Vice President and head of parliament, at end June (AFP, 28/06/2015; 25/06/2015).

Parliamentary and presidential elections went ahead in June and July, despite being widely declared as not credible. The ruling party won a majority of parliamentary seats 29 June and Nkurunziza was re-elected on 24 July, with 69% of the vote. Turnout was low, with 17 opposition parties boycotting the polls (AFP, 07/07/2015; 27/07/2015).

On 1 August, opposition leaders met in Addis Ababa to form a coalition, the National Council for the Restoration of the Arusha Accords and the Rule of Law (IRIN, 12/10/2015). They have called for international sanctions against the government (AFP, 15/09/2015).

On 20 August, President Nkurunziza was sworn in for a third term, ahead of schedule (AFP, 20/08/2015). His new cabinet has been criticised as being dominated by loyalists, despite assurances that he would put in place a government of national unity (AFP, 25/08/2015). Despite calls from the influential Catholic Church for dialogue, the government has categorically ruled out negotiations with the opposition, instead redoubling the targeting of dissidents (AFP, 23/09/2015). Dissidence has subsequently slid from protest to armed violence against security forces (ACLED, 13/12/2015).

Recent incidents

Although police launched a crackdown on illegal weapons in early November, armed confrontations between police and opposition groups continued in November and December on a near daily basis (AFP, 08/11/2015; 02/12/2015). 11 December saw the worst day of violence since April, with a total of 87 people killed after armed opposition groups carried out three coordinated attacks on military installations in Bujumbura. Witnesses reported hearing gunfire across the capital on Friday and early Saturday, and finding corpses in the streets after the violence subsided (Guardian, 12/12/2015; Reuters 13/12/2015). Other attacks earlier in December and throughout November, including gun battles and grenade explosions, killed at least 34 people and injured 69 (AFP, 09/12/2015; 02/12/2015; 22/11/2015, 16/11/2015, 09/11/2015; MSF, 18/11/2015; UNDP, 09/11/2015).

International pressure

Multiple international bodies and states have tried, but so far failed, to leverage political dialogue in Burundi. President Nkurunziza's ultimatum labelled those breaching a ban on weapons as “enemies of the nation” – rhetoric that sparked widespread concerns and condemnation from the international community (OHCHR, 10/11/2015; Amnesty International, 12/11/2015; UNSC, 12/11/2015). Both the EU and AU have imposed sanctions on individuals in Burundi, while the AU launched an investigation into human rights abuses (AFP, 29/09/2015; AU, 17/10/2015). Uganda, appointed as regional mediator in July, sent its defence minister to Bujumbura on 29 October in a bid to kick-start peace talks, but dialogue has largely stalled (AFP, 29/10/2015; Reuters, 08/12/2015).

Regional tensions

Relations between Burundi and Rwanda, which the government accuses of backing opposition forces, are souring – Rwanda has denied any involvement (AFP, 23/10/2015). On 7 October, Burundi ordered a Rwandan diplomat to leave the country, heightening tensions between the two countries (Jeune Afrique, 13/10/2015). Clashes in July in Kayanza and Cibitoke provinces on the Rwandan border left 31 dead (OCHA, 16/07/2015).

Economic situation

Over 223,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries since April. According to humanitarian contingency plans, a further 500,000 people could be affected as the situation deteriorates over the coming six months, including another 100,000 displaced to neighbouring countries. Priority areas are Kirundo, Cibitoke, Rumonge, Makamba and Bujumbura Rural provinces, and the city of Bujumbura. Immediate humanitarian needs have been highlighted in protection, food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance, WASH and essential healthcare services, and education.

Economic situation

Over 223,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries since April. According to humanitarian contingency plans, a further 500,000 people could be affected as the situation deteriorates over the coming six months, including another 100,000 displaced to neighbouring countries. Priority areas are Kirundo, Cibitoke, Rumonge, Makamba and Bujumbura Rural provinces, and the city of Bujumbura. Immediate humanitarian needs have been highlighted in protection, food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance, WASH and essential healthcare services, and education.
GDP is forecast to shrink 7.2% in 2015: Burundi already faces the lowest GDP per capita in the world (OCHA, 12/11/2015). Tax collection was off target by 32% in August and by 25% in September because of political violence (OCHA, 12/11/2015; Reuters, 20/10/2015). International partners fund approximately half of Burundi’s national budget, and 80% of its social services, but foreign aid has significantly decreased since the onset of the crisis (UNICEF, 30/10/2015; UNHCR/OCHA, 17/09/2015; UNICEF, 26/08/2015; AFP, 24/07/2015). Government plans to cut public spending by 16% in 2016, which will harm already fragile services (Reuters, 13/12/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods and landslides

Burundi faces elevated risks of flooding, particularly in the central and low-lying western regions (UNICEF, 30/10/2015; Government 08/12/2015). The risk of landslides is also heightened across the west of the country (Government, 08/12/2015). Heavy rains in October induced by El Niño affected 11 of Burundi’s 18 provinces, and induced landslides that killed at least four people and destroyed 400 houses. In Muhuta, Bujumbura Rural province, over 350 households were left without shelter after landslides on 2 November (Burundi Red Cross, 11/11/2015). The Burundi Red Cross estimates that up to 250,000 people could be affected by flooding and related epidemics over the rainy season, which ends in May (Burundi Red Cross, 27/10/2015).

Displacement

The political crisis since April has displaced more than 223,000 Burundians to neighbouring countries; internal displacement has been limited, but is growing (UNHCR, 14/12/2015; OCHA, 12/11/2015). There are 77,600 protracted IDPs in Burundi, mostly ethnic Tutsis, and 79,000 returnees going through a reintegration process. Burundi also hosts 54,800 refugees from DRC, mainly in border regions.

IDPs

Internal displacement resulting from current political violence has been limited and difficult to track, with IDPs reluctant to identify themselves for fear of retribution (OCHA, 13/10/2015). Almost 15,000 people have been internally displaced in Makamba and Kirundo provinces (IOM, 31/10/2015; OCHA, 12/11/2015). 55% are female and 62% are children (IOM, 31/10/2015). 75% are living among host families, with the remainder renting homes or occupying abandoned houses (IOM, 31/10/2015).

68% of IDPs were displaced between May and July, at the height of electoral unrest. A further 19% were displaced after Nkurunziza’s election. 13% were displaced between January and April (IOM, 31/10/2015). It is widely believed that current figures largely underestimate the IDP population; tracking of another eight provinces is expected in December (Refugees International, 18/11/2015).

As of January 2015, Burundi had 77,600 protracted IDPs, mostly ethnic Tutsis, living in and around 120 sites in northern and central Burundi (IDMC, 31/01/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of end July, Burundi was host to 53,977 refugees from DRC, mainly in the border regions of Ngozi, Ruyigi, Muyinga and Cankuzo (UNHCR, 31/07/2015). However, refugees have been requesting relocation since the beginning of the political crisis (UNHCR, 05/06/2015).

Refugee returnees

79,000 Burundian returnees were going through a slow reintegration process in April, including 43,000 who had been forcibly repatriated from Tanzania. Most have not been registered due to a lack of reception facilities, while tensions have risen with host communities over land ownership issues (IOM, 01/2014; HCT, 24/04/2015).

Burundian refugees in neighbouring countries

As of 14 December, over 223,000 Burundian refugees are registered in Rwanda, DRC, Uganda, and Tanzania (UNHCR, 14/12/2015).

Rwanda: 70,549 Burundian refugees are registered in Rwanda (UNHCR, 08/12/2015). 45,098 are in Mahama camp – where lack of safe water and latrines is of great concern (UNHCR, 08/12/2015; IFRC, 10/09/2015). Another 21,752 are living in Kigali, and 2,729 are in Huye district. Two reception centres at Bugasera and Nyanza as well as a transit centre in Nyagatare temporarily host small refugee populations (UNHCR, 08/12/2015). Refugees are reportedly being forcibly recruited by Burundian opposition groups and sent to military training camps in Rwanda and DRC (Refugees International, 14/12/2015).

DRC: 18,382 Burundians refugees have been registered in DRC (UNHCR, 31/11/2015). Refugees are being relocated from host communities, regrouping sites and transit centres to Lusenda refugee site in South Kivu, where 9,759 are now living (UNHCR, 23/10/2015).

Uganda: 17,353 Burundian refugees have been registered in Uganda since November 2014, including 12,976 in the Nakivale refugee settlement in Mbarara and 3,781urban
refugees living in Kampala (UNHCR, 10/12/2015).

Humanitarian access

UN agencies have reported restricted access during periods of violence (WFP, 30/06/2015). The block out of independent media is hindering aid agencies’ ability to communicate with communities in need of assistance (OCHA, 17/09/2015; IOM, 09/10/2015). International humanitarian presence outside the capital is particularly constrained, although the Burundi Red Cross has a strong nation-wide reach (OCHA, 13/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Approximately 700,000 people are estimated to be severely food insecure (OCHA, 12/11/2015; WFP, 03/12/2015). Approximately, 100,000 people are reliant on assistance (WFP, 04/11/2015). WFP’s food stocks are stretched (WFP, 03/12/2015). Poor households are expected to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes through December in the presence of assistance (FEWSNET, 27/10/2015). 85% of IDPs have reported inadequate quantities of food (IOM, 31/10/2015).

Food availability

Food availability improved over the Season B harvest, which was near average. Above-average rains forecast for October to December have created largely favourable conditions for Season A production (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). However, displacement, reduced labour opportunities, limited access to agricultural inputs, and sales of productive assets over the last three months are driving below-average expectations for the Season A outcomes in insecurity affected areas (WFP, 03/12/2015).

Food access

Staple food prices began to stabilise or increase in September and October, slowing the trend of declining food prices over the post-Season B harvest period of June–July (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015; 31/07/2015; 30/06/2015). Insecurity is keeping food prices well above long-term averages; in some areas, prices are between 39% and 95% above five-year averages, especially Muyinga and Bujumbura (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). The price of beans, an important staple product, is well above average in all key markets (FEWSNET, 28/11/2015).

Livelihoods

Livelihoods

Insecurity has proven a major disruption to livelihoods. There are reports of people selling their harvest early and at low prices in order to seek asylum in neighbouring countries. Seasonal workers have been impeded by insecurity (OCHA, 13/10/2015). In almost three-quarters of localities assessed by IOM, less than 25% of IDP households were involved in livelihood generating activities (IOM, 31/10/2015).

Health

A shortage of hospital beds has been reported during periods of mass casualties in Bujumbura. Emergency services are hindered by the small number of ambulances venturing out at night (MSF, 26/08/2015). Stocks of essential medicines are falling rapidly due to supply chain interruptions, while access to and use of primary health services is being prevented by insecurity (OCHA, 13/10/2015). Donor withdrawals are directly impacting stocks of essential medicines (UNICEF, 30/10/2015). Shortages are expected to continue for at least six months even with the delivery of limited relief supplies (UNICEF, 30/11/2015). Over half of IDPs in Makamba and Kirundo did not have a health facility in their locality (IOM, 31/10/2015).

Cholera

Burundi faces a high cholera risk as health services and WASH conditions deteriorate. Suspected cases were reported in Kabezi commune of Bujumbura rural in November (UNICEF, 30/11/2015). Bubanza province in the north had recorded 52 cases and 1 death by 25 October (UNICEF, 30/10/2015).

Nutrition

Malnutrition has increased with food insecurity and deterioration of health services. In Nyanza-Lac health district in Makamba province, a transit area for many Burundians fleeing to Tanzania, GAM levels had reached 8.3% in August, including 1% SAM (UNICEF, 12/08/2015; OCHA 13/08/2015).

WASH

WASH has been identified as a priority in the context of the political crisis and potential cholera outbreak. 12.5% of IDPs in Makamba and Kirundo provinces report inadequate access to drinking water in their locality. 15% did not have access to latrines. (IOM, 31/10/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Displacement is driving shelter and NFI needs. 85% of IDPs have not received NFI assistance. Their priority needs include kitchen sets, tarpaulins, blankets, buckets, mosquito nets, and soap (IOM, 31/10/2015).

Education

Cases of exclusion from secondary school on the grounds of students’ political affiliation have been reported from Muyinga province (UNICEF, 29/07/2015). Among IDPs in
Protection

According to human rights experts, the protection environment deteriorated in October and November, and worsened further in December after the worst violence since the onset of the crisis (Reuters, 13/12/2015; UN, 13/10/2015). Opposition members, journalists, human rights activists and their families, as well as residents of areas perceived to be anti-government, have been targeted by police in a crackdown on dissent (OHCHR, 10/11/2015). People fleeing persecution face intimidation and arrest while travelling to neighbouring countries to seek protection (Guardian, 04/12/2015).

As of end September, the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights had documented 90 cases of torture since April as well as 704 arrests in September alone (OHCHR, 28/09/2015). Hundreds more arbitrary arrests and detentions were reported in October (OHCHR, 10/11/2015). Imbonerakure – the ruling party’s youth wing – is accused of severe abuse including torture, threats, and intimidation, including toward refugees (Amnesty, 24/08/2015; Reuters 04/10/2015; AFP, 04/10/2015).

Almost all independent media outlets have been closed and journalists are regularly threatened (HRW, 01/12/2015). Journalists are reportedly facing violence and intimidation from authorities and members of the Imbonerakure (CPJ, 26/08/2015, RSF, 30/04/2015). Over 100 journalists have fled the country (International Federation of Journalists, 18/11/2015). Yet, even across the border in South Kivu, DRC police arrested a Burundian radio journalist after he was accused of threatening the peace in Burundi (AFP, 14/10/2015). Radio France Internationale (RFI) and Agence-France Presse (AFP) have filed a complaint in Burundi’s Supreme Court regarding the alleged torture of their correspondent (All Africa, 20/10/2015).

Children

At least 17 children have been killed since unrest broke out, most as a result of gunshot wounds (UNICEF, 15/11/2015). Child detention following protests and violence presents a major protection risk. Although ultimately pardoned on 30 September, 53 children had been detained for three months and charged with involvement in armed groups (UNICEF, 30/10/2015). Four of 20 minors arrested and charged with involvement in armed groups in August remain in custody in the Ruyigi re-education centre (UNICEF, 30/10/2015). Both pro- and anti-government forces are reportedly pressuring children to join in violent clashes (Al Jazeera, 01/12/2015). 75% of displaced children do not have access to child protection mechanisms (IOM, 31/10/2015).

Updated: 15/12/2015
attacks in Cameroon in December 2014, focusing on the Far North region (ECHO 06/01/2015). Amnesty International estimates at least 380 civilians and dozens of security personnel have been killed since January 2015 (Amnesty International 16/09/2015). Since July, the frequency of incidents has increased (ACLED 27/07/2015; BBC 03/09/2015; Amnesty International 16/09/2015; OCHA 21/10/2015). 15 suicide attacks have been reported in Cameroon since July, killing at least 100 and injuring over 120 people (OCHA 12/10/2015; UNHCR 16/10/2015). There have been continuous incursions and an increased frequency of attacks in the departments of Mayo-Sava and Logone-et-Chari (OCHA 28/09/2015).

National authorities have prohibited public gatherings in Far North region (UNICEF 21/10/2015). Cameroonian authorities said on 1 September that over 600 Koranic schools will be closed, as will some mosques (Cameroon Online 01/09/2015).

Stakeholders

Boko Haram

Boko Haram (“Western education is forbidden”) is leading an insurgency to create an Islamic state in the predominantly Muslim regions of northeastern Nigeria. The Nigerian authorities have been fighting BH since 2009. Precise numbers are not known, but BH’s strength is estimated at around 15,000 (Amnesty 13/04/2015). In March, BH pledged allegiance to Islamic State (AFP 07/03/2015). The activity of Boko Haram in Cameroon has intensified in the past months, with an increased number of attacks, killings and kidnappings. As of 16 September, between 3,000 and 4,000 Cameroonians are estimated to have joined the group (Amnesty International 16/09/2015).

Cameroonian Armed Forces

2,000 extra troops have been deployed to the Far North, bringing the total to 8,500 (AFP 28/07/2015). Operations against BH so far have included air and ground offensives (Daily Mail 14/01/2015; New York Times 05/02/2015). The United States is supplying equipment and logistics training to the Cameroonian military, aiding its efforts to counter BH (VoA 12/12/2014; Reuters 17/02/2015).

Multinational Joint Task Force

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

United States

On 14 October, the United States announced plans to deploy 300 soldiers to Cameroon to conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations to help counter Boko Haram violence. The goal of this mission is to set up a drone base in Cameroon (International Media 14/10/2015, 15/10/2015).

Central African Republic

Armed groups from CAR are reported to have conducted frequent incursions into Cameroon since the beginning of the crisis in Central African Republic in March 2013: kidnappings and harassment of the local population have been reported (IFRC 27/08/2015).

Recent Incidents

On 1 December, two female suicide bombers detonated explosives in Waza town, Far North region, killing at least six people (International News 07/12/2015; AFP 02/12/2015).

During 26-28 November the Cameroonian army attacked BH positions in the Far North, killing BH militants and releasing 900 hostages (AFP 02/12/2015).

Between 9 and 28 November, four separate suicide attacks, in Dabanga, Gouzoudou, and in villages near Fotokol, all in the Far North, killed 21 people and left at least 19 injured (AFP 28/11/2015; CNN 29/11/2015; AFP 21/11/2015; AFP 09/11/2015; OCHA 10/11/2015). On 15 November, exchange of fire between Cameroonian army and BH resulted in five suspected BH militants dead (eNCA 15/11/2015).

On 23 October, Boko Haram briefly seized Kerawa, a town of approximately 50,000 inhabitants in the Far North region, on the border with Nigeria. The insurgents reportedly withdrew as the Cameroonian army arrived (AFP 23/10/2015). In October, 16 small-scale BH attacks on border towns and villages in Far North left 40 civilians and two soldiers dead. Dozens of women were abducted (ICG 01/11/2015).

On 12 November nine people were killed by CAR assailants in Mbere, Adamawa province and several were kidnapped from North and Eastern provinces (ICG 01/12/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

Around 21,000 people have been affected by floods in Zina locality, Far North region (OCHA 02/11/2015).
Displacement

Cameroon hosts 158,000 IDPs; over 314,000 refugees, mainly from Nigeria and Central African Republic and 30,000 returnees (UNHCR 26/10/2015; IOM 27/11/2015).

IDPs

New data indicate an increase of 65,000 IDPs, as 158,316 people are internally displaced in Cameroon, as of 19 November 2015. 87% have been displaced by Boko Haram-related violence, and 13% by flooding and other natural disasters. 49% of the IDPs were displaced in 2015. An estimated 84% live within host communities while 16% live in spontaneous settlements. Logone-et-Chari hosts the most IDPs (91,930), Mayo Danay 26,670, Mayo-Sava 18,094 and Mayo-Tsanaga 18,020. The main movements remain within the Far North. Some villages empty at nightfall, as residents flee to the bush in fear of BH attacks (IOM 27/11/2015). During October, over 38,000 IDPs were registered in the city of Mora and more than 11,000 in the cities of Mozogo and Moskota (ACT Alliance 04/12/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 30 September, the number of registered refugees in Cameroon is reported to be 323,000 (UNHCR 01/12/2015).

Central African Republic: 254,633 refugees from CAR are reported as of 03 December. The majority are in the East and Adamawa regions and need life-saving assistance (UNHCR 03/12/2015; UNICEF 30/10/2015). Over 138,000 have arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR 15/10/2015). Many refugees have not been registered (UNHCR 13/10/2015).

Around 60,000 live in seven camps, while the remaining are scattered among host communities (IRIN 14/09/2015). More than 8,000 have settled in Timangolo, which previously had a population of 13,000; the influx has strained food stocks (IRIN 11/08/2015). The Cameroonian government is reportedly arresting refugees from CAR, putting them in camps, and instructing families not to host CAR refugees, on the grounds that some have been involved in kidnappings and cattle theft (VOA 13/08/2015).

Nigeria: As of 07 December, 65,820 Nigerian refugees are registered in Cameroon. More than 60,000 have entered the country since July 2014 (UNHCR 07/12/2015). The rate of daily arrivals has fluctuated: from 400 per day in April–May, 60–70 daily in June, to 150–300 in August (FAO 30/06/2015; IRIN 12/08/2015). 11,490 refugees have returned to Nigeria in 2015, mostly in August, following BH attacks in the country (UNHCR 11/10/2015, 25/10/2015).

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

Minawao refugee camp (Mayo-Tsanaga), with a planned capacity for only 15,000, is currently hosting 49,968 people (UNCHR 07/12/2015). 20,088 new arrivals were recorded between January and the beginning of September (UNHCR 13/09/2015). Insufficient policing and lack of psychosocial support are reported (UNHCR 30/09/2015). 15,100 refugees are located in Logone-et-Chari, and 746 in Mayo-Tsanaga (UNHCR 23/11/2015).

Refugee returnees

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

Humanitarian access

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

Security and physical constraints

The deterioration of the security situation has made access to the Far North extremely difficult (OCHA 10/04/2015). Bad road conditions delay the provision of assistance (USAID 21/08/2015). The degradation of the road between Zamay and Minawao has limited access to Minawao camp (UNHCR 25/10/2015, 08/11/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Over one month after the usual end of the lean season, 2.3 million people are reported to be food insecure. Around 230,000 are in severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or 4) (OCHA 01/12/2015; FAO 27/10/2015).

In Far North region, food insecurity has spiked in recent months, to affect one in three people: WFP estimates that 360,000 people are moderately to severely food insecure, facing Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phases 2 and 3) food security outcomes, in the Lake Chad basin areas of the Far North (UN 14/09/2015; WFP 14/10/2015). Maize prices have increased by 24% since January (FAO 27/10/2015). In the border departments of Logone-et-Chari, Mayo-Sava, and Mayo-Tsanaga, food insecurity has affected 38% of the population (UNHCR 25/10/2015).
According to an assessment conducted by WFP, security constraints are limiting land access for over 60% of farmers in North and Far North regions (FAO 27/10/2015).

Food availability

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

Health

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

Healthcare availability and access

Cameroon’s Far North, North, Adamawa, and East regions suffer chronic shortages of health workers. 46% of health centres do not have access to electricity and 70% do not have piped water (Inter Press Service 19/08/2014). In Far North, medical facilities lack equipment and qualified personnel. 25 health facilities have closed because of increased insecurity, and around 85,500 people are without health services (OCHA 21/10/2015).

Limited capacities of public health infrastructure around Minawao camp are reported (UNHCR 30/09/2015). Funding shortages are preventing health assistance (WHO 01/11/2015).

Cholera

89 cholera cases, including five deaths (5.6% CFR) have been reported in the Far North region during 2015, while 3,355 cases and 183 deaths were reported during 2014 (UNICEF 02/12/2015). During October, 36 new cases were reported (OCHA 17/11/2015).

Measles

In total, 858 measles cases have been reported. Mokolo district, in Mayo-Tsanaga department, has reported 587 cases. Mokolo is close to the Chadian and Nigerian border, raising the risk of measles epidemic spreading (Red Cross 17/11/2015).

Nutrition

2015 estimates indicate that 228,000 people will suffer acute malnutrition, including 194,919 in the priority regions of Far North, North, Adamawa, and East. 33,000 are refugees (OCHA 05/09/2015). According to UNICEF, global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates exceed 12% in Cameroon (IRIN 11/09/2015). Estimates of acute malnutrition in the Far North and Adamawa regions have drastically increased, as 2.2% of the children are suffering from SAM (UNICEF and Government of Cameroon 17/11/2015).

As of 30 September, around 69,865 children are reportedly suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (UNICEF 21/10/2015). 840 SAM cases have been reported among Nigerian refugees in Minawao camp, and 8,500 among CAR refugees (OCHA 05/09/2015, 17/09/2015).

WASH

IDPs are most in need of WASH assistance. In Logone-et-Chari, Far North, 62% of the population has no access to drinking water and an additional 319m³ per day are needed to fill the existing gap. Over 8,000 households throughout the department need WASH kits and NFIs (OCHA 24/09/2015). In Minawao and Gawar camps, 375 new latrines are needed due to new arrivals (UNHCR 08/11/2015).

Water

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

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

Shelter and NFIs

An estimated 84% of IDPs are residing within host communities. Families are renting rooms or are living in the same property. The remaining IDP population is living in spontaneous settlements and temporary camp-like settings. In Mayo-Danay department, 56% of IDPs live in spontaneous settlements, as most were displaced by flooding and are likely to return to their place of origin in the following months (IOM 27/11/2015).

New settlements are required for the recent arrivals in Minawao camp (UNHCR 08/11/2015).

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

152,000 children have suffered from interruption or disruption in education. 519 schools are open in the Far North, down from 737 before the conflict (IOM/UNHCR 29/06/2015). In Fotokol, Cameroonian armed forces have occupied several schools (OCHA 24/09/2015). In 2014, over 70 schools on the northern border with Nigeria’s Borno state were closed due to fear of attacks, and 100,000 students were relocated (VOA 07/09/2015).

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

Protection

Continued regional instability means Cameroon has been receiving refugees and asylum-seekers from neighbouring countries, mainly from the Central African Republic (CAR) and Nigeria. Significant protection concerns have been raised over the circumstances of return of Nigerian refugees from Cameroon and mistreatment by allied security forces in Cameroon (UNHCR 05/11/2015).

Children

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

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

Vulnerable groups

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

The attacks in the Far North region have created an environment of suspicion towards Nigerian refugees and asylum seekers. This has also had an impact on urban asylum seekers and refugees in the East and Adamawa (UNHCR 30/09/2015).

Updated: 08/12/2015
been extended by parliament until 22 March 2016 (Reuters, 06/10/2015; OCHA, 30/11/2015). The intensity and frequency of BH bombings in Chad have increased over 2015, with women and girls being used in 75% of attacks in the region (UNICEF, 30/11/2015).

Chad first aided Nigerian security forces to reclaim several towns from BH in Borno state at the beginning of 2015 (Reuters, 08/03/2015). Chad began military action in the Lac region in May; in July, Chadian forces pushed BH back from the country’s islands (Vice News, 28/07/2015). They bombed BH positions in Nigeria in June, following attacks on Ndjamen (AFP, 18/06/2015). At the end of June, the border with Cameroon was closed, 300 Cameroonians expelled, 60 suspects arrested and a cell dismantled in Ndjamen (ICG, 01/07/2015). Security measures have been reinforced, and 395 people of 14 nationalities were arrested in July (UNHCR, 14/07/2015). Ten BH members were executed at the end of August (The Guardian, 30/08/2015). However, a Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF), which would bring at least 8,700 forces from Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin under a common command, is yet to be fully deployed and continues to report coordination barriers (AFP, 15/10/2015; Local media, 20/11/2015).

Recent security incidents

BH continued to target civilians in December. On 5 December, a triple suicide attack targeting a busy market in Loulou Fou – a Lake Chad island – killed up to 30 people and wounded up to 200 (AFP, 05/12/2015; MSF, 07/12/2015). BH raids on Bolale village near Baga Sola on 24 November, and on Ngouboua on 20 November, left three people dead (OCHA, 30/11/2015). On 8 November, two suicide attacks killed up to five people in Ngouboua, injuring around 14 others and triggering authorities to declare a state of emergency (OCHA, 09/11/2015; AFP, 08/11/2015).

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

Displacement

There are around 750,000 displaced people in Chad in need of protection and humanitarian assistance, including long-term refugees from CAR and Sudan (WFP, 04/09/2015). Recent displacement is mainly caused by the BH conflict in the Lac region to the west, and the CAR conflict to the east.

IDPs

Lac region has witnessed two waves of displacement. In the first wave, between January and June, 11,000 Chadians were internally displaced in Lac region and over 11,000

returned from Nigeria to escape BH (OCHA, 30/11/2015). In a second wave, at least 53,000 people are estimated to have been displaced since July 21 after violence increased (OCHA, 30/11/2015). People are increasingly moving from islands to the mainland (ECHO, 06/12/2015).

Displacement across Lac region is characterised by a high level of mobility, making it difficult for humanitarian responders to track populations. Profiling and registration exercises are ongoing, but have been disrupted by insecurity (UNHCR, 18/11/2015). An estimated 11,000 IDPs who were settled in Kousseri and Kafia sites in Baga Sola have left since the 10 October attacks, fearing insecurity as well as the government’s proposed relocation of them to two remote sites. The Humanitarian Country Team objects to the relocation plans, which cut populations off markets and subsistence activities and reduce humanitarian access (OCHA, 30/11/2015). Forced relocations have taken place in Ngouboua since 20 November, when the army ordered 5,000 IDPs to move to Fourkoloum (OCHA, 30/11/2015). 13,000 vulnerable IDPs are estimated to be without assistance in Tchoukoutalia, where they are trying to engage in agriculture. (OCHA, 30/11/2015).

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

Refugees and asylum seekers

Chad hosts the world’s seventh largest refugee population (UNHCR, 25/09/2015). There are 378, 604 refugees in Chad (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

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

Nigeria: As of 30 September, an estimated 14,163 Nigerian refugees were in Chad (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). 7,868 refugees are living at the Dar es Salam site, while the remainder are dispersed among host communities, where they carry out economic activities (UNHCR, 18/11/2015). Local authorities have proposed relocating Dar es Salam site to a more remote location following increased insecurity since 10 October (UNHCR, 18/11/2015).

Sudan: As of 30 September, 296,359 refugees from Sudan were living in protracted displacement in 12 camps in Chad (UNHCR, 30/09/2015; WFP, 04/09/2015). On 21 September, UNHCR and the governments of Chad and Sudan reportedly signed a tripartite agreement for the voluntary repatriation of 300,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad and 8,500 Chadian refugees in Sudan. However, according to local media, Sudanese refugees in Chad reject the scheme and are not prepared to return to Darfur (Radio Dabanga,
20/11/2015). In November, Sudanese refugees reported restricted movements after authorities stopped renewing their asylum cards and travel permits in recent months (Radio Dabanga, 20/11/2015). 10,000 Sudanese refugees living outside camps in Chad have returned to Um Dukhun since June (local media, 04/12/2015; OCHA, 29/11/2015).

Refugee returnees

Large numbers of Chadians have returned from neighbouring countries due to conflict. Over 90,000 Chadians have returned from CAR and remain in need of humanitarian assistance (UNICEF, 31/10/2015). An estimated 100,000 have returned from Libya (OCHA, 27/08/2015). The BH conflict in Nigeria has forced around 12,000 Chadians to return since January 2015 (OCHA, 20/10/2015) 3,400 returnees from Nigeria are living in the Dar al Nahim site, near Dar es Salaam (OCHA, 20/10/2015). Additionally, there are between 5,000–15,000 unregistered returnees (ECHO 27/07/2015). As of end August, around 75,000 Chadians had returned to the country since January 2015 (OCHA, 21/08/2015).

Humanitarian access

Conflicts and insecurity are driving major access constraints in Chad. Border closures have affected trade, while humanitarian actors struggle to access populations in the most affected areas, particularly Lac region, where a state of emergency has been declared.

Security and physical constraints

Chad’s President Idriss Déby announced in May 2014 that the southern border with CAR would be closed to all except Chadian citizens, until the CAR crisis is resolved (Al Jazeera, 13/05/2015). As of September 2015, the border remained closed (US Government, 30/09/2015).

Chadian authorities decreed a state of emergency in Lac region on 9 November, empowering the governor to ban movement of people and vehicles, search homes, and seize weapons (AFP, 09/11/2015). The constraints will remain in place until at least 22 March 2016 (AFP, 19/11/2015).

The border with Nigeria remains de facto closed due to BH violence (UNICEF, 23/10/2015). Navigation on the Chari River and its tributary, the Logone, which flow along the border of Chad and Cameroon, has been halted (AFP, 30/04/2015).

Poor or impassable roads after the rainy season further limit access in the Lac region (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Severe access issues are reported in Lac region. Shrinking humanitarian space has negatively impacted the number of actors and staff, coordination mechanisms, needs assessment, and delivery of assistance (OCHA, 30/11/2015). Humanitarian operations were temporarily suspended following 10 October attacks on Baga Sola, which has been serving as a logistical base for humanitarian actors. They have subsequently resumed but remain constrained (OCHA, 31/10/2015). Displaced people both fleeing insecurity and seeking economic opportunities are highly mobile and difficult to reach (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

A proposed relocation of IDPs to remote sites would require extensive travel from humanitarian actors. Under current regulations, UN agencies could only reach the sites with military escorts, which are limited (OCHA, 30/11/2015; 31/11/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

Islands to the west and north of Baga Sola face major access constraints due to insecurity. Populations from these areas face difficulties reaching Baga Sola and Bol towns, where important services including hospitals are located (UNICEF, 31/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Improved food availability since the September harvest has lifted most of the country into Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity levels (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). At the peak of the lean season, 3.4 million people in Chad were food insecure (OCHA, 31/08/2015), including at least 663,000 severely food insecure people (IPC Phase 3 or 4) nationwide (OCHA, 31/10/2015). Large refugee influxes from Sudan, CAR, and Nigeria put additional pressure on local food supplies (FAO, 13/10/2015).

Both refugees from CAR and displaced populations in Lac region remain heavily reliant on food assistance. 400,000 people affected by displacement in the Lac region are estimated to be moderately to severely food insecure (IPC Phases 2 and 3) (WFP, 14/10/2015). While food rations had been distributed to 90% of IDPs in Lac region at least once by early November, the displaced face long term food insecurity and assistance remains a priority (OCHA, 06/11/2015; 30/11/2015). Displaced populations have reportedly been selling distributed non-food items to buy food (OCHA, 30/11/2015).

Food availability

Improving growing conditions after rainfall, followed by near-average harvests, mean food prices have largely stabilised across most of the country (GIEWS, 06/10/2015). However, in Lac region, where conflict and lower seasonal rainfall have weakened harvests, food access has improved to a lesser extent, and overall the area remains in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security (UNICEF, 23/10/2015; FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). Further, rainfall deficits in the eastern Sahelian region have resulted in below average agricultural and
pastoral production (FEWSNET, 30/11/2015).

Livelihoods

BH violence has taken a major toll on livelihood opportunities (UN, 30/11/2015). The closure of the Nigerian border, due to BH violence, continues to impede trade and livelihoods in western Chad (UNICEF, 23/10/2015). Income generation has suffered, as exports have been reduced and cattle prices have fallen (UNICEF, 30/06/2015; OCHA, 29/09/2015). Livelihoods have also been affected by decreased inflows of remittances from family members in Libya, due to conflict (IFRC, 30/05/2015).

Health

Displaced populations and host communities face immediate health needs in Lac region. Malaria, acute respiratory infections, dermatitis and acute diarrhoea are the most common pathologies (OCHA, 30/11/2015). In Lac region, several new mobile health clinics are needed to provide access to primary healthcare for at least 14,500 people in Koudouboul, Melia Kalidar, Tagal, and Kanembou spontaneous sites. 8,000 newly arrived IDPs in Daboua and Liwa require health assistance (OCHA, 30/11/2015). Health centres in Fourkoloum, Tchoukoutalia and Ngouboua are under pressure due to recent IDP arrivals and need support (OCHA, 30/11/2015).

Nutrition

Global acute malnutrition in Chad reached 22.5% in September, partly because of the displacement caused by BH in Lac region (VOA, 10/09/2015). In 2016, an estimated 325,000 children will suffer severe acute malnutrition and will need humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

112,000 people are food insecure within Mamdi department of Lac region, including 5,300 facing SAM. Chronic malnutrition also is affecting nearby Kanem and Bahr el Gazel regions of western Chad (OCHA, 20/10/2015). In Dar es Salam site, 12.3% of children suffer from SAM (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Other spontaneous sites, in Kaya, Koudouboul, Melia Kalidar and Kanembou, remain to be screened (OCHA, 30/11/2015).

WASH

Displaced populations in Lac region are in urgent need of WASH assistance. 55% of potable water needs remain unmet, with Dar es Salam the only major displacement site to be covered (OCHA, 30/11/2015). Almost 90% of IDPs in Lac region do not have access to latrines and 52% have no access to hygiene promotion activities (OCHA, 30/11/2015). According to UNICEF, more than 1,000 latrines are needed (UNICEF, 30/09/2015). Approximately 38,000 new IDPs are yet to receive sanitation assistance (OCHA, 30/11/2015). 83% of refugee families in Dar es Salam do not have access to individual latrines (OCHA, 30/11/2015). Cholera in Niger and Cameroon raises the risk of an outbreak in Chad due to cross-border population movements in the Lake Chad Basin (UNICEF, 02/12/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

90% of IDPs in Lac region have not received shelter support, leaving approximately 50,000 people in need of assistance. Seven inaccessible spontaneous sites are in need of essential household items in Daboua and Liwa, where some 7,900 IDPs live (OCHA, 30/11/2015).

Education

Countrywide, 37% of the school-aged population are out of school (WFP, 31/10/2015). There is a national shortage of teachers (OCHA, 30/11/2015).

In Lac region, needs are more acute. 72 trained teachers are needed in Lac region to help provide for the education needs of 43,000 pre- and primary school IDP and host community children (OCHA, 30/11/2015).

Classes in Dar es Salam refugee camp were suspended in October after nearby attacks. 50% less students are attending than in the beginning of the year due to insecurity and lack of classrooms (UNHCR, 18/11/2015).

Protection

BH violence involves killing and maiming of civilians, forced recruitment of women and girls to carry out suicide bombings, and looting and burning of villages. Concerns have been raised over arbitrary arrest and detention of BH suspects, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings at the hands of Chad’s security forces (UN, 30/11/2015).

Children

73 unaccompanied children and 116 separated children are recorded in Dar es Salam camp, where almost 8,000 Nigerian refugees live (OCHA, 20/10/2015). Although the government launched a campaign in 2015 to end child marriage, large numbers of underage girls continue to undergo forced marriage (UNICEF, 20/11/2015).

Gender

A ban on wearing full faced veils has been in place since June attacks in Ndjamen captured fears that female suicide bombers were concealing explosives under their garments (BBC, 10/10/2015). 13,000 women and girls are estimated to need protection assistance (OCHA, 06/11/2015).

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

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

Updated: 08/12/2015

**DJIBOUTI | Drought, Food Insecurity, Displacement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanitarian Crisis</th>
<th>Pre-crisis Vulnerability</th>
<th>% Population Affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian Access</th>
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<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>Low</td>
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See the methodology note for details.

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

1 December: 30,395 arrivals have been registered since March, including over 6,000 refugees and nearly 2,000 returnees (UNHCR).

30 November: An estimated 120,000 people, primarily in the southeastern and Obock regions, are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, which are likely to persist through December (FEWSNET).

**KEY FIGURES**

- Over 6,000 refugees have arrived from Yemen (UNHCR 24/11/2015).
- Nearly 2,000 Djiboutian returnees from Yemen (UNHCR 24/11/2015).
- 120,000 people, primarily in southeastern and Obock regions, are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes (FEWSNET 30/10/2015).

**KEY PRIORITIES**

- Food security, mainly in southeastern and Obock regions
- Shelter in Obock and Djibouti City for new arrivals from Yemen
- Protection, mainly for new arrivals from Yemen

**OVERVIEW**

Djibouti has been facing an influx of people from Yemen since March 2015. The new arrivals consist of Yemeni refugees, Djiboutian returnees and third-country transiting migrants. The number of arrivals has surpassed 30,000. Most refugees are staying in the region of Obock and Djibouti City. Humanitarian actors encounter logistical challenges when distributing aid in Markazi refugee camp in Obock. The country is also hosting over 26,000 Somali, Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees. An estimated 120,000 people in southeastern and Obock regions are facing Crisis (IPC 3) food security outcomes.

**Politics and Security**

After a civil war between two main ethnic groups Issa and Afar in the early 1990s, a power-sharing deal was signed in 1994. Since 1999, Ismail Omar Guelleh is the president. He was re-elected to a second term in 2005 and extended his mandate via a constitutional amendment allowing him to begin a third term in 2011. The political situation has been stable in the country since Guelleh came to power (BBC 06/05/2015; CIA Factbook 2015).

Djibouti has a strategic geo-political position with access to the Red Sea. It is a base for countering terrorism and piracy in the region. France as well as the US have military bases in the country. Their presence is an important source of income for Djibouti’s economy but also presents a threat of reprisal attacks on the country (UNHCR 2015; BBC 06/05/2015; CIA Factbook 2015).

**Displacement**

Conflict in Yemen has led to displacement from Yemen to Djibouti since March 2015, in particular to Obock. As of 27 November, 30,395 people have arrived, including 6,048 registered refugees, 1,916 returnees, 16,513 Yemeni nationals, and 11,966 third-country nationals. They stay mainly in Markazi camp, Obock town and Djibouti City (UN 01/12/2015). A spike in arrivals occurred between 29 September and 8 October, when nearly 1,900 Yemenis arrived in Obock. The average registration since July is otherwise around 20 individuals per week (UNHCR 09/10/2015). Prior to the influx from Yemen, Djibouti was hosting around 12,000 refugees from Somalia, and around 14,000 refugees from Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNHCR 01/01/2015; 06/10/2015). They reside primarily in Ali Addeh and Holl Holl refugee camps (RMMS 2015). Main needs are health assistance, protection and shelter (IOM 05/10/2015).
6,048 new arrivals from Yemen, of which 5,846 are Yemenis, have been registered as refugees since March. 2,753 are in Markazi camp in Obock. The rest live in Obock town or Djibouti City (UN 01/12/2015). Refugees have left Markazi camp because of the poor conditions (UNHCR 20/10/2015). The camp is remote, humanitarian access is limited, the food and health situation is critical, and protection risk factors are present, for instance long distances between dwellings and latrines (UNHCR 16/10/2015).

As of November, 26,000 refugees and 2,614 asylum seekers from Somalia (12,000), Ethiopia, and Eritrea were living in Djibouti, mainly in Ali-Addeh and Holl Holl refugee camps (UNICEF 13/08/2015; UNHCR 04/11/2015).

An estimated 12,000 refugees will need humanitarian aid, mainly health assistance, protection and shelter, by the end of 2015 (IOM 05/10/2015).

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

Humanitarian Access

Humanitarian access within Djibouti is not limited in general. There are reported logistical challenges for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Markazi camp, as the government imposes restrictions on humanitarian aid provided to registered refugees living in the camp (UNHCR 16/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

As of October, an estimated 120,000 people, primarily in southeastern and Obock regions, are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, which are likely to persist through December. October to February rains are expected to provide some relief and those who are now in IPC Phase 3 will face Stressed food security outcomes (IPC Phase 2) by January 2016 (FEWSNET 30/11/2015; FAO 13/10/2015).

Food availability

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

Food access

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

WASH

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

Updated: 09/12/2015

ETHIOPIA DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

7 December: Meher assessment results indicate the food security situation has deteriorated further, with 10.2 million people now estimated in need of assistance (government and HCT).

KEY FIGURES

- 10.2 million people are in need of food assistance (government and HCT 11/12/2015).
- 5.8 million people lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities (government and HCT 11/12/2015).
- 730,000 refugees are in Ethiopia, mainly from Somalia, South Sudan, Eritrea, and Sudan (UNHCR, 30/11/2015).
- 303,000 children are suffering severe acute malnutrition (Government 24/08/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food insecurity has more than tripled since February 2015. Areas in southern Afar and northern Somali region are facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes (government and HCT 11/12/2015; FEWSNET 31/10/2015).
- An estimated 303,000 severely malnourished children require nutritional support (Government 24/08/2015). An additional 700,000 moderately malnourished children and
pregnant and lactating women are expected to need assistance in the last quarter of 2015 (OCHA 28/09/2015).

- Water shortages are increasing, especially in Afar region and Sitti zone of Somali region (OCHA 02/11/2015).

OVERVIEW

Severe drought is affecting northern, eastern, and central areas, due to consecutive below-average rainy seasons. This is leading to high levels of food insecurity, particularly in Afar, in Sitti zone of Somali region, and parts of Amhara, Oromia, and SNNPR. 10.2 million people are estimated in need of food assistance as of December 2015. Malnutrition has increased significantly. Priority areas are mainly in Afar, Amhara, and Oromia.

The majority of refugee camps have reached full capacity, and overcrowding, malnutrition, and critical shortfalls in humanitarian aid are of concern. Most of the refugees in Ethiopia have been there for years, but remain in need of assistance.

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

Politics and security

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

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

Natural disasters

El Niño is causing severe drought in northeastern and central areas, particularly affecting southern Afar and northern Somali region. Heavy rainfall in southern Ethiopia increases the risk of flash and river floods.

Drought

This year’s El Niño is causing severe drought in Ethiopia, which is affecting a much larger geographic area and population in northern and central highlands than the 2011 drought (OCHA 19/10/2015). Rainfall was far below average during both the March–May and July–September rainy seasons (FEWSNET 24/08/2015). Very low rainfall and high temperatures have resulted in very low soil moisture and water availability. The worst-affected areas are suffering water and pasture shortages, and include northern pastoral areas of Afar and Sitti zone in Somali region, eastern and central Oromia, the belg-producing highlands, northern Amhara, and central Tigray. Eastern Amhara, eastern Tigray, the Amhara-Abay lowlands, and the lowlands of SNNPR are also affected (FEWSNET 04/12/2015; OCHA 13/10/2015; Multiagency Rapid Assessment, 09/2015). Livestock deaths have been reported across north-central and eastern Ethiopia (NOAA 07/10/2015).

Water levels have fallen at several hydroelectric dams, reducing power-generating capacity. Large parts of the country have already seen blackouts over several consecutive days, and continued power shortages are expected. 90% of Ethiopia’s power comes from hydroelectric sources (Sudan Tribune 02/12/2015; Hydroworld 02/12/2015).

Floods

Heavy rainfall over southern Ethiopia due to El Niño caused floods in Mustahil, Kelafo, and East Imy in the Shabelle zone of Somali region in late October. 102,000 people have been affected, and more than 46,500 displaced. The floods have affected health clinics, water pumps, and wells, destroyed farmland, and forced schools to close (UNCEF 31/10/2015).

Heavy rainfall is likely through January in the south and southeast, and above-normal rainfall could also lead to floods in northern, northeastern, and central areas (government 09/10/2015).

Displacement

As of June, more than one million people are displaced in Ethiopia, including refugees, IDPs, and returnees. The majority of refugees are from Somalia, South Sudan, and Eritrea, and are mainly staying in camps in Gambella, Dolo Ado in Somali region, and Shire in Tigray. Many have been displaced for more than a year. Since April, around 12,000 people escaping the conflict in Yemen have arrived in Ethiopia: most are returnees. Some 34,000 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers are in Kenya and Djibouti.

IDPs

In Fafan and Sitti zone of Somali region, pastoralists who have lost their livestock are moving to villages and towns in search of food and shelter (Multiagency Rapid Assessment 09/2015).
As of June 2015, there are 470,260 IDPs in Ethiopia, a decrease from 505,150 in March 2015 (IOM 09/07/2015). About 10% were displaced between April and June. The majority live in Somali, Gambella, and Oromia regions. Protracted displacement has arisen from inter-clan and cross-border conflict, and to a lesser extent natural disasters such as fires and flooding (PI 06/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 30 November, Ethiopia hosts some 730,000 refugees, mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan. The majority are staying in camps in Gambella, Dolo Ado, and Shire (UNHCR 30/11/2015). 36,733 refugees arrived in the first six months of 2015 (UNHCR 30/06/2015).

South Sudan: Around 280,000 South Sudanese refugees are in Ethiopia (UNHCR 01/12/2015). As of 4 December, 28,502 have entered Gambella region since December 2014, bringing the total number of South Sudanese refugees in Gambella to 268,999. 68% are children. Women make up 71% of the adult population (UNHCR 04/12/2015). 11,174 refugees are in Benishangul-Gumuz region near Assosa (UNHCR 23/10/2015).

The number of new arrivals has rapidly declined since September. Between mid-October and mid-November, 51 refugees registered, compared to 3,760 in August, and 7,260 in July, the highest number in 2015 (UNHCR 09/11/2015; 27/11/2015).

The majority of South Sudanese are in camps: 62,657 in Pugnido, 53,324 in Tierkidi, 48,292 in Jewi, 48,121 in Kule, and 7,677 in Okugo. Relocation to the new Pugnido 2 has started, and the camp now hosts 15,902 people, including around 10,000 who were staying with host communities in Wanthowa woreda. Around 33,000 refugees still live with host communities (UNHCR 09/11/2015; 04/12/2015).

Somalia: As of 30 November, there are 251,261 Somali refugees in Ethiopia. Most are in Dolo Ado camps, Somali region. So far in 2015, 4,453 new refugees have arrived (UNHCR 30/11/2015). 530 arrived in September, similar to the number of arrivals in August (UNHCR 06/10/2015; 31/08/2015).

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

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

Yemen: As of 1 November, 3,756 refugees and asylum seekers have arrived from Yemen, including 1,169 Yemenis, 2,515 Somalis, and several people of other nationalities who were refugees in Yemen (UNHCR 01/11/2015; 01/12/2015).

Refugee returnees

As of 1 November, 8,615 Ethiopians have returned from Yemen (UNHCR 01/11/2015). Some arrivals have been injured in the conflict, and many are in need of transport and shelter (IOM 26/05/2015; 23/07/2015). 55% of returnees and refugees from Yemen are female, and 66% are children (UNHCR 13/10/2015).

Ethiopian refugees in neighbouring countries

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

Food security and livelihoods

The food security situation continues to deteriorate, with meher assessment results indicating 10.2 million in need of assistance, an increase of nearly two million since mid-September (Government and HCT 11/12/2015). At least 2.9 million people are in need in Oromia region, 1.5 million in Somali region, 1.4 million in Amhara, 900,000 in Tigray, 770,000 in Afar, and 617,000 in SNNPR. Gambella, Harari, and Dire Dawa are less affected (OCHA 23/10/2015).

Sitti zone in Somali region and southern Afar region are worst affected. 954,000 people were facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse food security outcomes as of September, and many have since moved into Emergency (IPC Phase 4) due to high livestock mortality and reduced food access. Poor milk productivity is leaving poor households without access to milk as a source of food or income (FEWSNET 23/09/2015; 31/10/2015).

Due to continued drought related to El Niño, relief food needs are highly likely to double in 2016, to around 15 million (FEWSNET 04/12/2015; ECHO 09/10/2015). The increase is expected to occur mainly in Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray regions (Government and HCT 07/12/2015). The lowlands of East and West Hararghe zones in Oromia are expected to move into Emergency from January–March. Lowlands of Arsi and West Arsi in Oromia, and areas in the northern highlands, including parts of Wag Himra and North Wollo zones in Amhara, will face Crisis through March. The 2016 lean season will start early in many areas, especially in the east, and needs are likely to be particularly high in July and August 2016 (FEWSNET 27/10/2015; 31/10/2015).

Food availability

Drought conditions in eastern Amhara, eastern Oromia, and Tigray in July had a negative impact on crop development (FAO 13/10/2015). Normal food sources for this time of the year are not available in these areas (FEWSNET 31/10/2015).
The meher harvest (October–January) is expected to be well below average in most eastern areas, with up to 89% reduction in areas worst affected by drought, including Kobo woreda of North Wollo, Amhara region (OCHA 19/10/2015). In Dire Dawa, 30% of meher crops are completely damaged (Multiagency Rapid Assessment 09/2015).

Food access

Despite harvesting in the lowlands of SNNPR along the Rift Valley resulting in stable food prices, poor households are facing Crisis food security outcomes, as low incomes from labour limit food access (FEWSNET 31/10/2015). Prices of staple foods such as lentils have increased by up to 73% in Addis Ababa, and livestock prices are decreasing, with declines of 80% reported in Somali region, compared to the same time last year (OCHA 30/09/2015). Seasonal falls in prices are late: prices remain near their lean season highs in many areas, and price increases are likely to begin earlier than usual due to reduced supply and high demand, from January 2016 (FEWSNET 31/10/2015).

Refugees’ food security risks deteriorating, as food stocks are running out (government 07/11/2015). Refugees in Gambella region are receiving reduced rations in anticipation of a pipeline break in January 2016 (UNHCR 25/11/2015).

Livelihoods

The poor kiremt rains in June–September have worsened availability of pasture and water in Afar and northern Somali region, and deteriorated livestock body conditions (FAO 13/10/2015). Poor body conditions have led to very low livestock prices (FEWSNET 31/10/2015). An estimated 200,000 livestock have died so far in 2015, and this number is expected to double in the coming year (OCHA 30/09/2015). In Sitti zone, Somali region, 75% of livestock have been lost (ECHO 09/10/2015).

Low planted area and poor crop performance have resulted in decreased demand for agricultural labour (FEWSNET 31/10/2015).

Health

A large increase in acute malnutrition makes children more vulnerable to severe infectious disease (WHO 04/12/2015). 3.6 million people are thought to be in need of emergency health care and disease control services (Government and HCT 07/12/2015).

A scabies outbreak is ongoing in 22 woredas of Amhara region, particularly affecting young children. Containment of the outbreak and treatment of patients is increasingly challenging due to limited access to safe water (UNICEF 31/10/2015).

Some health clinics have been affected by floods in Somali region, while the floodwaters have increased the risk of a malaria outbreak (UNICEF 31/10/2015).

Eleven cases of meningitis have been reported among refugees in Kule camp, Gambella region, including four confirmed cases of type C meningitis (UNHCR 30/11/2015; WHO 11/2015).

Nutrition

Acute malnutrition continues to increase. Though the number of cases is seasonally declining, severe acute malnutrition (SAM) admissions in September were still 20% higher than in normal years, mainly due to continued drought and the absence of or delay in general food distributions and supplementary feeding for children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) (OCHA 02/11/2015). Acute malnutrition will likely rise again in February or March 2016, as access to food and water decline further (FEWSNET 31/10/2015).

350,000 children are expected to suffer from SAM throughout 2015 – a 25% increase from 2014. From January–September, over 257,560 severely malnourished children were admitted for treatment (UNICEF 31/10/2015). The number of admissions has reached levels higher than those reported in any month of the 2011 drought (OCHA 13/10/2015; Nutrition Cluster 17/06/2015).

429 priority woredas for nutritional intervention have been identified, including 186 ‘priority one’ woredas; a 30% increase since August. Priority areas are mostly in Afar, eastern Oromia, eastern Amhara and Tigray, and Sitti zone of Somali region, where the Ministry of Health has found 40–69% GAM and 9–20% SAM among IDPs (OCHA 14/09/2015; government and HCT 11/12/2015). In Oromia, SAM admissions increased 68% from July to August. The majority of cases were reported in East and West Hararghe and Arsi zones (government 19/10/2015).

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

Refugees: In Afar region, the nutrition situation has deteriorated in two refugee camps. In Barahle, GAM is at 22.9%, compared to 16% in 2014. In Aysaita camp, GAM increased from 17.2% in 2014 to 19.8% in 2015 (UNHCR 31/08/2015). Over 50% of refugee camps are located in ‘priority one’ woredas affected by the drought.

WASH

5.8 million people across the country lack access to safe drinking water and latrines (Government and HCT 07/12/2015).
Water

An increasing number of people are suffering from water shortages. 29 woredas have been identified as in need of emergency WASH services (OCHA 02/11/2015; 30/11/2015). Water trucking is ongoing in areas of southern Afar and Sitti zone in Somali region, but many households still do not have adequate access to water sources (FEWSNET 23/09/2015). In some areas, women and girls are travelling up to 30km per day to reach the nearest water source. Livestock deaths mean they have to carry the load themselves (OCHA 02/11/2015).

Refugees:

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

Education

Households affected by food insecurity cannot afford to send their children to school, as they are struggling to meet their food needs (OCHA 05/10/2015). Thousands of schools have closed, and absenteeism is growing rapidly (ECHO 09/12/2015). Nearly 2 million children living in priority one woredas affected by the drought have dropped out of school. Drought- and flood-affected families are moving in search of water and food, and children are taken out of school to supplement household income. Thousands more are thought to be at risk of dropping out (OCHA 30/11/2015).

7,500 children have been temporarily out of school due to floods in Somali region, as schools have been forced to close (UNICEF 31/10/2015).

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

Protection

In Oromia, farmers and residents living close to Addis Ababa face eviction without appropriate compensation, as the municipal boundary of the capital will be expanded. Since 20 November, there have been demonstrations against the expansion. Reportedly, four to ten students have died, and there have been reports of arrests and injuries. Though the expansion sparked the demonstrations, a history of marginalisation of the Oromo people is thought to be at the heart of the protest (HRW 05/12/2015; AFP 11/12/2015).

There are more than 39,020 unaccompanied and separated minors in Ethiopia (UNHCR 30/11/2015). 21,710 unaccompanied and separated South Sudanese children are in Gambella (UNHCR 04/12/2015).

Children are increasingly vulnerable. Family separation and child marriage are reportedly on the rise, due to food shortages. Child labour and school dropouts are also expected to rise as drought continues (Reuters 11/12/2015).

Updated: 14/12/2015

KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

09 December: Around 156,000 people have been affected by heavy rain and floods since early November (Kenyan Red Cross, 02/12/2015).

20-27 November: Attacks with IED by Al-Shabaab in areas close to the Somali border (ICG 01/12/2015).

20 November: The army was deployed in Sololo after three police were killed by Ethiopian soldiers in Marsabit county. The soldiers crossed into Kenya in pursuit of Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) rebels (ICG, 01/12/2015).

KEY FIGURES

- Inter-communal violence caused 310 deaths, 195 injuries, and displaced 216,294 people in the first six months of 2015 (OCHA, 04/08/2015).
- More than 591,000 refugees, including at least 418,000 Somalis and 95,000 South Sudanese (UNHCR 31/10/2015, 01/12/2015).

- Approximately 156,000 people have been affected and 55,000 of them have been displaced by floods and heavy rainfall all over Kenya. It is estimated that 500,000 people will be displaced by floods and 2 million people will be affected in Kenya by El Niño (Kenyan Red Cross, 03/11/2015-30/11/2015; OCHA 23/10).

KEY PRIORITIES

- The education and health sectors are the most affected by access restrictions (OCHA, 10/11/2015). - Food security levels after the flooding (FEWSNET, 31/10/2015).

OVERVIEW

Kenya is considered a relatively stable state, however it is deeply affected by attacks attributed to the Somali Islamist Al Shabaab movement and also by inter-communal violence between the different counties. Kenya’s refugee population is among the largest in the Africa, with nearly 600,000 refugees as of 1 October. In the first half of 2015, inter-communal conflict led to the displacement of 216,294 people. There is an increasing risk of drought, while 500,000 people in Kenya are expected to be displaced by floods caused by the El Niño.

Politics and security

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

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

Al Shabaab

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

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

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

Conflict developments

Al Shabaab-related violence

33 incidents of Al Shabaab-related violence have been recorded since January 2015, killing at least 240 people. About half of the events, and the majority of deaths, were incidents of violence against civilians (ACLED, 24/10/2015). Most violence occurs in eastern and northeastern counties along the border with Somalia, including Wajir, Mandera, and Lamu. The deadliest attack so far was in Garissa in April 2015, when 148 people were killed (BBC, 07/07/2015). Since July, attacks have mainly occurred in Lamu county, where around 20 people have been killed (AFP, 07/07/2015; 14/07/2015; Kenya Daily Nation, 18/08/2015).

On 27 November, a group of Al-Shabaab militants attacked Konton village in Wajir county, near the Somali border. On 23 November in Garissa county, five soldiers were injured by an explosion of an IED. On 20 November, an IED exploded in Mandera targeting policemen, with no casualties reported. The same day, security forces announced the destruction of six Al-Shabaab camps in Boni forest (ICG 01/12/2015).

A teacher was kidnapped on 16 October by gunmen in Hagardera refugee camp, and was rescued from Somalia in a joint security operation between Kenyan Administration Police and the neighbouring Jubaland Interim Administration (ICG, 01/11/2015).

Inter-communal violence

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In the first half of 2015, inter-communal violence caused 310 deaths and 195 injuries in 273 recorded incidents, and led to the displacement of 216,294 people. A comparable number of people were killed, injured and displaced between January–November 2014, indicating that the situation has since deteriorated. Reasons for increased violence include population growth of both people and livestock, and the availability of small arms. The northern Rift Valley and northeastern regions are most affected: Turkana, Baringo, Samburu, Marsabit, Meru and Isiolo counties. Conflict occurs particularly between the Pokot and Turkana communities, and the Samburu and Turkana (OCHA, 04/08/2015; 31/11/2014). Scarcity of water and pasture is a key driving force for conflict between communities in Marsabit, Moyale, Garissa, Isiolo, and Wajir counties (Reuters, 22/09/2015).

Cattle rustling and border conflicts between Meru and Borana communities along the Meru–Isiolo border have left at least eight people dead since 22 October. Hundreds of livestock were stolen. People set up roadblocks in protest against the conflict (Kenya Daily Nation, 29/10/2015; 28/10/2015; 22/10/2015). Tension remains high in the area. Shops in Kiutine, in Meru county, were closed and traders kept away from the open-air market. On 28 October, about 100 mine workers from Meru were evacuated by police from Duse in Isiolo. On 30 October, two communities clashed at the border of Isiolo and Meru counties, near Loloria, following the killing of a Borana boda boda rider (ACLED, 10/11/2015).

Attacks using explosives and grenades continue in Mandera county, in Mandera town and Lafey Road (KIRA, 23/09/2015). Several people were killed in clashes between Garre and Dagodia clans along the border between Wajir and Mandera counties in October (ICG, 01/11/2015).

Turkana and Pokot communities clashed late October in Turkana county, at least seven people were killed and over 300 livestock stolen (Crisis Group, 01/11/2015).

Cross Border Violence

On 20 November, the army was deployed in Sololo after three police were killed by Ethiopian soldiers in Marsabit county. They crossed the border in pursuit of Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) rebels, who had abducted over 20 Kenyan civilians (ICG, 01/12/2015; Local Media 21/11/2015).

Natural disasters

Most parts of Kenya have a 45% chance of seeing above-average rainfall until the end of December, with some potential pockets of drought. Some 23 counties are at risk of flooding, flash floods and landslides (OCHA 10/11/2015).

Drought

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

Floods

It is estimated that up to 500,000 people in Kenya will be displaced by floods and up to 2 million people will be affected by El Niño (OCHA, 23/10/2015).

Since early November, heavy rain has fallen in most regions of the country, apart from Lower Eastern. More than 156,000 people have been affected and 55,000 of them have been displaced, as many houses were destroyed. The numbers are likely to be higher, as weather is not allowing for a full assessment. Livestock was also swept away, affecting livelihoods (Kenyan Red Cross, 02/12/2015).

Displacement

Kenya’s refugee population is among the largest in the Africa, with nearly 600,000 refugees as of 1 October. The large majority have fled conflict in Somalia and South Sudan, and have been living in camps for several years. In 2015, nearly 12,000 new arrivals have been reported so far from Somalia and South Sudan. Other refugees originate from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, and Uganda. More than 200,000 Kenyans were internally displaced due to inter-communal conflict in the first half of 2015.

IDPs

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

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

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

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 15 October, Kenya is hosting 592,000 refugees and asylum seekers. 346,428 are in Dadaab and Alinjugur camps, 183,489 in Kakuma, and 62,119 in Nairobi (UNHCR, 31/10/2015, 30/11/2015).

From Somalia: As of 15 October, 418,581 Somali refugees were in Kenya (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). 6,217 new refugees have been registered since January 2015 (UNHCR, 28/10/2015). 13,162 arrived in 2014, representing a considerable drop in arrivals (UNHCR, 01/04/2015; 06/05/2015). Most are in the northeastern Dadaab and Alinjugur refugee camps, which host around 350,000 people (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Somali refugees remain entirely dependent on humanitarian aid (Institute for Security Studies, 31/08/2015).

The Tripartite Agreement between the Kenyan and Somali Governments and UNHCR, signed in November 2013, establishes the legal framework for Somali refugees wishing to return home (IOM, UNHCR, 09/12/2014). As of 27 September, 4,339 returnees had arrived in Somalia (UNHCR, 27/09/2015).

From South Sudan: Kenya hosts 95,629 South Sudanese refugees as of 27 November. 49,171 have arrived since mid-December 2013 (UNHCR, 01/12/2015). 6,313 have registered since January 2015 (UNHCR, 07/11/2015). They are mainly living in Kakuma camp. 64% are children (UNICEF, 05/02/2015). The trend of daily arrivals remains low, with the weekly average around 100 (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).

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

From other countries: 7,797 refugees from Burundi; most of them live in Kakuma camp. The majority arrived before the electoral violence in Burundi that began in 2015 (UNHCR, 11/09/2015). 24,006 refugees from DRC are in Kenya, including 5,040 who have registered since January 2015 (UNHCR, 11/09/2015; 30/06/2015; 31/10/2015). 30,687 Ethiopian and 10,193 Sudanese refugees live in Kenya (UNHCR, 31/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

During the first half of 2015, humanitarian access was significantly constrained by increased inter-communal conflict and armed group attacks, in particular in northern, upper-eastern and Coast regions, with education and health sectors being the most affected sectors (OCHA, 10/11/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

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

A threat of kidnapping and hostage-taking persists in certain areas. On 12 October, a local staff member of an NGO was abducted on the road between Dadaab town and Hagadera camp, but rescued several days later from inside Somalia (UNHCR, 15/10/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

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

Security and physical constraints

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

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

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

Food security and livelihoods

As of August, 1.1 million people were acutely food insecure. Contributing factors include poor distribution of and below-average rainfall, the cumulative effects of three consecutive poor rainy seasons, high food prices, crop pests, livestock diseases, conflict in pastoral areas, and human-wildlife conflict in areas bordering game reserves. Areas most affected by food insecurity include northwestern and northeastern pastoral areas, and southeast marginal agricultural areas (IPC, 31/08/2015).
The majority of households in pastoral and marginal agricultural areas are expected to move into, or remain in, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes in December, despite the short rains early in the month that led to seasonal recovery of rangelands and increased the demand for agricultural labor (FEWSNET 30/11/2015). Some parts of western Wajir and eastern Isiolo have much lower livestock productivity due to very little rain over the past year, and some households are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (FEWSNET 31/10/2015).

Most western and central areas of the country are in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity, as harvests keep markets well supplied. Food security is expected to improve further, following the harvest in the northern Rift Valley (FEWSNET 31/10/2015). Unusually late and heavy rainfall has damaged crops during the harvest in Rift Valley. It is estimated that up to a third of the crops in Trans Nzoia and Nandi Counties could be affected (FEWSNET 30/11/2015).

Flooding from October–December in lowland areas, along rivers, and lakeshores is causing displacement of households, increased incidences of waterborne diseases, infrastructure damage, and physical inaccessibility of markets. Affected households may reach Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes (FEWSNET 30/11/2015).

Since June, refugees in Kakuma and Dadaab camps are receiving 30% less food assistance than required, as WFP is facing funding shortfalls. The ration cuts are expected to continue until December 2015 (UNHCR 15/08/2015; WFP 26/10/2015; Institute for Security Studies 31/08/2015).

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

Insecurity in northern, eastern, and coastal regions has led to the departure of many health actors since December 2014, negatively impacting healthcare provision and nutrition assistance (OCHA, 04/08/2015, 10/11/2015). Eleven of 26 health facilities in Mandera have closed because staff have left the county (UNICEF, 05/02/2015). The risk of outbreak of malaria and waterborne diseases is very high in most of the countries due to the recent floods (Kenyan Red Cross, 03/11/2015-23/11/2015).

Access to healthcare in counties affected by insecurity is limited by the closure of hundreds of health centres, due to a lack of staff, and limited presence of humanitarian actors (IFRC, 02/09/2015). Health posts are often overcrowded in the refugee camps. In Kakuma camp, the number of consultations per clinician is more than 100 per day, far above the Sphere standard of 50 per day (UNHCR, 14/10/2015). In Kambioos and Ifo camps in Dadaab, minimum consultation times are negatively affecting the quality of services (UNHCR, 11/08/2015).

As of 11 September, 6,629 cases of cholera and 131 deaths have been reported since December 2014 (Red Cross, 02/10/2015). Counties at high risk include Turkana, Marsabit, Baringo, Siaya, Migori, Kajiado, Nairobi, Kiambu, and Kilifi. The overall case fatality rate (CFR) is 2% (IFRC, 02/09/2015). A cholera outbreak was declared in Dadaab camp, with 14 reported cases, including one confirmed, as of 11 September (UNHCR, 11/09/2015).

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

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

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

As of 14 October, Kakuma 4 camp residents have access to an average of 17.3L of water per person per day – below minimum standards. In Dadaab, water supply is 23.5 L/p/d (UNHCR, 11/09/2015; 14/10/2015).
The latrine: user ratio in Kakuma is at 1:14, which is better than the minimum standard of 1:50 (UNHCR, 11/09/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter

Dadaab refugee camps are overcrowded, and shelter inadequate. In Kambioos, many people are staying in tents that have a lifespan of 6–7 months. In Ifo camp, some shelters have not been replaced since the founding of the camp in 1991 (UNHCR, 11/08/2015).

Education

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

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

Several schools all over the country have been damaged by recent floods (Kenyan Red Cross, 03/11/2015-23/11/2015).

Protection

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

Gender

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

Children

16,442 unaccompanied minors have been registered among the refugee population (UNHCR, 11/09/2015). As at 11 November 2015, 1,358 new unaccompanied minors, including 933 from South Sudan, and 6,124 separated children have been registered, bringing the cumulative number in Kakuma camp to 2,877 unaccompanied and 13,032 separated children (UNHCR, 11/11/2015).

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

Updated: 09/12/2015

MALAWI FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

3 December: 7,500 people have been displaced throughout the country due to flooding from heavy rains 23-24 November (ECHO).

KEY FIGURES

- 2.8 million people face acute food insecurity (FEWSNET 30/11/2015).
- 230,000 people remain displaced after January flooding (UNICEF 05/11/2015).
- 21,058 children with SAM have been admitted for treatment in 2015 (UNICEF 02/12/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food security
- Nutrition
OVERVIEW

Food crisis in Malawi is the most severe in a decade: 2.8 million people face acute food insecurity. Food assistance that was supposed to be launched in October has started only in six out of 25 affected districts. Food prices continue to rise as more households rely on purchases for food needs. 230,000 people still remain displaced after January flooding.

Politics and Security

Malawi has a stable and democratic government since 1993 when the one party regime fell. Presidential and parliamentary elections are organized peacefully. Current President Arthur Peter Mutharika is in his first five-year term (World Bank 01/10/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

A 0.6% decrease in GDP is expected for 2015 because of flood damage at the beginning of the year (Government 18/06/2015). More than 1.1 million people were affected, and in November 230,000 remain displaced in temporary sites, with 106,000 IDPs in host families. The southern districts of Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe, and Zomba were most affected (UNICEF 05/11/2015; ICRC 17/07/2015). 1,220km of roads and 185 bridges were damaged or destroyed (Government 18/06/2015).

Heavy rains hit Malawi over 23–24 November. 7,500 people have been displaced throughout the country due to flooding (ECHO 03/12/2015).

Displacement

After January flooding, 230,000 people remain displaced in Nsanje and Chikwawa (UNICEF 05/11/2015). The country hosts over 21,000 refugees from DRC, Burundi and Rwanda. They stay mainly in Dzaleka camp in Dowa district (UNHCR 05/2015). Mozambican refugees have been entering the country since mid-October. Their main needs are healthcare, WASH and NFIs (VOA 19/10/2015).

IDPs

230,000 people remain displaced in temporary sites, including 106,000 still living with host families in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts after January flooding (UNICEF 05/11/2015; 07/10/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

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

Humanitarian Access

There are no access constraints reported.

Food security and livelihoods

The food crisis is the most severe in a decade: 2.8 million people face acute food insecurity as a result of the combined effect of floods and drought (FEWSNET 30/11/2015). 25 of 28 districts are affected (Red Cross 05/10/2015; UNICEF 07/10/2015). Food assistance was supposed to start in October, but underfunding has restricted its launch to only six districts: Chikwawa, Nsanje, Chiradzulu, Phalombe, Zomba and Machinga (FEWSNET 30/11/2015). Households affected by flooding are considered particularly vulnerable.

Poor households in southern districts, including Phalombe, Chikwawa, and Nsanje, are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes between October 2015 and March 2016. 110,000 people in Nsanje, 238,000 people in Chikwawa and 614,000 people in Phalombe will require humanitarian assistance to meet basic food needs until March 2016 (FEWSNET 31/08/2015; 05/11/2015).

Food availability

The floods destroyed around 64,000 hectares of crops and 195,032 animals (ICRC 17/07/2015; FAO 09/08/2015). The main staple food production forecast for 2014/2015 indicates a 30% drop compared to last season (OCHA 17/11/2015). Maize production in the current agricultural season is at 2.9 million metric tons, representing a deficit of 27.7% (VOA 19/08/2015; FAO 13/10/2015). Nut production has reduced by 21%, and rice production by 13% compared to the previous year (Red Cross 05/10/2015).

Food access

Food prices continue to rise as more households rely on purchases for food needs. Average maize prices are about 50% above the three-year average from October through December (FEWSNET 30/09/2015). In the second quarter of 2015, maize prices almost doubled in Southern (+95%) and Central (+99%) regions. In the same period the cost of the minimum food basket increased more than 10% (WFP 30/07/2015; FAO 03/12/2015).

Health

23 health facilities and significant medical supplies have been damaged or destroyed by
**Mali**

### Conflict, Food insecurity, Displacement

**Latest Developments**

- **8 December**: Since February 2012, at least 64 people have been killed and 252 injured by IEDs and ERW (UNMAS).
- **4 December**: Preliminary findings indicate this year’s cereal output is 27% above the five-year average (GIEWS).

### Key Figures

- Over 2 million people in northern and central regions in need of health services (OCHA 09/12/2015).
- 840,000 people in need of WASH (OCHA 08/10/2015).
- 118,775 people in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security over October–December (Cadre Harmonise 14/11/2015).
- More than 90,000 children treated for severe acute malnutrition so far in 2015 (ECHO 06/10/2015).
- Over 60,000 IDPs (IOM and government 17/09/2015).

### Key Priorities

- Basic services, including WASH, health, and education are the priority.
- Nutrition is of particular concern in Timbuktu, where 17.5% GAM was reported in September (OCHA 30/09/2015).

### Overview

Despite the Algiers peace accord signed in May–June 2015 by the main Tuareg alliance and the government, insecurity persists in northern and central regions. Sporadic attacks continue, sometimes claimed by Islamist armed groups, and access for aid workers remains limited due to security constraints. A lack of access to basic social services and the weak capacity of public administration are key drivers of the crisis.

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

### Politics and security

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

The state lost control of the north in 2012, after Tuareg groups from the region they call Azawad began a campaign for greater autonomy. A separate coup d’état further destabilised the country (AFP 22/09/2015). A fragile alliance in the north between Tuareg and Islamists was quickly broken, and Islamists took control of key cities. Civilian rule was re-established in mid-2013 with the support of French military, but the north remains insecure.

The government and the Azawad Movement Coalition (AMC), which comprises the main Tuareg armed groups operating in the north, signed a peace agreement in mid-2015. The main Islamist armed groups operating in the country were excluded from the peace negotiations.

AMC and the Platform Movement, a coalition of mainly ethnic Tuareg armed groups opposing the AMC, signed an agreement to cease all hostilities on 15 October. The
ceasefire followed conflict over control of Anefis town in Kidal region, in August and September (MaliWeb 19/10/2015; 02/09/2015; AFP 19/09/2015). UN peacekeepers have lifted a secure zone that they had imposed around Kidal town (Reuters 27/10/2015).

Stakeholders

**Tuareg armed groups**

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

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

**Islamist armed groups**

The Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) and Ansar Dine are among the main Islamist groups active in Mali. MUJAO split from Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in 2011. Since 2015, the Macina Liberation Front (MLF), a Fulani Islamist group linked to Ansar Dine, has claimed responsibility for several attacks.

The groups’ attacks mainly target pro-government and international forces, and mainly in the north. However, since June, several attacks have been carried out in the south. Between January and September, around 30 people were killed in central Mali in attacks claimed by the MLF (AFP 23/09/2015; 08/08/2015; 11/08/2015).

**International armed forces**

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

MINUSMA’s mandate has been extended until 30 June 2016 (UN 29/06/2015). Attacks on MINUSMA vehicles, camps, and peacekeepers have increased since mid-August 2014 (AFP 21/09/2014). Most attacks have been carried out in Gao, but some in Timbuktu, Mopti and Kidal regions. MINUSMA has recorded the highest number of fatalities of any UN peacekeeping mission (SIPRI 28/09/2015; BBC 20/11/2015). Around 60 peacekeepers have died since the start of the UN mission in July 2013 and close to 200 have been wounded in around 80 attacks (BBC 20/11/2015; local media 30/05/2015; AFP 02/07/2015).

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

**Conflict developments**

Civilians, as well as international and Malian armed forces, continue to be targeted by armed group attacks. Occasional attacks, sometimes claimed by Islamist armed groups, including Ansar Dine and MLF, continue in northern and central regions. On 30 November, armed men attacked a truck carrying migrants in Gao region, killing four people and wounding six others (AFP 30/11/2015). On 28 November, a mortar attack on a MINUSMA camp in Kidal killed three people, including one civilian, and injured at least 14. Ansar Dine claimed responsibility (ECHO 29/11/2015; ICG 01/12/2015). On 24 November, a civilian died in an attack on a MINUSMA convoy travelling from Goundam to Timbuktu (MINUSMA 24/11/2015). On 19 November, 22 people were killed as suspected Islamist fighters attacked a hotel in Bamako. 170 people were taken hostage for several hours. The attack was claimed by Al Murabitoun, an off-shoot of AQIM, and the MLF (BBC 20/11/2015; 23/11/2015; Al Jazeera 23/11/2015; ICG 01/12/2015). In October, at least 12 people were killed, including civilians, and several others injured in four attacks in Kidal, Mopti, and Timbuktu regions. The attacks were attributed to suspected Islamist armed groups, but no group has claimed responsibility (UN 26/10/2015; AFP 13/10/2015; 09/10/2015; Le Figaro 09/10/2015).

Since the end of October, at least 15 people have been killed in violent clashes between rival pastoral communities in Infokaratene and Tissalatene, Gao region, causing population movement (ECHO 20/11/2015).

**Displacement**

More than 60,000 people are internally displaced due to the conflict in the north, and more than 130,000 have sought refuge in neighbouring countries such as Niger and Burkina Faso. The majority have been displaced since mid-2013, when the number of IDPs and refugees reached its peak. People have gradually returned, particularly IDPs, though increased insecurity brought a new surge in internal displacement in April–May 2015. Those who have returned are often still in need of assistance.

**IDPs**

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

Outside Timbuktu region, IDPs outside are mainly staying in Gao (12,000), Bamako (8,500), and Kidal (5,200) (IOM and government 17/09/2015).
At least 150 households (around 750 individuals) have sought refuge in towns close to Menaka, following clashes between pastoral communities in Infokaratene and Tissalatene, Gao region (ECHO 20/11/2015).

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

Refugees in Mali

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

Returnees

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

Malian refugees in neighbouring countries

There are over 135,000 Malian refugees in neighbouring countries (OCHA 08/10/2015).

As of mid-November, 54,000 Malian refugees are in Niger, and 50,460 are in Mauritania (UNHCR 16/11/2015; 30/11/2015). Burkina Faso hosts 34,020 refugees (UNICEF 31/10/2015). In October and November the number of Malian refugees arriving in Niger spiked, reaching 4,000. The majority of refugees say they are fleeing fighting between Idourfane and Daoussak tribes in Menaka and Anderaboucane districts, Gao (UNHCR 10/11/2015; ECHO 18/11/2015).

Humanitarian access

Insecurity due to the presence of armed groups, as well as attacks against aid workers continue to hamper humanitarian access in the north.

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Around 30 attacks against aid workers and their facilities have been recorded in 2015, and an increasing trend is being reported. On 11 November, an explosive device was set off at the entrance to a building housing a humanitarian NGO in Menaka, Gao (UN 13/11/2015). In August and September, nine incidents limiting humanitarian assistance were reported in Mopti, Timbuktu, and Gao. Nearly 80% were related to violence against personnel, goods, and infrastructure (OCHA 30/09/2015).

Food availability

Harvesting of maize, millet, and sorghum is nearly completed, and harvesting of rice will continue until January. Preliminary findings point to a record cereal output this harvest following good rains in July over main producing areas, with 27% above the five-year average. However, in the north, labour shortages due to displacement, lack of agricultural support services, and fragmentation of markets have had a negative impact on agricultural production (GIEWS 04/12/2015).

Health

Over 2 million people are thought to be in need of health services in central and northern regions. The majority are in Timbuktu (639,000), 514,000 are in Gao, 491,000 in Mopti, 346,000 in Segou, and 64,000 in Kidal (OCHA 09/12/2015).
Nutrition

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

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

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

WASH

Water supply

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

Education

400,000 children in Mali are in need of assistance to access education (OCHA 09/12/2015).

As of mid-September, 454 schools across 60 communes in Gao, Kidal, Mopti, Segou, and Timbuktu were not operating. Some have been closed since 2012, others closed due to the deterioration of the security situation in 2015. In Kidal, no schools were officially open in the 2014–2015 school year. In conflict-affected areas, teachers were not teaching due to fear of being targeted by violence. In the three northern regions there is a shortage of at least 590 teachers compared to the pre-crisis level (OCHA 30/09/2015). As of November, 88 out of 599 schools in Timbuktu region (15%) have not been able to reopen due to insecurity. They are mainly in western Goundam, Timbuktu, and northern Gourma Rharous districts (OCHA 24/11/2015).

Protection

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

Mines and ERW

The number of casualties from explosive remnants of war (ERW) has decreased considerably in 2015, but improvised explosive device (IED) casualties are increasing (OCHA 15/06/2015). ERW have killed 28 people and injured 136 since February 2012. Since July 2013, IEDs have killed 36 and injured 116. The number of casualties increased significantly in 2015, compared to 2014 (UNMAS 08/12/2015). 60% of victims of ERW are children (OCHA 09/12/2015).

Children

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

Gender

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

Updated: 11/12/2015
26 November: 18 people killed, at least 11 injured, and 100 homes destroyed in a BH attack on Wogom village, Bosso department (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS
- 457,000 people affected by conflict in Diffa region are food insecure (WFP, 14/10/2015).
- 267,000 children have been admitted for treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2015 (OCHA, 17/11/2015).
- At least 94,000 Nigerian refugees are in Diffa region (Government, 05/08/2015). Approximately 213,000 people are displaced in total, including IDPs and returnees, is (OCHA, 24/11/2015).

Politics and security

Insecurity is increasing in Niger, and across the region, due to crises in Nigeria, Mali, and Libya. Threats from Boko Haram (BH) are of particular concern. BH has conducted over 70 attacks on civilians in Diffa region since February (OCHA, 02/12/2015). In October, authorities in Niger declared a 15-day state of emergency in Diffa region, extending it to three months as of 27 October (USAID, 31/10/2015). Correspondingly, a curfew and restricted movement of goods and people have been enforced in Diffa region (UNHCR, 13/10/2015). Similar security measures were in force from February to September (Reuters, 14/10/2015; OCHA, 19/10/2015).

Thousands of troops from Niger and Chad launched a major ground and air offensive against BH in southeastern Niger in March (AFP, 14/03/2015). A proposed Multinational Joint Task Force (MJJTF), which would bring at least 8,700 troops from Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin under a common command, is yet to be fully deployed (AFP, 15/10/2015). Military operations and regular BH attacks across Diffa region have driven evacuations and displacement of populations (UNICEF, 16/07/2015; OCHA, 11/09/2015). In October, at least 30 US troops were deployed to Agadez to train 100 Niger soldiers (Reuters, 06/11/2015).

In remote areas to the north and west of the country, Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), and the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) pose additional security threats.

Elections

The first round of presidential elections is scheduled for 21 February 2016, coinciding with legislative elections. President Issoufou formally announced his candidacy on 8 November (RFI, 08/11/2015). Relations between the ruling party and the opposition have been tense since the opposition accused Issoufou of unilaterally forming a government of national unity in 2013 (AFP, 13/09/2015; Reuters, 15/09/2015). Five opposition candidates— all former ministers or members of parliament (AFP, 29/11/2015). Tensions have been high since the leading opposition candidate, Hama Amadou, was arrested upon his return to Niger from exile on 15 November. Amadou is charged with baby trafficking—accusations he denies (AFP, 15/11/2015). Clashes between opposition supporters and security forces have been reported in Niamey, after Amadou’s arrest, and in Zinder, following a court order forbidding political gatherings (ICG, 01/12/2015).

Recent incidents

Despite reports that BH’s capacities had been weakening, the number of attacks it carried has reportedly increased since September (ECHO, 18/11/2015). Most recently, on 28 November, four people were killed, two injured, and 50 homes set alight in a cross-border BH attack on a village near Diffa town (AFP, 30/11/2015). On 26 November, a similar attack on Wogom village near Bosso killed 18 people, injured at least 11, and destroyed 100 homes (AFP, 26/11/2015; MSF, 27/11/2015). On 11 November, suspected BH gunmen attacked a village in Bosso which reportedly killed five people (Reuters, 12/11/2015; OCHA, 16/11/2015). On 28 October, 13 people were killed and three injured in an attack on Ala village (AFP, 29/10/2015).

Displacement

Niger faces multiple displacement crises. BH violence means approximately 213,000 displaced people are in Diffa region, including IDPs, returnees from Nigeria, and Nigerian refugees (OCHA, 24/11/2015). Over 50,000 Malian refugees are living in the southwest, mostly in camps (UNHCR, 10/11/2015). Instability in Libya has prompted vulnerable Niger nationals to return home, and migrants of other nationalities to transit through the country, some of whom become stranded in need of protection assistance in transit cities, including Agadez (IOM, 15/09/2015).

Boko Haram crisis

The BH insurgency has triggered large-scale displacement in northeast Nigeria and is increasingly threatening citizens on and around Lake Chad, including in Niger, Chad, and Cameroon (UNHCR, 24/09/2015). Internal displacement began after BH’s first attacks on Niger’s territory in February, and expanded significantly after military evacuations of populations on Lake Chad islands in May. Since August, pre-emptive and post-violence displacement has grown as BH attacks have become more frequent (UNHCR, 30/11/2015).

As a result, at least 94,000 Nigerians and 42,000–73,000 returned Niger migrants are estimated to be seeking refuge in Diffa region (Government, 05/08/2015; OCHA, 24/11/2015). The internally displaced population is estimated between 47,000 and
Frequent population movements and limited access due to insecurity inhibit accurate profiling and tracking, as well as the delivery of assistance (UNHCR, 18/11/2015). Large populations have been fleeing towns in Bosso department, which has seen a rise in attacks since September (USAID, 27/11/2015). Between 3,000 and 9,000 people were displaced in mid-November from Barwa and surrounding villages, many preemptively (IRC, 22/11/2015; MSF, 27/11/2015).

8,267 people are in Kimengaga site, in Nguémi, and 2,946 are in Kablewa camp (UNHCR, 30/11/2015; 30/09/2015). An additional 6,289 are at a site in Assaga, and 1,293 are in Sayam Forage camp (UNHCR, 30/11/2015; WFP, 05/09/2015).

Needs among the displaced populations and households who host them are high (USAID, 31/10/2015). At least 30,000 people in Diffa are entirely reliant on humanitarian aid (USAID, 31/10/2015). Priority needs are shelter, WASH, health, food and nutrition (OCHA, 02/11/2015). Particularly urgent assistance is needed in Bosso department, where access has been severely constrained since February (UNHCR, 18/11/2015).

Mali crisis

Malian refugees have been arriving in Niger since the 2012–13 civil war. Although 7,000 refugees were repatriated in 2013, the number of Malian refugees in Niger has grown from 47,000 to 54,000 since the beginning of 2015 (UNHCR, 10/11/2015; 31/10/2015). Over 4,000 people arrived in October and November, fleeing lawlessness, food insecurity and inter-tribal violence in eastern Mali. Humanitarian responders, whose operations are geared towards repatriation, are struggling to meet the immediate needs of this rapid influx (UNHCR, 10/11/2015; 31/10/2015).

Approximately 18,000 Malian refugees live in the hosting areas of Intikane and Tazalite, where they have access to pastoral activities and humanitarian assistance. A further 13,700 live in Abala camp, 9,300 in Tabareybarey, and 7,500 in Mangaize (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). Smaller refugee populations live in urban centres, including Niamey. 62% of refugees are children (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

A curfew and restrictions on movement have been imposed on Diffa region after a state of emergency was declared in October (Reuters, 14/10/2015). UN agencies can only access towns and settlements northeast of Diffa and Mainé Soroa – including Sayam Forage, Kablewa, and Bosso – with military escort (OCHA, 31/10/2015). On 17 August, WFP launched air operations to Lake Chad and other hard-to-access areas (WFP, 31/08/2015). Camps and hosting areas near the border with Mali are only accessible to humanitarian actors with military escorts, as are roads northeast of Agadez towards Libya (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Niger faces recurrent food insecurity. At the height of the 2015 May–September lean season, 2.7 million people were estimated to be food insecure and in need of food assistance (OCHA, 10/10/2015). In the 2016 lean season, an estimated two million people will again be in need of food assistance (OCHA, 31/10/2015). Strong rains since July have eased food insecurity to Minimal and Stressed levels (IPC Phases 1 and 2) across the country, except in Diffa region where insecurity is keeping people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (FEWSNET, 30/11/2015). Overall, the food security situation in November is positive, due to humanitarian assistance, widespread cereal availability, stable prices, and good prospects for ongoing harvests (Afrique Verte, 21/11/2015).

Food availability

In most agricultural zones of Niger, conditions have improved since July after good rains (FEWSNET, 30/11/2015). Harvesting is now under way for most crops, except sorghum, which is not yet ready. Cereal availability is above average across most of the country, with Diffa region being an important exception (Afrique Verte, 21/11/2015).

Food access

Insecurity continues to limit food access in eastern Niger (FEWSNET, 30/11/2015). In Diffa region, 457,000 people – around two thirds of the population – are estimated to be facing Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phases 2 and 3) food security outcomes (WFP, 14/10/2015). Only 40% of people in need of food assistance were reached in Bosso town in September, due to access constraints (OCHA, 02/11/2015).

Livelihoods

Households in Niger face severely depleted assets and high levels of indebtedness (FAO, 13/10/2015). In Diffa, regional authorities claim frequent BH attacks have cost the economy USD 32 million since February, negatively impacting on the resilience of local communities (OCHA, 02/11/2015).

Health

Healthcare availability and access

Health services in Diffa region are strained with the arrival of new IDPs, and lack medicines and qualified personnel (OCHA, 20/05/2015). Diffa regional hospital is short of staff, as are 11 of 51 health centres in the region (WFP, 01/09/2015). Health facilities in
Sayam Forage and Kablewa displacement camps are weak: Sayam Forage camp’s nearest hospital is in Diffa town, 45km away (UNHCR, 30/11/2015). Displaced populations in Nguigmi are suffering diarrhoea after resorting to unsafe drinking sources (OCHA, 02/11/2015).

Outbreaks

Niger is prone to disease outbreaks. 51 cholera cases were recorded in early 2015, before the spread was contained, representing a major improvement compared to 2014. However, 5,835 measles cases had been recorded by November 2015, almost six times the number recorded in 2014. 8,538 meningitis cases have been recorded so far in 2015 (OCHA, 17/11/2015; 14/12/2014).

Nutrition

While nutrition rates in 2015 have improved on 2014 figures, Niger continues to battle a malnutrition crisis. As at 17 November, over 267,000 children have been admitted for SAM treatment in 2015 (OCHA, 17/11/2015, 14/12/2014). Tillabery, Maradi, Zinder, and Diffa regions are worst affected (UNICEF, 30/09/2015).

Diffa continues to face particularly poor nutrition outcomes. A shortage of staff in health centres is limiting nutrition programmes. By 25 October, 15,539 children suffering SAM had been treated in 2015 (OCHA, 02/11/2015).

Shelter

35% of households in Diffa live in shelters that do not meet minimum standards. Each host family hosts around 17 people. 60% of IDPs in sites are homeless (OCHA, 20/05/2015). At least 600 shelters are needed for newly displaced populations in Koublé Ngourtoua and Boudoum. People in the villages of Djakimea (1 and 2), Bilabrim, Faya, Wouyé, Maliari, Meleram, and Kangouri are in need of essential non-food items (OCHA, 02/11/2015).

WASH

Displaced populations have limited access to safe water and sanitation (MSF, 21/08/2015). In Diffa region, 260,880 people are in need of safe drinking water, including 90,490 IDPs (WFP, 01/09/2015). 84 of 110 villages assessed in Diffa lack water points, and 89 villages are in need of sanitation assistance (latrines and showers): a total of 397 water points and 4,921 latrines are needed in the region (OCHA, 02/11/2015; UNICEF, 30/09/2015). 8,000 displaced people in Koublé Ngourtoua and Boudoum lack WASH services (OCHA, 02/11/2015).

Education

Displaced children are unable to access education (OCHA, 02/11/2015). 151 schools have been closed in Diffa due to insecurity, affecting over 12,500 children (AFP, 06/11/2015; UN, 07/11/2015). Only 40% of girls in Niger are enrolled in primary school, and only 20% in middle school (AFP, 04/11/2015).

Protection

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

Children

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

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

Migrants: Migrants face significant protection risks in the transit city of Agadez, where smugglers and traffickers of people, drugs and counterfeit goods take advantage of vulnerable people heading north to or returning from Libya (UNODC, 20/08/2015). IOM estimates up to 120,000 people will transit through Niger in 2015, with 2,000–2,500 passing through Agadez each week (IOM, 15/09/2015). As of 10 October, 7,000 returnees from Libya and Algeria have transited through Niger in 2015 after running out of financial resources (IOM, 22/10/2015). Journalists: Press freedom is tightening as pre-electoral tensions rise. Five journalists were reportedly arrested in ten days in November, four of whom were at the airport when opposition leader Hama Amadou was arrested on his return from exile. Another five journalists were arrested while covering a student demonstration in October (Reporters sans Frontières, 25/01/2015).

Documentation

Approximately 80% of displaced people, including IDPs, refugees, and returnees, lack identification documentation, complicating registration procedures (UNHCR, 13/10/2015; OCHA, 02/11/2015). Security impediments have forced UNHCR to postpone recent missions to Gagamari and Assaga for the identification of families wishing to relocate to Sayam Forage camp (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).
Landmines are reportedly laid along the border between Niger and Nigeria, especially in areas near the Komadougou Yobe River (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Updated: 03/12/2015

CÔTE D’IVOIRE DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

Situation of concern

Pre-crisis vulnerability

% population affected

Humanitarian access

Severely

minimal

low

moderate

severe

See the methodology notes for details.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

8 December: An estimated 218,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes.

KEY FIGURES

- 218,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes.
- Global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence in the north is at 8.9% (WFP 30/09/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food insecurity, mainly in the north.

OVERVIEW

Côte d’Ivoire is recovering from more a decade of violent conflict. Nearly 50% of the population still lives below USD 1.25 per day. The most pressing issue is food insecurity: 218,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, mainly in the northern part of the country. A high rate of statelessness is a major concern. An estimated 700,000 people living in the country do not have any documented nationality.

Politics and Security

Côte d’Ivoire slipped into a civil war due to an armed rebellion in 2002. The country was split between insurgent-held north and government-held south. In 2007, both sides signed a power-sharing deal. Presidential elections planned for 2010 aimed at ending the conflict. However, the polls led to further violence, as Laurent Gbagbo refused to recognise the victory of Alassane Ouattara. The conflict finally ended in February 2011 when Ouattara’s forces overran the south of the country and captured Gbagbo (BBC 05/05/2015).

On 25 October 2015, Ouattara was re-elected President for the next five years. The presidential election was peaceful, although it was preceded by riots and protests in Abidjan questioning the legitimacy of Ouattara as a candidate. As of now, the political situation is stable (AFP 28/10/2015; ACLED 10/2015).

Displacement

Ivorian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

An estimated 50,000 Ivorians, including political refugees, still reside in neighbouring countries, mainly in Liberia (38,000), Ghana (11,500), and Togo. They fled during the political crisis in 2010–2011 and are unwilling to return due to fears of persecution. This figure represents a significant decrease from 2011, when the neighbouring countries hosted around 250,000 Ivorians (IRIN 21/07/2015; FAO 08/12/2015).

Food Security

Around 218,000 people are estimated to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, resulting from the combined effects of civil conflict that ended in 2011 and recent drought (FAO 08/12/2015).

Food availability

Agriculture has been seriously damaged in recent years due to the political crisis. Labour shortages caused by the displacement of populations, fragmentation of markets, and a lack of agricultural support services are impacting agricultural production and food markets, notably in the northern part of the country (FAO 08/12/2015).

Nutrition

The national prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) decreased from 7.1% to 4.2% between 2011 and 2014. However, there are big differences between regions: GAM is 8.9% in the north and 5.4% in the northeast (WFP 30/09/2015).

Protection

More than 700 political prisoners, who were detained during the 2010–2011 riots, are still held in prisons (IRIN 21/07/2015).

Statelessness

The country contains one of the largest stateless populations in Africa. Ethnic minorities and migrants have been facing documentation problems since 2002, when the civil conflict...
began. With the aim to eliminate Ouattara, who is of Burkinabe descent, from the presidential election, national laws were changed in 1995 affecting all Ivoirians of Burkinabe descent. They were all denationalised. An estimated 700,000 people are currently stateless or of undetermined nationality. About half of them are abandoned or separated children. Abandoned children are not covered by national legislation and cannot acquire Ivoirian citizenship (Al Jazeera 03/11/2015; NRC 01/01/2015).

Updated: 15/12/2015

MADAGASCAR DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

<table>
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<th>Situation of concern</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
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<td>Severe</td>
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<td>20%</td>
<td>Emergency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>5%</td>
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LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 09/12/2015. Last update: 03/12/2015.

KEY FIGURES

- Nearly 1.9 million people are food insecure (FAO 27/10/2015; OCHA 20/11/2015). 460,000 people are severely food insecure (FAO 27/10/2015; OCHA 20/11/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food security is deteriorating, as Madagascar is currently experiencing the worst drought conditions in six years (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET 15/06/2015; FAO 11/05/2015).

OVERVIEW

Severe drought conditions have led to a third consecutive year of below-average food production, particularly in the south. Most affected are Tsihombe, Ambovombe, and Bekily districts in Androy region, where poor households are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

food security outcomes. An ongoing outbreak of the plague is also of concern.

Natural disasters

Drought

The worst drought conditions in six years have led to a three-year low for crop production, and early exhaustion of food stocks (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET 15/06/2015; FAO 11/05/2015). The worst-affected regions are Atsimo Andrefana, Androy, and Anosy (FEWSNET 31/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

The very poor record of production has resulted in nearly 1.9 million food insecure people in the seven southern regions of Madagascar, including 460,000 severely food insecure people (FAO 27/10/2015; OCHA 20/11/2015).

Due to early exhaustion of food stocks, limited labour opportunities, and high staple food prices, households in the southern districts of Tsihombe, Bekily, Ambovombe, Beloha, Amboasary, Ampanihy, and Betiocky-Atsimo are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity, and will be until March 2016 (FEWSNET 30/11/2015).

Food availability

Staple food stocks, such as maize and cassava, have been exhausted several months earlier than usual, making households more market-dependent (FEWSNET 30/11/2015). This is the third consecutive annual decrease in production, which is now at a five-year low: 11% less rice has been produced than in 2014, and 10% less maize and cassava has been produced (FAO, WFP 15/06/2015). Maize production is lowest in Tsihombe and Ambovombe districts of Androy.

Food access

Staple food prices are 70–90% higher than the five year average, and they are expected to continue to increase through January–February, the peak of the lean season (FEWSNET 30/11/2015).

In markets, maize prices increased by up to 40% during October in Amboasary and Ambovombe districts, and even more in the southern district of Tsihombe, Androy region. Cassava prices are above the five-year average. Prices are expected to rise and peak in January–February 2016 (FEWSNET 31/10/2015).

Livelihoods
Poor households are engaging in some negative coping strategies, such as selling small animals. These activities have peaked in November, two months earlier than usual. Increased consumption of cactus leaves and unripe fruits has also been reported among poor households, reducing their ability to rely on cactus fruit during the peak of the lean season in early 2016 (FEWSNET 30/11/2015). The situation is predicted to worsen as El Niño causes below-average rainfall between November and April 2015/16, reducing the crop yield and labour opportunities during the December –March secondary harvest (FEWSNET 31/10/2015; 30/11/2015).

**Nutrition**

In October, screening of 63,000 children reported 1% SAM and 5% GAM. This represents a decrease from the 2% SAM recorded in April (FAO, FEWSNET, WFP, OCHA, UNICEF 01/11/2015).

**Health**

On 17 August, an outbreak of pneumonic plague was recorded in Moramanga district (WHO 06/09/2015). Between 20 August and 8 November, 91 cases, including 30 deaths, were reported in Madagascar, with 10 cases and 4 deaths 2-8 November. Cases have been reported in the regions of Itasy, Vakinankaratra, Sofia and Bongolava (FSNWG 17/11/2015). Plague is endemic in Madagascar. The last major outbreak began in August 2014 in Tsiroanomandidy district, peaked in November 2014, and infected 482 people and killed 81 (WHO 05/2015).

**Protection**

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

Reports suggest that migrant workers in Madagascar, and those Malagasies leaving to work abroad, are highly vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking (IOM 16/11/2015). Between 2,200 and 100,000 people are estimated to be stateless in Madagascar, largely due to laws preventing mothers passing on their nationality. They are especially vulnerable to exploitation (Open Democracy, 07/12/2015).

**Politics and security**

Museveni has ruled Uganda for 30 years, after taking the power in coup in 1986. Lately, Museveni’s leadership has been contested, and incidents have occurred in previous presidential elections (The Economist 20/07/2015; Washington Post 03/11/2015). The new Presidential and parliamentary elections are due to be held in February 2016 and Museveni is running again, as well as Kizza Besigye, the opposition candidate from the last three elections. Amama Mbabazi, another candidate, previously served as prime minister under Museveni (2010-2014), before separating from the National Resistance Movement party (NRM). The campaigns are set to officially begin on 7 December 2015 (HRW 14/10/2015; 08/11/2015).

Security forces have been accused of the arbitrary arrest of political activists and opponents of the current government. Police brutality has reportedly been a problem in recent years. Journalists have been targeted during episodes of violence, and tear gas has frequently been used to disperse people (HRW 14/10/2015; 08/11/2015). In the last month, confrontations between police officers and opposition activists have increased. Two major clashes broke out in the eastern towns of Jinja and Soroti. Some reports indicate that militias and youth brigades are forming throughout the country (VOA 22/10/2015). According to Amnesty International, opposition politicians
have been repeatedly unlawfully detained. Some activists were arrested, and two suffered torture (Amnesty International 07/12/2015).

Natural disasters

Uganda is particularly prone to disasters triggered by natural hazards such as drought, floods, and landslides, with rainfall patterns also causing secondary disasters such as outbreaks of waterborne diseases (Kitutu Kimono 2013). In late 2015, El Niño is expected to severely impact Uganda, causing heavy rains to fall during what usually is the dry season. This is expected to trigger several secondary hazards, such as floods, and landslides, as well as causing an increase in water- and vector-borne diseases (VOA 10/11/2015).

El Niño impacts

Severe floods are expected to affect many areas of Uganda, due to heavy rains caused by El Niño. Possible flood-related contamination of water sources is expected as water levels are continuing to rise (Ugandan Red Cross 15/11/2015). Heavy rains are expected to continue during what usually is the dry season. People living in slum areas are particularly at risk, and rural mountainous communities have been asked to evacuate. Legal and illegal construction in Kampala is reportedly blocking the drainage system (VOA 10/11/2015).

More than 100,000 people are at risk of landslides in the Mount Elgon and Rwenzori subregions, due to climate effects of El Niño (New Vision 26/10/2015). On 3 December, four people died in a landslide that struck the village of Nyeibingo, in Ruhumuro sub-county, Bushenyi district (New Vision 05/12/2015).

Displacement

Uganda is currently hosting a large number of refugees from several neighbouring countries, mainly from South Sudan and DRC, but most recently also from Burundi. In addition to the refugees, many long-term displaced, due to the conflict with the Lord’s Resistance Army in the late 90s and early 2000s are also present (IOM 31/08/2015; IDMC 23/01/2014; 05/2015).

IDPs

As of May, Uganda has around 29,800 IDPs (IDMC 05/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 30 September, Uganda is hosting over 495,000 refugees and asylum seekers (UNICEF 22/10/2015). Refugees are hosted in settlements in Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Kampala, Moyo, Nakivale, and Arua districts (UNHCR 24/11/2014). Refugees from Burundi and South Sudan are expected to remain in need of assistance up to February 2016 (FEWSNET 19/08/2015).

Burundi: As of 1 December, there are 28,292 refugees from Burundi. 17,100 have arrived since 1 January 2015. Some 50% of those arriving after 1 January are children below age 18 (7,232 individuals), and 2% are elderly. Over 21,300 are hosted in Nakivale, around 3,700 in Kampala, at least 1,620 in Oruchinga, and around 290 in Kyaka II (UNICEF 30/09/2015; UNHCR 01/12/2015). However, reports indicate that the majority of Burundians entering Uganda do not cross at official border points and therefore have not been counted (UNICEF 12/08/2015).

Many new arrivals enter through Mirama Hills, Kisenyi Police Post, Kagutumba, and the border points at Kikagagate. 278 new arrivals were registered in the week between 12 and 19 November, representing a sharp increase compared to 179 the previous week (UNICEF 30/09/2015; UNHCR 24/11/2015). As of 16 September, the response plan revised its total expected refugees from Burundi to arrive by December 2015 from 30,000 to 20,000, because arrival numbers were declining (UNHCR 16/09/2015).

South Sudan: As of 1 December, 172,497 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Uganda since December 2013. The total number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda is 194,980 and is expected to reach 210,000 by the end of 2015 (WFP 11/08/2015; UNHCR 02/12/2015). Over 104,850 are in Adjumani camp, at least 41,630 in Kiryandongo, around 18,110 in Rhino camp, and 7,690 are in Kampala (UNHCR 02/12/2015).

4% of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda are identified as people with specific needs, including the elderly, disabled, and single women caregivers (UNHCR, UNICEF, et al. 28/08/2015; JOAC 15/08/2015). Priority needs are NFIs, livelihoods, and psychological support. Refugees cite continued insecurity, economic hardship, and lack of food as their reason for fleeing (UNHCR 03/07/2015; WFP 26/06/2015; ACT 15/04/2015). Children account for 104,221 of all the South Sudanese refugees in Uganda (UNICEF 21/09/2015).

Somalia: 29, 053 Somali refugees in Uganda as of 30 October (UNHCR 30/10/2015).

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

Humanitarian access

According to Human Rights Watch, NGOs working on politically sensitive issues have reportedly been subject to intimidation and threats (HRW 02/07/2015). In 2015, a
have reportedly been subject to intimidation and threats (HRW 02/07/2015). In 2015, a proposed new law would give Ugandan authorities the right to supervise, approve, inspect, and dissolve all NGOs working in Uganda, in addition to imposing severe criminal penalties for violations (IRIN 10/07/2015). Uganda passed the law on 26 November (News24 28/11/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Food insecurity is a chronic issue in Uganda, with 30% of the country facing some level of chronic food insecurity (IPC Info, 20/02/2015). Karamoja is particularly affected by food insecurity, with most of the region classified as in “Crisis” (IPC Phase 3) situation of food insecurity, as of September. Over 56,000 people are in “Emergency” (IPC Phase 4) and in need of immediate food assistance (FSNWG 09/2015). The effect of El Nino, up to December, is likely to bring above-average rainfall, benefitting crops. Excessive rains will increase the risk of flooding in low-lying areas, however, with subsequent destruction of standing crops, dangers for the livestock, and destruction of infrastructure (FAO 28/10/2015).

Karamoja is the most food insecure region. Around 295,000 people are severely food insecure due to an unfavourable and sustained rainy season (FAO 03/12/2015). Around 640,000 people are reportedly in need of food assistance in 31 of the 52 subcounties. Seventeen people died of starvation in the region in September (FEWSNET 31/08/2015; FAO 28/10/2015; UNDP 16/11/2015).

Food availability

Food availability is not a major issue in Uganda, however the use of food or food access can be inadequate in some areas (Government 30/09/2015). In Karamoja, unexpectedly heavy rainfall (200% more than average) has increased the availability of water, favouring pasture and livestock conditions. However, many households are still expected to exhaust their stocks in December, with most poor families in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity, and several households in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), especially in the districts of Kotido, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, and Napak (FEWSNET 30/11/2015).

Food access

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

Projections indicate that prices will remain stable, ensuring households preserve some purchasing power, however many households are likely to remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) throughout December (FEWSNET 01/08/2015). National inflation is also reported to be on the rise. Annual headline inflation increased to 7.2% compared to 4.8% for the 12 months up to August 2015 (Government 30/09/2015). As of October, reports indicated a 10% increase in the prices of beans since September, while the prices for maize grain and flour increased by 8% and 6% respectively (WFP 30/11/2015).

In Karamoja, 30% of households have been found to use emergency negative coping strategies (WFP 31/08/2015). Average retail prices of maize grain and sorghum were relatively low in September compared to August, though much higher than in September 2014 and compared to 2013 and 2014 averages (WFP 30/09/2015).

Health

Uganda is part of the “meningitis belt”, with peaks of the disease in the dry seasons (January-February and June-August) (WHO 11/2015; Climates to Travel 15/10/2015). Uganda is also vulnerable to many communicable and vector-borne diseases, especially yellow fever, malaria, typhoid, and measles (CDC 2015). Additionally, as of August 2014, Uganda had also recorded five outbreaks of Ebola since the year 2000 (BBC 11/08/2014). The effects of El Niño are expected to increase the incidence of infectious and non-communicable diseases, including malaria, cholera, asthma, and acute respiratory infections, in 33 of 112 national districts (New Vision 26/10/2015).

Recent flooding has heightened the risk of outbreaks of communicable diseases, such as cholera, typhoid, malaria and diarrhoea (UNICEF 07/12/2015).

Cholera

On 2 October, a suspected cholera case was reported in Kabwoya subcounty, Hoima district (Government 08/10/2015). There have been 180 cases so far, including suspected and probable cases. Among the 180, 57 were children younger than five, and six people have died. No further cases had been reported as of 1 November. In Busia municipality, in the Eastern region, 52 cases of cholera, including two deaths, were reported between 29 October and 13 November (Government 18/11/2015).

The prevalence of cholera is expected to rise in the coming months as the effects of El Niño intensify (VOA 10/11/2015).

Haemorrhagic fever

On 23 September, Ministry of Health officials reported several cases of a suspected haemorrhagic fever in Buliisa and Hoima districts, in Western Uganda. Of the eight cases identified, none tested positive for any of the known types of haemorrhagic fever, including Ebola, Marburg, Rift Valley Fever, and Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever.
fever. Four deaths were recorded in Buliisa, and two in Hoima. Contact tracing was conducted (Government 05/10/2015). As of 5 November, no new cases have been reported (Government 11/11/2015).

Malaria prevalence slightly increased in the week up to 1 November, with 116,100 cases, compared to 115,104 in the previous week (Government 18/11/2015). Heavy rainfall is projected to occur during what is usually the dry season and will likely cause an increase in malaria incidence, as widespread flooding is expected (VOA 10/11/2015).

In 2014, there were 1.5 million malaria cases in Uganda (WHO 2014). Of all the reported cases, only 39% were confirmed through laboratory analyses (Government 04/11/2015). Malaria is still reported as the leading cause of morbidity among refugees in 2015, yet only 23.3% of those requiring treatment for malaria receive it (UNHCR 22/07/2015).

Measles

A measles immunisation campaign was conducted in October, some time after the outbreak that struck parts of the country, including Gulu, Ibanda, and Kasese districts, in Western and North regions, throughout the year (All Africa 07/10/2015). 164 cases of measles were reported in the week up to 1 November. This is a 39% increase on the previous week, and the number of districts reporting at least five or more suspected cases has doubled to 14 (Government 18/11/2015).

Nutrition

In Uganda, 33% of children suffer from stunting, 14% are underweight, and 5% suffer from wasting. In Karamoja region, the situation is particularly critical with 45% of stunting and 7.1% wasting (WFP 2015; Feed the Future 2015).

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

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

WASH

In Uganda, only 19.1% of the population has access to improved sanitation, while 79% has access to an improved water source (World Bank - Access to Improved Sanitation 2015; World Bank - Access to Improved Water Source 2015). Waterborne diseases have long been a major issue in Uganda, in particular for refugees, given water contamination problems, and low hygiene conditions in camps and settlements (Plan UK 17/03/2014).

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

Shelter and NFIs

Nakivale reception centre lacks separate cubicles for men and women: men, women, and youth share shelter space. Adolescent girls reported being sexually harassed in their sleep (UNICEF 12/08/2015).

Education

The open policy of Uganda about refugees grants them access to services under the same conditions as the local populations, and education is one of these services. However, overcrowding of education facilities in camps in Uganda, and high students-per-teacher ratios are still important challenges to refugee education (IOM 31/08/2015; UNHCR 24/11/2015). Language barriers make it difficult for refugee children to access education (UNICEF 17/06/2015).

Only 61% of the 5,368 Burundian children in Uganda are enrolled in school. As of 19 November, there is an average of 123 students per teacher in schools for Burundian refugees (UNHCR 22/10/2015; 24/11/2015).

58% of South Sudanese child refugees in Uganda are enrolled in primary school, and 7% in secondary school (UNHCR, UNICEF et al. 28/08/2015).

Protection

Protection issues in Uganda mainly concern the violent repression of political activists and opposition parties, as well as the situation of refugee children, which are exposed to exploitation, discrimination, and abuse (Daily Monitor 20/11/2015; HRW 14/10/2015; 08/11/2015). The Ugandan security forces have been accused of using extreme force and live ammunition when confronting protests, as well as arbitrary detention for political activists (HRW 14/10/2015).

Children

Among Burundian refugees, child labour is very common, with the majority of child workers employed in bricklaying, fish farming and stone quarrying. Some children
have reportedly been sexually abused during the flight from their country of origin (UNICEF 12/08/2015).

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

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

Updated: 09/12/2015

- Over 1.1 million people are internally displaced because of conflict (ECHO 03/12/2015). 324,000 of these were displaced in 2015 (WFP et al 30/11/2015).
- 7.4 million in need of humanitarian aid (IOM 31/08/2015). An additional 137,000 are in need after the 26 October earthquake (OCHA 24/11/2015).
- 2.5 million in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity as of 30 November (USAID 16/10/2015). Over 200,000 are in immediate need of food assistance (FAO 10/09/2015).
- 3.5 million people (11% of the population) have substance abuse problems in Afghanistan, according to the Ministry of Health (IWPR 03/12/2015).

OVERVIEW

Natural disasters and armed conflicts in Afghanistan have caused humanitarian crisis. Assistance needs include food, healthcare, and protection. 7.4 million are reported in need of humanitarian assistance.

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

Politics and security

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) withdrew from Afghanistan in December 2014, leaving only around 12,000 NATO personnel to provide training and equipment to Afghan security forces (Talk Radio News Service 22/06/2015). A steep surge in violent attacks was recorded in the first months of 2015, making them the most violent since ISAF was set up in 2001 (Brookings 26/05/2015). Concerns have been raised regarding the capacity of Afghan forces to keep the country secure. The Taliban has gained control of an increasing number of districts over 2015 and, in the last three months of the year, has begun attempting to seize control of provincial capitals (Long War Journal 16/10/2015, 14/11/2015). This change in strategy has pushed the US to stop the complete withdrawal of its troops, which was scheduled to take place over 2016 (BBC 15/10/2015).

Political instability

President Ashraf Ghani and Prime Minister Abdullah Abdullah were sworn in in September 2014 (Reuters 29/09/2014). Rival presidential candidates in disputed elections, they have been struggling to maintain a unity government (Reuters
83/07/2015; AFP 26/09/2014). Leaders of ethnic groups have criticised Ghani for filling key government posts with Pashtun kin (Reuters 08/07/2015; AFP 26/09/2014). Parliamentary elections scheduled for April 2015 were postponed because of security concerns and disagreements over procedures (Reuters 19/06/2015; local media 01/04/2015). As of 30 November, members of the Electoral Reform Commission are still waiting for President Ghani to order work to begin on the necessary reform of electoral bodies (Outlook Afghanistan 30/11/2015).

Peace talks

Afghan officials and Taliban met in July in Islamabad, Pakistan, for a first round of peace talks (AFP 08/07/2015). The Taliban pulled out at the end of the month, most probably to deal with uncertainty over the leadership after the public announcement that Mullah Omar had died in 2013 (AFP 24/07/2015; The Telegraph 30/07/2015; The Age 31/07/2015).

Pakistan–Afghanistan relations

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have long been tense; both states have accused each other of harbouring terrorists (Journal of Political Studies 2015). At the beginning of September, Afghanistan accused Pakistan of organising insurgent attacks in Afghanistan, indicating in particular the December 2014 attack on an army school (The Tribune 03/09/2015).

Conflict developments

The number of conflict-related casualties reported from January until July 2015 is 4,921 (1,592 dead, 3,329 injured), 90% of them civilians (UNAMA 05/08/2015). 3,699 civilians were killed and 6,849 injured in 2014 (UNAMA 18/02/2015).

As of 12 October, the Taliban are reportedly increasing the number of districts under their control in Farah and Faryab, and have captured areas in Badakhshan, Takhar, and Baghlan (UNSC 02/02/2015; ECHO 12/10/2015). The Taliban have said their forces have withdrawn from Kunduz after seizing the city on 28 September (CNN 14/10/2015). This was the first major Afghan city to fall to the Taliban since the war began (Belfast Telegraph 28/09/2015).

Kabul: On 12 December, four Afghan policemen and two Spanish nationals died in a Taliban attack on a guest-house near the Spanish embassy in Kabul (AFP 12/12/2015). On 28 November, a suicide attack hit an Afghan senior election official in Kabul, injuring him and killing his driver (DAWN 28/11/2015).

Helmand: On 14 November, at least 65 Afghan soldiers surrendered to the Taliban in Sangin district, Helmand province, handing over weapons and equipment (Long War Journal 17/11/2015). On 21 October, Taliban fighters attacked the city of Lashkar Gah, capital of Helmand province, but were pushed back by US–Afghan coalition forces (AFP 21/10/2015).

Other incidents: On 8 and 9 December, Taliban fighters stormed Kandahar airport, killing at least 39 civilians, including children, and injuring 35. The final death toll, including Afghan soldiers, is at least 54, after a 27-hour siege (AFP 09/12/2015; 10/12/2015; UNAMA 13/12/2015). On 4 December, nine civilians were killed by the shelling of Afghan forces in Shahi Khil village, in Wardak province (UN 06/12/2015).

Stakeholders

Taliban

Despite confirmation of the death of Mullah Omar, historical leader of the Taliban, the Taliban has regained strength, especially since ISAF forces withdrew in December 2014. The ultraconservative Islamic force’s activities have expanded from south and southeastern areas to northern provinces, especially Kunduz, Balkh, and Faryab (The Telegraph 30/07/2015; Daily Mail 28/09/2015). The Taliban is increasingly financed by criminal enterprises including heroin laboratories, illegal mining, and kidnapping (UNSC 02/02/2015). On 3 December, Afghan officials reported that current Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour had been either severely injured or killed in fighting between Taliban leaders near Quetta in Pakistan. A Taliban commander also said that five senior members had died in a gunfight, and that Mansour had been severely injured. However, a Taliban spokesperson denied any fighting, and said that Mansour was unhurt. The Taliban later released an audio message, reportedly from Mansour (India Today 04/12/2015; Reuters 05/12/2015).

Islamic State (IS)

Militants fighting under the IS banner in Afghanistan, including an unknown number of Taliban defectors and foreign fighters, have reportedly seized territory from the Taliban in at least six of Nangarhar’s 21 districts (Reuters, 29/06/2015). IS launched its first offensive against Afghan forces on 27 September, attacking a checkpoint in Nangarhar (The Tribune 28/09/2015).

International military presence

NATO ended its combat mission in Afghanistan on 31 December 2014, leaving just 13,000 troops in the country. The US will maintain all its 9,800 NATO troops until the end of 2016 (BBC 15/10/2015). Other NATO troops from Germany, Italy, and Turkey have not set an end date to their presence (Fox News 11/10/2015). The focus of the
mission is on supporting Afghan forces’ fight against the Taliban, along with US counter-terrorism operations (NATO 06/2015). The headquarters are in Kabul, with four other bases in Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Kandahar, and Laghman (NATO 27/02/2015).

Afghan National Security Forces

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

Pro-government militias

In Khanabad district, Kunduz province, the membership of US-funded pro-government militias, also known as local police, has grown to 3,000 this year, 1,000 more than in 2014, according to the district governor Hayatullah Amiri. The militia was founded with the purpose of mobilising rural communities against the Taliban. However, civilians have reported a rise in abuse by these groups, including extortion, theft, and assault (Daily Mail 03/06/2015; IRIN 07/09/2015).

Natural disasters

Afghanistan is prone to earthquakes, floods, landslides, avalanches, and droughts. Landslides and flooding are particularly frequent (GNDR 04/06/2015; IOM and OCHA 02/07/2015). 93,900 people were affected by natural disasters between January and July 2015 (USAID and IMMAP 12/11/2015). Another 130,000 were affected by the earthquake that struck Badakhshan on 26 October (OCHA 12/11/2015).

Earthquake

A 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India on 26 October. The epicentre was in Jurm, Badakhshan province, in the Hindu Kush mountains. In Afghanistan, 117 people were killed and 544 injured. Over 12,700 houses were damaged and around 7,380 destroyed. Damage was reported in 15 provinces: Badakhshan, Baghlan, Nangarhar, and Kunar are most affected. As of 23 November, almost 137,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance, particularly shelter and food (OCHA 12/11/2015; 24/11/2015). Landslides have occurred and access to remote rural areas is still severely hindered. Telecommunications and electricity networks were affected (ECHO 27/10/2015; OCHA 24/11/2015).

Displacement

Displacement in Afghanistan is both triggered by conflict and natural hazards, with over 1.1 million displaced within the country as of November 2015 (IDMC 16/07/2015; ECHO 16/11/2015). Conflict-induced displacement has increased throughout 2015 (ECHO 06/11/2015; IOM 05/10/2015). Afghanistan is home also to over 236,000 Pakistani refugees, and to around 130,000 documented and undocumented Afghans that returned from Pakistan in 2015 (ECHO 16/11/2015; HRW 18/11/2015).

IDPs

Increasing insecurity has led to a rise in internal displacement. As of 30 November, around 324,000 people were reported to have been displaced by conflict in 2015 (WFP et al 30/11/2015). In total, more than 1.1 million people were reported internally displaced due to conflict in December 2015 (ECHO 03/12/2015). Access to water, food, adequate shelter, and employment opportunities, is very limited for people displaced in remote and inaccessible areas of the country (IDMC 31/10/2015). Over 90% of at least 80,000 people displaced in the seizure of Kunduz city by the Taliban had returned home as of end November (OCHA 13/12/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 16 November, over 236,300 Pakistani refugees are reported to be in Afghanistan (ECHO 16/11/2015). Displacement from Pakistan to Afghanistan’s Khost and Paktika provinces has been ongoing since mid-June 2014 and the beginning of military operations in Pakistan’s FATA region.

Refugee returnees

As of 16 October, around 334,600 undocumented Afghan refugees have returned from Pakistan in 2015 (USAID 16/10/2015). Numbers began to rise after security incidents in Pakistan, particularly the December 2014 Taliban attack in Peshawar. Police abuse of Afghans in Pakistan is reportedly pushing many refugees to return to Afghanistan. In 2015, over 130,000 Afghans have returned, almost four times the number of returnees in 2014 (UNHCR 31/05/2015; HRW 17/11/2015; Reuters 04/09/2015).

Refugees from Afghanistan in other countries

Pakistan: As of 3 December, over 1,543,000 registered Afghan refugees, and an estimated 1,400,000 unregistered, are reported to be in Pakistan (ECHO 03/12/2015). In Sindh province, only 67,000 of an estimated one million Afghan refugees are registered (DAWN 31/08/2015). In 2014, 1,468,250 registered Afghans were in Pakistan, representing a 40,000 decrease compared to the 1,509,190 of 2013 (UNHCR 01/12/2014; 01/12/2013).

In August, the government of Afghanistan requested that Pakistan allow registered Afghan refugees to stay on its territory for another two years (Al Hasan 24/08/2015).
As of 25 November, media reports indicate that registered Afghan refugees are likely to receive authorisation to remain in Pakistan until December 2017, as requested (DAWN 25/11/2015).

Iran: As of 3 December, 982,027 registered Afghan refugees, and an estimated 1,500,000 unregistered, are reported to be in Iran (ECHO 03/12/2015).

Europe: As of 4 December, around 20,000 Afghan minors, mostly young men, have entered Sweden this year (Government of Sweden 09/12/2015). Over 170,100 Afghans have arrived in Greece in 2015, as of 29 November. Overall 80,900 Afghans entered Europe as asylum seekers in 2015 (ECHO 16/11/2015; UNHCR 29/11/2015).

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

Humanitarian access

In the last year, access in Afghanistan has deteriorated, due to decreased security. Taliban has historically targeted humanitarian workers, and the situation is expected to worsen as the Taliban controls increasing numbers of districts throughout the country and aid organizations struggle to find foreign aid workers to deliver their programs (AFP 06/11/2015; The Guardian 04/06/2015; Humanosphere 03/06/2015). Access following natural disasters can be challenged by the terrain and lack of adequate transportation infrastructure (USAID 18/11/2015; OCHA 12/11/2015).

Humanitarian presence is falling. Fears over the deterioration of the security situation are causing a reduction in applications to work in the country (AFP 06/11/2015). On 3 October, a hospital run by MSF in Kunduz was hit by a US airstrike. 30 people were reported dead, and at least 37 injured (Reuters 05/10/2015; MSF 09/10/2015; 26/10/2015; BBC 05/10/2015).

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

Security and physical constraints

The 26 October earthquake cut off many remote areas (OCHA 31/10/2015). Weather conditions and insecurity are also affecting access in several areas of Badakhshan province (IFRC 02/11/2015). As of 12 November, 195 earthquake-affected villages are still reportedly experiencing significant access challenges (OCHA 12/11/2015). Snow is blocking roads and reducing access to markets, especially in areas at high altitude, and can exacerbate food insecurity (FAO 10/11/2015).

Monitoring is increasingly suffering from the bias produced by lack of access to contested areas and overreliance on quantitative data (USIP 12/11/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Afghanistan food security is reported to be worsening due to increased instability and displacement, as well as slow growth and widespread poverty. Newly displaced people are at particular risk of being severely food insecure. As of 30 November 2015, over 2.5 million people are reported to be in Crisis or Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes. The worst-affected provinces are Badakhshan, Kunduz, and Paktika, where 10–15% of the population will be in Emergency in the first weeks of 2016 (FAO 15/10/2015; FAO 13/08/2015; FEWSNET 31/10/2015; WFP et al 30/11/2015). Fighting in Kunduz caused many farmers to flee, halting the harvest. While many had returned as of end November, they have been unable to resume production due to insecurity and the contamination of fields with explosives (IRIN 24/11/2015). As of 24 November, over 132,200 people are in need of food assistance following the 26 October earthquake (OCHA 24/11/2015).

IDPs: The food security situation for IDPs is worsening, with around 200,000 people in need of immediate assistance (FAO 10/09/2015). Newly displaced people are projected to be in Crisis in the months up to March 2016 (FEWSNET 30/09/2015).

Female-headed households are 50% more likely to be food insecure than others, due largely to lower incomes and consequent poorer diet (FAO 10/09/2015).

Food availability

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

Health

Despite increasing numbers of health facilities, as of June 2015, only 54% of the rural population of Afghanistan lives within one hour travel from the nearest health centre (WHO 15/06/2015). Health services are severely underequipped and understaffed (Medical Teams International 02/10/2015). Gaps in health services also
include lack of maternal care and problems in the delivery of treatment for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (OCHA 31/07/2015; Medical Teams International 02/10/2015).

Afghanistan and Pakistan are the two remaining countries where polio is endemic (DAWN 05/11/2015). Diseases such as hepatitis A and B, rabies, typhoid, and Congo Crimean haemorrhagic fever are also present (CDC 31/07/2015; USAID 02/07/2015). Prevalence of diarrhoea, cholera, and malaria is high nationwide, due to poor WASH conditions (ACTED 10/11/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

There is a shortage of trained surgeons, anaesthetists, and trauma capacity in conflict-affected areas (OCHA 25/11/2014). Hundreds were wounded in Kunduz after the Taliban's offensive, but the only public trauma care facility, run by MSF, was bombed and MSF withdrew (MSF 28/09/2015; Reuters 28/09/2015; NY Times 04/10/2015).

Mental health

Lack of psychosocial support for earthquake victims was reported on 12 November (OCHA 12/11/2015).

Heroin and Opium Abuse

3.5 million people (11% of the population) are involved in abuse of heroin and opium-derivatives, according to the Ministry of Health. Between 650,000 and 890,000 are women, and 100,000 are children (IWPR 03/12/2015). High rates of unemployment are reportedly exacerbating issues of drugs abuse (IWPR 07/12/2015).

Polio

As of 2 December, 17 polio cases have been recorded in 2015, compared to 23 in the same period of 2014 (Global Polio Eradication Initiative 02/12/2015). 28 cases were reported in all 2014, mostly in conflict-affected areas (WHO 26/04/2015).

Nutrition

The nutrition situation is reported to be worsening with over 500,000 children reportedly affected by severe acute malnutrition, compared to 360,000 in 2014 (UNICEF 12/09/2015; IASC 17/09/2015). Main causes for malnutrition in Afghanistan are lack of access to adequate health services, water, sanitation, and education, together with harsh climatic conditions, and socio-cultural practices that affect women’s social status (Gain Health 11/04/2015).

WASH

Approximately 65% of the urban population and 81% of people living in rural areas do not have access to clean drinking water (ACTED, 10/11/2015). Access to improved sanitation is also generally low, at an average value of 29%. No city in Afghanistan has a comprehensive and functional sewage system (Government 22/09/2015). Around 18,900 people in Sari Pul reportedly lack access to drinking water (Government 09/11/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter is among the priority needs in Afghanistan, given the high number of people displaced, and the harsh climate. Shelter is also a need for many Afghan returnees, as well as refugees coming from the neighbouring countries (IOM 05/10/2015). As of 24 November, 109,345 people are reported to be in need of shelter in the earthquake-affected areas of the country. (OCHA 24/11/2015).

NFIs

As of 24 November, around 132,200 people are reported to be in need of NFI assistance in earthquake-affected areas. Over 12,000 of these people are in Baghlan, and almost 38,700 in Badakhshan (OCHA 24/11/2015).

Education

Despite enrolment rates having registered a steady increase over the last years, more than 4 million children are still out of school, with particular issues in terms of gender equality in access to education (BBC 02/11/2015; UNICEF 23/07/2015).

As of November, 70% of children had reportedly returned to school in Kunduz province after all schools were closed due to fighting (OCHA 13/10/2015; MS Magazine 09/11/2015).

In Badakhshan province, the 26 October earthquake destroyed 13 schools and damaged 28, according to preliminary assessment results (OCHA 02/11/2015).

IS has reportedly started teaching its ideology in schools in the districts under their control, such as Shaigal in Kunar province (PBS 17/11/2015).

Protection

The deterioration in security is bringing protection needs to the fore, as civilians are being targeted in attacks. Violence against women and children is on the rise,
being targeted in attacks. Violence against women and children is on the rise, including sexual violence (UNAMA 18/12/2015; 02/08/2015; Wall Street Journal 05/08/2015; UNSC 23/03/2015; UN Children and Armed Conflict 30/07/2015).

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

Afghan local police have reportedly been involved in intimidation, physical abuse or violence, bribe-taking, salary fraud, and theft. Incidents of rape, drug trafficking, drug abuse and the selling or renting of local police weapons and vehicles have also been reported (ICG 05/06/2015).

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

Mines and ERW

Mines and IEDs pose a significant threat. 1,175 casualties were reported between April 2014 and March 2015, triple the number of the previous year (MACCA 15/09/2015; 08/09/2014)

22% of civilian casualties over January–June were caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) (US Ministry of Defense 04/09/2015). An average of 98 civilians per month are recorded as victims of mines or ERW (MAPA 14/09/2015).

Funding shortfalls might jeopardise demining operations (MAPA 16/09/2015).

Gender

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

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

Children

40 reports of sexual violence against children, affecting 27 boys and 24 girls, were registered by UNAMA between September 2010 and December 2014 (UNAMA 24/08/2015).

The Afghan national police, local police, and armed groups have been listed for recruitment and use of children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict 02/05/2015). Children have been used as suicide bombers: 20 boys were killed carrying out suicide attacks between September 2010 and December 2014 (UNSC 15/05/2015; UNAMA 24/08/2015).

Vulnerable groups

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

Updated: 14/12/2015

IRAQ CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST, DISPLACEMENT

For the latest Briefing Notes, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

For information relating to the Syria crisis, see SNAP’s latest reports.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

14 December: An estimated 10.1 million people need humanitarian assistance in Iraq (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS

- 489 civilians were killed and 869 injured in conflict-related violence in November, bringing total civilian casualties to 19,997 for 2015 (UNAMI, 01/11/2015).

- An estimated 10.1 million people need humanitarian assistance, including more than 3.2 million IDPs (OCHA, 14/12/2015; IOM 05/11/2015).

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

- 244,765 registered Syrian refugees are in Iraq; 42% are children (UNHCR, 15/11/2015).
The Islamic State insurgency has compounded an already fragile political and humanitarian situation, leading to a level 3 humanitarian crisis and international military intervention. Iraq now hosts one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world. Priority needs are food, water, shelter, fuel, and access to healthcare. Access constraints and human rights violations, particularly in IS-controlled areas, are of major concern.

Politics and security

Since advancing into Iraq in January 2014 and seizing the country’s second largest city, Mosul, in less than 24 hours in June 2015, Islamic State (IS) has gained control over swathes of Anbar, Ninewa, and Salah al Din governorates. Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), Shia Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF), and Kurdish fighters have all responded to IS advances. The conflict has left 10.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, induced the displacement of 3.2 million Iraqis, and inflicted high civilian casualties (OCHA, 14/12/2015).

2014 recorded more than 35,400 casualties, including 12,280 deaths, in the worst violence since 2006–2007 (OHCHR, 13/07/2015; UNAMI, 01/01/2015). More than 19,997 conflict-related civilian casualties have been recorded in 2015, including 489 killed and 869 injured in November (UNAMI, 01/12/2015).

Political instability

Iraqi politics are increasingly tense, as the country’s deep sectarian divisions are stoked by frequent violence against both Shia and Sunni civilian populations.

Former Prime Minister Maliki stepped down in September 2014, having lost local and international support for failing to stem IS’s advances and his perceived marginalisation of Sunni groups (UNAMI, 22/07/2015). In 2015, initial support for Prime Minister Abadi, which rested on his anti-corruption drive, has waned as his reforms have stalled. In November, the Council of Representatives voted that new laws must first be passed through its chamber, significantly weakening Abadi (ISW, 02/11/2015). Protests against corruption and rising unemployment that began in July continue: on 13 November, demonstrations were reported in Baghdad, Babil, Basra, Dhi Qar, Diwaniyah, Karbala, Maysan, Muthanna, Najaf, and Wasit (ISW, 19/11/2015). On 17 November, protesters in Baghdad reported being attacked by security forces (ISW, 19/11/2015; HRW, 26/11/2015).

Tensions are mounting between Iraq’s southern provinces and the central government. Basra, Dhi Qar, Diwaniyah, and Muthanna governments all rejected the draft 2016 budget. Basra, a major-oil producing province, has threatened to export oil unilaterally if Baghdad does not redress budget imbalances (ISW, 19/11/2015).

Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I):

KR-I President Masoud Barzani’s extended term expired on 20 August, however he continues to rule, leaving KR-I in a legal vacuum that parties are still trying to resolve (ISW, 20/08/2015; AFP, 20/08/2015). In October, four people were killed in protests over unpaid salaries that turned to demands for President Barzani’s removal (AFP, 10/10/2015). The growing instability is negatively impacting the economy: unemployment is rising and property prices are falling (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). Budgetary and territorial disputes between Erbil and Baghdad inhibit both governments’ abilities to carry out military operations and to respond to the humanitarian crisis (ODI, 10/2015).

Stakeholders

Islamic State (IS): In June 2014, IS declared the establishment of a Sunni caliphate, covering the area between Aleppo in northern Syria and Diyala in eastern Iraq. Abu Bakr al Baghdadi was declared caliph and leader for Muslims worldwide. IS now controls nearly 300,000km² of territory in Syria and Iraq, and enjoys substantial support in Sunni areas under its control (AFP, 01/06/2015). It has attracted up to 30,000 foreign fighters (Reuters, 29/09/2015). IS has repeatedly demonstrated an ability to pressure ISF, PMF, and Peshmerga forces on multiple fronts, offsetting losses in one area with gains in another (ISW, 02/11/2015).

Government forces: Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) number around 48,000 troops, down from pre-crisis estimates of 250,000 (Vox, 17/11/2015; Foreign Policy, 28/03/2015). Falling global oil prices have led to significant budget deficits, hampering the government’s capacity to undertake military operations and finance basic services (ODI, 10/2015). Since losing Ramadi to IS in early 2015, ISF has been engaged in counter-offensives to recapture the city, along with other strategic IS-held territory, including Baiji and Haditha (ISW, 09/11/2015).

Shia militias: Three militias have been supporting government forces on all major fronts against IS since the beginning of the insurgency, as part of the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF): Asa‘ib, Kita‘ib Hezbollah, and the Badr Brigades. PMF number between 80,000 and 120,000 fighters (FP, 28/03/2015; Al Jazeera, 23/01/2015). While the PMF operationally support Abadi’s government, they also describe themselves as loyal to Iran’s supreme leader (Reuters, 21/10/2015).

KR-I forces: The Kurdish Peshmerga, supported by Kurdish fighters from Syria and Turkey, are engaged in a counter-offensive against IS. Divisions are reportedly widening between forces loyal to Barzani’s ruling Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) forces operating in both Turkey and northern Iraq, which has hampered operations against IS (ISW, 09/11/2015).

International forces: Since August 2014, a US-led Combined Joint Task Force of over 30 countries has been conducting airstrikes against IS locations in support of Iraqi
government forces (BBC, 21/10/2015, Business Insider, 09/12/2014). The US announced the deployment of additional special operations forces in November (ISW, 02/12/2015). France launched its first airstrikes on IS targets in Iraq in November, in response to attacks in Paris (France24, 23/11/2015). In late July 2015, Turkey joined the coalition, but also stepped up airstrikes in northern-Iraq against the PKK (The Economist, 01/08/2015). The presence of Turkish troops near Mosul has caused tensions with Baghdad. In December, Turkey removed some troops in response to an ultimatum to withdraw issued by Iraq (AFP, 14/12/2015). Iran has dispatched members of its elite Revolutionary Guard and reportedly carried out airstrikes against IS (The Economist, 03/01/2015; The Guardian, 05/01/2015, 04/12/2014).

Conflict developments

The first half of 2015 was marked by stalemate, compared with IS’s lightning advances across swathes of Iraq in 2014. Violent clashes are ongoing, particularly in Anbar province, where IS is battling to take Haditha, and ISF is fighting to regain control of Ramadi and Falluja (ISW, 14/09/2015; IBT, 01/09/2015). Anti-IS forces made limited territorial gains in 2015, taking populated areas of Diyala in January, Al Baghadi in Anbar early March, and Baiji in October (AFP, 26/01/2015; 08/03/2015; ISW, 02/11/2015). In November, Kurdish forces re-took Sinjar and surrounding villages, which IS had held since June 2014 (AFP, 14/11/2015; ISW, 19/11/2015).

Baghdad: Attacks continued to hit Baghdad in November and December, although their frequency has decreased since 2014 (AFP, 20/11/2015). An IS suicide bombing on 9 December killed at least eight people near a Shia mosque in eastern Baghdad. 19 were wounded (AFP, 09/12/2015). In November, bomb attacks killed at least 41 people and wounded at least 97 (ISW, 02/12/2015; AFP, 20/11/2015; 13/11/2015; Al Bawaba, 16/11/2015).

Anbar: IS remains dominant in Falluja but is losing control of Ramadi as ISF forces close in on the city. ISF have cut off all supply lines into Ramadi. An estimated 1,200-1,700 families remain trapped in the city. They report food and fuel shortages, and IS preventing civilians from escaping the besieged city (Reuters (09/12/2015). ISF and IS continue to clash around Haditha (ISW, 19/11/2015).

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

Diyala: ISF control most areas in Diyala, with a heavy presence of Shia militias (ISW, 30/10/2015). However, attacks – most often bombings – are frequent, as IS continues to infiltrate the area (ISW, 19/11/2015). At least 75 people were killed in mortar attacks and bombings in Diyala in October (Reuters, 08/10/2015; BBC, 05/10/2015).

Kirkuk: Peshmerga and PMF have been conducting operations to dislodge IS from areas of southwestern Kirkuk since February (ISW, 18/03/2015, ISW, 05/10/2015; IOM, 13/09/2015). Mohammed Khalil, a prominent member of the Provincial Council, was assassinated along with his wife by unidentified gunmen on 2 December (UNAMI, 02/12/2015).

KR-I: Airstrikes and cross-border clashes between Turkish security forces and members of the Turkish Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) killed at least 60 on 29 September (AP, 29/09/2015).

Nineawa: IS continues to control large areas south of Mosul (ISW, 30/10/2015). Kurdish and Yazidi forces retook Sinjar on 13 November, dislodging IS who had controlled the city since August 2014. Tensions are rising among sections of the city’s mixed population, with reports of violence, looting and retribution (Wall Street Journal, 24/11/2015).

Salah al Din: ISF, supported by coalition airstrikes and Popular Mobilisation Forces, recaptured key targets of Baiji city and oil refinery from IS on 21 October after months of clashes (ISW, 26/10/2015). Kurdish forces and PMF have clashed in Tuz Khurmatu, highlighting tensions between armed groups in Iraq’s central and northern provinces (APF, 28/11/2015). A suicide bombing in Tuz Khurmatu on 28 November killed six and wounded 16 (AFP, 28/11/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

Heavy rains in late October and early November caused flooding across areas of Baghdad, Anbar, Diyala, Salah al Din and areas of KR-I. At least 84,000 people in 40 IDP settlements have been affected (OCHA, 08/11/2015; IRIN, 12/11/2015). Prime Minister Abadi declared an emergency in flooded areas (AFP, 01/11/2015). Flood waters have been contaminated by sewage in some areas (OCHA, 08/11/2015; IRIN, 12/11/2015). 58 people have died from electric shocks (AFP, 09/12/2015).

Displacement

There are approximately 3.2 million IDPs and 245,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq. Conflict-induced internal displacement has been ongoing since January 2014. Most Syrian refugees are living in KR-I. Another 1.1 million people remain displaced from pre-2014 conflict (ECHO, 30/09/2015).

IDPs

As of 5 November, there are approximately 3.2 million IDPs in over 3,500 locations. Displacement has mainly occurred in waves since January 2014. Between September and November 2015, IOM noted a slight decrease in the number of IDPs due to return movements. The number and spread of IDPs pose a major challenge to needs assessment.
Anbar currently hosts around 573,000 IDPs, Baghdad 568,000, Dahuk 418,000 and Kirkuk 381,000. 76% of IDPs (2.4 million) have fled from or within Anbar and Nineawa (IOM, 05/11/2015).

71% of IDPs live in private accommodation. 18% face critical shelter arrangements while 9% live in camps. The shelter arrangements of 2% of IDPs is unknown (IOM, 05/11/2015). The camps most in need of further support are Arbat IDP camp in Sulaymaniyah as well as Dawadia, Rwanga Community and Sheikhan camps in Dahuk (CCCM, 30/11/2015).

**IDP returnees:** As of 5 November, 440,000 IDPs have returned to their locations of origin, predominantly in Salah al Din and Diyala (IOM, 11/05/2015). Many returnees find their homes have been destroyed or damaged, and that their neighbourhoods lack services (IOM, 05/11/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

244,527 Syrian refugees are registered in Iraq, and 41,700 non-Syrian refugees (UNHCR, 28/11/2015, 23/04/2015).

**Syrian refugees:** KR-I hosts an estimated 97% of all Syrian refugees, with 112,203 in Erbil, 94,639 in Dahuk, and 29,434 in Sulaymaniyah. 4,510 were last known to be in Anbar and 1,589 in Nineawa (UNHCR, 28/11/2015).

39% of refugees live in nine camps. There are 47,296 in Domiz camp in Dahuk, 10,227 in Darashakran in Erbil (UNHCR, 28/11/2015). 1,519 Syrian refugees were last reported in Al Obaidy camp, in IS-controlled Al Qa'im in Anbar, but access constraints limit information (UNHCR, 28/11/2015). Eight families reportedly arrived in Al Obaidy from Deir-Ez-Zor in October (3RP, 31/10/2015).

The overall number of Syrian refugees registered in Iraq has decreased by approximately 2,000 per month since peaking at over 251,000 in July (UNHCR, 15/11/2015). Approximately 3,000 refugees returned in October (3RP, 31/10/2015). Returns are induced in part because of the high cost of living and lack of employment opportunities in KR-I (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). Syrian refugees are also leaving Iraq for Europe via Syria and/or Turkey: 1,544 legally entered Turkey in October, a 33% decrease on September figures (UNHCR, 31/10/2015; 3RP, 31/10/2015).

Iraqi refugees in neighbouring countries

Around 180,000 Iraqi refugees are thought to be residing in neighbouring countries, mostly in Turkey and Jordan (UNHCR, 04/06/2015). As of 15 November, 51,837 Iraqis were registered in Jordan (UNHCR, 15/11/2015). 45,000 Iraqi refugees are registered in Iran (WFP, 30/09/2015). An estimated 39,500 Iraqi refugees are estimated to be living in Syria, mostly in the greater Damascus area (USAID, 11/12/2015).

**Humanitarian access**

**Access of relief actors to affected populations**

Access to the estimated five million people in areas under armed opposition groups’ control is limited (OCHA, 01/08/2015; 04/10/2015). Large swathes of Anbar, Nineawa and Salah al Din are inaccessible to most INGOs, although limited aid is channelled through local partners (ODI, 10/2015).

**Access of affected populations to assistance**

Baghdad, Babylon, Kirkuk, and Diyala have implemented strict security policies and have been accused of coercing returns and obstructing IDPs’ access to assistance (OCHA, 01/08/2015). The Bzibiz bridge linking Anbar to Baghdad has frequently been closed (OCHA, 20/10/2015). Although there are IDP camps on both sides of the border, many people have been seeking the relative safety of Baghdad, particularly as fighting has intensified around Ramadi (MSF, 08/12/2015). Scrutiny of people seeking to enter Baghdad increased in December (ECHO, 11/12/2015). IDPs attempting to enter KR-I by land require a local guarantor (UNHCR, 29/05/2015). The situation is also worrying for more than 80,000 people who have limited access to services and commodities in Haditha, including food, safe water, health, and electricity (OCHA, 20/10/2015).

**Border crossings:** Syrian refugees’ access to safety and asylum remains a concern following changes in exit and admission procedures into KR-I (UNHCR, 31/07/2015). Most refugees enter via the Peshkabour crossing (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). Movement across the Ibrahim Khalil border crossing to Turkey is unpredictable (OCHA, 15/09/2015). Insecurity prevents most civilian movement at the IS-controlled Al Qa’im and Al Waleed crossings, as well as at Rabia (Reuters, 23/11/2014; UNHCR, 28/02/2015; 15/01/2015).

**Security and physical constraints**

High insecurity and unexploded ordnance (UXO) hinder access to affected populations (OCHA, 05/12/2014). IEDs are also a concern for returnees to recaptured areas (OCHA, 14/07/2015).

Road closures are blocking supply lines, especially in Anbar, Kirkuk, Salah al Din, and Ninewa governorates (OCHA, 04/10/2015).

**Food security and livelihoods**

2.4 million people need food assistance (OCHA, 14/12/2015). Funding shortfalls mean WFP has been forced to reduce its assistance to IDPs and refugees on multiple occasions
in 2015: food rations for IDP families have been cut by up to 50% since April (WFP/FAO/REACH, 26/11/2015). Food security outcomes have worsened since September, as consumption among camp-based IDPs has decreased, and negative coping mechanisms have increased (WFP, 26/11/2015). According to a multi-cluster needs assessment, 72% of displaced households have reported food as their top priority (REACH, 30/09/2015).

Food availability

Agricultural productivity and crop yields have been severely affected by conflict (WFP/FAO/REACH, 26/11/2015). Heavy rains in October and November have also damaged wheat crop supplies and disrupted autumn planting and fieldwork (WFP, 26/11/2015).

Food access

Consumption and dietary diversity has worsened for camp-based IDPs since September, and nearly one-third of all IDPs (30%) reported negative food-related coping mechanisms (WFP, 26/11/2015). Food prices are particularly high in besieged areas, including Ramadi, Falluja, and Haditha in Anbar (WFP, 26/11/2015).

Refugees: Vulnerability-based assistance to Syrian refugees was introduced in August: 50,000 refugees no longer receive food vouchers; the monthly voucher value was reduced to USD 10 per person for over 49,000 moderately vulnerable refugees, while 1,000 considered the most vulnerable continue to receive USD 19 (3RP, 31/10/2015).

Livelihoods

3.4 million people are in need of emergency livelihood support, compared to 800,000 end February (OCHA/UNCT, 04/06/2015; UN, 18/02/2015). Displaced populations face major difficulties accessing the Public Distribution System (WFP, 31/10/2015). 72% of IDPs report access to employment among their top three needs, while 22% are unable to meet basic needs (OCHA, 04/10/2015). 17% of IDPs outside camps are without a source of income, and 44% rely on seasonal and low skilled labour to generate income (REACH, 30/09/2015).

Health

More than 10.1 million people need health support (OCHA, 14/12/2015). Key concerns include the lack of specialised services, shortages of essential supplies, disruption of treatment for chronic illnesses, mental health support, and the risk posed by communicable diseases (OCHA, 04/08/2015; WHO, 04/06/2015).

Shelter and NFI

1.9 million people require shelter and NFI support (OCHA, 14/12/2015). 660,000 IDPs are living in critical shelter conditions, including in informal settlements, religious buildings, schools, unfinished and abandoned buildings (IOM, 29/08/2015). In KR-I, the number of informal IDP sites has increased substantially since October 2014 (REACH, 26/11/2015). Eviction and threats of eviction for IDPs are on the rise, particularly in Dahuk governorate.
Waiting lists for IDP camps are reportedly full, leaving many displaced without shelter (UNHCR, 31/10/2015).

Refugees: 3,604 new or improved shelter plots are required in Gawilan, Kawergosk, Basirma and Qushtapa camps, and a further 719 shelter units are required in Erbil (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). Non-camp refugee populations require urgent shelter upgrading and community infrastructure support (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). A strong dust storm in October damaged 185 tents in Al Qaim camp, Anbar province, forcing 76 families to take shelter in kitchens. Ongoing insecurity in Anbar is preventing the delivery of core relief items and tents to both camps (3RP, 31/10/2015).

Education

3.3 million people are in need of education assistance (OCHA, 14/12/2015). More than two million children are out of school, and 1.2 million aged 5–14 risk dropping out. 70% of displaced school-aged children have lost a full year of education. Over 5,300 schools have been destroyed, damaged or converted for shelter or military purposes, including 1,500 in Anbar province (UNICEF, 30/10/2015; AFP, 03/08/2015). Shortages of space and resources are major learning barriers (UNHCR, 30/09/2015; OCHA, 29/09/2015). Many schools continue to operate at least two shifts per day (UNICEF, 30/09/2015).

Refugees: 76% of school-aged refugee children in camps and 63% outside camps are attending school (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). Schooling challenges in camps include overcrowded classrooms, and shortages of teachers and support personnel (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). In September, the KR-I government was reportedly unable to pay teachers' salaries, having already halved salaries in April (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). Only 5% of 15–17-year-old refugees attend formal education (UNHCR, 31/10/2015).

Protection

8.2 million people are in need of protection assistance (OCHA, 14/12/2015). Conflict in Iraq has been marked by grave human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law from all sides. Attacks targeting civilians, killings, abductions, rape, sexual violence, child conscription, and destruction of civilian property and looting have all been reported (UN, 26/10/2015). Indiscriminate bombings have resulted major civilian casualties; ISF bombardments alone have killed over 2,800 since 2014 (Minority Rights Group, 30/11/2015).

Deep sectarian divisions in Iraq have manifested themselves in attacks between opposing groups. IS in particular has targeted all those opposed to its ideology (UN, 26/10/2015). Sharia courts have been established in IS-controlled territories, carrying out extreme punishments against men, women, and children (UN, 19/03/2015; 20/01/2015). IS is reported to have executed over 2,000 people in Mosul (UN, 26/10/2015). IS reportedly extorts money from Iraqis who need to leave IS territory to seek medical assistance (IRIN, 29/10/2015).

Reports of pro-government armed groups and militias exacting human rights abuses also proliferate. ISF, Kurdish forces, and other militias have reportedly abducted Sunni civilians, including in Diyala and Salah al Din, as well as in Sinjar after retaking the city from IS in November (UN, 04/12/2015; 26/10/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Yazidis: Between 1,500 and 3,700 Yazidis have been held captive since IS took Sinjar in June 2014 (UN, 26/10/2015; Reuters, 09/10/2015). 16 mass graves were found in Sinjar after Kurdish forces re-took the city from IS in November 2015 (AFP, 04/12/2015). Yazidis have reportedly carried out retribution attacks against Sinjar's Muslim population, looting and burning Sunni houses and mosques (AFP, 15/11/2015). Yazidi returnees face barriers recovering property in Sinjar due to lost documentation (IOM/UN HABITAT, 29/11/2015).

Journalists: Increasing violence and intimidation against media workers has been reported across Iraq (UNESCO/UNAMI 01/09/2015). In Mosul, at least 48 journalists have been abducted, 13 of whom were executed, since IS took control of the city in June 2014 (RSF, 27/10/2015). There are also reports of security forces and unidentified gunmen threatening journalists covering regular protests (ISW, 14/09/2015; Reporters without Borders, 12/10/2015).

Refugees: In August, humanitarian agencies received increasing reports of people smugglers operating in camps in Iraq to facilitate departures of heads of households to Turkey and Europe (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). Some refugees already in the resettlement process are reportedly opting to travel to Europe independently due to delays in processing (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). Refugees in Al Obaidy camp face major protection challenges since assistance was suspended in June 2014. Information is extremely limited due to access constraints. In September, UNHCR reported that medical patients were leaving the camp for Syria to seek treatment (UNHCR, 31/10/2015).

Children

An estimated 1.3 million IDP children are in need of protection services (OCHA, 19/11/2015). Approximately 1,400 children have been abducted in Iraq and 3,000 child casualties have been recorded since January 2014 (UNSC, 09/11/2015). Grave violations against children, including sexual violence, maiming, and forced recruitment, are regularly reported (UN, 26/10/2015). IS has reportedly sold children as sex slaves, is using minors as suicide bombers, and providing military training to schoolchildren in Syria and Iraq (AFP, 08/06/2015; OCHA, 06/02/2015). Children are reportedly being arrested for begging on the streets in Erbil (UNICEF, 30/09/2015).

Refugees: Over 100,000 Syrian refugee children need assistance in Iraq, more than...
Refugees: Over 100,000 Syrian refugee children need assistance in Iraq, more than double the number in January 2013 (UNICEF, 19/11/2015).

Documentation

IDPs: Lack of documentation among IDPs is a key concern. Without a nationality certificate, civil identification card, housing card, and food ration card, vulnerable Iraqis struggle to access essential public services and compensation schemes, including food distribution (PDS) (ODI, 10/2015). IDPs have had identification documents confiscated at checkpoints, limiting their ability to circulate freely and access services (OCHA, 17/11/2015).

Refugees: Complex and lengthy procedures make it difficult for refugees in KR-I to access residency permits (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). Conversion of 15-day visas into asylum-seeker claims is no longer possible at the Peshkabour border, where most Syrians arrive (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). Refugees who had previously returned to Syria and de-activated their cases now report difficulties in accessing documentation and residency permits upon returning to KR-I (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). A growing number of Syrian children are stateless because of the difficulties parents face obtaining birth certificates from KR-I authorities for their children (Independent, 30/11/2015).

Gender

Accurate numbers of women and girls affected by abuse across Iraq are hard to obtain. Reports show an increase in sexual violence, abduction, trafficking, and forced recruitment of women. IS reportedly carried out systematic sexual violence against Yazidi women and girls in northern Iraq (HRW, 15/04/2015). Early marriage is a predominant SGBV concern in KR-I (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). The number of female-headed households among Syrian refugees is growing as male family members return to Syria or move on to Europe (3RP, 31/10/2015).

Mines and ERW

The Government estimates there are approximately 25 million landmines in Iraq (UN, 26/10/2015). Landmines present a major danger to people returning to homes that have been affected by conflict (UNHCR, 31/10/2015).

Updated: 15/12/2015

SYRIA DISPLACEMENT, CIVIL WAR

For more information, see the SNAP project’s reports.

Politics and security
The conflict in Syria has been ongoing since 2011, when fighting broke out between pro-government and opposition forces. Widespread conflict and high levels of violence continue, including indiscriminate aerial bombing by government forces and indiscriminate shelling by armed opposition (UNSC, 23/06/2015). Civilians have been subject to direct and indiscriminate attacks, including the widespread use of barrel bombs and other explosives in populated areas (UNSC, 18/06/2015).

Over the first six months of 2015, 11,090 people were killed, according to the Syrian Network for Human Rights. Government forces are believed to be responsible for 77% of the deaths, including 6,928 civilians (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 01/07/2015). 1,481 people were reported killed in October; 33% of these were women and children. These figures do not include casualties among government or IS forces (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 01/12/2015).

2014 saw the highest annual death toll since the war began, with 76,000 people killed in conflict, including 18,000 civilians (SOHR, 02/01/2014). More than 250,000 people have been killed since fighting began in March 2011 and more than one million people have been wounded or suffered permanent disability (SOHR, 15/10/2015; UNICEF, 03/2015). An average of 25,000 people are injured every month (OCHA, 11/2015).

On 14 November, the International Syria Support Group (ISSG), which includes all main international stakeholders, met in Vienna. The talks resulted in agreement on establishing a transitional government within the next six months, and elections within the next eighteen months. Negotiations between the Syrian government and opposition groups, not including Jabhat al Nusra (JAN) and Islamic State (IS), are to begin in January 2016 (AFP, 15/11/2015; Al Jazeera, 14/11/2015; Government of Austria, 14/11/2015). The next round of peace talks is expected to begin in New York on 18 December (AFP, 03/12/2015).

Stakeholders

Government forces have control of an estimated 20–30% of Syrian territory: Aleppo city, Damascus city, Homs city and surroundings, Tartous governorate, parts of As-Sweida, Dar’a, Hama, Lattakia, and Quneitra governorates, and some areas in Al Hasakeh, Deir-ez-Zor, and Idlib governorates (ISW, 14/09/2015).

Islamic State (IS, formerly the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant): Ar-Raqqa governorate is IS’s stronghold in Syria, and under IS control since October 2014. IS holds significant swathes of territory in Aleppo, Al Hasakeh, Homs and Deir-ez-Zor governorates (ISW, 14/09/2015).

Democratic Union Party (PYD) and People’s Protection Units (YPG): Syrian Kurds have been in de facto control of Kurdish zones in the north since government forces withdrew mid-2012. This includes large areas of the northern parts of Al Hasakeh, Ar Raqqa, and Aleppo governorates (ISW, 14/09/2015).

Other armed groups include the Al Qaeda-affiliated Jabhat al Nusra (JAN), which controls areas in Idlib governorate (ISW, 19/06/2015). In some governorates, JAN and other armed groups, including Ahrar al Sham and Jaysh al Islam, have joined forces in so-called Operations Rooms, including the Jaysh al Fatah Operations Room in Idlib, the Ansar al Sharia Operations Room in Aleppo governorate, and Aleppo Conquest Operations Room active in Aleppo, Hama and Idlib governorates (BBC, 02/07/2015; ISW, 20/05/2015; 28/04/2015).

International intervention: Hezbollah forces are present in government-held areas bordering Lebanon and have been a key actor in military operations against armed groups in the border areas (ISW, 14/09/2015). As of early November, an estimated 4,000 Russian military personnel are in Syria, according to US officials (Reuters, 04/11/2015). An unknown number of Iranian troops are also present in Syria (ISW, 01/10/2015; Reuters, 01/10/2015). In late October, US announced the deployment of up to 50 special operations forces to Syria (CNN, 30/10/2015).

A US-led coalition began airstrikes on IS and JAN military installations in September 2014. Russia launched its first airstrikes in Syria on 30 September (ISW, 19/10/2015; BBC, 12/10/2015). Russian ships have also been deployed to the Caspian Sea (ISW, 07/10/2015). France has stepped up its aerial campaign against IS targets following the attacks in Paris on 13 November (The Guardian, 16/11/2015). UK joined the coalition airstrike campaign against IS targets on 3 December (BBC, 03/12/2015).

On 6 December, three Syrian government soldiers were reportedly killed in a US airstrike in Deir-ez-Zor – which would be the first time coalition airstrikes have killed government soldiers (SOHR, 07/12/2015; BBC, 07/12/2015).

Conflict developments

Since late November, airstrikes have intensified in northwestern Syria, including Aleppo, Idlib, and Lattakia governorates, causing widespread damage to civilian infrastructure and new waves of displacement (OCHA, 01/12/2015). Over October, government forces launched renewed military offensives in Aleppo, Idlib, Homs, Hama, and Lattakia governorates, supported by Russian airstrikes (ECHO, 19/10/2015; BBC, 15/10/2015; ISW, 14/10/2015).

In September, a six-month ceasefire was agreed in Zabadani town (Rural Damascus), and al Foua and Kefraya towns – the two last government-held areas in Idlib (AFP, 24/09/2015).

Al Hasakeh: The US-supported Syrian Arab Coalition reportedly made gains against IS forces in the al-Hawl area in early November, seizing 200 km² of IS-held territory. US airstrikes have also intensified in the governorate (The Guardian, 08/11/2015; BBC, 04/11/2015).
Aleppo: Intensified ground fighting in Azaz district in early December has caused new waves of displacement in northern Aleppo governorate (NRC, 03/12/2015). Government forces advanced in the first weeks of November, regaining control of Al-Hader town two days after breaking the IS siege on Kweyris airbase in the east (AFP, 12/11/2015; ISW, 10/11/2015). On 4 November, government forces regained control of its main supply route to Aleppo city from IS, who had taken control of the route in late October (AFP, 05/11/2015; BBC, 29/10/2015). An estimated 50,000 people have become displaced in the governorate since the beginning of the offensives (OCHA, 03/11/2015).

Rural Damascus: Negotiations began in late November to reach a temporary ceasefire in Eastern Ghouta, where an estimated 163,500 people remain under siege (AFP, 19/11/2015). Regular airstrikes by government forces continue in the district, frequently killing civilians (AFP, 13/12/2015).

Hama: On 5 November, Jund al-Aqsa and allied groups seized control of Morek town, along the strategically important M5 highway. On 6 November, Ahrar al Sham and allied groups seized control of Atshan town, following the capture of the town by government forces in October (Reuters, 06/11/2015). Government forces are yet to make any significant gains since they launched a ground offensive in the governorate in early October (AFP, 05/11/2015).

Homs: On 10 December, IS forces recaptured the Maheen and Hawareen areas, after losing the areas to government forces in late November (AFP, 10/12/2015). On 1 December, agreement was reached between government and opposition forces in Homs city, leaving the city under full government-control. Opposition forces are to withdraw all troops, while government forces will lift their siege of Waer district (AFP, 01/12/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

There are 6.6 million IDPs within Syria, with the largest numbers reported in Rural Damascus, Aleppo, and Idlib governorates (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

As of 16 October, almost 1.3 million people have been internally displaced so far this year. Many of them have been displaced several times since the conflict broke out (OCHA, 16/10/2015). The largest numbers of newly displaced are reported in Idlib, Ar-Raqqa, Al Hasakeh, and Dar’a governorates (OCHA, 22/09/2015).

Renewed military offensives in Aleppo, Hama, Idlib governorates have caused a spike in displacement: an estimated 130,000 people were newly displaced between 5 October and 17 November (OCHA, 20/11/2015). Urgent needs include shelter, NFI’s, food, and WASH services (OCHA, 03/11/2015).

Refugees

Palestinian refugees in Syria (PRS): 560,000 Palestinian refugees are currently registered in Syria. Of these, 80,000 have fled to other countries. Over 95% of the 480,000 Palestinian refugees who remain within Syria are dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 31/08/2015).


Returnees

73,500 Syrian refugees in Turkey have returned to Kurdish-controlled areas in northern Syria so far in 2015 (OCHA, 22/09/2015). Syrian refugees in Jordan are increasingly returning to Syria, as funding shortfalls have led to a worsened humanitarian situation for refugees. Almost 4,000 Syrian refugees returned from Jordan in August (AP, 05/10/2015).

Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries

More than 4.3 million Syrians are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries as of December 2015. This is a million more than in September 2014 (UNHCR, 10/12/2015). Since the war began, more than 800,000 Syrian asylum seekers have been registered in Europe – more than 500,000 asylum applications have been registered so far in 2015 (UNHCR, 10/12/2015).

Turkey: 2,291,900 registered refugees (UNHCR, 10/12/2015).

Lebanon: 1,070,189 refugees (UNHCR, 30/11/2015).

Jordan: 632,762 refugees (UNHCR, 02/12/2015).

Iraq: 244,527 refugees (UNHCR, 28/11/2015).

Egypt: 127,681 refugees (UNHCR, 31/10/2015).

PRS: 42,000 Palestinians previously registered as refugees in Syria have been recorded with UNRWA in Lebanon, 14,348 in Jordan and 860 in Gaza. Around 4,000 are reportedly in Egypt (UNRWA, 02/03/2015; 28/10/2014).

Humanitarian access

4.5 million people live in hard-to-reach areas, including up to two million children (OCHA, 31/10/2015; UNICEF, 12/2014; UNFPA, 31/05/2015). Delivery of aid continues to be hampered by ongoing insecurity and lack of access for humanitarian organisations to government and opposition-held areas (AFP, 28/08/2015).

Local and international NGOs report a lack of staff due to Syrians fleeing the country, in particular affecting NGOs that provide health services (IRIN, 07/09/2015).
81 humanitarian workers have been killed in the conflict since March 2011 (OCHA, 11/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

4.5 million people live in hard-to-reach communities (OCHA, 31/10/2015). 390,000 civilians are living in besieged areas (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

UN agencies only reached 1% of the population in besieged areas with food assistance in the first half of 2015, and only 2% with health supplies. In July, they reached none of the besieged areas. Only 12% of people living in hard-to-reach areas were reached with food assistance in the first half of 2015, only 3% of them with health supplies (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Damascus: The UN has removed Yarmouk from its list of besieged areas, despite UNRWA not having been able to deliver aid within the camp since March (UNRWA, 31/10/2015; IRIN, 24/07/2015).

Deir-ez-Zor: IS has cut off access to government-controlled areas of Deir-ez-Zor, leaving an estimated 228,000 civilians under siege since February: minimal relief supplies have been airlifted into the city (UNICEF, 30/04/2015).

Homs: IOM reached areas in Homs governorate in late August, however report that access is very limited (IOM, 01/09/2015).

Rural Damascus: 40,000 people are in urgent need of basic services in Moadamiyah town, which has been cut off for several months. Little to no food or water is available; access to healthcare is lacking; and there is no electricity (ICRC, 18/06/2015). As of September, the siege of Moadamiyah has tightened: humanitarian assistance cannot reach the town, and people cannot enter or leave (MSF, 10/09/2015). Eastern Ghouta remains under siege; the population is in urgent need of assistance after weeks of intense bombing and hospitals are overwhelmed (MSF, 10/09/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Humanitarian access has become further affected by the escalation of fighting following the first Russian airstrikes in late September – increased aerial bombardment from all parties is making supply routes more dangerous (AFP, 16/10/2015).

Intensified airstrikes in northwestern Syria since late November have further hampered humanitarian assistance, as major supply routes into Syria and areas close to Bab al Salam and Bab al Hawa border crossings have been hit (OCHA, 01/12/2015). Humanitarian organisations in Aleppo and Idleb have reduced or closed down operations due to the increased insecurity (NRC, 03/12/2015; OCHA, 01/12/2015).

Siege tactics are used by all actors in the conflict. Parties to the conflict continue to target public infrastructure and facilities, including water supply and electricity (OCHA, 27/08/2015). Electricity is only available for two–four hours a day, or not available at all, in most parts of Syria (UNHCR, 08/09/2015). In the north, fuel shortages are severely limiting transportation (MSF, 22/06/2015). Since January 2014, prices of diesel have increased by 110%, and petrol prices by 65% (Logistics Cluster, 25/09/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

8.7 million people require food assistance, of which 6.3 million – one in three Syrians – are food insecure (WFP, 27/10/2015).

Food availability

Wheat production in 2015 is estimated to be 40% lower than pre-conflict levels, although higher than in 2014. It is the smallest estimated harvested wheat area since the 1960s (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015). Government-controlled areas are suffering a shortage of wheat, as government forces have lost control over many wheat-producing areas, and insecurity causes losses during transportation (Reuters, 23/09/2015).

Crop production has been adversely affected by the lack or the high price of agricultural inputs (such as seeds, fertiliser, and fuel); damage to agricultural machinery, irrigation systems, and storage facilities; disruptions in electricity supply; and destruction of standing crops (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015; FAO, 17/06/2015).

Food access

Food prices increased sharply in early 2015 (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015). Since 2011, the average monthly prices of wheat flour and rice have increased 301% and 629%, respectively. In besieged areas, wheat flour and rice prices have risen by 669% and 560%, respectively. Subsidised bread prices have risen by 180%, and commercial prices by 220% (WFP, 05/2015). Besieged areas face extremely high food prices: wheat flour prices are 400% higher and rice 600% higher in besieged Eastern Ghouta than in Damascus; the cost of a standard dry food basket has increased 816% in Deir-ez-Zor since October 2014 (WFP, 31/10/2015).

Livelihoods

More than half of Syria’s population are estimated to be living in extreme poverty (ECHO, 09/09/2015). Unemployment stood at 57% the last quarter of 2014; an 8% increase since early 2014 (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015). Gross domestic product has contracted by more than 40%, and exports have fallen by 90%. Oil production has dropped by 96% (World Bank/IMF/AFP, 02/12/2014). Insecurity is hampering transportation (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015).

Health

More than half of Syria’s population are estimated to be living in extreme poverty (ECHO, 09/09/2015). Unemployment stood at 57% the last quarter of 2014; an 8% increase since early 2014 (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015). Gross domestic product has contracted by more than 40%, and exports have fallen by 90%. Oil production has dropped by 96% (World Bank/IMF/AFP, 02/12/2014). Insecurity is hampering transportation (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015).
11.5 million people lack access to adequate healthcare facilities (OCHA, 11/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

25% of hospitals are not functioning, and 32% of hospitals are only partially functioning, due to shortages of staff, equipment, and supplies, or damaged infrastructure (UNICEF, 31/07/2015). Health services in Aleppo, Dar’a, Homs, Hama, Idleb and Al Hasakeh governorates have been the most affected by conflict (UNICEF, 31/07/2015). The number of available health professionals has fallen to approximately 45% of 2011 levels (WHO, 27/03/2015). Local production of medicines has fallen by 70% and many lifesaving treatments are not available (WHO, 12/11/2015; Health Cluster, 30/09/2015). A shortage of ambulances is also reported (Health Cluster, 30/09/2015).

Populations living in hard-to-reach or besieged areas have very limited access to healthcare. In rural areas, access to healthcare is adversely impacted by shortage of medicines, medical supplies and sufficient numbers of medical personnel. Health facilities in urban areas are overwhelmed by large numbers of IDPs (Health Cluster, 30/09/2015). One out of three children under five was not reached by routine vaccination during 2015 (OCHA, 11/2015).

The national surveillance system has broken down (Reuters, 13/11/2015).

In Aleppo city, 95% of doctors have fled, been detained, or killed. More than two-thirds of the city’s hospitals are no longer functioning (PHR, 18/11/2015).

Since 2011, 679 medical staff have been killed (PHR, 16/11/2015). Physicians for Human Rights has recorded 329 attacks on health facilities since the onset of conflict, the vast majority by government forces. At least sixteen attacks against health facilities were reported in October – making it the worst month on record (PHR, 16/11/2015). On 19 November, an MSF-supported hospital in eastern Damascus was hit by airstrikes (MSF, 21/11/2015). A major primary healthcare centre in Al Zerba, southern Aleppo, was bombed on 22 November (QRCS, 24/11/2015). On 28 November, another MSF-supported hospital in northern Homs governorate was barrel bombed (MSF, 01/12/2015).

Waterborne diseases

Water shortages have led to a significant increase in waterborne diseases, including typhoid and diarrhoea. Aleppo, Rural Damascus, and Deir-ez-Zor are the most affected (Reuters, 13/11/2015; UNICEF, 31/08/2015).

While no cases of cholera have been reported in Syria, a potential spread of the cholera outbreak in Iraq is a major concern (Reuters, 13/11/2015).

WASH

12.1 million people lack access to adequate WASH facilities (OCHA, 11/2015).

New waves of displacement have put further strain on water and sanitation networks (UNICEF, 10/07/2015).

Water

70% of the population lack regular access to clean drinking water (OCHA, 07/12/2015).

Syria’s water infrastructure has been severely affected by the conflict: an estimated half of the total production capacity has been lost or damaged (ICRC, 02/09/2015). The availability of clean drinking water is estimated to be less than one-third of pre-crisis levels (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). The reliability of urban piped water is severely reduced and the quality of drinking water cannot be guaranteed due to a lack of testing facilities. Fuel shortages also affect water supply (UNICEF, 10/07/2015). In Aleppo and As Salamia, Hama, water availability is 80% lower than pre-crisis levels; many people are receiving less than 5% of pre-crisis levels of water (UNICEF, 10/10/2015).

Deliberate disruptions to water supply systems are used by various parties to the conflict as a war tactic (UNICEF, 19/08/2015). In recent months, five million people in Aleppo, Rural Damascus, and Dar’a governorates have been affected by long and deliberate water cuts (UNICEF, 10/10/2015). On average, the population of Aleppo has access to running water for only half of the month (Reuters, 15/10/2015).

Sanitation

One-third of water treatment plants no longer function, and sewage treatment has halved (PHR, 10/2014; WHO/UNICEF, 22/07/2014). New waves of displacement have put further strain on sanitation networks (UNICEF, 10/07/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

2.3 million people are in need of shelter assistance, and 5.3 million people are in need of NFIs (OCHA, 11/2015).

Shelter

Extremely limited information is available on shelter needs of the 7.6 million IDPs (IOM, 31/08/2015; Shelter Cluster, 29/07/2015).

98% of IDPs live in unofficial settlements and/or in host communities; 2% live in communal shelters, (IOM, 31/08/2015). Buildings are often overcrowded and IDPs lack access to basic services (UNHCR, 02/09/2015; IOM, 31/08/2015).

More than one million houses have been damaged, 400,000 of which have been totally destroyed (UNHCR, 02/09/2015).
Education

2.7 million children are currently out of school – approximately half of all school-aged children (UNICEF, 01/10/2015; Education Cluster, 22/09/2015). Another one million children are at risk of dropping out as a result of insecurity and displacement (Education Cluster, 22/09/2015; UNICEF, 15/09/2015). In areas of prolonged active conflict, education enrolment is estimated to be around 6% (Save the Children, 03/2015).

Attendance levels have further dropped in Homs, Idleb, Hama, and Aleppo governorates following increased airstrikes and ground fighting since late September (UNICEF, 10/2015).

52,000 teachers are no longer teaching (UNICEF, 01/10/2015). Other obstacles to education include the lack of safe learning spaces and learning material, and lack of adequate WASH facilities (Education Cluster, 22/09/2015).

Schools are frequently deliberately targeted. One in four has been damaged, destroyed, occupied, or is used as shelter by IDPs (Education Cluster, 22/09/2015).

Protection

13.5 million people are in need of protection assistance, including six million children (OCHA, 11/2015).

Non-state armed groups and pro-government forces continue to commit human rights violations (UN Human Rights Council 11/2014). Chemical weapons attacks have been reported, including the use of mustard gas (BBC, 06/11/2015; Reuters, 18/07/2105; HRW, 03/06/2015).

65,000 people forcibly disappeared by the government have been recorded since 2011: 58,000 of them civilians, including human rights activists, journalists, doctors, and humanitarian workers. The detained live in overcrowded detention centres, and are subject to torture and extrajudicial executions (Amnesty International, 05/11/2015). Since the start of the conflict, 11,500 people have died from torture while in detention; government forces were responsible for 99% of cases (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 26/06/2015).

Journalists and other media workers are systematically targeted. Since the conflict began in 2011, 84 journalists have been killed, more than 90 abducted, and 25 remain missing (Institute for War and Peace Reporting, 12/08/2015).

Children

Six million children are in need of assistance, triple January 2013 numbers (UNICEF, 15/11/2015). Various opposition groups, including JAN, Kurdish groups, and IS have been found to recruit children (HRW, 15/07/2015; SOHR, 15/07/2015; NOREF, 16/02/2015). More than 12,000 children have been killed since 2011 (NRC, 06/10/2015). Rates of child marriage and child labour have increased as a result of increasing poverty (UNICEF, 10/10/2015).

Gender

Gender-based violence has been committed by all parties to the conflict, including enforced disappearances, forced recruitment, and the use of women as human shields (SNHR, 27/11/2015).

Updated: 14/12/2015

YEMEN COMPLEX, CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

14 December: While peace talks are set to begin in Geneva 15 December, a week-long ceasefire has been agreed to by the parties (AFP).

10 December: 2.5 million IDPs in Yemen: an increase of 200,000 since October, mainly explained by improved data collection (Protection Cluster).

KEY FIGURES

- 21.2 million people - 82% of Yemen’s population - are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 22/11/2015).
- 14.4 million people are food insecure, including 7.6 million severely food insecure (OCHA, 22/11/2015).
- 2.3 million IDPs in Yemen (Protection Cluster, 14/10/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- 19.1 million people are in need of WASH assistance (OCHA, 22/11/2015). More than 9 million people have lost access to safe water due to fuel shortages since the beginning of the crisis (OCHA, 05/06/2015).
- 14.1 million people lack access to healthcare (OCHA, 22/11/2015). Over 1,000 health
facilities have stopped or reduced their operations. There is a severe lack of personnel, fuel, and essential medicines.

- While Yemen ordinarily imports 90% of its food, imports of staple foods, such as cereals, have almost completely ceased since the escalation of conflict, leading to steep price increases (FAO, 01/10/2015; 08/07/2015; OCHA, 29/05/2015).

- Protection is a serious concern. Use of explosive weapons in populated areas, attacks on civilian infrastructure, and increased recruitment of children have been reported since the conflict escalated in March (OCHA, 19/06/2015; Human Rights Watch, 25/11/2015).

OVERVIEW

Yemen’s political transition has turned into armed conflict between Houthis from the north and the government. Southern secessionists, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), and Islamic State activity throughout the country compound the security and political challenges. Access to safe drinking water, healthcare, and other basic services continues to decline. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) has declared Yemen a Level 3 emergency based on the severe humanitarian situation.

Politics and security

Instability and violence continue across the country. 20 of Yemen’s 22 governorates are directly affected by airstrikes, armed clashes, and shelling (OCHA, 18/11/2015).

Conflict between Houthi and government forces began to escalate significantly from late March 2015. Peace talks have not brought any agreement: the last round of UN-led talks including government and Houthi representatives concluded in Geneva on 19 June (AFP, 19/06/2015). New talks were expected to begin mid-November, after Houthi representatives announced their willingness to accept the UN Security Council Resolution calling for Houthi withdrawal from territories seized – a condition for the government to attend talks (Reuters, 01/11/2015; 18/10/2015; BBC, 07/10/2105; AFP, 07/10/2015). Talks are set to begin in Geneva on 15 December and a week-long ceasefire has been agreed to by both parties, starting 15 December (AFP, 07/12/2015; 14/12/2015).

Houthi forces took control of the capital in September 2014. In February 2015, the Houthis dissolved Parliament, and President Hadi fled to Aden. In March, Houthi forces advanced further south, and President Hadi escaped to Saudi Arabia. Hadi returned to Aden on 17 November (AFP, 17/11/2015). On 25 March, a Saudi-led coalition began airstrikes in support of pro-government forces. Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has exploited the power vacuum to take control of large areas in southeastern Yemen (ICG, 2015; Al Jazeera, 27/03/2015; CNN, 27/03/2015; New York Times, 25/01/2015; UNHCR, 26/06/2015).

By 31 October, 5,723 conflict-related deaths and 26,969 injuries had been registered since March (WHO, 31/10/2015). Civilians account for almost half of those killed – 2,577 deaths as of late October (OHCHR, 23/10/2015). These numbers are expected to be much higher due to underreporting (OHCHR, 01/09/2015).

Pro-government forces, supported by Saudi-led coalition airstrikes, aim to regain control over Houthi- and AQAP-controlled areas. However, the Yemeni army is deeply divided, with units loyal to President Hadi fighting pro-Houthi units (ABC 15/04/2015). Southern separatists in the Southern Movement have been fighting against Houthi forces in the south (AFP, 14/10/2015).

The Houthis, also referred to as Ansar Allah, are based in Sa’ada governorate. Factions in the Yemeni army who are allied with the Houthis include members of the former central security force, a unit seen as loyal to former President Saleh (Reuters, 12/03/2015; ABC, 23/03/2015). Estimates put the number of Houthi militants at around 20,000–30,000 (Al Jazeera, 04/03/2015).

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and Ansar al Sharia: AQAP is based in the south and east of the country. Ansar al Sharia has gained a foothold in the south and is believed to be a local branch of AQAP (ICG, 27/02/2015). According to the national security service, there are around 1,000 Al Qaeda militants in Yemen, from 11 Arab and non-Arab countries (AFP, 17/01/2015).

Islamic State (IS) has carried out several attacks on Shi’ite mosques in Sanaa over 2015. In October, IS attacked the temporary government headquarters and a military installation belonging to the Saudi-led coalition in Aden, the first IS attack during the conflict targeting government and military targets (AFP, 07/10/2015; BBC, 06/10/2015).

International involvement: A Saudi-led coalition began airstrikes in support of pro-Hadi forces on 26 March. UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, and Egypt are also members of the coalition (CNN, 29/03/2015). The coalition has deployed an estimated 10,000 ground troops in Yemen (Reuters, 08/09/2015). 3,000 additional troops from Morocco and Sudan are being deployed in December (ECHO, 07/12/2015). Increasing numbers of foreign mercenaries are reported (The Guardian, 08/12/2015; NY Times 25/11/2015). Saudi Arabia claims that Iran backs Houthi militants financially and materially, a claim the Iranian government denies (Amnesty International, 26/03/2015).

Conflict developments

In the first half of November, ground fighting between Houthi and pro-government forces...
has intensified, as have Saudi-led coalition airstrikes, in Taizz, Sa’ada, Al Bayda, Al Jawf, and Marib (WFP, 25/11/2015). By mid-October, Sanaa, Sa’ada, Hajjah, Marib, Hodeidah, Al Dhalee, Ibb, Taizz, and Abyan governorates were most affected by conflict (IOM, 15/10/2015). Pro-government forces have regained control over Aden, Abyan, Shabwah, Lahj, and Al Dhalee governorates (WFP, 21/08/2015). In mid-September, government forces launched a new offensive aiming to regain control of Sanaa, Marib and Al Jawf (AFP, 14/09/2015).


Aden: Increased presence of AQAP and IS forces is reported in Aden, in particular in Tawahi district (AFP, 08/12/2015). On 6 December, the governor of Aden and six of his bodyguards were killed in a car bombing claimed by IS (Reuters, 06/12/2015).

Abyan: On 2 December, Ansar al Sharia forces captured Zinjibar, the capital of Abyan governorate, and neighbouring town Jaar (Reuters, 03/12/2015).

Hadramaut: IS claimed an attack on an army post in Hadramaut governorate on 20 November, after claims by security sources that AQAP was behind the attack. Insecurity has been relatively low in Hadramaut since AQAP took control of Mukalla city and surrounding areas in April (Reuters, 20/11/2015).

Taizz: Heavy fighting continues. On 17 November government forces captured Waziaa town, southwest of Taizz city (AFP, 17/11/2015). On 16 November, coalition and government forces reportedly launched a new offensive to retake the governorate (AFP, 16/11/2015; ECHO, 09/11/2015). Houthi forces have established checkpoints around Taizz city, which has led to a de facto blockade (OHCHR, 23/10/2015; ICRC, 21/10/2015).

Natural disasters

Tropical Cyclones Chapala and Megh

Between 3 and 12 November, tropical cyclones Chapala and Megh passed over Socotra island and southeastern Yemen. Almost 1,000 houses were destroyed, and an estimated 47,000 people were temporarily displaced in Abyan, Hadramaut, Shabwah, and Socotra governorates. Most of those displaced are believed to have returned home. 26 people were killed and 78 injured. Essential infrastructure, including roads and telecommunication networks, was severely damaged. Priority needs include food, fuel, NFI’s, tents, and medical supplies (OCHA, 12/11/2015; Logistics Cluster 12/11/2015).

Displacement

2.3 million people have been displaced in Yemen since March – adding to an estimated 800,000 returnees, refugees, and migrants in need of assistance (Protection Cluster, 14/10/2015; OCHA, 12/06/2015).

IDPs

As of December, 2.5 million people have been internally displaced since the escalation of conflict, 200,000 more than in October. The increase is mainly explained by improved data collection (Protection Cluster, 10/12/2015). More than 1.2 million of the IDPs (51%) originate from the five most conflict-affected governorates: Taizz, Amran, Hajjah, Sanaa and Abyan (Protection Cluster, 10/12/2015).

Taizz governorate hosts the highest number of IDPs, followed by Amran and Hajjah (Protection Cluster, 10/12/2015).

Most IDPs are staying with friends and family (OCHA, 19/06/2015; OCHA, 10/06/2015). IDPs and host communities are in need of food, shelter, health services, and fuel (IOM, 23/07/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 30 November, 265,833 registered refugees are living in Yemen: most are Somali (251,468), and 6,082 are Ethiopian (UNHCR, 30/11/2015). Since the escalation of conflict in March, more than 25,000 Somalis and 4,000 Ethiopians have returned to their countries of origin (IOM, 17/09/2015; 11/09/2015).

Conflict in areas close to refugee-hosting sites has resulted in further displacement of refugees and asylum seekers, loss of livelihoods, and a breakdown in basic services (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Insecurity is limiting access to Kharaz refugee camp in Lahj governorate, which has a population of 17,000 (UNHCR, 15/09/2015).

Other people of concern in Yemen

Estimates indicate that over 883,000 returnees, refugees, and migrants in Yemen currently require assistance, including Yemeni migrants deported from Saudi Arabia (OCHA, 12/06/2015).

Ethiopians make up the vast majority of the 18,000 people who have arrived in Yemen since March; the rest are from Somalia (UNHCR, 01/10/2015; 14/07/2015). More than 70,000 new arrivals have been registered in Yemen in 2015 (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). Most of the new arrivals are Ethiopians transiting through Yemen (UNHCR, 27/10/2015).

Arrivals from Yemen in other countries

Since March 2015, more than 168,000 people, consisting of Yemenis, refugees, and third-country nationals (TCNs) have left Yemen (UNHCR, 30/11/2015). As of 10 December, 30,606 have arrived in Djibouti and 29,924 in Somalia (IOM, 10/12/2015);
UNHCR 07/12/2015). 12,000 arrivals have been recorded in Ethiopia, 5,500 in Sudan, and 5,000 in Oman. 30,000 Yemenis and 10,000 TCNs have arrived in Saudi Arabia; all but 5,000 have since left Saudi Arabia for other countries (UNHCR, 30/11/2015; 27/08/2015; IOM, 17/09/2015). The reported closure of Al Mukalla and Mokha ports is presenting challenges for people attempting to leave Yemen (IFRC, 27/11/2015).

Humanitarian access

Checkpoints, insecurity, and the reluctance of transporters to access volatile areas are hampering the delivery of assistance by both road and sea (WFP, 29/07/2015). Fuel shortages are further hampering humanitarian operations (OCHA, 30/06/2015). The arms embargo on the Houthis and commercial shipping restrictions also significantly impact the supply of humanitarian relief (OCHA 13/11/2015; OHCHR, 29/09/2015; OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Humanitarian access constraints are particularly severe in Sa’ada, followed by Lahj, Aden, Al Dhalee, Taizz, Abyan, Shabwah, Marib, and Al Jawf (OCHA, 07/07/2015). As of October, humanitarian access to Taizz governorate is extremely limited due to fighting (Logistics Cluster, 19/10/2015; OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

On 30 September, two Yemen Red Crescent Society volunteers were killed in an airstrike in Taizz. Eight Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers have been killed since March (ICRC, 30/09/2015). Humanitarian workers in Taizz governorate are increasingly being targeted, harassed, and abducted by armed groups (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

On 1 December, two ICRC staff were abducted by unidentified gunmen in Sanaa city – one remains in captivity (ICRC, 01/12/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

A de facto siege has been in place in Taizz city since the beginning of September, with little to no humanitarian assistance reaching the 240,000 people in the city. The food situation is particularly critical, as no food assistance has reached the city since late September (OCHA, 24/11/2015; WFP, 29/10/2015; ECHO, 26/10/2015; 26/11/2015). Access to Al Mudhaffar, Al Qahirah and Salh districts in Taizz governorate is severely restricted due to insecurity and denial of access (OCHA, 13/11/2015).

Security and physical constraints

The Hadi government has formally banned ships from entering the country’s waters without prior inspection (IRIN, 17/04/2015). Few shipping companies are willing to operate in Yemen due to insecurity (OCHA, 16/09/2015). The Saudi-led coalition has declared the Red Sea coastline from Mokha to Hodeidah and Salif ports a “restricted area”, further limiting imports (ECHO, 12/10/2015). Administrative hurdles continue to hamper access to Hodeidah port (Logistics Cluster, 28/09/2015). Bridges and roads are frequently damaged in airstrikes (ECHO, 26/10/2015). Mokha port has not been operational since mid-August (Logistics Cluster, 12/11/2015). Aden airport is not operational as of mid-November (Logistics Cluster, 12/11/2015).

Yemen imports 70% of its fuel, but in October, imports reached only 12% of Yemen’s monthly fuel needs, although this is an increase from 1% in September (OCHA, 11/11/2015). National average fuel prices have increased by 270–325% compared to pre-crisis levels. Fuel prices in Sanaa and Taizz have increased by 400% and 500%, respectively (FEWSNET, 17/11/2015; WFP, 25/11/2015). The fuel shortages are creating severe challenges for the transportation of food, water, and medical supplies, and the operation of water pumps and generators (ECHO, 14/05/2015).

The roads from Aden to Shabwah and Hadramaut governorates have been damaged by heavy rainfall following cyclone Chapala (Logistics Cluster, 12/11/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

More than half of the population, 14.4 million people, are food insecure – two million more than in June, and four million more than before the escalation of conflict. 7.6 million people are severely food insecure (OCHA, 22/11/2015).

Food availability

While Yemen ordinarily imports 90% of its food, imports of staple foods, such as cereals, have almost completely ceased since the escalation of conflict (FAO, 01/10/2015; OCHA, 29/05/2015). Cooking gas is only sparsely available in the worst conflict-affected governorates (OCHA, 13/07/2015). In November, availability of essential food items deteriorated further, particularly in Taizz, Sa’ada, Al Bayda, Al Jawf, and Marib, where conflict has intensified, and in areas affected by Cyclone Chapala (WFP, 30/11/2015; ECHO, 26/11/2015).

Wheat and meat products are only sparsely available in 15 governorates (FEWSNET, 17/11/2015; 18/08/2015; MSF, 29/07/2015; OCHA, 13/07/2015). It is increasingly difficult to store and transport fruit and vegetables due to fuel shortages. Fuel shortages have also affected transportation of livestock (FAO, 23/06/2015). The main mills in Hodeidah and Salif port cities are facing severe fuel shortages, while the mill in Aden is working at only 20–40% capacity (OCHA, 11/10/2015).

A 30% reduction in the harvest is expected in the key cropping regions (central highlands, southern uplands, and western coastal plain) compared to previous years (FAO, 31/08/2015). The cropping season has been disrupted by conflict, malfunctioning markets, the high cost of fuel and other inputs, high operating costs for irrigation, and below-average rainfall during the planting season (FEWSNET, 17/11/2015; FAO, 01/10/2015; 31/08/2015).
A 75% reduction in fish production is estimated in Taizz, Aden, Lahj, and Abyan governorates, while in other governorates the reduction is estimated to be around 50% (FAO, 31/08/2015).

Food access

Taizz city has not been reached by food assistance since late September (WFP, 29/10/2015).

Staple food prices have increased by 40–160% since the start of the crisis, with the highest prices in southwestern governorates (FAO, 01/10/2015; 08/07/2015). Food prices in September were 28% higher than in August – and continued to increase in November (WFP, 25/11/2015; OCHA, 11/10/2015).

The average cost of meeting the monthly minimum food requirement has increased by 170% compared to March, and by 280% in Taizz. Wheat prices have increased by 53% overall, and by 134% in Taizz (WFP, 30/11/2015; FEWSNET, 30/11/2015).

More than 70% of IDP households have resorted to negative food-related coping mechanisms, including reducing meal size and frequency (WFP, 30/11/2015).

Livelihoods

More than 2.5 million people have lost their source of income due to the suspension of basic services and social safety nets. Livelihoods have also been affected by the closure or downsizing of companies; only 3% of businesses were reported to be functioning normally in May (FEWSNET, 17/11/2015; 18/08/2015). An assessment in Hodeidah governorate found that 70% of households had lost some or all of their monthly income since March (UNICEF, 25/08/2015).

In areas affected by ground conflict, many people have not received public salaries since March (FEWSNET, 18/08/2015). Aden, Taizz, Lahj, Al Dhalee, Abyan, Hajjah, and Sa’ada are most affected (FAO, 31/08/2015). The Social Welfare Fund, which provides financial assistance to poor households, has stopped functioning (ECHO, 22/09/2015).

65% of fishermen have lost their job and income, as a result of insecurity, lack of fuel causing spoilage, and market disruption (FAO, 31/08/2015; OCHA, 06/07/2015; FAO, 08/07/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Out of 5,642 health facilities in Yemen, 754 (13%) are non-functional and 559 (10%) partially functional as a result of the conflict (WHO, 30/07/2015). At least 69 health facilities have been damaged or destroyed since March (OCHA, 13/11/2015).

Qualified medical staff were already in short supply before the crisis: health staff are increasingly unable to report to work, and non-Yemeni health staff, who made up at least 25% of health workers, have been evacuated (WHO, 27/04/2015). Health professionals who continue working have not been paid in months (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Ambulance services are non-functional in most areas heavily affected by conflict due to fuel shortages and security threats (OCHA, 14/06/2015). At least 27 ambulances have reportedly been commandeered by militias (OCHA, 27/08/2015; ECHO, 24/11/2015).

Prior to the conflict, Yemen imported 80% of its medical supplies (OCHA, 30/06/2015). Medicines for diabetes, hypertension, and cancer are no longer available and there are acute shortages in critical medical supplies – trauma kits, medicines, blood bags and other necessities (OCHA, 12/06/2015). The only oxygen-generating plant in Yemen ceased to function in April due to lack of fuel (OCHA, 19/04/2015). Yemen’s national blood transfusion centre in Sanaa is operating at a minimum, due to fuel shortages and shortage of essential supplies (WHO, 27/09/2015).

Outbreak response, including surveillance and early response, is no longer functioning (OCHA, 13/07/2015; 14/06/2015). 25% of Yemen’s health facilities are no longer conducting routine vaccination (UNICEF, 07/07/2015). 87 out of 333 districts lack a functioning cold room to store vaccines (UNICEF, 07/07/2015).

Taizz governorate’s health system has collapsed, affecting 3.2 million people. Only six of Taizz’s 20 hospitals continue to function, often only partially, and they are overwhelmed with injured patients (MSF, 10/11/2015; OCHA, 24/11/2015). Most health facilities in rural areas have closed, due to a lack of staff, fuel, and essential medicines (MSF, 25/10/2015; WHO 20/10/2015). Humanitarian organisations are struggling to deliver medical and surgical supplies due to insecurity (WHO, 20/10/2015). Al Thawra hospital, one of the main health facilities in Taizz, was damaged by shelling on 8 November (ICRC, 10/11/2015).

On 2 December, an MSF clinic in Taizz was hit by airstrikes (MSF, 03/12/2015). On 26 October, an MSF field hospital in Haydan, Sa’ada governorate, was hit by airstrikes, leaving 200,000 people in the area without access to healthcare (MSF, 27/10/2015).

Electricity shortages caused by lack of fuel are posing a major threat to the functioning of health facilities (MSF, 10/11/2015).

Insecurity is preventing vector control (OCHA, 30/06/2015). Lack of electricity and medical supplies make laboratory testing for dengue and malaria challenging (OCHA, 30/06/2015).

Nutrition

Prior to the conflict, Yemen imported 80% of its medical supplies (OCHA, 30/06/2015). Medicines for diabetes, hypertension, and cancer are no longer available and there are acute shortages in critical medical supplies – trauma kits, medicines, blood bags and other necessities (OCHA, 12/06/2015). The only oxygen-generating plant in Yemen ceased to function in April due to lack of fuel (OCHA, 19/04/2015). Yemen’s national blood transfusion centre in Sanaa is operating at a minimum, due to fuel shortages and shortage of essential supplies (WHO, 27/09/2015).

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Insecurity is preventing vector control (OCHA, 30/06/2015). Lack of electricity and medical supplies make laboratory testing for dengue and malaria challenging (OCHA, 30/06/2015).
Three million people are in need of nutrition assistance: 2.1 million people are currently malnourished (OCHA, 22/11/2015). At least 1.3 million children are malnourished, including 320,000 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases (OCHA, 12/11/2015).

Almost 200 nutrition service facilities have closed since March due to insecurity and lack of supplies, a 20% decrease since June (OCHA, 13/11/2015).

An assessment in Hodeidah governorate found global acute malnutrition (GAM) to be at 31% among children under five, 9% of whom have SAM – a significant increase from 18% GAM in the governorate in 2014 (UNICEF, 25/08/2015). An August assessment in Aden found 19.2% GAM in the governorate (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). In Hajjah governorate the GAM is above the emergency threshold of 15%, and SAM is at 3.8% (OCHA, 15/10/2015).

**WASH**

19.3 million people lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation (OCHA, 22/11/2015). Since the escalation of the crisis, more than nine million people have lost access to safe water due to fuel shortages (OCHA, 05/06/2015). Diesel needed to deliver public water and sanitation is either not available or only sporadically available in 20 of 22 governorates (OCHA, 13/07/2015).

**Water**

Lack of power combined with damaged water pumps have forced people to resort to water collection from unprotected and abandoned wells. Access to water trucks is limited as fuel shortages are hindering deliveries (OCHA, 22/05/2015). The price of water doubled between July and August, with some families spending one-third of their income on water (Thomson Reuters Foundation, 12/08/2015). In Sanaa, the price of water has tripled since July (Thomson Reuters Foundation, 12/08/2015). In Taizz city, the price of water has increased by 300% since mid-October (OHCHR, 23/10/2015).

Taizz and Al Dhalee governorates are facing particularly low access to water (FEWSNET, 17/11/2015). The water network in Taizz city, which previously served 300,000 people, has been closed since August, as insecurity makes transportation of fuel to the water pumps too dangerous (UNICEF, 15/09/2015; OCHA, 02/09/2015). The price of water in Taizz city has increased by 300% since mid-October (OHCHR, 23/10/2015).

**Sanitation**

Solid waste collection has been suspended and sewage treatment plants have reduced operations in several major cities (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Garbage has been accumulating on the streets (UNICEF, 07/07/2015). In Taizz city, solid waste has not been collected since mid-August (OCHA, 02/09/2015).

**Shelter and NFIs**

2.8 million people are in need of shelter and NFIs (OCHA, 22/11/2015).

**Shelter**

The majority of IDPs are hosted by relatives. Some families are reportedly hosting up to six or seven displaced people (IOM, 22/05/2015). The availability of housing for rent is becoming increasingly limited and costly; in some areas rental prices have tripled (Shelter Cluster, 31/08/2015).

IDPs staying with host families are reporting overcrowding, lack of food, and lack of adequate WASH facilities (OCHA, 22/05/2015). Many IDPs are staying in public buildings, such as schools or health facilities, open spaces or makeshift shelters (OCHA, 15/10/2015).

Refugees who were previously self-reliant are now dependent on humanitarian assistance and unable to afford adequate shelters in urban areas, leading to overcrowding (OCHA, 19/06/2015).

**Education**

Over 1.8 million children have lost access to school since the escalation of conflict in March (UNICEF, 11/08/2015). Prior to the escalation, an estimated 1.6 million children were out of school, meaning some 3.4 million children are now out of school: half of all school-aged children (UNICEF, 17/11/2015; OCHA, 13/11/2015).

Over 1,000 schools, including all schools in Sa'ada governorate and schools in some districts of Taizz, Marib, and Al Dhalee, have not resumed activity due to continued insecurity. Schools were officially reopened two months later than usual, on 1 November. In most governorates, registration and attendance rates are low (30–70%) (UNICEF, 17/11/2015).

Almost 800 schools have been damaged: 611 partially damaged and 174 destroyed. Some 58 schools are occupied by armed groups, and 264 are hosting IDPs (UNICEF, 17/11/2015; OCHA, 13/11/2015). The Saudi-led coalition has stated that schools are legitimate targets if used for military purposes, and have targeted school buildings claimed to be hosting military equipment (Amnesty International, 11/12/2015; Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, 11/06/2015).

**Protection**

14.1 million people are in need of protection assistance, almost three million more than in June and four times the number of people in need of protection before the escalation of conflict in March (OCHA, 22/11/2015).

Use of explosive weapons in populated areas, attacks on civilian infrastructure, increased
At least seven journalists have been killed in Yemen so far this year. Media agencies are frequently raided, and journalists targeted and harassed (OCHA, 14/09/2015).

Mines and ERW

At least 13 governorates are contaminated by unexploded ordnance (UXO) and landmines. Lack of access to contaminated areas is hampering mine action response (OCHA, 14/09/2015). Cluster munitions have been used by Saudi-led coalition forces (Cluster Munition Monitor, 03/09/2015).

7.4 million children are in need of protection assistance (OCHA, 22/11/2015). As of 20 October, 573 children have been reported killed and 846 injured – the majority in Saudi-led coalition airstrikes (Save the Children, 01/12/2015; UNICEF, 20/10/2015).

601 children have been recruited by armed groups since the escalation of the conflict (UNICEF, 20/10/2015). Houthis, Ansar al Sharia, AQAP and government forces are reported to be recruiting children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 01/10/2014).

Due to their marginalisation, the Muhamasheen minority (about 10% of the population) have greater humanitarian needs than the average population (International Dalit Solidarity Network, 01/10/2015; UNICEF, 20/02/2015).

Updated: 14/12/2015

DEMONCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

KEY CONCERNS

- Information on the food security situation remains limited. An estimated 18 million people (70% of the population) are dependent on government rations. 1.8 million people are in particular need of food assistance (UN, 01/04/2015).

- DPRK is disaster-prone, regularly experiencing intense rain, floods, and droughts.

- Humanitarian access remains extremely limited (UN, 01/04/2015).

Politics and security

Tensions between DPRK and South Korea increased after a landmine at the border injured two South Korean soldiers in early August (Guardian, 04/08/2015). On 20 August, the tension resulted in a brief exchange of fire at the border – no casualties were reported. On 24 August, DPRK and South Korea agreed on a deal to reduce tensions (BBC, 25/08/2015).

DPRK and South Korea are to hold border talks at the end of November (New York Times, 19/11/2015).

Humanitarian access

Humanitarian access remains extremely limited. Humanitarian agencies do not have the ability to freely access communities, conduct assessments, or run monitoring and evaluating processes. International sanctions further complicate assistance, in particular due to the suspension of banking channels for fund transfers (UN, 01/04/2015).

Natural disasters

Drought

A prolonged dry spell during the planting season, which lasted from April to early June, has adversely affected crops and the yield potential of 2015 food crops (FAO, 17/06/2015). The provinces of North and South Hwanghae, which contribute to the largest share of the national cereal output, have been most affected (FAO, 17/06/2015). According to South Korean officials, June rainfall has alleviated the drought in other areas (AFP, 10/07/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

1.8 million children, older people, and pregnant and lactating women are in particular need of food assistance (UN, 01/04/2015). An estimated 18 million people, of a total population of 24.6 million, are dependent on government rations and highly vulnerable to shortages in

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 09/12/2015. Last update: 01/12/2015.
food production (OCHA, 31/08/2015). The government rations in July and August were below the three-year average, and substantially below the rations in the same period in 2013 and 2014, most likely due to the reduction in the output of early season crops (FAO, 09/09/2015).

Most households are estimated to have borderline and poor food consumption rates (FAO, 01/06/2015). Decreased production of vegetables and soybeans, a major source of protein, contributes to a lack of food diversity for the general population (UN, 01/04/2015). Food shortages peak during the lean season, between July and September, and households resort to coping mechanisms such as receiving support from families on cooperative farms; reducing meal sizes; gathering wild foods; and diluting meals with water (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

The food system in DPRK remains highly vulnerable to shocks and serious shortages exist, particularly in the production of protein-rich crops. Lack of agricultural inputs, such as seeds, fertiliser and plastic sheets, is a fundamental challenge for food production (UN, 01/04/2015).

Food availability

Potato, wheat, and barley crops could be reduced by up to 40–50% in drought-affected areas, compared with normal levels. Rice planting was significantly affected by reduced rainfall in 2014, and output is forecast to be 12% lower than last year (FAO, 09/09/2015). Maize output is expected to be 15% lower than last year. Soybean production is also expected to be affected (FAO, 13/07/2015).

In North and South Hwanghae 33% of land is considered unusable for agricultural purposes (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

Health

An estimated six million people need access to essential health services, including vaccines. Other medical products and lifesaving equipment, such as ambulances, remain limited. Health facilities often lack functioning water systems, increasing the risks of hospital infections and the spread of disease (UN, 01/04/2015).

Nutrition

According to FAO, 10.5 million people were undernourished in 2014 (FAO, 27/05/2015). Chronic and acute malnutrition remains one of the major contributors to maternal and child mortality (UNICEF, 26/01/2015). In 2012, the National Nutrition Survey reported 4% acute malnutrition among under-fives (National Nutrition Survey, 03/2013). Micronutrient deficiencies are of particular concern (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

LEBANON DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week 10/12/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 1,078,338 Syrians are registered as refugees in Lebanon (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). The actual number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon is thought to be between 1.2 and 1.5 million (Amnesty, 02/11/2015; Globe and Mail, 17/11/2015).
  - The government instructed the temporary suspension of refugee registration with UNHCR on 6 May 2015, leaving thousands of Syrians with uncertain status (UNHCR, 06/05/2015).

OVERVIEW

An estimated seven million people need access to clean water and sanitation. There is a notable lack of adequate sanitation in rural areas and in social care institutions and education facilities (UN, 01/04/2015).

Education

Lack of teaching/learning materials in addition to the lack of adequate sanitation facilities in school buildings remain a challenge (UNICEF, 26/01/2015).

Protection

DPRK has been found to be responsible for widespread human rights violations against its citizens, including abductions, arbitrary detention, torture, extrajudicially executions, and forced labour (UN General Assembly 08/09/2015; Human Rights Watch, 08/06/2015; UN, 17/03/2014).
Lebanon has the highest per capita concentration of refugees worldwide. While the country struggles to deal with the refugee influx, which exceeds a quarter of the Lebanese population, tensions between host and refugee populations are increasing due to food price hikes, and pressure on health and education systems, housing, and employment. Some 3.3 million people in Lebanon, including 1.2 million children, are directly affected by the Syria crisis (UNHCR 16/12/2014). Lebanon is also hosting 270,000 long-term Palestinian refugees (UNICEF 12/12/2014).

Politics and security

The Lebanese parliament has extended its mandate until June 2017, claiming that elections would present too much of a security risk (Daily Star, 12/11/2014). Lebanon has been without a president since President Sleiman’s term expired in May 2014, as parliament has failed to elect one 24 times in the last year (Daily Star, 17/06/2015).

Hezbollah’s involvement in Syria, and the alleged presence of Jabhat al Nusra (JAN) and Islamic State (IS) in Lebanon, has raised destabilisation concerns in Lebanon. The government of Syria sporadically conducts cross-border air raids (UN Security Council, 22/04/2015). Longstanding tensions between Lebanon and Israel have flared occasionally in the context of the Syrian civil war.

Fighting between the Lebanese Armed Forces and Jabhat Al Nusra has been ongoing in northern Lebanon, along the border with Syria, since August 2014. Violence broke out first in the town of Arsal, which has been a flashpoint for clashes since. On 19 October, eight people were killed and several injured during Lebanese military operations along the border near Arsal. Reports indicate that one of the informal Syrian refugee camps was hit (AFP, 19/10/2015). On 5 November six people were killed in Arsal by a suicide bomber at a Muslim clerics meeting (AFP, 05/11/2015).

Two suicide bombings in southern Beirut killed 41 people killed and wounded more than 200 on 12 November. The attack took place in Bourj al-Barajneh, a neighbourhood considered to be a Hezbollah stronghold, and Islamic State claimed responsibility (AFP, 13/11/2015). Authorities have arrested 23 people in connection to the attacks, including Syrian and Lebanese nationals (Reuters, 25/11/2015).

Civil unrest

Following the closure of Beirut’s main landfill, and the subsequent build-up of solid waste in the street, rioting broke out in Beirut in August, mainly outside government buildings. At least one protester has been killed, dozens have been wounded, and four are missing (Daily Star, 26/08/2015; Al Jazeera, 24/08/2015). Hezbollah has declared its support for the ‘You Stink’ movement, which is organising the protests, and both have called for the current government to resign (AFP, 25/08/2015). Sporadic protests continued into

Humanitarian access

Palestinian refugee camps: Palestinian joint security forces are deployed in two camps (Daily Star, 24/03/2015). Tensions between Fatah and Islamist groups have been increasing in Ain al Hilweh camp, where up to four people were killed and more than 15 wounded in clashes between 22 and 27 August. This was the highest rate of casualties in a single week since May. An unconfirmed number of people, believed to be in the thousands, were displaced (UN, 25/08/2015; Daily Star, 27/08/2015).

Displacement

Refugees

On 6 May, refugee registration was suspended; refugee who registered after 5 January have also been deregistered. The number of Syrian refugees recorded has been steadily decreasing. The second half of 2015 has seen an increase of onward movement of refugees, both through and from Lebanon (UNHCR, 03/11/2015). Many Syrians arrive directly from Syria and transit via the Masna’a or Aboudiyeh crossing-points. For the Syrians who have been living in Lebanon, dwindling assistance and difficulties obtaining or renewing legal residence in Lebanon are primary issues prompting their onward movement (Protection Sector, 31/10/2015). However, the drop can also be attributed to the deregistering of Syrian refugees who arrived after 5 January 2015. The number of Syrians in Lebanon not registered with UNHCR is unknown, although some estimates put it at around 100,000 (Amnesty, 02/11/2015). As of 30 October, 1,075,637 Syrian refugees are registered in Lebanon, a slight decrease from the peak of 1,185,250 million registered in May 2015. Akkar is hosting 101,077; Bekaa 373,124; Beirut 28,944; Mount Lebanon 285,787; North Lebanon 161,101; and South Lebanon and El Nabatieh Governorates 125,604 (UNHCR, 30/10/2015).

26% of refugees are women, and 53% children (UNHCR 09/2014). 16% of Syrian refugee households are led by women (Equal Access Monitor, 30/06/2015).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: 43,375 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) reside in Lebanon (OCHA, 16/10/2015). PRS entry to Lebanon is now almost entirely limited to those transiting to a third country. An estimated 85.7% of PRS remain in Lebanon illegally, and face an array of protection concerns (OCHA 16/10/2015).

Host communities

Host communities have reported inadequate or insufficient access to water, waste water management systems, affordable housing, and employment opportunities (OCHA 09/2014).

H2
Access of relief actors to affected populations

Humanitarian actors are blocked from certain areas due to insecurity and entry restrictions. In Akkar governorate, access to Wadi Khaled, by the border with Syria, is limited. In Baalbek-Hermel governorate, UN agencies have been blocked from accessing Arsal since December 2014, but have been able to get some assistance in through local partners (OCHA, 15/10/2015; UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

Lebanon formally decided to stop welcoming displaced people in October 2014, barring exceptional cases, and the suspension of registration raises serious protection concerns (UNHCR, AFP 24/10/2014; UNHCR 07/2014; UNHCR, 20/04/2015). Since January, Syrians wanting to enter Lebanon must apply for a visa (UNHCR, 25/01/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Refugees live across 1,750 different locations in Lebanon, making the delivery of humanitarian assistance challenging (UNHCR 10/2014). Northern Bekaa, Tripoli, and Akkar are areas of higher risk, and the UN will only carry out critical missions to parts of those areas (WFP, 03/12/2014).

Food security and livelihoods

1.5 million people are in need of food assistance (Food Security Cluster, 31/10/2015). In October, 24.5% of people were in moderate to severe food insecurity, compared to 12.8% in 2014 (WFP, 07/07/2015). Among the Syrian refugee population, approximately 23% are in moderate to severe food insecurity (WFP, 31/10/2015). Levels are highest in North Lebanon (Akkar) and the Bekaa Valley (WFP, 01/07/2015).

Starting in September, WFP capped assistance at five members per household because of a funding shortfall (OCHA, 21/08/2015). In October, extra funding allowed WFP to increase rations, and WFP now estimates that it is providing assistance at 80% of vulnerable households’ needs (WFP, 16/10/2015).

Livelihoods

Syrian refugees are barred from working in Lebanon. This on top of reduced assistance to Syrian refugees due to funding shortfalls has caused families to adopt negative coping strategies (WFP, 16/06/2015). 67% of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon have reported severe and crisis coping strategies, up from 28% last year (UNHCR, 31/07/2015). The percentage of Syrian households under the poverty line has increased from 50% to 70% in the last year, and of those households, only 1 out of every 5 adults reported earning some income in the last 30 days (UNHCR, 03/11/2015). 90% of Syrian refugees in Lebanon are estimated to have gone into debt to pay basic expenses (UNHCR, 20/11/2015). The Livelihoods Cluster estimates that 700,000 people are in need of livelihood support (UNDr., 31/10/2015).

Health

3.3 million people are in need of healthcare (Health Cluster, 31/10/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Health services are available, but costly. 39% of Syrian refugees surveyed in June say that they are not seeking medical care because of the expense (UNHCR, 20/11/2015). Short opening hours and lack of trained health personnel further limit access (WHO, 01/2015).

72% of primary health centres assessed by UNICEF in 2014 lacked sufficient essential drugs, 67% lacked sufficient medication for chronic diseases, and 49% lacked sufficient antibiotics for children (UNICEF, 08/2014).

WASH

3.3 million people are in need of WASH assistance (UNICEF/UNHCR, 05/05/2015). WASH conditions are worse for refugees in informal settlements and in difficult-to-access locations in the Bekaa Valley and the north (UNHCR, 07/2014). According to a recent assessment, 39% of Syrian refugee households do not have access to safe drinking water (UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF, 23/10/2015). WASH conditions are often below standards in Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut (IFRC, 03/02/2015).

Sanitation

Informal settlements in the Bekaa valley and in the north have limited or no sanitation facilities (MSF, 20/08/2015). 10% of Syrian refugees do not have access to bathroom facilities (UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF, 23/10/2015).

Safe disposal of wastewater is a huge challenge in Lebanon, especially for the majority of locations across the country that are not connected to functioning treatment plants. This is exacerbated in Arsal, where security concerns have prohibited the provision of services (WASH Cluster, 04/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter

1.8 million people are in need of shelter assistance (Shelter Sector, 31/10/2015). 55% of refugees live in informal settlements, unfinished buildings, or other substandard housing—an increase of 15% from last year (UNHCR, 03/11/2015).
An assessment found that 50% of refugees live in poor conditions, including accommodation without adequate WASH facilities, or adequate protection against weather. An additional 18% were found to live in temporary shelters without access to basic services (NRC, 18/06/2015). Refugees are spending up to 90% of their monthly income to live in substandard housing such as garages, sheds, and in unfinished buildings (NRC, 18/06/2015).

The numerous informal tented settlements (ITS) are usually substandard. Humanitarian agencies are unable to make substantial improvements, as the sites are on private land (UNHCR, 09/06/2015).

An estimated 975,000 Syrian refugees are in need of NFI and shelter assistance for the winter (UNHCR, 23/10/2015). In Beirut, many Syrian refugees have settled in Palestinian refugee camps, where shelter conditions are often substandard (IFRC, 03/02/2015).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: The Palestinian population has increased from 110,000 to 140,000 since 2011: 44,000 are Palestinian refugees from Syria (OCHA 09/2014; 01/2015). PRS households are residing in overcrowded dwellings, with an average of 4.6 people per bedroom; 8.4 people on average share one bathroom. Most households (71%) reported paying rent for shelter. Slightly over a quarter of households (27%) were hosted free of charge. The USD 100 housing assistance for more than 43,000 PRS was suspended in July 2015 (UNRWA, 22/05/2015).

Lebanese returnees: As of 6 May, 50,000 Lebanese nationals had returned from Syria since the beginning of the crisis (UNDP, UNHCR; 06/05/2015). Assessments in 2014 indicated that at least 51% of returnees are shelter insecure (IOM/OCHA 09/2014; UNHCR 07/2014).

Education

School enrolment among Syrian refugees has increased by 60% this year compared to last (Education Sector, 31/10/2015). On 21 September, the Lebanese Minister of Education announced free education up to grade nine for both Lebanese and non-Lebanese children (UNHCR, 31/09/2015).

However, 750,000 children are still in need of education assistance (Education Sector, 31/10/2015). This includes more than 200,000 Syrian refugee children in Lebanon, over half of the overall number of school-aged Syrians (UNHCR, 04/11/2015).

One in five households with school-aged children have withdrawn their children from school due to increased food insecurity (WFP, 02/06/2015).

Protection

Main protection concerns include the presence of ERW; child labour; and lack of documentation for refugees, impacting their ability to access services and move freely; and forced evictions.

Mines and ERW

Lebanon has nearly 1,400 confirmed minefields and 520 cluster munitions strike areas: 15.23 km² is contaminated by ERW. 1,757 people have been killed by IEDs in Lebanon between 2011 and 2014 (OCHA, 02/12/2015). In 2015, 19 incidents of ERW-related injury or death had been recorded as of August, compared to 24 in all of 2014. The increase may be related to the presence of refugees in contaminated areas (Al Jazeera, 13/08/2015). A significant number of landowners and workers still enter contaminated areas, stating they have no choice (Mine Advisory Group, 01/06/2015).

Children

According to ILO estimates, between 210,000 and 320,000 refugee children of school age who are not in school are involved in some form of child labour (VoA, 23/01/2015). Social exclusion, vulnerability of households, the influx of Syrian refugees, and organised crime and exploitation are all leading children to live or work on the streets (ILO et al., 16/02/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Undocumented refugees: Increasing numbers of refugees are undocumented. Rental agreements are required to obtain legal residence, however only about 15% of refugees have rental contracts (NRC, 18/06/2015). In January 2015, the Lebanese government introduced new criteria making it extremely difficult for Syrian nationals to renew Lebanese residence permits, including requiring a “pledge of responsibility” from a Lebanese national. Syrians lacking valid residence permits are left vulnerable to arrest, harassment, and deportation (Amnesty, 02/11/2015).

Forced evictions: 18,000 people are thought to have been evicted from 115 informal tented settlements since the beginning of the year, approximately 51% of whom (an estimated 9,276 individuals) were evicted in Bekka governorate. 39% of the evictions (8,720 individuals) were in Akkar governorate, and 10% (1,699 individuals) in North governorate. An additional 150 families are thought to be at risk of eviction in Ouzai collective shelter in Mount Lebanon governorate and 50 families in Ghazieh in South governorate. (UNHCR, 15/10/2015).

Documentation

Refugees who entered after 5 January and have been subsequently registered should be deregistered, according to government regulations. In May, the Ministry of Social Affairs further notified UNHCR that all new registrations must be suspended until a mechanism to deal with those who seek registration is established. As of 31 May, 2,626 people were in
line to be deregistered (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Between March 2011 and August 2014, 34,272 Syrian refugees were born in Lebanon. An estimated 72% do not possess an official birth certificate (UNFPA 30/11/2014; Amnesty, 02/11/2015). Syrian Kurds who were denaturalised in Syria in 1962 are also stateless in Lebanon.

Updated: 10/12/2015

**OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES** COMPLEX, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

8 December: Half the buildings at Al Shifa hospital are at risk of collapse, and the hospital is understaffed by 20% (Al Jazeera).

October–November: Schooling has been disrupted since the latest outbreak of violence began. Access restrictions around Hebron are affecting the journey to and from school for 4,200 children (OCHA, 08/12/2015).

### KEY CONCERNS

- 2.3 million people need humanitarian assistance; 1.8 million in Gaza and 600,000 in the West Bank (OCHA, 07/12/2015).

- 1.45 million people are estimated to be food insecure, 33% of the population (WFP, 19/12/2014). 868,000 people in Gaza alone require food aid (UNRWA, 05/02/2015).

- 1.4 million people are in need of WASH assistance, particularly access to water (OCHA, 12/05/2015).

- Continuity of medical care is threatened by the financial crisis and electricity shortages in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (OCHA).

- The ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip limits access and movement of both people and goods.

### Politics and Security

Following an escalation of violence in October across oPt and Israel, Israeli authorities have implemented new security measures including the deployment of at least 300 more soldiers, additional checkpoints, longer prison sentences for stone throwers, and accelerated demolition of housing. Some of these measures are said to constitute forms of collective punishment and a violation of human rights (B’Tselem, 20/10/2015; OCHA, 12/10/2015; AFP, 20/10/15).

On 2 October, Mahmoud Abbas, head of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Fatah, stated that the PA was considering ending two decades of security cooperation with Israel. This would represent a severe deterioration in relations between the PA and Israel (AFP, 02/10/2015). The Palestinian unity government resigned in June. Hamas now governs the Gaza Strip, and Fatah the West Bank (Al Jazeera, 17/06/2015).

On 30 June, Islamic State (IS) declared its intentions to replace Hamas as the main power in Gaza. No action followed, but Sinai, the Egyptian territory adjacent to Gaza, has been the site of major clashes between the Egyptian army and armed groups allied to IS (Independent, 01/07/2015; Al Jazeera, 01/07/2015).

### Stakeholders

**Hamas** is an Islamist organisation established in 1987 during the first Palestinian Intifada – The Uprising (1987–1993), with the aim of resisting the Israeli occupation. It provides some social welfare programmes, and its military wing, the Izzedine al Qassam Brigades, fights Israel. In 2006 Hamas won political office in Gaza. Tensions with its secular rival Fatah erupted in 2007, when Hamas set up a rival government in the Gaza Strip. Hamas has regularly fired rockets into Israel and conducted attacks against Israeli military and civilian targets.

**Fatah or the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO)** was founded in the late 1950s for the purpose of launching commando raids on Israel. Despite being expelled from Jordan, and then Lebanon, it eventually became the controlling power behind the Palestinian Authority (PA), which was founded in the 1990s. Fatah lost control of Gaza in 2007 to Hamas. Fatah remains the dominant party in the West Bank and within the PA.

**Israel** has occupied the West Bank and east Jerusalem since 1967. It has been accused of pursuing a policy of illegal ‘settlement construction’ in the West Bank and forcibly displacing Palestinians from territory recognised by the UN as Palestinian. Israel withdrew its forces and removed its settlers from the Gaza Strip in 2005, but imposed a strict blockade in 2007 to control the flow of goods and materials. Israel and Hamas have been involved in three major conflicts in 2008, 2012 and 2014. In each, Israel has been accused of the disproportionate use of force.
Conflict developments

Incidents between Palestinians and Israeli security forces and Israeli settlers dramatically increased during the third quarter of 2015. Since 1 October, 109 Palestinians have been killed, including an Arab Israeli, as well as 21 Israelis, an American, and an Eritrean (Al Jazeera, 30/11/2015; AFP, 04/12/2015). 25 of the Palestinians killed were children (OCHA, 08/12/2015). Over 11,000 Palestinians and over 180 Israelis are reported to have been injured. Live ammunition accounts for 27% of injuries (OCHA, 08/12/2015). The death toll peaked between 17 and 23 November, when eight Palestinians and six Israelis were killed and 1,200 Palestinians and 21 Israelis were injured (OCHA, 23/11/2015). Nearly 2,000 Palestinians have been arrested by Israeli forces since 1 October (Al Jazeera, 22/11/2015).

West Bank and East Jerusalem

Clashes and protests between Palestinians and Israeli security forces have been occurring across the West Bank almost daily since 1 October. Settler violence has also increased since early October (OCHA, 08/12/2015). Since 1 October, the majority of injuries recorded have been in the Qalqiliya and Hebron governorate (OCHA, 08/12/2015; 30/11/2015).

Gaza

Since 15 October, four Palestinians have been killed by Egyptian forces; three were using smuggling tunnels southeast of Rafah and on 5 November a teenager was killed whilst fishing in Palestinian waters southwest of Rafah (OCHA, 09/11/2015; 19/10/2015).

People are frequently injured in the Access Restricted Area (ARA), as Israeli forces open fire on those accused of entering. Palestinian armed groups continue to fire rockets towards Israel and test-fire rockets into the sea.

Natural disasters

Floods

Heavy rain has caused flash flooding in southern Gaza. (Al Jazeera, 10/11/2015). Thousands of people are at risk of further displacement during the upcoming rainy season (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

Displacement

263,600 people were displaced in oPt as of July 2015 (IDMC). 141,500 are in the West Bank and are mostly in protracted displacement. Up to 122,000 are in Gaza, around 100,000 of whom were displaced by the July–August 2014 conflict. Around 12,500 Palestinians were displaced between 2009 and early April 2015 after evictions, demolitions or pressure from settlers in Hebron (IDMC, 28/09/2015). The escalation of tensions and violence since October has resulted in the increased speed and use of punitive housing demolitions.

Many IDPs are believed to be staying within the host community, but their exact location, shelter requirements and other needs are unclear (UNRWA, 19/06/2015; IFRC, 06/03/2015; OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Humanitarian access

In response to the latest wave of violence Israeli authorities have intensified access restrictions across the West Bank, including the implementation of more check points and road blocks. Restrictions on the Palestinian freedom of movement are hindering access to services and causing delays. Israel continues to impose a blockade on Gaza, severely restricting the movement of goods and people.

Access of relief actors to affected populations

The Palestinian Red Crescent has reported 313 assaults against the organisation since 3 October, and restrictions on the movement of their ambulances by the Israeli authorities (PRCS, 05/12/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

West Bank and East Jerusalem

Restrictions in and around Hebron have intensified over the past weeks. There is only one route out of the city (AFP, 12/11/2015). Youths aged 15–25 have been banned from certain streets (OCHA, 23/11/2015).

Road closures to the east of Ramallah are affecting the movement of 17,000 people (OCHA, 19/11/2015). In East Jerusalem, 14 obstacles affect the movement of some 76,000 residents from six Palestinian neighbourhoods (OCHA, 08/12/2015).

Recent road closures and delays at checkpoints are restricting access to emergency medical assistance (PRCS, 15/11/2015; HRW, 22/10/2015).

Gaza

7,504 Palestinians left the Gaza Strip in the first half of 2015 compared to 19,806 in the same time period in 2014 (OCHA, 13/11/2015).

Rafah Crossing is often closed. It was open on 3–4 December. At best 500 people are able to exit Gaza via Rafah daily (Gisha, 04/12/2015; Yahoo News, 03/12/2015). Currently at least 30,000 Palestinians are registered as humanitarian cases waiting to leave Gaza via Rafah (OCHA, 13/11/2015).
Erez Crossing saw 32% fewer people cross in September compared to August, but 45% more than in September 2014. The number of crossings in October was 26% below the 2015 monthly average (OCHA, 13/11/2015; 19/10/2015; 12/10/2015).

In November an increase in the number of medical referrals out of Gaza was issued due to the deteriorating health service in Gaza. Access to external facilities has however become more difficult due to a decrease in the number of approved exit permits (OCHA, 08/12/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

1.45 million, or 33%, of Palestinians, are food insecure: 57% of the population of Gaza and 19% of the population of the West Bank (WFP, 19/12/2014). 868,000 people in Gaza require food aid (UNRWA, 01/06/2015). Electricity shortages have impacted food production and refrigeration. Delays at crossings are complicating deliveries.

The olive industry makes up 25% of agricultural income in oPt, supporting the livelihoods of 100,000 families. The yield for 2015 is 25% than last year. An estimated 11,000 olive trees have been vandalised by settlers in 2015. This is the largest figure recorded since 2011 (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

Israeli authorities have frozen 1,200 permits previously issued to Palestinians from Hebron governorate in order to access Israel and East Jerusalem for work. Palestinians have also been banned from accessing their places of work in Israeli settlements in the Gush Etzion area near Bethlehem. These restrictions are expected to severely impact incomes and livelihoods (OCHA, 23/11/2015).

Health

The infant mortality rate in Gaza has risen for the first time in more than five decades, from 20.2 per 1,000 live births in 2008 to 22.4 in 2013, the last date with available information (UN, 09/08/2015). Patients requiring medical assistance regularly have to be referred to services in either Egypt or Israel.

Infant health is jeopardised by a shortage of medicinal supplies. There is a backlog of 30,000 blood samples in need of testing from newborn infants in Gaza. In August, stockouts were recorded for 28% of essential medicines. The Ministry of Health in Ramallah reported that 19% of essential and complementary medicines (102 of 547 items) were at zero stock in the West Bank, which supplies Gaza as well (WHO, 11/11/2015).

Al Shifa hospital in Gaza is running with only 80% of staff, and half the buildings are at risk of collapse (Al Jazeera, 08/12/2015).

Mental health

There are indications that the rate of suicide has increased since Operation Protective Edge. Social stigmatisation of surviving family members, due to the religious condemnation and cultural view of suicide, prevents accurate reporting (AFP, 30/09/2015). 300,000-400,000 children are in need of mental health support in the Gaza Strip (UNICEF, 26/02/2015, World Vision, 13/04/2015).

Since the latest outbreak of violence on 1 October, MSF reports treating five times the usual number of patients for mental health problems in Hebron (MSF, 22/10/2015).

WASH

1.4 million people require WASH assistance, particularly access to water (OCHA, 12/05/2015).

Water

More than 70% of households in Gaza are being supplied with piped water for 6–8 hours once every 2–4 days, due to insufficient power supply (OCHA, 06/07/2015).

The Coastal Aquifer Basin is the only source of fresh water in Gaza. Only 5% of this water is potable (Al Jazeera, 08/11/2015).

Sanitation

Up to 90 million litres of partially treated sewage are being discharged into the Mediterranean Sea every day, partially due to electricity and fuel shortages (OCHA, 06/07/2015). This is exacerbating the contamination of the aquifer.

Shelter

An estimated 500,000 Palestinians are in need of shelter assistance (OCHA, 31/03/2015). As of 28 September, 12,580 housing units remain totally destroyed since the 2014 war. 7,200 families, or around 43,000 individuals, are yet to begin reconstitution on their shelters. As of 20 October 13,163 families (around 79,000 individuals) remain in need of improved temporary shelter (UNRWA, 20/09/2015). In Area C, 107 communities have been identified as living in bad conditions and are in need of assistance (Shelter Cluster, 16/11/2015).

NFIs

There is a 55% energy deficit in Gaza (OCHA, 06/07/2015). Rolling power cuts across Gaza are in effect for 12–16 hours per day, due to lack of fuel and interrupted supply from Egypt (OCHA, 14/09/2015).

Education
In the previous academic year, 90% of the 252 UNRWA schools in Gaza ran on a double-shift system, with some on triple shifts, affecting some 400,000 students (UNRWA, 29/01/2015; OCHA, 12/02/2015).

The latest outbreak of violence is disrupting schooling. Staff and students are affected psychologically and an increased number of checkpoints are causing delays. Increased access restrictions in and around Hebron are affecting 4,200 children who study in the 15 schools in the city. Clashes have interrupted schooling as tear gas has infiltrated school buildings. On four occasions in October, Israeli forces raided schools and detained children accused of stone throwing (OCHA, 08/12/2015).

Protection

The Israeli authorities are accused of detaining individuals without trial, including children, forcibly displacing communities, legalising the use of force feeding of prisoners, building on and claiming Palestinian land (Al Jazeera, 30/07/2015).

An increasing number of journalists are being targeted and injured by Israeli forces during clashes. Rubber bullets and live ammunition have been used (Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, 17/10/2015).

In October a Human Rights Watch employee, wearing a press tag, and researcher for B’Tselem, wearing a B’Tselem vest, were shot and wounded in two separate incidents by Israeli forces (HRW, 06/10/2015; Israeli Center for Human Rights, 29/10/2015).

Demolitions

From October to end of November at least 100 people have been displaced as a result of punitive housing demolition in Hebron, Ramallah, and East Jerusalem. A further 50 people have had their houses demolished in Area C (the areas directly controlled by occupying Israeli forces) and East Jerusalem on the grounds of lacking a building permit. Half the displaced are children (OCHA, 08/12/2015).

1,081 demolitions were recorded from January 2014 to the end of October 2015 in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, 394 (36%) of which were residential. 4,327 individuals have been affected. This is a 25% increase in 2015 from 2014 (Shelter Cluster Palestine, 30/10/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Over 85% of the Bedouin communities are not connected to the electricity and water networks (OCHA, 06/05/2015; 30/04/2015). 18,000 Palestinians live in or near the 18% of the West Bank designated by the Israeli authorities as “firing zones”, areas of land claimed by the Israeli military for training and security purposes. Palestinians who live in these zones face severe access restrictions, recurrent demolition, and incidents of forced displacement and home demolition (OCHA, 09/11/2015; 12/0/2015).

On 22 November the Israeli government approved a plan which allows for the construction of five Jewish settlements in the Negev region in Area C of the West Bank, including on two Bedouin villages, home to 7,500 people (Al Jazeera, 26/11/2015).

Palestinian civilians and security forces continue to be killed and injured by ERW. Over 5,000 unexploded ordnance are estimated to remain in Gaza, as a result of the 2014 hostilities (OCHA, 28/09/2015).

Children

Hundreds of children have been injured in clashes with Israeli forces since violence escalated in October. 25 Palestinian children have been killed (OCHA, 08/12/2015). The Israeli army continues to arrest or detain Palestinian children as young as 11 (HRW, 20/07/2015). The number of Palestinian children in Israeli prisons has risen from 156 at the end of September to an estimated 400 in November. On 25 November a new bill was approved that permits the delivery of prison sentences to children as young as 12 (Defense for Children International, 28/11/2015).

Updated: 09/12/2015

PAKISTAN CONFLICT, DROUGHT, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

5 December: Seven children have died of diphtheria in recent weeks at the Children’s Hospital in Lahore, Punjab, because medicines were not available (DAWN).

3 December: 31 Pakistani migrants were sent back to Greece after they were repatriated by the EU, because the Pakistani government deemed the deportation illegal (The Guardian).

1 December: Four people were injured when unidentified attackers threw a hand grenade into the offices of a TV channel in Lahore. The attackers left Islamic State leaflets on the site (DAWN).
KEY CONCERNS

- Over 1.2 million IDPs (over 193,000 families) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA (OCHA 23/11/2015).
- 1.5 million Afghan refugees, the majority in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (UNHCR 18/11/2015). 281,000 are being hosted in Balochistan (DAWN 07/12/2015).
- 1,781 civilians were killed in conflict-related violence in 2014; 783 civilians have been killed so far in 2015 (SATP 18/10/2015).

OVERVIEW

Priority humanitarian needs are health, nutrition, and food assistance. IDPs and Afghan refugees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are of particular concern. The security situation remains volatile due to militant attacks in urban centres and military operations against the Taliban in the tribal areas.

Politics and security

Pakistan has several areas in which political stability and security are limited, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), and Gilgit-Baltistan (World Bank 24/09/2015; Diplomacy Pakistan 17/11/2015; Tribune 13/05/2015; DAWN 09/07/2015). The military offensive against the Pakistani Taliban (TTP) that began in 2014, and continued attacks by TTP have had a severe humanitarian impact in the Federal Administered Tribal Areas, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Elsewhere, sectarian violence continues, particularly in Sindh and Balochistan. Balochistan is also affected by a prolonged separatist insurgency. Conflict flares sporadically at the Line of Control dividing Pakistan and India in the disputed region of Kashmir. In August, shelling killed at least 20 civilians on both sides of the Line of Control (AFP 17/09/2015; 29/08/2015; 16/08/2015). As of 18 October, 783 civilians have been killed in conflict-related violence in 2014 (SATP 18/10/2015). 1,781 civilians were killed in conflict-related violence in 2013, and 3,001 in 2013 (SATP 01/01/2015).

For what concerns international relations, Pakistan affairs with India have been tense for decades over Kashmir territorial-claims, and the recent surge in violence caused their deterioration (Jakarta Post 03/10/2015). Relations with Afghanistan have also been strained for long, and have recently deteriorated. The government of Pakistan has accused Afghanistan of not doing enough to prevent militant groups using its territory to plan and organise attacks on Pakistan. The latest was a Taliban attack on a Pakistan air force base on 18 September, which killed 29 (International Crisis Group 01/10/2015; Reuters 18/09/2015; VOA 02/11/2015).

Punjab

On 1 December, four people were injured when unidentified attackers threw a hand grenade in the offices of a news channel in Lahore. The attackers left Islamic State leaflets on the site (DAWN 01/12/2015). On 14 October, at least seven people were killed in a suspected suicide bomb attack in the office of a local official in Taunsa town, southern Punjab. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack (AFP 14/10/2015).

Balochistan

Several armed groups, including the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF), have been fighting for greater autonomy since 1948. 2014 saw a sharp rise in acts of violence, which has persisted in 2015. Attacks by Islamist armed groups are also increasing (ICG 01/10/2015). Between 2004 and April 2015, over 3,360 civilians were killed, in Balochistan, in the clashes between the security forces and the militant group (Eurasia Review 20/04/2015).

Over 8,000 suspected militants have been arrested and 204 killed in 2015, according to the home secretary of the province (ICG 01/10/2015). At least 15 police officers have been killed in targeted attacks in Quetta since June. The latest occurred on 20 October, when a police officer was killed by unknown gunmen (DAWN 20/10/2015; 27/07/2015; 14/07/2015; 11/06/2015; 06/06/2015).

On 1 November, at least four people were killed and seven were injured when a passenger train hit an improvised explosive device (IED) planted on the track in Mastung district (Al Hasan 02/11/2015). On 22 October, a suicide attack on a mosque in Kachhi district killed at least 10 people, and wounded 12 (Tribune Pakistan 22/10/2015).

Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

On 3 November, a roadside bomb killed an anti-Taliban elder and wounded his two sons in Golloshah village, Bajaur agency (AFP 03/11/2015).

The government carried out operations against the Taliban in North Waziristan and Khyber Agency between June 2014 and July 2015, after the Taliban vowed to start all-out war on the government (Alhasan Systems 22/07/2015; DAWN 30/03/2015; 23/03/2015). As of 11 November, reports indicate that the security situation in FATA has improved, with 89% of North Waziristan Agency allegedly cleared of militants, however, scarce collaboration of civilian agencies could undermine the positive
effects of the recent security operations (DAWN 11/11/2015).

Sindh

On 13 November, at least six people were injured by a hand grenade in the area of Nyabad in Karachi. The attack was likely linked to ongoing tensions around local elections scheduled for 5 December (DAWN 13/11/2015). On 31 October, at least 11 people were killed in fighting related to local elections in Ranipur Town, Khairpur district (Al Hasan 02/11/2015). On 29 October, a tribal elder and seven other people were killed in a landmine and rocket attack in Marwar, 40km from Quetta. The Baloch Liberation Army claimed responsibility for the attack (DAWN 30/10/2015; 31/10/2015). On 23 October, at least 24 people were killed in a suicide bombing that targeted a Shi’a mosque in Jacobabad, Sindh province. The attack was claimed by the Lashkar-e-Janghvi, a militant Sunni Muslim group (AFP 24/10/2015; BBC 23/10/2015). A report from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan indicates that the death toll from violence in Sindh fell 34% in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 (DAWN 21/04/2015).

Natural disasters

Pakistan is considered one of the most vulnerable countries to earthquakes or disasters triggered by hazards related to climate change (UNDP 04/12/2015). Pakistan is prone to many different kinds of natural hazards, which have caused several large-scale disasters (such as the floods in 2010 and the 2005 earthquake), due to its geographical collocation and hydrological characteristics (IOM 31/08/2015; DAWN 08/10/2015). According to several sources, the implementation of adequate safety measures in the reconstruction of the country after the 2005 earthquake has been inexistent, leaving the population highly exposed to potential new events of such scale (DAWN 04/10/2015).

Drought

Drought conditions in western Balochistan have worsened, in particular in Dalbandin, Nokundi, Musakhel, and Kharan (Al Hasan 31/10/2015).

Earthquake

On 26 October a 7.5 magnitude earthquake with its epicentre in Afghanistan also affected Pakistan and India (The Guardian 26/10/2015). In total, 280 people died in Pakistan, 1,700 were reported injured, 78,604 houses were damaged, and 28,785 were destroyed. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was most affected, with 232 dead, 1,417 injured, 69,877 houses damaged and 26,683 destroyed. FATA, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab were also affected. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shangla was the most affected district, followed by Chitral, then Swat, Lower Dir, Upper Dir, and Tor Ghar (Government 02/12/2015). Immediate humanitarian needs included emergency shelter, winterisation supplies, food, water, and sanitation (OCHA 30/10/2015).

Displacement

As of November 2015, Pakistan has still over 1.2 million IDPs in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, following the most recent security operations that in 2014 aimed to eradicate militant groups from the province. These operations caused the number of displaced in the FATA to peak to 1.6 million people as of the end of 2014 (OCHA 14/02/2015). In addition, Pakistan hosts over 1.5 million registered Afghan refugees and an estimated 1.4 million unregistered Afghan nationals (ECHO 16/11/2015).

IDPs

At the beginning of the year, over 1.67 million people were displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA, as of October, around 1.2 million remain displaced. 1% are in camps, and 99% in host communities. The largest IDP populations are located in Bannu, Peshawar, and Dera Ismail Khan (OCHA 08/10/2015; UNHCR 30/09/2015; 01/12/2015). An estimated 75% of the displaced are women and children (OCHA 30/09/2015).

The phased return of IDPs in FATA started mid-March. As of 26 November, more than 766,000 people (109,508 registered families) have returned home: 65,062 families to Bannu, Peshawar, and Dera Ismail Khan (OCHA 08/10/2015; UNHCR 30/09/2015; 01/12/2015). An estimated 75% of the displaced are women and children (OCHA 30/09/2015).

Refugees in Pakistan

1.5 million documented refugees and over 1 million undocumented Afghan refugees live in Pakistan as of November (UNHCR 18/11/2015). Of these, 281,000 are being hosted in Balochistan (DAWN 07/12/2015).

The registration of undocumented Afghan refugees, which was due to begin in July, has yet to start (Pajhwok 24/09/2015). As of 25 November, media reports indicate that registered Afghan refugees are likely to receive authorisation to remain in Pakistan until December 2017, as requested in August by the Afghan government (DAWN 25/11/2015). Pakistani authorities have included the repatriation of refugees in a new anti-terrorism action plan, after the Taliban attack on a school in Peshawar in...
December 2014 (AAN 09/03/2015). As of 16 October, around 334,600 undocumented Afghan refugees have returned from Pakistan in 2015 (USAID 16/10/2015). However, only 57,000 of the registered Afghan refugees participated to a voluntary repatriation programme designed and implemented by UNHCR (DAWN 25/11/2015).

Pakistani refugees in neighbouring countries

As of 16 November, over 236,300 Pakistani refugees are reported to be in Afghanistan (ECHO 16/11/2015). As of September, the return of Pakistanis from Afghanistan’s Pakita and Khost provinces was reported to be unlikely, as many host communities had already started integrating them (Solidarites International 02/09/2015).

On 6 November, Pakistan suspended its agreement for the repatriation of undocumented migrants from EU countries, accusing EU countries of having deported several Pakistani nationals without verification. 90,000 Pakistanis have been repatriated from the EU in the last year (AFP 06/11/2015). On 3 December, 31 Pakistani migrants were sent back to Greece after they were repatriated by the EU, because the Pakistani government deemed the deportation to be illegal (The Guardian 03/12/2015).

Humanitarian access

The principal concerns in terms of humanitarian access are posed by the increasing violence on healthcare workers. Frequent episodes of violence targeting health workers delivering polio vaccinations occurred this year, especially in the provinces of FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (DAWN 13/11/2015; VOA 14/02/2015; BBC 17/02/2015; Al Jazeera 28/03/2015). In some areas, geographical characteristics, poor infrastructure, and severe climate conditions, can also hamper humanitarian access in case of disasters, as for example occurred in case of the 26 October Badakhshan earthquake that severely affected mountainous areas of K-P. For several days, accessing remote areas in Chitral, Shangla, and other districts, had been extremely challenging (DAWN 04/11/2015; UN 27/10/2015).

Access of aid workers to affected population

Several security incidents involving aid workers have been reported so far in 2015. Four peace volunteers have been killed: one in Mohmand Agency in May, and three in Khyber Agency in February (DAWN 11/05/2015; 03/02/2015; 06/04/2015).

35 violent incidents of resistance to polio vaccination campaigns, including 12 health personnel killed and 12 injured, were recorded between January and June 2015 (OCHA 04/10/2015; DAWN 08/09/2015). A three-day anti-polio drive in Karachi, Sindh, has been postponed as security staff are not available (DAWN 06/11/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Between 2 and 4 November, harsh weather grounded the helicopters engaged in relief operations in Chitral, Shangla, and other areas in K-P. Bad weather and snow are also hampering road access at Lowari Tunnel, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (DAWN 04/11/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

An estimated 58% of households in Pakistan are food insecure (ECHO 26/10/2015). As of June, four districts were facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes and 29 districts were facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes (FAO 20/11/2015).

Health

Concerns about inadequate facilities, unskilled and untrained staff, and mismanagement in the national healthcare system have been recently raised also following a spike in the caseload of some communicable diseases (DAWN 27/06/2015; 16/05/2015; The Nation 13/04/2015). Together with Afghanistan, Pakistan is one of the two countries where polio remains endemic. Other communicable diseases are dengue, hepatitis A and B, typhoid, Japanese encephalitis, malaria, measles, Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, and rabies (GPEI 24/11/2015; CDC 31/07/2015; DAWN 29/01/2015; 01/10/2015; Al Hasan 03/07/2015).

Child health

On 24 November, the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services unanimously passed the “Islamabad Compulsory Vaccination Bill” in order to enforce basic immunisations. The bill will have to go through the NHS ministry and the Senate for amendments and final discussion (DAWN 25/11/2015).

Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF)

Suspected CCHF caused the death of a patient in Multan, Punjab, on 16 September (Al Hasan 21/09/2015). In October, 12 cases of CCHF have been reported in Quetta. So far in 2015, 80 people have been diagnosed with CCHF in the area; 15 have died (DAWN 08/10/2015). Six cases of CCHF have been recorded in Karachi so far in 2015, including two deaths in early October (DAWN 14/10/2015). A patient died of CCHF on 3 November in Peshawar, bringing the 2015 death toll to 24 (Al Hasan 10/11/2015).

Dengue

A rise in dengue cases has been recorded in several parts of Pakistan throughout
A rise in dengue cases has been recorded in several parts of Pakistan throughout 2015 (Al Hasan 29/09/2015). As of 17 November, 9,613 cases were reported in Pakistan: 4,922 in Punjab, 3,190 in Sindh, 1,436 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 41 in Balochistan, and 24 in the Islamabad capital territory (Al Hasan 17/11/2015). A steep rise in cases was registered in Multan district, Punjab, compared to last year (Al Hasan 29/09/2015; Frontier Post 23/10/2015). Reports indicate that untrained staff in Multan and Rawalpindi is exacerbating the people’s vulnerability to the disease (Al Hasan 16/11/2015).

Diphtheria

Seven children have died of diphtheria during the last few weeks at the Children’s Hospital in Lahore, Punjab, due to lack of lifesaving medicines (DAWN 05/12/2015).

Measles

At least two children and a 17-year-old girl died of measles in Zhob district of Balochistan on 19 November. The last vaccination campaign in Balochistan was in April (DAWN 19/11/2015)

Polio

As of 2 December, 43 cases of polio have been reported in Pakistan in 2015, compared to 267 in the same period of 2014 (Global Polio Eradication Initiative 02/12/2015). The most affected province, this year has been Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 15 cases, followed by FATA with 13, and Sindh and Balochistan with six cases each (Al Hasan 22/11/2015). According to government officials, the overall decrease in cases is explained by increased security for health personnel and improved social mobilisation, especially in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Refusals of polio vaccinations are, however, still recorded in many provinces (DAWN 19/11/2015; 17/09/2015). During a vaccination campaign between 10 and 12 November, 65% of the targeted 36 million children were actually reached (DAWN 11/11/2015; Tribune Pakistan 12/11/2015). On 27 November, the district administration of Peshawar decided to arrest parents who had refused to vaccinate their children in the last three-day national vaccination campaign (DAWN 28/11/2015).

Nutrition

Global acute malnutrition rate in Pakistan is as high as 15.1% with over 3.5 million children are undernourished, and 1 million children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (ECHO 26/10/2015). In South Waziristan agency, global acute malnutrition rates among IDPs are above the WHO emergency threshold of 14% (OCHA 17/09/2015).

In Pakistan, 91.4% of people have access to an improved water source, while 63.5% have access to improved sanitation (World Bank - Improved Water Source 2015; Improved Sanitation 2015). The presence of water-borne diseases, and the fact that polio is still endemic, make WASH a priority for Pakistan (UNICEF 30/06/2015).

Water

In July, around 50% of the 1,500 government-run health facilities did not have access to water. Water sources are rapidly depleting in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA due to overburdening for farming and food production purposes. (Inter Press News 15/11/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Emergency shelter in Pakistan is a priority for many of those affected by the 26 October earthquake, most of whom are still displaced in mountainous areas as winter approaches and temperatures decrease. On 5 November, temperatures in Chitral were reported to have dropped below freezing. Shelter was also listed as priority for those displaced by floods that occurred between July and August (IFRC 28/08/2015; DAWN 05/11/2015; 24/11/2015). Additionally, shelter is also a main concern for over 1.2 million who are still displaced in FATA as results of the 2014 security operations (IDMC 24/08/2015).

Education

Pakistan education suffers from low budget and resources, gender inequality, and security issues. The Guardian 02/04/2015; Brookings 19/10/2015). Rural areas, in particular, are affected by a lack of education facilities, that causes many children to have to walk long-distances to attend school, exacerbating security issues for girls, and reducing the likelihood of parents sending their children to school (Peace Child 08/01/2015).

In Balochistan, around 33% of children are out of school (DAWN 13/03/2015; 20/02/2015). Schools reportedly lack basic facilities such as drinking water and toilets. Teachers are reported to lack adequate education (DAWN 22/06/2015).

Protection

Protection issues in Pakistan concern mainly the situation of women and children, violence against minorities and refugees (especially Afghans), and violence against media workers. Lack of documentation for refugees, underreporting of violence episodes against women and children, and inadequate or inappropriate behaviour of the police, are among the main protection issues affecting people in Pakistan.
Vulnerable groups

Unidentified gunmen killed a Pakistani TV journalist in the outskirts of Kohat, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, on 22 November (AFP 22/11/2015). Media workers have been increasingly targeted by different factions in the last years, in Pakistan, reaching a peak of 32 attacks in 2014. In 2015, as of 28 November, 8 cases of violence against journalists was recorded in the country, and in almost all cases the attacks remained unpunished (DAWN 11/09/2015; Reuters 03/11/2015; 09/09/2015; Pakistan Today 28/11/2015).

Updated: 07/12/2015

JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

3 December: 11,400 Syrian asylum seekers are stranded at the border in need of assistance (ECHO).

3 December: Over 3,000 Sudanese have been camped in front of UNHCR headquarters in Amman since mid-November, protesting a lack of assistance (local media).

KEY CONCERNS

- Over 632,000 Syrian refugees and 52,000 Iraqi refugees in Jordan (UNHCR, 30/11/2015).
- As of August 2015, 85% of refugees are food insecure, compared to 48% in 2014 (NRC, 03/08/2015). In September, WFP cut support to 229,000 beneficiaries due to funding constraints (AFP, 04/09/2015).
- Rates of return to Syria increased significantly from July—September. October and November rates were lower, but remain concerning given the ongoing instability in Syria (UNHCR, 30/11/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

Syrian refugees

As of 30 November, there are 632,228 Syrian refugees registered in Jordan (UNHCR, 30/11/2015). The government of Jordan claims that the actual number of Syrian refugees hosted in Jordan is around 1.5 million (Act Alliance, 16/11/2015).

By end-November, 27,205 Syrians had arrived in 2015 (UNHCR, 30/11/2015). Arrivals have been increasing since July, following stepped up advocacy efforts in Syria regarding the availability of protection services in Jordan. Average daily arrival rates have grown from 36 in July, to 50 in August, and 64 in September (UNHCR, 13/10/2015). NRC reported 340 arrivals in a single day in mid-September (NRC, 06/10/2015). Returns to Syria, however, outpace arrivals (UNHCR, 13/10/2015).

50.7% of registered refugees are female. 52% are below 18 years of age, 44.5% are between 18 and 59, and 3.5% are older than 60 years (UNHCR, 30/11/2015). About 86% of refugees in urban and rural areas outside of camps live below the Jordanian poverty line of USD 3.2 per person per day (Inter-agency, 30/09/2015).

Politics and security

Concerns over the crises in Iraq and Syria and extremist infiltration have increased since Jordan joined the US-led airstrikes against Islamic State (IS) in September 2014 (ISW, 19/02/2015; Al Jazeera, 12/02/2015).

Ramtha, a town of 120,000 located 90km north of Amman, has been hit by multiple shells resulting from unstable security conditions on the Syrian side of the border. On 7 October, one shell damaged a house. On 13 August, a shell injured six people, and on 25 June, one person was killed and another four injured (The Jordan Times, 07/10/2015).

Displacement

Over 632,000 Syrian refugees are now registered with UNHCR in Jordan (UNHCR, 15/11/2015). The average number of Syrians entering Jordan dropped considerably after an initial influx in 2013, but arrival rates have again been climbing since July 2015. The number and accessibility of entry points has been limited, and entry restrictions have increased, forcing Syrians to travel to remote informal crossing-points in the eastern desert (RRP6, 2014–2015; IOM, 2014).

Tensions between refugees and host communities are a concern, primarily due to a sense of competition over housing, jobs, and assistance (Mercy Corps, 12/2014; Chatham House, 21/09/2015). According to estimates, refugee influxes since 2012 have increased Jordan’s population by 8% (Act Alliance, 16/11/2015).
518,368 refugees (82.1%) are reported to be hosted in urban areas, while 112,804 (17.9%) are in camps. Of the refugees living outside camps among host communities, 176,929 refugees live in Irbid governorate, 141,656 in Mafraq governorate, and 49,773 in Zarqa governorate (UNHCR, 30/11/2015).

While the majority of refugees live among host communities, there has been a pattern of refugees returning to camps, mainly due to increased economic vulnerability. In August, more Syrian refugees arrived in Azraq camp, Zarqa, from host communities than from Syria (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). 28,076 Syrian refugees now live in Azraq camp, more than double the number in January (UNHCR, 31/08/2015; 30/11/2015). However, Syrians have been reluctant to move to Azraq camp because of its remote desert location and harsh weather conditions, including sandstorms (AccuWeather, 25/10/2015). There are a further 79,100 Syrian refugees in Za’atari camp, Mafraq, as well as 6,357 in the Emirati Jordan Camp, Zarqa (UNHCR, 30/11/2015).

**Returnees to Syria**

Returns from Jordan to Syria increased between July and September, but have tapered off in October and November (UNHCR, 30/11/2015). Reasons for return include reunion with family members, increasing vulnerability, lack of livelihood opportunities in Jordan, a desire to continue education, and perceived security improvements in Syria (UNHCR, 30/11/2015). While returns among camp-based refugees have decreased, returns among people living in host communities were 17% higher in September than in August (WFP, 30/09/2015). A UNHCR intentions survey found that 66% of Syrian refugee respondents will consider spontaneous return to Syria if faced with further cuts in WFP or UNHCR assistance, or reduced earning and employment opportunities (UNHCR, 13/10/2015). WFP argues that recent cuts to food and cash assistance represent the last straw, pushing people back to Syria or on to Europe (WFP, 30/09/2015).

**Third-country migration**

Increasing numbers of young Syrian men from Jordan’s camps and host communities are reportedly selling their land in Syria to pay people smugglers to help them travel to Europe (New York Times, 22/09/2015). Departures of Syrians from Amman airport to Istanbul, a common transit point, have increased sharply in recent months (NRC, 06/10/2015). In October, 18% of survey respondents revealed plans to fly to Turkey in the next three months (UNHCR, 13/10/2015).

**Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)**

UNRWA has recorded 14,736 PRS who have approached the agency for support since the start of the Syrian conflict, 82% of whom are vulnerable or extremely vulnerable (UNRWA, 03/12/2014; 15/05/2015). 20,000 are forecast to be in Jordan by the end of 2015 (ECHO, 09/10/2015).

Since late 2012, the government has explicitly stated that it would not allow PRS to enter Jordan. Those who do enter are subject to a number of protection issues, including refoulement, confiscation of documents and, for those with Jordanian citizenship, de-nationalisation (HRW 05/2014, 04/07/2012). As of 15 May, 41 forced returns to Syria have been reported to UNRWA since January 2015. UNRWA reported 106 cases of PRS deported in 2014, a 40% increase on 2013, but warns the actual number of deportations is likely much higher (UNRWA, 03/12/2014; 15/05/2015).

**Non-Syrian refugees**

At the end of August, almost 58,000 Iraqi, Somali, Sudanese and Yemeni refugees were registered with UNHCR in Jordan (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). The majority are Iraqi, nearly 90% of whom live in Amman. As of 15 November, there are 52,292 registered Iraqi refugees in Jordan. 48.4% are female. 33.8% of refugees are below 18 years of age, 56.8% are between 18 and 59, 9.4% are over 60 years of age (UNHCR, 30/11/2015). Arrivals spiked during the second half of 2014, but have since reduced and stabilised (UNHCR, 30/11/2015). It is widely understood that many more Iraqis are living in Jordan unregistered, often under poor conditions and in dire need of humanitarian assistance (Act Alliance, 13/08/2015). According to UNHCR, there are 769 Somali refugees and 3,514 Sudanese refugees: most live in Amman (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). For three weeks, more than 3,000 Sudanese refugees have been camped in front of UNHCR headquarters in Amman despite rain and cold weather, protesting a lack of protection and humanitarian assistance (Radio Dabanga, 03/12/2015; 01/12/2015).

**Humanitarian access**

The influx of Syrian refugees has placed significant additional stress on Jordan’s already strained public services. Public health and education services are particularly affected (Government, 12/2014).

**Access of relief actors to affected populations**

International NGOs working in Jordan are required to get all projects approved by the government through an online approval portal (Government, 25/08/2015). Aid agencies assisting Syrians also need to include vulnerable Jordanians as 30% of their beneficiaries; some have faced pressure to increase this proportion to 50% (PI, 06/2014). The government has previously blocked urban shelter projects. Although the latest suspension was lifted in July, the sector faces significant challenges to meet assistance targets (3RP, 31/08/2015). As of October, shelter was the most under-funded response sector with just 27% of its appeal funded (UNHCR, 31/10/2015).

**Access of affected populations to assistance**

A surge in violence in Syria has triggered renewed displacement towards Jordan.
A surge in violence in Syria has triggered renewed displacement towards Jordan. Approximately 11,400 Syrian asylum seekers are stranded at the border, unable to reach protection and humanitarian services within Jordan, up from an estimated 5,000 in October. No entries into Jordan have been reported since 26 November. The stranded population is extremely vulnerable: 70% are women and children, some are elderly and some injured. Food, water, NFIs, and health assistance have been provided, but access is limited and current levels of aid do not meet the population’s needs, which are growing (ECHO, 03/12/2015). The UN has expressed concern over the fate of refugees stranded at the border (OCHA, 07/12/2015).

Jordan has increasingly restricted border access to Syrian asylum seekers since 2013 (Newsweek, 06/03/2015). Palestinians from Syria were officially denied entry in August 2014. Unofficial border closures and push-backs reportedly began in October 2014, particularly of PRS. 4,500 people were stranded at the border in October 2014 and reports of large stranded populations have been frequent throughout 2015 (IRIN, 08/01/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Food insecurity among refugees in the country has risen in 2015. As of August, 85% of refugees are food insecure, compared to 48% in 2014 (NRC, 03/08/2015). Cuts to food and cash assistance in September were associated with major deteriorations in vulnerability levels -- the proportion of families with poor or borderline food consumption tripled from 18% to 61% after WFP cuts (WFP, 30/09/2015). In Azraq camp, 22% of refugees are food insecure (UNHCR, 31/10/2015).

In host communities, there has been a 37% increase in the number of food insecure compared to 2014, and 68% live below the poverty line, a 24% increase since 2014. In June, 67% of households reported using negative coping strategies, a 32% increase since 2014 (WFP, 30/06/2015). Following September cuts to WFP assistance, 75% of families reported an increase in the frequency or severity of coping strategies: 34% have withdrawn children from school; 29% are now sending under-age children to work (WFP, 30/09/2015). WFP food assistance resumed in October and will continue through January (WFP, 31/10/2015).

Jordan’s agricultural industry has been negatively impacted by neighbouring conflicts. Border closures impeding exports to Syria and Iraq have cost approximately USD 707 million in 2015 (Bloomberg, 26/10/2015).

Livelihoods

With scarce livelihood opportunities, 86% of Syrian refugees in urban areas are living below the Jordanian poverty line of USD 96 per month and 10% are below the abject poverty line of USD 37 (UNHCR, 31/08/2015; 01/11/2015). Refugees in Jordan are heavily reliant on cash assistance to support their livelihoods, without which increasing numbers are resorting to begging, dropping out of school and reducing food intake. 20% of children have dropped out of school to work (UNHCR, 24/09/2015). 60% of refugee families outside camps are in debt (VAF, 15/06/2015; UNHCR, 15/06/2015). An estimated 1,750 Syrians are reported to be living in extremely poor conditions on the eastern border of Jordan (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). The unemployment rate among active Syrian refugees is as high as 57%, and has increased from 15% to 22% for Jordanians since the onset of the crisis (ILO, 11/05/2015). Refugees are only officially allowed to work in Jordan with a government-issued permit, which is hard to obtain and prohibitively expensive (Oxfam, 09/11/2015). Of those Syrian refugees who do find work, 99% are employed informally, where they face extremely low wages and exploitation (UNICEF, 30/06/2015; Oxfam, 09/11/2015).

Food availability

Funding shortfalls have resulted in a series of cuts to food assistance for Syrian refugees. In September, 228,553 vulnerable refugees in communities received zero assistance due to lack of funding; 219,666 extremely vulnerable refugees in communities only received half their required assistance (UNHCR, 13/10/2015; WFP, 30/09/2015). An initial rapid-assessment survey indicates that the proportion of families with poor or borderline food consumption has tripled following WFP assistance cuts, from 18% to 61%, (WFP, 30/09/2015). However, limited WFP food assistance is reported to have resumed in October and will continue through January (WFP, 28/10/2015).

Health

Healthcare availability and access

The Government decision to halt free access to health services for Syrian refugees in November 2014 led to a reduction in the number of Syrians accessing public healthcare. In response, Syrian refugees are increasingly entering camps to receive medical attention, straining already limited resources (ECHO, 19/08/2015). In mid-August, the health ministry announced that over 50,000 Iraqi refugees would no longer be eligible for subsidised healthcare, and would have to pay higher rates applied to foreigners (UNHCR, 31/10/2015). The unemployment rate among active Syrian refugees is as high as 57%, and has increased from 15% to 22% for Jordanians since the onset of the crisis (ILO, 11/05/2015).

Nearly 30% of refugees in Jordan suffer from non-communicable diseases, including hypertension and diabetes (3RP, 31/08/2015). Reports indicate that, in 2015, 58% of adults with chronic conditions in Jordan were not able to receive medicines and adequate health services, sharply up from 24% in 2014 (UNHCR, 14/09/2015).

8% of refugees suffer from conflict-related injuries (WHO, 30/06/2015). Since September 2013, over 1,850 Syrian war-wounded have required emergency treatment in Ramtha hospital, near Jordan’s northern border with Syria (MSF, 14/10/2015).

Maternal health
Maternal health is of particular concern. Syrian refugees reportedly lack knowledge on antenatal, postnatal and post-abortion care, breastfeeding, and children’s vaccination (UN FPA, 31/10/2015). Rates of delivery in government facilities have dropped to 44% in 2015, from 66% in 2014 (UNHCR, 14/09/2015). Half of pregnant women have been unable to afford antenatal care, and 60% of new mothers could not afford postnatal care (EU, 14/08/2015; UNICEF 30/06/2015). In Zaatari refugee camp, antenatal and postnatal care coverage indicators were below accepted standards, while the proportion of deliveries performed by caesarean section was 28%, almost double the accepted standard (25/09/2015).

Mental health

High needs for psychosocial support have been reported (EU, 14/08/2015; UNHCR, 02/09/2015). Refugee families who have had to move into camps report high levels of psychological stress (UN FPA, 31/10/2015).

WASH

Water

Reports suggest that the public water system is under significant strain in areas where there are high concentrations of Syrians (Government, 17/03/2015). Local water shortages continue to increase (Chatham House, 21/09/2015).

Sanitation

Municipal sewage and garbage removal services are under stress (REACH, 12/11/2014, Chatham House, 21/09/2015). Two out of five Syrian refugees live in poor sanitary conditions; only one in five has a functioning toilet. People in informal shelters are particularly affected (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter

Lack of adequate shelter is the main concern for Syrian refugees, especially among the 83% who live among host communities in Amman and the northwestern governorates (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). Available shelter is often inadequate, unaffordable or insecure (NRC, 17/06/2015). An assessment in northern Jordan showed that one refugee household in five lives in accommodation that does not provide basic protection from the elements. Housing is often overcrowded, and half of the families assessed share accommodation with at least one other family to save costs. Threat of eviction is another concern (NRC, 17/06/2015). According to a representative survey sample, 66% of families in Zaatari camp reported their shelter was unsuitable for winter, because the roof leaked (UNHCR/REACH, 31/10/2015).

NFIs

Refugees are need of NFIs, including for cooking and heating equipment, with needs increasing as winter approaches. As of November, some 288,000 Syrian refugees outside camps remain in need of winterisation assistance (DRC, 20/11/2015). A high proportion in Zaatari camp reported needs for heaters, gas cylinders, blankets, plastic sheeting, and children’s clothing ahead of winter (UNHCR/REAC, 31/10/2015).

Education

Refugee children face major education constraints in Jordan. Up to 30% have never attended formal education (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Over 65% of all school-aged children in Zaatari camp attend school, while 43% of children in Azraq camp are attending school (UNICEF, 30/06/2015). 37.5% of Iraqi refugees were not enrolled in schools in 2014, with financial issues reported as the main reason for non-attendance among 40% of those enrolled (UNHCR, 31/01/2015).

Access and learning environment

Barriers to attendance and reasons for dropping out include distance, overcrowding, safety in and on the way to school, lack of resources to pay for school material, and needing to work for household income (UNHCR, 31/03/2015; REACH, 03/2015). While access to schooling remains a major challenge, annual enrolment improved by 10% at the start of the new school year in September 2015 (UNICEF, 30/09/2015).

Protection

Protection space for refugees in Jordan has shrunk since 2014 (ECHO, 09/10/2015). Refugees report a waiting period of up to two months for registration, and lack of sufficient shelter, sanitation, and medical support (UNHCR, 31/05/2015). The most vulnerable refugees likely include those without identity documents, or with forged documents, and those who had previously returned to Syria (PI, 29/09/2014).

Gender

Many Syrian refugees face domestic violence, early marriage, and sexual violence (Reuters, 01/10/2015). 32.7% of all marriages were child marriages in 2014: in 2013, 13% of marriages involved girls younger than 18. In 2014, 51% of people seeking support services for physical assault and physiological abuse report the harm was caused by a spouse or primary caregiver (UN, 02/07/2015). Crowded living conditions and the difficulties of adapting to camp life are reportedly associated with an increase in gender-based violence (UNFPA, 31/10/2015).

Children
Almost two-thirds of the 327,000 Syrian refugee children were targeted for child protection services in 2015 (UNICEF, 31/10/2015). The prevalence of child labour, often resulting in children withdrawing from school, raises concerns (UNHCR, 28/04/2015). 8% of boys aged 9–15 are economically active and 3% are employed. In the 15–18 age group, 37% are economically active and 14% are employed (ILO, 11/05/2015). Child marriage is a growing concern (STC, 08/12/2015).

Vulnerable groups

In July 2015, Jordan was reported to have suspended all the projects for the sheltering of Syrian refugees in urban areas of the country (Huffington Post, 07/07/2015). Since early 2014, the Government appeared to have been implementing a more rigorous approach to its encampment policy of Syrian refugees. Since April 2014, over 11,000 refugees have been forcibly relocated to camps by police for lacking documentation or work permits (Oxfam, 09/11/2015).

Documentation

Refugees in camps who wish to move to urban areas must obtain “bail” from the government. However, an estimated 45% of these refugees living outside camps do not meet stringent bail out requirements (Oxfam, 09/11/2015). The Government has asked UNHCR not to issue asylum-seeker certificates to Syrians in urban areas who left the camp after 14 July 2014 and who did not obtain bail (PI, 16/07/2014 R1; ECHO, 09/10/2015). In 2015, authorities have increasingly tightened bail out regulations, effectively stopping camp-based refugees from moving to other areas of Jordan (Oxfam, 09/11/2015).

An urban verification exercise, which requires biometric registration of all Syrians outside camps, has been ongoing since February. The government has instructed humanitarian agencies not to provide assistance to Syrians who do not have Service Cards, which entitle refugees to access certain services. Refugees now only need to provide a UNHCR statement of address for registration, rather than a certified lease agreement, removing a major barrier to registration (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). By 1 November, a total of 233,247 Service Cards had been issued (UNHCR, 01/11/2015).

Many Syrians remain without personal documents after having been required to hand them over to authorities on arrival to Jordan. A document return process has been underway since August, with 108,322 documents returned to 74,308 individuals as of 5 October (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

Only about 10% of employed Syrians have obtained formal work permits, and almost all Syrian refugees working outside camps do not have work permits. Since the beginning of the crisis, Jordanians have faced deteriorating work conditions. However on average, Syrian workers are still paid less, work longer hours, and have poorer contracts compared to Jordanians in the same sector (ILO, 11/05/2015).

Updated: 08/12/2015

MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

1 December: Fighting in Mong Hsu township, Shan state, has subsided. 4,000 people are still living in temporary sites. They are reportedly in need of shelter, NFIs, WASH, health and food assistance (IRIN, 01/12/2015; OCHA, 07/12/2015).

November: The cost of transporting goods has increased by 75% in some areas and food prices have increased. Harvest are not expect to have significant yields until June 2016 (IFRC, 10/11/2015).

KEY FIGURES

- 563,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance across Myanmar (OCHA, 30/11/2015).
- 660,000 conflict-induced IDPs (OCHA, 16/06/2015; USAID, 16/06/2015).
- 11,000 remains displaced due to flooding and landslide beginning in July.
- 800,000 stateless Rohingya Muslims, mainly in Rakhine state (The Diplomat, 26/08/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to conflict-affected areas remains severely restricted. At least 50,000 people in need are not able to receive regular assistance.
- Flooding and landslides from July-November, exacerbated by Cyclone Komen (July–August) affected nearly 1,700,000 people in 12 out of 14 states and regions. 11,000 people remain in evacuation sites. Livelihoods, WASH, and possibly food security have been affected due to damaged infrastructure and damaged crops (OCHA, 01/12/2015, ECHO, 23/08/2015).

- There have been repeated incidents of conflict between the Buddhist majority and Muslims in Rakhine state since 2012. A large number of human rights abuses have been reported against the Muslim minority (UN).

OVERVIEW

Protracted armed conflict between ethnic groups and the government continues to keep over 500,000 in need of assistance. The affected area remains largely unchanged in recent years, though fighting intensified significantly in early 2015, though a de-escalation of violence in the latter half of 2015 coincided with landmark elections and a national ceasefire agreement. Several group remain in direct conflict with the government, predominantly in Kachin and Shan state.

Conditions for the Rohingya minority have deteriorated, particularly those displaced in Rakhine state. Flooding and landslide from June to November affected nearly 1.7 million people. 11,000 remain displaced and the damage to agriculture will continue to impact livelihoods and possibly food security in 2016.

Politics and security

Myanmar’s first election in 25 years took place on 8 November 2015 (Myanmar Times, 09/11/2015). Despite 25% of parliamentary seats reserved for the military-backed Union Solidarity Development Party (USDP), the National League for Democracy (NLD), headed by Aung San Suu Kyi won over 79% of the available seats and has formed a government. The USDP has conceded defeat. It has the second largest minority, with 8% of the available seats. Not major violence has been reported as of 19 November. The NLD will officially become the government in January 2016 if the timeline for the transition of power is followed (ICG, 01/12/2015, Irrawaddy, 17/11/2015; BBC; 16/11/2015).

Elections were cancelled in areas in the northeast border region of Shan state, areas across Kachin, and large parts of Kayin, mainly due to conflict. The majority of these areas did not hold elections in 2010 either (MIMU, 16/10/2015). Ongoing violence in northern Shan prevented as many as 50,000 eligible voters from taking part in the elections (Radio Free Asia, 21/10/2015). No Rohingya Muslims are allowed to vote in the election as they are not recognised as citizens (10/11/2015).

Peace negotiations

On 15 October, a National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was signed by eight of the 18 ethnic armed armies in Myanmar. Three prominent groups frequently in conflict with the government groups, including the Kachin Impendence Army, Ta’ang National Liberation Army and Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (representing ethnics in Kokang, Shan State), were excluded from participating in negotiations. Their exclusion is thought to be the main reason for other armed ethnic groups participating in the NCA did not sign (AFP, 15/10/2015; BBC, 15/10/2015; Bangkok Post, 30/09/2015).

Conflict developments

The security situation remains tense in parts of Myanmar. September recorded the highest frequency of armed clashes since April: 41, compared to 14 in August. Most were in Shan and Kachin states. The increase is likely due to the greater mobility of armed groups after heavy rains subsided, and heightened tensions as peace talks stalled (Myanmar Peace Monitor, 30/09/2015; 31/08/2015). Reported fatalities dropped dramatically in the second half of 2015 due a de-escalation in Shan. Between February and May, 554 people were killed in violence between separatist groups and Myanmar forces. Between 1 June and 9 December, 58 people were killed. 71% of all fatalities occurred in Shan state, and Kachin reported the section-highest proportion, with 10% fatalities (ACLED, 09/12/2015).

Kachin state: The KIO still has administrative control over several key areas of Kachin, and there are intermittent clashes between its army (the KIA) and the Myanmar army (local media, 06/10/2014). Security incidents have been reported regularly since fighting resumed in April 2014 (OCHA, 16/05/2015). On 14 November, the Myanmar army attacked KIA positions in Mohnyin. Fighting is reported to have ended on 23 November. As of 26 November people are believed to still be displaced, and not returning out of fear of further violence (Myanmar Times, 26/11/2015, Irrawaddy, 19/11/2015).

Shan state: Fighting that began in October between the Myanmar army and Shan State Army-North (SSAN) in Mong Hsu township has subsided as of 1 December. There have been reports of civilians injured by indiscriminate shelling and small arms fire. At least 4,000 people remain displaced. The fighting has disrupted the rice harvest, affecting livelihoods (IRIN, 01/12/2015; OCHA, 07/12/2015; Red Cross, 27/11/2015).
Natural disasters

Flooding

Since June, 172 people have been killed by flooding and landslides. 132 died during the floods caused by Cyclone Komen, which began on 26 July. The Rohingya displaced in Rakhine are considered to be particularly vulnerable, as already inadequate shelter was damaged by the flooding (BBC, 02/08/2015; OCHA, 01/12/2015).

Landslides

On 21 November, at least 115 people died and 80 houses were destroyed in a landslide in Hpakant, Kachin state (ECHO, 23/11/2015).

Landslides have also affected nine townships of Chin state, in Midat and Falam districts. Five people dies, as well as some livestock. Schools and other buildings, dams, and bridges have been damaged. Over 6,000 acres of farmland have been destroyed (UNICEF, 19/11/2015).

On 11 October, 17 people were killed and a further six are missing and presumed dead after a landslide in Hpa-saung township, Kayah state. 53 houses were destroyed and 360 people displaced to temporary shelters at schools and Lokhalo Station Hospital (New Light of Myanmar, 13/10/2015; 19/10/2015).

Displacement

An IOM assessment shows that most people have returned to their area of origin after severe flooding in August. 11,000 people remain in evacuation centres (IFRC, 10/11/2015, ECHO, 21/10/2015).

662,400 people are estimated to be in protracted displacement nationwide, primarily due to conflict. About 20,000 people were newly displaced in 2015, mainly in Kachin and northern Shan (OCHA, 16/06/2015). More than 500 people were displaced by conflict in September (Myanmar Peace Monitor, 30/09/2015).

IDPs

Rakhine: Around 130,000–140,000 people, mainly Rohingya Muslims, are in protracted displacement in Rakhine (USAID, 16/06/2015; The Diplomat, 17/06/2015). Many live in closed camps following inter-communal violence in 2012 (OCHA, 27/02/2015). 70% of all IDPs in Rakhine, around 99,000 people, live in IDP camps in Sittwe township (USAID, 08/10/2015).

Shan and Kachin: As of October, around 100,240 people are in protracted displacement in Shan and Kachin states due to ongoing fighting (USAID, 09/10/2015; OCHA, 01/10/2015). Around 1,200 people have been displaced and in need of assistance in Sumprabum, Kachin, since July, when fighting broke out between the Myanmar army and the KIA (OCHA, 31/10/2015). As of 19 November, fighting between the KIA and government forces in Mohynin, Kachin, has displaced at least 500 people. They are living in temporary shelters (Irrawaddy, 19/11/2015).

As of 1 December, 4,000 people in Mong Hsau township, Shan state, are still displaced in temporary sites. They are reportedly in need of shelter, NFIs, WASH, health and food assistance. Movements are fluid, with some people experiencing secondary displacement. Violence hampers access (IRIN, 01/12/2015; OCHA, 07/12/2015; Red Cross, 27/11/2015).

Chin and Sagaing: 11,000 people remain in evacuation sites after flooding in July. Over 5,200 people are still in temporary camps in Hakha, Tonzang and Tedim townships. Shelter and sanitation conditions are of concern (OCHA, 31/12/2015; Red Cross, 27/11/2015).

Myanmar refugees in neighbouring countries

According to UNHCR, as of late March, over 415,000 refugees originate from Myanmar (AFP, 30/11/2014).

China: As of 16 October, 8,000 refugees remain in China of the 60,000 who arrived between January and February 2015. Refugees move back and forth across the border to seek shelter, food, and employment, according to aid agencies (OCHA, 16/10/2015).

Bangladesh: An estimated 30,000 Rohingya refugees live in official camps and receive assistance from aid agencies (local media, 09/11/2014). An additional 300,000–500,000 Rohingya reside either in unofficial camps or villages where they get little or no humanitarian assistance and almost no protection from human rights abuses. Most Rohingya are denied refugee status (UNHCR, 12/06/2015; AFP, 06/06/2015; AFP, 29/05/2015).

Malaysia: 40,700 Rohingya registered with the UN were in Malaysia at end December 2014. Rohingya activists say a roughly equal number are unregistered. Rohingya migrants are frequently kept in smugglers’ camps along the border, where they are held for ransom, tortured, and raped (AFP, 30/11/2014: international media, 30/12/2015, Reuters, 01/06/2015).

Thailand: In July, biometric verification recorded around 110,000 refugees from
Thailand: In July, biometric verification recorded around 110,000 refugees from Myanmar in nine camps along the border in Thailand, (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). Other sources place the number as high as 150,000 (US Government, 2015). Authorities have pledged to send about 100,000 refugees back to Myanmar. Thai officials have been accused of tugging boats carrying Rohingya out to sea, away from their coast (CNN, 20/05/2015; UNHCR, 01/2015). Rohingya are subject to human trafficking. Many are held for ransom and abused (international media, 01/06/2015; 02/06/2015).

Other

Rohingya in the Bay of Bengal: 31,000 Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants have attempted to cross the Bay of Bengal in 2015. As of 6 October an estimated at least 570 have died during the journey (IOM, 06/10/2015). Over 5,300 people have arrived in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand in 2015 (IOM, 16/06/2015). Nearly 2,800 remain in detention centres (IOM, 14/09/2015).

Humanitarian access

In Myanmar’s highland areas access is restricted by difficult terrain and poor infrastructure, and further limited during the monsoon season (May–October). Frequent conflict, predominately in Kachin and Shan states, prevents access to people in need. Access to areas affected by recent flooding and landslides is severely restricted.

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Some reports suggest armed groups are actively denying access to humanitarian groups (Irrawaddy, 21/08/2015; 20/07/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

There has been little to no cross-line humanitarian assistance to non-government-controlled areas in Kachin. Some 50,000 IDPs have had little to no humanitarian access since September 2014 (local media, 05/12/2014; OCHA, 15/06/2015)

Security and physical constraints

Kachin state: Fighting around Hpakant and Sumpra Bum (Kachin state) has prevented access to around 1,400 people who have reportedly been inaccessible since 11 July (Irrawaddy, 21/08/2015).

Kayah state: Heavy rains in October caused flooding and landslides in Mawchi, in Bawlake district, damaging bridges and affecting road movement (New Light of Myanmar, 14/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Some 200,000 people are in need of immediate food assistance due to flooding in late July and early August (WFP, 05/08/2015). Prior to flooding, 429,000 people were in need of food assistance (OCHA, 01/2015).

Food availability

At the height of the flooding (July–August), approximately 566,560 hectares of farmland was flooded across 12 affected regions and states, though the waters are now receding. At least 229,280 hectares of farmland are believed damaged or destroyed. Most negatively affected agricultural land is in the north and west. In total, 89% of crops have been damaged. This is expected to reduce production by up to 30% in 2015 compared to 2014 (ASEAN, 18/08/2015; Democratic Voice of Burma, 18/08/2015; FAO, 10/08/2015).

Livelihoods

The harvest of some crops, including beans and pulses – some of Myanmar’s biggest agricultural exports – was disrupted by flooding in June–October. An estimated 240,000 head of livestock were also lost. The cost of transporting goods has increased by 75% in some areas and food prices have increased. Significant harvests are not expected until June 2016 (IFRC, 10/11/2015). This could impact the income of those farmers relying on cash crops, as well as the ability of subsistence farmers to sustain themselves.

Health

The number of people in need of health assistance increased from 421,000 to 536,000 over 2015, as an additional 100,000 people were assessed to be in need in Rakhine state, mainly from the Rohingya community (OCHA, 12/2013; 12/2014).

Healthcare availability and access

242 health facilities were damaged or destroyed in July and August and drug stocks have been lost in some areas (UNICEF, 20/08/2015; ECHO, 17/08/2015). In Rakhine, access healthcare is a major challenge. Only patients in the most critical condition
tend to reach hospital. (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

Cholera

At least 12 people have died in a cholera outbreak in Kyainseikgyi town, Kayah state. The outbreak is reported to have been ongoing for two months, and has infected up to 200 people (Democratic Voice of Burma, 27/10/2015).

Dengue fever

As of 27 September, the number of dengue fever cases in 2015 has reached 36,000, causing at least 120 deaths – more than double the number during the same period in 2014 and 78% higher than the last significant outbreak in 2013. Around 6,500 cases have been reported in the most affected area, Ayeyarwady region. At least 5,000 additional cases have been reported in Mon state and around 6,000 cases in Sagaing region (Reuters, 21/10/2015; Myanmar Time, 01/10/2015).

Nutrition

In Rakhine state, GAM is above 20% in some areas (UNICEF, 01/02/2015).

WASH

Sanitation

131,000 people need access to adequate sanitation facilities in temporary evacuation sites following July and August flooding (OCHA, 05/08/2015). The poor WASH situation in camps in Rakhine prior to flooding elevates the risk of waterborne diseases (USAID, 16/06/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

21,000–39,000 homes were completely destroyed in July and August flooding, including 10,000 in Rakhine. The government reports that 490,000 additional homes were damaged (ECHO, 23/08/2015; 16/08/2015; Government, 08/10/2015). Six neighbourhoods in Hakka, Chin state, need to be entirely relocated due to damage. 500–1,000 people in Hakka are still in temporary shelter (Democratic Voice of Burma, 24/09/2015).

Shelter

On 11 October, 60 houses were destroyed and 360 people were displaced to temporary shelters at schools and at Lokhalo Station Hospital after landslides hit Hpa-saung Township, Kayah state (New Light of Myanmar, 13/10/2015).

Prior to the August flooding, only 52% of IDP shelters met minimum humanitarian requirements, and approximately 120,000 protracted displaced were without access to improved shelter across Myanmar (USAID, 19/06/2015; USAID, 16/06/2015).

NFIs

Displaced people and vulnerable communities in Rakhine have limited access to cooking fuel and energy. The situation is particularly difficult for over 80,000 IDPs who have been in camps in Sittwe Township for over two years. Households in camps and isolated villages have been using shelter materials or unsustainable and hazardous materials as fuel, exchanging food rations for fuel, and over-exploiting surrounding forest and woodland (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

Education

In total, schooling was disrupted for 250,000 children because of the flooding in July and August, though schools have now reopened in the Ayeyarwady region (OHCA, 14/09/2015; UNICEF, 20/08/2015). 3,500 schools have been damaged, and around 600 destroyed (OCHA, 16/09/2015).

In northern Kachin state, children are unable to attend school due to fighting that erupted mid-November. Many schools have closed. Enrolment is reportedly at 27% (local media, 20/11/2015).

Protection

The KIA and Karen National Union (KNU) continue to forcibly recruit people from villages in Shan state and Kayin state, respectively (Democratic Voice of Burma, 08/10/2015; local media, 01/06/2015). In Shan state, the Myanmar military is accused of bombing schools and Buddhist temples, firing on civilians, and rape. Since 6 October, six villages have been shelled, three people shot, and 17 villagers have gone missing in the state (Trust, 27/11/2015).

The Myanmar government has a record of arbitrary detention and the violent suppression of protests (Asian Human Rights Commission, 01/10/2015). The Rohingya ethnic minority continues to face discrimination from the government and is vulnerable to human trafficking.

Mines and ERW

Around five million people live in mine-contaminated areas (Mines Advisory Group, 05/2014). Eastern Bago is believed to be the most contaminated region (Norwegian People’s Aid, 09/06/2015).
At least one person was killed and three injured in September and October in Kachin state alone (New Light of Myanmar, 07/10/2015; New Light of Myanmar, 23/09/2015). An assessment in Kachin and northern Shan states concluded that the majority of reported landmine victims over the second half of 2014 were male farmers, and 56% were displaced people. Most accidents happened while people travelled on foot to areas they visit often, such as fields (UNICEF, 30/11/2014).

According to local media, citing intelligence reports by the Bangladeshi border security forces, Myanmar security forces have planted mines along the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh (local media, 23/11/2014).

Gender

Rape has been used repeatedly as a weapon by armed groups, including the Myanmar army. In 2014, the Women’s League of Burma released a report documenting more than 118 victims of sexual violence at the hands of the Myanmar army since Thein Sein’s government took power (local media 26/11/2014). Incidents of sexual violence perpetrated by the military are reportedly increasing (local media, 25/11/2015).

Cross-border trafficking for the purposes of domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, and forced marriage was identified as a major protection concern by respondents during an assessment (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

Children

On 30 November, 53 children and young people recruited and used by armed forces were released (UNICEF, 30/11/2015). Between 12 and 17 July, 646 former child soldiers were released (UN, 20/07/2015). From 2013 to January 2015, 723 cases of underage recruitment by the Myanmar Army were reported to the UN (Child Soldiers International, 01/2015). The number of children that remain within the ranks of the Myanmar army, or within other armed ethnic groups, is unclear.

Vulnerable groups

Rohingya: Massive human rights infringements against the Rohingya minority in Rakhine state continue to be reported. Myanmar states that the Rohingya are migrants from neighbouring Bangladesh, thus excluded from citizenship under the 1982 Citizenship Law. Myanmar authorities have started the process to send Rohingya to Bangladesh (AFP, 08/06/2015). Over 400 were repatriated to Bangladesh between May and late August (New Light of Myanmar, 27/08/2015; Irrawaddy, 19/07/2015). Bangladeshi officials state that Rohingya are citizens of Myanmar and that Rohingya living in Bangladesh should be sent to Myanmar (Reuters, 02/06/2015).

Disabled and older people: Older and disabled people are reportedly unable to flee fighting between government forces and armed groups. Most recently, 22 people were trapped in Mansi township, Kachin, after fighting broke out between the KIA and government forces on 18 September (Irrawaddy, 24/09/2015).

Documentation

Over 800,000 people – mostly Rohingya – are estimated without citizenship in northern Rakhine (UNHCR). In early April, the Myanmar Government started taking back temporary identity cards, expired end March, from people without full citizenship, including Rohingya (international media, 18/06/2015). In June, the Government began offering two-year ‘green cards’ to some Rohingya, but they have to provide documentation, which the majority do not have, and renounce their Rohingya identity (international media, 18/06/2015). For those who refuse registration or lack adequate documents, the plan was for Rakhine authorities to construct temporary camps (local media, 12/10/2014). Rights advocates say this could put thousands of Rohingyas at risk of indefinite detention. Further, the damage to shelters resulting from the flooding in July and August may have destroyed Rohingya documentation.

Updated: 09/12/2015

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

8 December: Nepal’s existing blood stock will run out in the next month if border closures continue to prevent new supplies and fuel imports (Deutsche Welle).

KEY CONCERNS

- 530,000 people are facing Stressed or Crisis (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes (OCHA, 30/09/2015).
- Almost 60,000 IDPs remain in camps (IOM, 15/09/2015).
Politics and security

In late September, Nepal’s parliament approved a new constitution, replacing the interim constitution in effect since 2007 (BBC, 17/09/2015). Nepal’s four largest political parties agreed on a constitutional framework in June, and on 9 August the main parties signed an agreement drawing up new internal borders (AFP, 09/08/2015).

Minority groups, including members of the Tharu and Madhesi, claim they will be further marginalised by the new geographical divisions (AFP, 31/08/2015). More than 40 people have been killed during protests in Nepal’s southern Terai region since mid-August (OCHA, 28/09/2015; OHCHR, 23/09/2015).

On 21 November, three protesters were killed in clashes with security forces in Saptari district. More than 30 protesters and 25 security personnel were injured (Kathmandu Post, 23/11/2015).

Natural disasters

Earthquake

The epicentre of the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal on 25 April was 77km northwest of Kathmandu, in Gorkha district (USGS, 25/04/2015). On 12 May, an aftershock struck with a magnitude of 7.3, its epicentre in Dolakha, 76km northeast of Kathmandu (USGS, 12/05/2015). 8,969 people were killed in the earthquake and 22,321 injured (Government, 08/09/2015).

Displacement

As of September, 120 displacement sites remained open in 13 districts, hosting 58,689 people; almost half the number of displaced in June, but only a small decrease since mid-July (IOM, 15/09/2015; 22/06/2015). 61% of IDPs cite damaged or destroyed houses as reasons for not returning home; 31% cite fear of aftershocks and landslides (IOM, 21/07/2015).

Humanitarian access

An estimated 230,000 people live in areas inaccessible by road (OCHA, 02/06/2015).

Landslides, damaged roads, and mountainous terrain continue to hamper the relief effort (IFRC, 28/09/2015). Trail conditions continue to deteriorate (Logistics Cluster, 31/08/2015). Limited road access has disrupted deliveries of food and other emergency supplies (WFP, 03/09/2015).

On 28 September, fuel rationing was introduced, as very limited supplies are coming through the Nepal–India border. The border crossing in Birgunj town, where 60% of Nepal’s fuel imports enter, has been blocked by protesters. Nepali officials claim India has blocked border crossings as a protest against the new Nepali constitution, while Indian officials claim protests at the border make it impossible for truck drivers to enter Nepal (AFP, 02/11/2015; CNN, 03/10/2015; Reuters 28/09/2015).

In October, an estimated 30% of Nepal’s monthly fuel requirements was met as a result of the closed border crossings (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

An estimated 400,000 people living in remote areas that will be hard to reach during the winter are at particular risk, as humanitarian actors are unable to deliver supplies (UNRC, 23/10/2015; AFP, 18/10/2015; IRIN, 12/10/2015; OCHA, 05/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

530,000 people in 11 districts are facing Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes - areas that before the earthquake were in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) (OCHA, 30/09/2015).

The number of food insecure people has decreased significantly from the 1.4 million identified immediately following the earthquake (OCHA, 30/09/2015).

Shortages of cooking gas caused by the border-crossing closures are reported across the country (Himalayan Times, 09/11/2015; The Guardian, 06/11/2015).

Food availability

Markets have been affected by the fuel shortages caused by border closures, particularly affecting people in remote areas. Shortages of food are reported across the country. The closures hinder the imports of seeds, fertilizers, and other agricultural inputs (FAO, 25/10/2015; Himalayan Times, 06/11/2015; WFP, 05/11/2015).

A significant amount of standing crops, consisting of wheat, barley, potato and maize, was lost in the earthquake (Food Security Cluster, 01/06/2015). Stored food, seed stocks, storage facilities, livestock, and other livelihood assets were also lost (FAO, 27/05/2015). Damage to irrigation and drainage canals has been significant (FAO, 06/06/2015). Farmers who lack seeds have resorted to using seeds that are unsuitable for local conditions, which could result in poor harvests (FAO, 30/09/2015).

Health
As a result of the closed border crossings, hospitals in the Terai region are reporting acute shortages of medicines. Ambulance services have also been affected (Himalayan Times, 09/11/2015). Blood shortages have been reported in transfusion centres. According to the Nepal Red Cross, the existing blood stock will run out before January (Deutsche Welle, 08/12/2015; ICRC, 10/11/2015). Some hospitals have significantly scaled back services and are only admitting emergency patients (Himalayan Times, 25/11/2015).

The government’s stock of BCG vaccines against tuberculosis has run out. Stocks of other vaccines and antibiotics are critically low, as well as stocks of HIV drugs (UNICEF, 30/11/2015; Direct Relief, 23/11/2015).

Nutrition
An estimated 404,000 children under the age of five and 185,000 pregnant and lactating women are considered to be at risk of acute malnutrition. Up to 1,800 children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (Nutrition Cluster, 31/08/2015).

WASH
The waste collection system in Kathmandu is no longer functioning due to the fuel shortages (Kathmandu Post, 25/11/2015).

Shelter and NFIs
More than 600,000 buildings were significantly damaged or destroyed by the earthquake (OCHA, 24/07/2015).

Fuel shortages are impacting the availability of building materials for displaced still living in temporary shelter. Prices of construction material have increased (Oxfam, 12/11/2015; AFP, 18/10/2015).

400,000 people living in high altitude areas are in need of winterisation supplies, including shelter and NFIs (OCHA, 05/10/2015). Temporary shelters, including tents and houses built by tin sheets, will not offer adequate protection during winter, and fuel shortages hamper delivery of winterisation supplies to these communities (Himalayan Times, 06/11/2015).

About 85% of displacement sites are not suitable for winter conditions (OCHA, 05/10/2015).

Education
In the six months following the earthquake, schools across the country have been open for only about half of the days they are supposed to be (UNICEF, 29/10/2015). In September and October, school closures caused by protests in the Terai region affected 1.6 million children (UNICEF, 29/10/2015).

Tajikistan
Floods, landslides, earthquake

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
7 December: A 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the district of Murghob, 111km southwest of Karakul, in the autonomous region of Gorno-Badakhshan. At least 124,500 people have been affected (Al Jazeera 07/12/2015; ECHO 09/12/2015; UN 12/12/2015).

KEY CONCERNS
- Over 2.8 million people suffer from undernutrition (OCHA 16/07/2015).
- Over 7,960 people were displaced by the 7 December earthquake (UN 12/12/2015).
- The mountainous territory poses climatic challenges, with natural disasters often causing energy and food shortages.

Politics and security
After gaining independence from Russia in 1991, Tajikistan constantly experienced political instability due to the weakness of its institution and military. Between 1992 and 1997 the country experienced a civil war that caused the death of 50,000-100,000 people, and displaced around 1.2 million (The Diplomat 01/10/2015). On 8 July 2015, the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT), the presence of which had been a sign of religious tolerance in the country for around two decades, was finally banned due to increasing political pressure (Registan 08/07/2015). On 16 September, there was an attack on a Ministry of Defense building in the capital, Dushanbe. The attack reportedly occurred as a result of the decision to ban the IRPT (RFERL 16/09/2015). As of November, fears of Islamist spillover inside Tajikistan were reported to have been refuelled by the Taliban’s seizure of Kunduz city in Afghanistan, close to the border with Tajikistan (Al Jazeera 05/11/2015).

Natural Disasters
Tajikistan is prone to earthquake and earthquake-related natural hazards such as avalanches and landslides, given its location in an active seismic area and its mostly
mountainous territory. The country is also prone to seasonal flooding and mudslides caused by melting glaciers in late spring and summer (Government UK 27/07/2015; Save the Children 28/07/2015).

Earthquake

On 7 December, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Murghob district, 111km southwest of Karakul, in the autonomous region of Gorno-Badakhshan. The earthquake occurred at a depth of 28km. At least 124,500 people have been affected. As of 12 December, at least two people were reported dead, around 14 injured, and over 1,320 houses were either damaged or destroyed throughout five districts (Al Jazeera 07/12/2015; ECHO 09/12/2015; UN 12/12/2015). Two health centres and one school in Rushon district were completely destroyed and nine schools were partially damaged in Rushon, Murghob, and Shugnan districts (UNICEF 12/12/2015). Winterised shelter is a priority need for displaced people, as temperatures are forecast to drop substantially (ECHO 09/12/2015). Food is also reported to be a priority need for most of the people affected by the earthquake (ECHO 09/12/2015).

The earthquake was also felt in areas of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India (BBC 07/12/2015).

Displacement

Displacement caused by natural hazards such as floods and landslides has occurred throughout 2015 (OCHA 16/07/2015). In addition, thousands of Afghan refugees were reported to live in the country as of 2014 (Al Jazeera 28/09/2014).

IDPs

7,962 people have been displaced by the 7 December earthquake (UN 12/12/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of September 2014, around 4,000 Afghan refugees were reportedly hosted in Tajikistan, facing severe integration issues (Al Jazeera 28/09/2014).

Humanitarian access

The areas affected by the 7 December earthquake are reported to be remote and very hard to reach (BBC 07/12/2015). Daily temperatures are expected to drop 10-15 degrees in the coming days, causing severe weather conditions that might complicate access to the remote affected areas (ECHO 09/12/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

36% of the population of Tajikistan was reported poor as of February 2015, with 6.5% living in conditions of destitution. Food insecurity is a severe problem (WFP, 14/02/2015). On 30 November, reports indicate that many poor households living out of remittances incoming from abroad are projected to remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity outcomes throughout the lean season (December ’15 – March ’16) (FEWSNET 30/11/2015). Food is reported to be a priority for most of the people affected by the 7 December earthquake (ECHO 09/12/2015).

Nutrition

Over 2.8 million people were reported to be affected by undernutrition in Tajikistan, as of June 2015 (OCHA 16/07/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

More than 1,320 homes were either damaged or destroyed in the 7 December earthquake across five districts (UN 12/12/2015). Winterised shelter is a priority need for displaced people, as temperatures are forecast to drop substantially (ECHO 09/12/2015).

Updated: 14/12/2015

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
11 December: Casualties from landmines and unexploded ordnance along the contact line have increased, as civilians seek firewood for fuel in the absence of reliable gas or electricity (OCHA).

**KEY FIGURES**

- 5.2 million people affected; two million in non-government areas; two million along the contact line (OCHA 07/10/2015).
- 3.1 million people in need of assistance; 800,000 people along the contact line.
- 2.7 million people in non-government areas, 250,000 IDPs in government areas (Protection Cluster 02/11/2015; OCHA 07/12/2015).
- 1.5 million people internally displaced; 1.1 million externally (OCHA 05/10/2015).

**KEY PRIORITIES**

- Humanitarian access to non-government areas
- Shelter and NFIs assistance in non-government areas, mainly blankets, clothes and heaters
- Protection in non-government areas and IDPs reception areas (Kharkiv, Kyiv, etc.)

**OVERVIEW**

Eastern Ukraine has been in a humanitarian crisis since March 2014, when armed conflict between separatist and Ukrainian armed forces erupted. Separatists now control most of eastern Donetsk region, and a small area of southern Luhansk region. As a result, 3.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance and more than 2.6 million have been displaced. During the winter months, NFI assistance is a priority. Protection and health are also of a major concern, particularly as a large number of older people is affected. Humanitarian access has been worsening: since September, almost all international aid organisations have been banned from non-government areas. More than 3 million people are in need of assistance along the contact line and in non-government areas.

**Politics and security**

Tensions between Kiev and pro-Russian separatists led to war in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk in April 2014. By November, self-proclaimed republics had held their own leadership polls (BBC 2015). The government has halted budgetary payments to areas it considers to be out of its control (OCHA 01/05/2015).

Despite a ceasefire agreed in February 2015 and renewed on 1 September, casualties continue to be reported (Ukraine Today 17/09/2015). Between 1 and 27 October, 27 civilian casualties, including seven deaths and 20 injuries, were recorded (UNICEF 31/10/2015). As of 28 October, all artillery systems of less than 100mm calibre has been withdrawn from the contact line. However, after an escalation of violence at the beginning of November, both sides moved some of the previously withdrawn equipment back and have not proceeded with an additional withdrawal of mortars of less than 120mm calibre (International Business Times 28/10/2015; Stratfor 13/11/2015). Over 9,000 people have been killed and over 21,000 injured in the conflict (UN 11/12/2015).

A resolution to the conflict is not in sight: at the end of July, Ukraine’s highest court allowed parliament to vote on constitutional amendments that would give pro-Russian insurgents in Donetsk and Luhansk three years of partial autonomy (AFP 31/07/2015). The decision led to riots in Kiev. Three police were killed by a grenade attack, and over 140 security forces and civilians were injured in clashes between Ukrainian nationalists and security forces (AFP 01/09/2015).

**Local elections**

Local elections took place on 25 October. Voting did not take place in Crimea, or in the separatist Donetsk and Luhansk regions. (Reuters 25/10/2015). The leaders of the separatist Donetsk and Luhansk regions have agreed not to hold separate elections yet (AFP 03/10/2015). Donetsk region has rescheduled elections for 20 March 2016 (Ukraine Today 10/10/2015).

**Crimea**

In March 2014, Russian forces seized control of the peninsular that has a Russian-speaking majority. They organized a referendum in which most inhabitants voted to join Russia. (BBC 13/03/2015; Forbes 20/03/2015). In November 2015, the Ukrainian government has suspended the movement of cargo between Crimea and Ukraine until a list of goods that are allowed to be delivered to the peninsula is compiled (Ukraine Today 24/11/2015; Yahoo News 23/11/2015). On 22 November, Crimea declared a state of emergency after its main electricity lines from Ukraine were blown up. Crimean Tatars claimed responsibility for the blackout as protest against the Russian occupation. More than 1.6 million people have been without power and water supplies to high-rise buildings have stopped. As of 8 December, electricity has partially returned following repair (Ukraine Today 07/12/2015; AFP 22/11/2015; BBC 08/12/2015).

**Stakeholders**

In late April 2015, the leaders of separatist Donetsk and Luhansk regions invited representatives of the international community to observe the elections. (Reuters 21/05/2015). On 9 September, they inaugurated their own governments. (Reuters 18/09/2015). The leaders of the separatist Donetsk and Luhansk regions have agreed not to hold separate elections yet (AFP 03/10/2015). Donetsk region has rescheduled elections for 20 March 2016 (Ukraine Today 10/10/2015).
Separatists control most of eastern Donetsk region, including Donetsk’s airport and Debaltseve, and a small area of southern Luhansk region. Separatist forces reportedly number around 35,000–40,000 men. Luhansk and Donetsk militias have been conducting joint operations since September 2014. 40% of the service personnel are alleged to be local and the rest are Russian volunteers and contractors. Some 9,000 Russian soldiers are allegedly deployed to support separatist forces.

Ukraine has deployed around 76,000 soldiers to the conflict zone.

Conflict developments

Fighting reduced between 1 September and end October, following a renewed peace deal on 1 September. But ceasefire violations by separatists have since intensified. In the first week of November, more than 150 explosions and bursts of arms were registered near Donetsk airport, and separatists attacked Ukrainian positions in the towns of Avdiivka, Krasnohorivka and Maryinka. The truce was also broken near Artemivsk and Mariupol. The security situation in Luhansk has been relatively calm.

Both warring sides have moved some military equipment that had been withdrawn back to the contact line. There have been reports of mortar fire and use of heavy artillery and tanks. Since July 2014, Russian authorities have prevented Ukrainians from obtaining refugee status in several regions, including border areas and major cities such as Moscow. Most asylum seekers have been unable to collect the required documents and access refugee status.

Displacement

More than 2.6 million Ukrainians have been displaced by the conflict, including 1.5 million IDPs, and the number is still increasing. Many who have left the country are not seeking asylum and have not been registered as refugees. Registration for IDPs who do not have access to government areas is problematic. This can restrict their access to assistance and may lead to underreporting.

Key reception areas are areas under government control in Donetsk and Luhansk, and big Ukrainian cities. Older people represent more than half of the displaced. The majority of IDPs are staying with host families or volunteers.

IDPs

As of 6 October, an estimated 1.5 million IDPs have registered in eastern Ukraine since March 2014, including 190,000 children. 59% are elderly and 4% people with disabilities. The number of IDPs has increased slightly in 2015. Key reception areas are areas under government control in Donetsk (539,500 IDPs) and Luhansk (206,100), and Kharkiv (102,000), Kyiv (106,000), Zaporizhzhya (99,800), and Dnipropetrovsk regions (72,400).

IDPs are required to register in government areas in order to be eligible for social payments and pensions.

Ukrainian refugees in neighboring countries

More than 1.09 million Ukrainians are seeking asylum or other forms of legal stay in neighboring countries, including 858,400 in Russia, 127,300 in Belarus and 71,300 in Poland. The number has increased slightly since early January.

Since July 2014, Russian authorities have prevented Ukrainians from obtaining refugee status. Access has been deteriorating since July, and very few international humanitarian organisations were allowed to operate in non-government areas in September.

Access of affected populations to assistance

Administrative requirements to cross the lines separating government from non-government areas are increasingly complicated. These, combined with significant logistical challenges, severely constrain both aid delivery and populations’ ability to reach safety, services, and reunite with their families. Access has been deteriorating since July, and very few international humanitarian organisations were allowed to operate in non-government areas in September.

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Administrative requirements to cross the lines separating government from non-government areas are severely affecting aid delivery. Foreign organisations working in non-government areas of Donetsk region need to be accredited. Administrative requirements to cross the lines separating government from non-government areas are severely affecting aid delivery.

By the beginning of November, UN and ICRC were allowed to operate in Luhansk; and ICRC, Akhmetov and People in Need in Donetsk. Other foreign aid organisations, including MSF, have not been allowed to operate since 24 September in Luhansk and since end July in Donetsk.
Protocols have been established to allow individuals facing an emergency to leave non-government areas without a permit, however they are not yet institutionalised (UNICEF/Protection Cluster 28/08/2015; OCHA 26/06/2015). The pass system introduced in June to facilitate crossing cannot process large numbers of requests quickly; civilians wait for hours at checkpoints with no access to basic services, at risk as checkpoints have previously been targeted by shelling (UNICEF/Protection Cluster 28/08/2015; USAID 12/08/2015). **Four transport corridors are operational in Donetsk, and only one in Luhansk (UN 09/12/2015).**

**Security and physical constraints**

The government has halted public transport between government and non-government areas. There are reports of civilians travelling via the Russian Federation to reach government areas and facing an administrative fine when re-entering Ukraine (UNHCR/Protection Cluster 30/06/2015).

Luhansk region is difficult to access due to deteriorated roads and bridges, unexploded ordnance, and improvised explosive devices (OSCE 15/09/2015; OCHA 27/02/2015). **As of 10 December, the bridges at Luhanske, and Rizhishne are destroyed. Roads leading from Zolote to Alchevsk and Luhansk; from Zaytseve to Kostyantynivka; from Alchevsk to Popasna; from Luhansk to Shchastya; from Luhansk to Stanitsya Luhanska, and from Donetsk to Selydove are closed (Logistics Cluster 10/12/2015).**

**Food security and livelihoods**

Nearly 1.8 million people, including 670,000 in conflict areas were in need support at the end of August (WFP 30/06/2015; OCHA 28/08/2015). Food insecurity is increasing for IDPs and populations in non-government areas, mostly as a result of high food prices, limited food supply due to restricted movement of commodities, and few livelihood opportunities.

2.7 million people are in need of livelihood support (OCHA 03/06/2015). Livelihood opportunities for IDPs are very restricted because of discrimination (UNHCR 01/12/2015). Food expenditure is now a larger share of households’ final consumption, which suggests higher incidence of poverty (UNDP 02/07/2015). Only 20% of 38,000 IDPs registered at government employment agencies have found jobs (IRIN 22/06/2015).

**Food availability**

People in non-government areas are particularly affected by limited food supply due to the restricted movement of commodities, both for humanitarian and commercial cargo (WFP 31/07/2015). Insecurity, damaged infrastructure, landmines, and lack of resources are delaying agricultural activities in many conflict areas (OCHA 10/04/2015).

Food access

People in non-government areas are particularly affected by high food prices due to the restricted movement of commodities: as of July, they were 70% higher than the national average (WFP 31/07/2015).

Health

Nearly 4.5 million people are in need of health support, compared to 1.5 million reported end March, due to increasing access constraints (OCHA, 25/08/2015; MSNA, 30/03/2015). There are critical shortages of medicines and medical supplies in the east. People with chronic diseases are of a major concern due to their particular vulnerability to treatment interruption.

Healthcare availability and access

There are critical shortages of medicines and medical supplies in the east, especially in conflict areas in Donetsk region, and many people in non-government areas cut off from care. More than 100 health facilities in Donetsk and Luhansk regions have been destroyed or damaged, while 30% of health workers in Donetsk and 70% in Luhansk are no longer at their posts (OCHA 21/03/2015; WHO 16/01/2015).

Medicine price hikes are affecting treatment for chronic illnesses (IMC 24/07/2015; OCHA 16/05/2015; MSF 04/03/2015). Up to 143,000 people are at higher risk of developing severe complications from lack of cardiovascular medication. 400 people have reportedly died from diabetes due to lack of medication (OCHA 28/08/2015).

Significant vaccine shortages are also reported; only 7–10% of required quantities are available in non-government areas of Donetsk region (OCHA 26/06/2015; UNICEF 01/05/2015).

Mental health

At least 100,000 parents and children in conflict areas need psychological support after months of shelling (UNICEF 11/06/2015).

HIV/AIDS

Some 8,000 people on antiretroviral treatment are facing a critical risk of treatment interruption if access to non-government areas does not improve. Over 14,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in non-government areas (UNICEF/Global Fund 18/08/2015).

Polio

Two cases of polio among children in Zakarpatskaya region, southwest Ukraine, were
confirmed 28 August. These are the first cases of polio in Europe since 2010 (OCHA 05/10/2015). On 20 October, Ukraine launched polio vaccination with the aim to reach 4.7 million children (AFP 19/10/2015; Global Polio Eradication Initiative 21/10/2015; WHO 22/10/2015).

Tuberculosis (TB)

At least 2,400 people in non-government areas who have TB, including 530 people with multidrug-resistant TB, lack consistent treatment provision and follow-up (HRW 13/03/2015). Stocks of medicines for drug-resistant TB are insufficient (Global Fund 24/07/2015). In November, MSF ended its support to the multi-drug resistant TB programme in Donetsk region penitentiary system as its accreditation was cancelled (MSF 13/11/2015).

WASH

More than 1.3 million people need WASH assistance, including nearly 1.2 million in non-government areas (OCHA 25/08/2015). Access to safe water in non-government areas is of particular concern.

Water

Damage to water supply lines has affected access to safe water for 1.3 million people. Three million are at risk of acute water shortages if repairs are not conducted (OCHA 05/10/2015, OCHA 17/08/2015). ERW and mines restrict residents in some areas from accessing wells or receiving water supply by trucks (OSCE 18/09/2015).

Populations in non-government areas of Donetsk region are significantly affected by damage to the Donbas canal: Mariupol is receiving only 10% of its normal water intake and is relying on a secondary source of water (OCHA 10/07/2015).

The lack of piped water is of particular concern as winter approaches, when it will be required as a source of heat (OSCE 18/09/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

1.4 million people are estimated to be in need of emergency shelter and NFIs, compared to 600,000 end March (OCHA 31/09/2015). Government and non-government areas in Donetsk and Luhansk, as well as high IDP reception areas, are most affected (OCHA 25/08/2015; MSNA 30/03/2015). Shelter and particularly NFI needs increase in winter due to freezing temperatures. 100,000 IDPs in non-government-controlled areas need winterisation assistance (IOM 30/11/2015).

Shelter

An estimated 554,800 IDPs (38%) live in inadequate or poor shelter (Shelter Cluster 31/08/2015). The majority of IDPs are staying with host families or volunteers and are often excluded from humanitarian assistance. The absorption capacity within host communities is exhausted in high reception areas and in Odessa (UNHCR 21/05/2015). As the displacement situation is becoming protracted, housing solutions are difficult to find. IDPs in short-term transit collective centres are facing eviction for overstay or being unable to pay utility bills. This can lead to involuntary return (UNHCR 01/12/2015).

NFIs

300,000 people along the contact line require NFI assistance (OCHA 31/09/2015). In government-controlled areas, over 42,000 IDPs are in need of blankets, sheets, and mattresses; nearly 90,000 IDPs are in need of jackets and shoes, and over 54,000 IDPs are in need of heaters. The highest needs are reported in the areas near the contact line (Shelter Cluster 04/11/2015). An estimated 1,700 people in Starohnativka, 50km from Mariupol, do not have access to a gas supply and are in need of coal ahead of winter (OSCE 03/11/2015).

Education

Up to 25,000 children have had their education disrupted by the conflict (UNICEF 11/06/2015). 9% of school-aged children living along the contact line and in areas of high IDP concentration are not attending school (OCHA 31/10/2015). Insecurity, overcrowding, damaged facilities, lack of transportation and teachers having fled non-government areas are main barriers to education.

82 schools remain closed in non-government areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. 523 facilities need repair in Donetsk region (UNICEF 20/03/2015; 11/06/2015). 50% of teachers are thought to have left non-government areas, including 35% in Luhansk (OCHA 08/05/2015; 27/03/2015). At least 225,000 school-aged children still need access to school supplies and quality education (UNICEF 11/06/2015). School certificates issued in Luhansk and Donetsk regions are not recognised by Ukraine (OCHA 31/10/2015).

Protection

5.1 million people are in need of protection (OCHA 17/08/2015). Human rights violations and abuse persist, including shelling, arbitrary and illegal detention, human trafficking, and deprivation of economic and social rights in conflict areas (UN 01/06/2015). An increase in cases of human trafficking of women and IDPs has been reported; in previous years, the majority of victims were men for labour exploitation (OCHA 17/08/2015). Over 40 journalists have been banned from the country (VOA 17/09/2015). Human rights violations, including killings, torture and ill-treatment, illegal detention and forced labour continue to be reported in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (UN 09/12/2015).
Landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) incidents continue to be reported in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, especially near conflict areas (OSCE 19/09/2015; OCHA 10/07/2015). 30,000 hectares along the frontline in Novoazovskyi and Artemivskyi districts in Donetsk region are reportedly contaminated (OCHA 31/10/2015). 310 of 575 civilian casualties between 16 February and 15 August were related to ERW or improvised explosive devices (OCHA 05/10/2015). Between 1 and 27 October, 27 civilian casualties, including seven deaths and 20 injuries, were recorded. Six of the deaths were caused by UXO (UNICEF 31/10/2015). There has been an increase in landmine and UXO casualties along the contact line, as civilians seek firewood for fuel in the absence of reliable gas or electricity (OCHA 11/12/2015).

Children

There are continued reports of minors unable to register for IDP status and receive aid as they have fled violence unaccompanied (UNHCR/Protection Cluster 31/07/2015; UNHCR 08/06/2015). There are also concerns over the militarisation of children in non-government areas (AFP 24/06/2015; Protection Cluster 04/03/2015).

Nearly 95,000 children have been abandoned. Orphanages in Ukraine are overcrowded and depend on volunteer initiatives to provide nearly 60% of their food supply (Ukraine Today 18/10/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Older people: The situation for older people in Donetsk and Luhansk is worsening, and particularly alarming in remote rural areas. Access to pension income and therefore to food and medicine is almost non-existent for many who are not mobile (IRIN 29/09/2015).

Disabled people: Support is lacking for the 54,000 disabled people in eastern Ukraine, who constitute the most vulnerable population (UNICEF 22/06/2015; UNHCR 21/05/2015). The conflict has deprived more than 300,000 people with disabilities of almost all their legal rights (OHCHR 20/08/2015).

Minorities: The situation of minority communities in Crimea, including Crimean Tatars and ethnic Ukrainians, is of concern. Anti-Roma sentiment has also apparently increased (Euronews 21/09/2015; UN 27/01/2015). Roma report living with restricted water and electricity supply, and unequal access to healthcare (OCHA 01/05/2015). In Crimea, intimidation and restrictive laws have been used to silence the media – including almost all Crimean Tatar media outlets. NGOs and public protests have been banned since annexation (UN 01/06/2015; UNHCR 31/01/2015; Amnesty 17/03/2015; local media 01/04/2015).

Documentation

There are significant barriers to obtaining or replacing official documentation, including for newborns in non-government areas, as it is difficult to reach government areas where documentation is provided (UNHCR/Protection Cluster 07/09/2015). On 22 September, the government presented a draft law to improve recording of births and deaths in non-government-controlled areas (Protection Cluster 30/09/2015).

Updated: 14/12/2015
are tents and makeshift sites (IOM, 30/06/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food Security
- Health
- Protection

OVERVIEW

Humanitarian needs in Haiti stem from displacement, food insecurity, and malnutrition. The situation is compounded by an extremely fragile political and economic situation, and a significant vulnerability to natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and droughts. The resilience of the population is extremely low.

Politics and security

Parliamentary elections first took place on 9 August, having been delayed since 2011. However, 26 of 1,508 polling stations were closed due to violence, and voter turnout was only 18% (AFP, 21/08/2015; OAS, 10/08/2015; Reuters, 10/08/2015). Following demonstrations in several parts of the country, and sharp criticism from international observers and Haitian human rights groups, the Provisional Electoral Council announced a revote in 25 of 119 constituencies (Alter Press, 11/08/2015; 12/08/2015). 16 candidates were disqualified over suspected involvement in election violence.

The revote took place on 25 October, with a participation rate of 32.5% (local media, 26/10/2015; AFP, 27/10/2015). Some incidents of violence were reported beforehand, most notably in the Cité Soleil district of Port-au-Prince, where 10–15 people were killed in violence that local officials claim was politically motivated (AP, 19/10/2015). 224 people were arrested on charges of violence and suspicion of voter fraud, including one parliamentary candidate and two police officers (ICG, 02/11/2015). The preliminary results were announced on 5 November. The governmental representative Jovenel Moses gathered the highest number of votes. Jovenel will participate in the second round of presidential elections, along with Jude Célestin of Lapeh, scheduled for 27 December. The publication of the results caused riots in various locations in Port-au-Prince and sporadic gunfire was heard (local news, 06/11/2015). Protests and violent events continued to occur over alleged fraud in the elections, mainly in Port-au-Prince, where on 18 November one of the presidential candidates was also wounded (local news, 07/11/2015, 09/11/2015, 17/11/2015; AFP, 11/11/2015, 18/11/2015). On 20 November one protester was shot dead and another was wounded during post-election demonstrations in Port-au-Prince (International Media, 21/11/2015).

On 24 November the final results of the first round of elections were published, confirming the preliminary results (AFP, 24/11/2015). More violent protests in Port-au-Prince left two police officers and several protesters wounded (AFP, 25/11/2015; local media, 25/11/2015). Eight candidates from last month’s presidential elections are requesting the establishment of a transitional government to oversee December’s vote (International Media 30/11/2015; Local Media, 30/11/2015).

Local elections, previously scheduled to coincide with presidential ones, are now planned for 27 December 2015 (local media, 24/09/2015).

Natural disasters

Drought

Around one million Haitians have been affected by drought since the beginning of the year. The most affected departments are Sud-Est, Nord-Ouest, Artibonite, Centre, and Nord-Est (OCHA, 03/07/2015). 80% of Haiti is currently affected by El Niño conditions, with seasonal rainfall about 50% lower than average (FEWSNET 07/08/2015). The drought is ongoing (FEWSNET 04/12/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of 30 June, 60,800 IDPs remain in 45 camps following the 2010 earthquake: 47% of IDP households are in in Delmas (27,340 individuals), 17% in Croix des Bouquets (10,760), and 10% in Tabarre (5,750) in Port-au-Prince (IOM, 03/06/2015). 21 IDP sites were closed between 1 April–30 June (IOM, 30/06/2015). Information management and service delivery in camps has been severely constrained due to lack of funding (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Basic services in camps have declined faster than the pace of return or relocation (OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014). Absence of a protection-sensitive approach, lack of coherent urban planning, and instability, in part due to poor rule of law, are major obstacles to durable solutions for IDPs (UNHCR, 08/05/2015).
IOM monitors have identified 49,217 Haitians and people of Haitian descent who have crossed the border between 16 June and 04 December, including 770 unaccompanied minors. 28,713 people report that they came to Haiti spontaneously, 9,480 claim to have been deported. The number of people officially deported has increased sharply to 11,024, from 2,974 as of 25 September. 17% were born in the Dominican Republic (IOM, 04/12/2015). 5,570 people were repatriated from the Dominican Republic in the whole of 2014 (Alter Press, 08/05/2015).

Some of the deportees and returnees are thought to be settling with relatives or in places of origin, but many are staying in spontaneous camps in the south of the country. The majority are in Ouanaminthe (Nord-Est) and Belladère (Centre) communes (GARR, 20/08/2015; IOM, 11/08/2015; Alter Press, 26/06/2015). There are 4,109 people in Anse-à-Pitres alone, living in six spontaneous sites and in urgent need of food, WASH, NFIs and shelter assistance (OCHA, 30/09/2015; Church World Service, 06/11/2015).

On 14 October, the governments of Haiti and the Dominican Republic agreed to reopen negotiations to resolve the migration crisis (AFP, 14/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

The number of humanitarian actors has continued to decrease, from 512 in 2010 to 146 by March 2015. Government capacity has not always improved, creating critical sectoral gaps (UN, 28/03/2015; OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014).

Food security and livelihoods

As a result of below average rainfall in 2015, 3 million Haitians are food insecure, including, as of late September, 300,000–560,000 people who are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes. (OCHA, 31/08/2015; WFP, 04/11/2015). A more recent FEWSNET estimate suggests that, in the absence of assistance, up to 1.5 million people in Haiti will be in Crisis by March 2016 (WFP, 04/11/2015).

Poor households in Sud, Sud-Est, Nord-Ouest, Nord-Est and Artibonite are expected to face Crisis through January 2016, due to the combined effect of rising food prices, erratic rains, poor autumn harvest prospects, and a lack of investment in the agricultural sector. The situation for some others will worsen to either Crisis or Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015, 17/08/2015).

Livelihoods

Extended dry spells have reduced the jobs available in the agricultural sector, which is estimated to provide 50% of all employment in Haiti (Reuters, 26/08/2015; OCHA, 27/07/2015). The drought has severely affected livestock and unusually rough seas impacted fishing in May and June (Haitilibre, 11/09/2015; ECHO, 27/05/2015). In Anse-à-Pitres farmers have launched an appeal to state authorities to help them cope with the substantial seed loss caused by the drought (AlterPresse, 14/10/2015).

Food availability

60–80% of the main local crops and vegetables have been lost in parts of Haiti, due to drought. Overall agricultural production is estimated to be 50% lower than earlier in 2015 (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015, 17/08/2015). Sud-Est (Grand Gosier, Anse-à-Pitres and Belle-Anse communes), Nord-Ouest, Artibonite (Gonaïves), Plateau central, Nord-Est, and Ouest (Grand-Gôave) are most affected (FEWSNET, 17/08/2015; FAO, 27/05/2015). Prolonged dryness until December is likely to lead to a second below-average output for the August–December season harvest (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015).

Food access

An estimated 600,000 Haitians rely on international food aid to survive (Reuters, 26/08/2015). Staple food prices remain well above their seasonal highs. Agricultural labour incomes remained below average during the lean season, reducing purchasing power and food access for very poor households and creating atypically high food assistance needs following two years of poor agricultural production (FEWSNET, 26/11/2015). Basic food prices have increased 30–40% compared to 2014, due to the poor spring harvest (OCHA, 27/07/2015).

Food Use

Rice, black beans, maize, and cooking oil are among the most important food items for poor and middle income households in Haiti. Roots and tubers are also important, but not currently monitored (FEWSNET, 28/11/2015).

Health

Five million Haitians (50% of the population) lack access to basic health services (UN, 27/10/2014). Cholera continues to affect Haiti, driven mainly by poor WASH conditions. The total number of cases in the first half of 2015 was triple that of the same period in 2014.

Healthcare availability and access

The 2010 earthquake destroyed an estimated 60% of Haiti’s health system and a number of hospitals have still not been fully rehabilitated. Others lack staff and
Haitian migrants are returning from the Dominican Republic to poor living conditions, especially in Anse-à-Pitres. Cases of bacterial conjunctivitis and skin diseases have been reported (Alter Press, 24/06/2015).

Cholera

As of 31 October, 22,511 suspected cases and 185 deaths have been reported in 2015. Most cases are from Ouest, Centre, and Artibonite departments (OCHA, 09/10/2015, 31/10). The heavy October rains caused a resurgence of cholera cases in several communes, notably in the departments of Artibonite, Ouest, Sud-Est, Sud and Nord. From 18–29 October, more than 400 alerts were recorded and 15 communes are on red alert. The situation is worst in Cite Soleil (91 cases), Marigot (51 cases), St. Mark (36 cases), Jacmel (33 cases) and Anse-à-Pitres (32 cases) communes. Consuming untreated water and poor hygiene practices caused the transmission of 73% of cases (OCHA, 31/10; local media, 13/11).

Nearly 744,698 suspected cholera cases and 8,826 deaths have been reported since the start of the epidemic in October 2010 (PAHO, 12/08/2015).

Nutrition

At March, 85,000 children suffered from acute malnutrition, including 17,000 requiring immediate assistance (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

WASH

Water

As of late 2014, more than 3.4 million Haitians lacked access to safe water (a third of the total population; 47% of the rural population) (UN, 30/09/2014). 40% of schools do not have drinking water (local media, 31/08/2015).

Sanitation

69% of the population lack access to improved sanitation (World Bank, 30/09/2014). 60% of schools have no toilets (HRW, 08/10/2014).

Shelter and NFIs

The majority of Haiti’s 45 IDP sites are in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, including 12 in Delmas and four in Croix des Bouquets, and in Léogâne (11). 40% of IDP sites are tents and makeshift shelters, while 47% are transitional shelters (IOM, 30/06/2015). Conditions in the camps are deteriorating as humanitarian actors withdraw due to lack of continued funding (IOM).

In total, 3.5 million Haitians (a third of the total population) live in precarious neighborhoods and informal settlements in urban areas. They suffer from socioeconomic deprivation, elevated risk of disaster impact, and forced eviction (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

Education

An estimated 400,000 children do not attend school, 10% of school-aged children in Haiti (AFP, 07/09/2015).

Protection

Children

Many children still show signs of emotional and psychological stress since the earthquake, and remain in need of protection. Minors in camps are particularly at risk of exploitation, with sexual violence commonplace (Save the Children, 08/01/2015).

Documentation

Around a third of people relocated outside camps after the 2010 earthquake do not have legitimate status/rights for the land they occupy. Land disputes and tensions are common and have been accompanied by coercion, violence, and forced eviction (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Arrivals from the Dominican Republic

Up to 200,000 Haitians and people of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic are at risk of forced expulsion, as a regularisation process ended on 16 June (AFP, 21/06/2015). Many are at risk of statelessness, as the Haitian government has indicated it will refuse to accept non-national deportees onto its territory (AlterPress, 19/08/2015). In the Dominican Republic, violence by locals against Haitians and people of Haitian descent has been reported in Monte Cristi province (AlterPress, 24/08/2015) and raids targeting Haitians have been reported in Santiago de los Caballeros (local media, 25/08/2015). Arbitrary deportations and racial profiling have been reported by the Haitian Government, but the Dominican authorities deny this (UN HRC, 28/07/2015; OCHA, 21/07/2015).
IOM monitors have identified 46,638 Haitians and people of Haitian descent who have crossed the border between 16 June and 27 November (IOM, 27/11/2015).

**Updated 09/12/2015**

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DROUGHT, EPIDEMIC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation of concern</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
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**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

1 December: Floods struck the provinces of Santo Domingo, San Pedro de Macoris, Barahona, Santiago, the National District and Sanchez Ramirez. 82 households were affected, with around 410 people displaced, and 3 communities were isolated (RedHum 03/12/2015; ECHO 03/12/2015).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 1.6 million people affected by drought (ECHO 13/11/2015).
- 2,559 new suspected cases of dengue in the four weeks up to 21 November. (Ministry of Public Health 07/12/2015). 4,428 dengue cases recorded in all 2014 (RedHum 19/09/2015; 30/09/2015; ECHO 13/11/2015).

**Politics and security**

Dominican Republic’s relations with Haiti have been tense for almost a century, and in September 2013 a Dominican court deliberated for denying the Dominican citizenship to the children of Haitians migrants. This caused thousands to become stateless, triggering a human rights crisis (Washington Post 17/06/2015; Huffington Post 27/09/2015; New York Times 24/10/2013). In June 2015, the Dominican Republic began deporting the remaining stateless of Haitian descent, after the implementation of the “regularization plan” (CFR 13/08/2015; UN 19/06/2015). Commercial activities between the countries were suspended on 11 October, after the Dominican decision to remove all undocumented migrants from its territory, which includes many Haitian nationals (Atlanta Black Star 27/09/2015). On 13 October, the Presidents of the Dominican Republic and Haiti agreed to reopen negotiations (AFP 14/10/2015). Commercial activities between the two countries resumed on 19 October (Groupe d’Appui aux Rapatriés & Réfugiés 20/10/2015).

**Natural disasters**

Dominican Republic is particularly prone to hurricanes, being part of the “hurricane belt” of Central America (ECHO 14/10/2015; Geology.com 06/11/2015). Other natural hazards that regularly affect the country include droughts, floods, landslides, storms, with agricultural production being often severely affected (World Bank 26/04/2013).

**Drought**

At least 1.6 million people in Dominican Republic have been affected by persistent drought conditions since 2014 (ECHO 12/11/2015). The drought is expected to last up to December 2015 (RedHum 02/09/2015).

The drought is the worst in the last 15 years. As of July, it had caused a severe deficit in the country’s water production, reducing it to 75 million gallons daily, from the average 325–400 million (Dominican Today 23/07/2015). On 20 November, reports indicate that recent rainfall almost eliminated deficits in eastern areas (FEWSNET 20/11/2015). On 1 December, national authorities decided to maintain the drought alert for Dominican Republic, despite recent rainfall (RedHum 01/12/2015). As of 4 December, abnormal dryness is still reported along the south-central and north-central coast areas of the country, due poor rainfall distribution (FEWSNET 04/12/2015).

**Floods**

On 8 November, the national Emergency Operations Center raised the level of alert for flooding and landslides to yellow in San Pedro de Macoris, La Altagracia, La Romana, Hato Mayor, San Pedro de Macoris, El Seibo, Santo Domingo province, Distrito Nacional and San Cristóbal, because of days of heavy rainfall (Hoy 11/11/2015). Heavy rainfall in the week up to 3 December caused a flood over the provinces of Santo Domingo, San Pedro de Macoris, Barahona, Santiago, the National District and Sanchez Ramirez. As of 1 December, 82 households were affected, with around 410 people displaced, and 3 communities were isolated (RedHum 03/12/2015; ECHO 03/12/2015).

**Displacement**

The deportation of stateless Dominican-born individuals of Haitian descent is the main displacement issue. The Dominican government began forced deportation in June 2015, with the Haitian government blocking anyone lacking proof of Haitian nationality (Reuters 19/09/2015; Panam Post 25/08/2015). As of August, 524,000 foreigners, including 450,000 Haitians, were reported to be living in Dominican
Republic (PanamPost 25/08/2015; US News 10/07/2015). As of September, 78,000 people who applied for documentation but did not meet the requirements were at risk of deportation (CWSGlobal 19/09/2015).

Between 16 June and 4 December, over 49,210 people reportedly crossed the border into Haiti. More than 9,480 claimed to have been deported, while around 11,020 were officially deported by the government of Dominican Republic through border crossings at Ouanaminthe, Malpasse, and Belladère (IOM 04/12/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Throughout 2015, Dominican Republic was affected by a severe drought caused by the El Nino phenomenon (Dominican Today 23/07/2015; NBC 24/06/2015). The drought caused heavy losses to the agricultural production of the country due to water rationing and shortages (Jamaica Observer 25/09/2015; Business Insurance 23/09/2015; FEWSNET 31/07/2015). As of September, the drought is reportedly affecting crop production, causing livestock deaths. Rainfall deficits remain severe in coastal areas of the country, particularly on the eastern and northern sides (FEWSNET 18/09/2015).

Health

Several communicable and vector-borne diseases are present in the Dominican Republic, especially chikungunya, dengue, typhoid, hepatitis A and B, Malaria, and Rabies (CDC 2015; Global News Canada 19/09/2015; US Embassy in Santo Domingo 2014). Diarrhoea also poses a significant problem, due to water contamination, especially in rural areas (Morgan 10/07/2015).

Dengue

On 19 September, national health authorities issued an epidemiologic alert for dengue (RedHum 26/09/2015). The DIGEPI (General Direction for Epidemiology) reported 2,559 new suspected cases of dengue in the four weeks up to 21 November. 737 were the cases recorded in the last of these weeks. 91 people have died because of the disease, so far in 2015. This year, the worst affected provinces have been Santo Domingo, Distrito Nacional, Santiago, and La Vega. (Ministry of Public Health 07/12/2015; 10/11/2015). 4,428 dengue cases were recorded in all of 2014 (RedHum 19/09/2015; 30/09/2015; ECHO 13/11/2015).

Protection

The September 2013 decision of the Dominican court, denying Dominican citizenship to the children of Haitian migrants -- even if born in the Dominican Republic – left an estimated 210,000 people stateless, and this number could be inaccurate given the widespread lack of documentation. Statelessness exposes people to significant protection issues (UNHCR 31/12/2014; Amnesty International 19/11/2015; Human Rights Watch 30/06/2015).

Documentation

As of 1 September, 84,000 Haitian nationals, including many born in the Dominican Republic, had reportedly received work permits, and another 110,000 were ready to be claimed throughout the country. 78,000 who did not meet requirements are at risk of deportation (CWSGlobal 19/09/2015).

People born in Dominican Republic from Haitian parents are at risk of statelessness due to lack of documentation (PanamPost 25/08/2015). There were reports of violent incidents involving young Haitians and Dominican soldiers at the border in August, but no casualties were registered (NPR 31/08/2015). Arbitrary arrests and denial of human rights for Haitians nationals in Dominican Republic have been reported in 13 communes (Human Rights Watch 01/07/2015). As of 31 October, clashes between Haitians and Dominicans were reported on the border (Haiti Libre 31/10/2015).

Updated: 09/12/2015

EL SALVADOR DROUGHT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 09/12/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

-156,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes (FEWSNET, 08/2015).

An estimated 800,000 people are affected by the drought, including 192,000 people in urgent need of food assistance (OCHA, 06/10/2015)

Natural disasters

Drought
El Salvador is among the countries most severely affected by a prolonged dry spell, associated with the El Niño phenomenon (Diario El Mundo, 31/10/2015). It has caused significant crop losses during the May-September **primera** season (FAO, 30/10/2015). An estimated 800,000 people are affected by the drought, including 192,000 people in urgent need of food assistance (OCHA, 06/10/2015). 104 out of 262 municipalities are affected: San Miguel, Morazán, La Unión, La Paz, and San Vicente departments are worst (WFP, 30/09/2015; WFP, 26/09/2015).

**El Niño conditions are now expected to last until June 2016 in the dry corridor regions (IFRC, 25/11/2015).** It is therefore unlikely that the crop losses can be recovered during the August-December **postrera** season (FAO, 14/09/2015).

### Humanitarian access

Insecurity, in particular the presence of Maras (criminal groups), hampers the delivery of humanitarian assistance (WFP, 30/06/2015).

### Food security and livelihoods

An estimated 156,000 people (39,000 households), mainly in the eastern and western regions, are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes due to the prolonged dry spell (Redhum 16/11/2015; WFP, 30/09/2015; FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). **The number of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is estimated to increase in these regions during the first quarter of 2016 (FEWSNET, 11/2015).**

With the exception of the southern fishing region and San Salvador and La Libertad departments, which are less dependent on crop production, the rest of El Salvador’s departments are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes. This is a result of crop losses, lack of food reserves after two consecutive crop failures, and limited rural labour opportunities (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

### Food availability

88,000 hectares of maize crops were damaged during the **primera** season, affected areas have lost more than 60% (FAO, 30/10/2015). Of the 3,000 hectares planted to beans, more than 80% of the crop is forecast to be lost. At least 102,000 farmers are estimated to be suffering from crop loss (FAO, 14/09/2015). The availability of seeds will be significantly reduced in the **postrera** season, due to the **primera** season losses. FAO forecasts an 18% reduction in maize production for 2015 compared to 2014 (FAO, 14/09/2015).

### Food access

Seasonal maize prices are above-average due to the prolonged dry spell and the second consecutive year of adversely affected harvest. Maize prices across the region are 14–20% higher than this time last year (FEWSNET, 08/2015). Poor households are struggling to afford food, due to limited opportunities for seasonal work, crop losses, and high prices (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

### Livelihoods

The coffee rust epidemic (a fungus that attacks the leaves of coffee plants) means that day labourers can no longer depend on seasonal labour opportunities in coffee production (Reuters, 14/08/2015). The livelihoods of small-scale coffee growers have also been affected (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). Coffee production is expected to be 35-40% lower than last year, due to a combination of coffee rust and drought (Diario El Mundo, 26/09/2015).

More than 50% of affected households are resorting to negative coping mechanisms, including selling productive assets, reducing number and portion sizes of meals, and spending their savings (WFP, 26/09/2015).

**There are approximately 100,000 agricultural and livestock producers affected by the drought. 24 communities in the San Miguel department have been particularly affected by crop losses (IFRC, 25/11/2015).**

### Health

**Dengue**

Dengue cases have increased by 82% compared to the same period last year; 5,607 cases have been confirmed so far this year compared to 3,087 this time last year (Diario El Mundo, 25/09/2015).

### WASH

The effects of El Niño are forecast to continue until June 2016, reducing access to clean water (IFRC, 25/11/2015).

### Nutrition

The acute malnutrition rate is at 2%, and has increased due to the coffee rust epidemic and prolonged dry spell (WFP, 30/06/2015).

**Updated: 09/12/2015**

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**GUATEMALA DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY**
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant development this week, 09/12/2015. Last update: 30/11/2015.

KEY FIGURES

- 1.3 million people affected by drought (OCHA, 06/10/2015).
- 2.5 million people are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) of food insecurity (Red Cross, 04/11/2015).
- Severe acute malnutrition is between 3.3% and 5.7% (OCHA, 06/10/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food security
- Nutrition

OVERVIEW

Guatemala is facing a food security crisis: 2.5 million people are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) of food insecurity, mainly in the northern and central part of the country. External food assistance will be needed until April 2016. Eastern and western Guatemala are most affected by maize and bean losses. Chronic malnutrition is reportedly increasing due to consecutive years of extended dry spells. Humanitarian access may be hampered by the activity of drug trafficking groups.

Natural disasters

Drought

The El Niño phenomenon is causing severe drought in Central America’s “dry corridor”, which runs through Guatemala (Reuters, 14/08/2015). Guatemala is reported to be the most affected by the regional drought, followed by Honduras and El Salvador (OCHA, 25/08/2015). As of 6 October, 1.3 million people were affected (OCHA, 06/10/2015). This year has seen more consecutive days without rain than 2014 and smaller amounts of cumulative rainfall (FEWSNET, 08/2015).

On 1 October, Guatemala declared a state of emergency due to drought and food insecurity (Oxfam, 01/10/2015). The most affected departments are Baja Verapaz, El Progreso, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Jalapa, Quiche, Huehuetenango, Totonicapán, Retalhuleu, Santa Rosa and Escuintla (WFP, 24/09/2015). The dry spell is expected to continue through March 2016, drastically reducing harvests as staple crops are destroyed (Reuters, 14/08/2015; FEWSNET, 08/2015).

At least 8,000 people residing nearby Coyolate and Madre Vieja rivers, Escuintla, have been affected by flooding on 29 October (Redhum, 29/10/2015). Flash floods occurred in Alta Verapaz, Escuintla, Izabal, Peten, Santa Rosa and Suchitepequez affecting 70,926 people and destroying 422 houses (OCHA, 20/10/2015; Redhum, 19/10/2015; 21/10/2015). An additional 2,922 people have been affected by floods in Sayaxche, Peten, Retalhuleu and Alta Verapaz (Government, 26/11/2015). The worst affected municipality is Panzos in Alta Verapaz, where 12 communities were flooded (ECHO, 27/11/2015). 6,000 people are staying in shelters in El Estor, Izabal, after flooding (Redhum, 27/11/2015).

In October, a bailey bridge in the village of El Bombillo, Dolores municipality, Peten, collapsed as a result of floods (Redhum, 21/10/2015). El Chapeton in Chiquimulilla municipality, Santa Rosa, is inaccessible because heavy rains have destroyed the only access road (Redhum, 21/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

2.5 million people are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) of food insecurity, as drought has led to a third consecutive year of decreased harvest (WFP, 24/09/2015; Red Cross, 04/11/2015). Household in IPC 3 are mainly in the northern and central parts of the country.
Households in the southeast are facing IPC 2 (FEWSNET 30/11/2015). Food insecurity will continue to deteriorate until December/January when the postrera harvest should alleviate the lack of access to food (WFP, 24/09/2015). Urgent food assistance is required for 3.5 million people (Red Cross, 04/11/2015). External food assistance will be needed until April 2016. An estimated 1–2.5 million people will be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) by then (FEWSNET, 27/10/2015).

Livelihoods

Estimated losses from the first season crop in the Dry Corridor reach 80%, affecting 677,000 people (FAO, 30/10/2015; WFP, 01/09/2015). Between 50% and 100% losses are expected for maize and beans (WFP, 26/09/2015; Oxfam 1/10/2015). Eastern and western Guatemala are the most affected (FEWSNET, 16/10/2015). It is unlikely that maize and bean losses will be compensated by good output in the second harvest season, as unfavourable weather conditions are predicted (FAO, 14/09/2015). 70% of the families in the country have lost their harvest (Red Cross, 04/11/2015).

Food availability

900,000 people have no food reserves left (Reuters, 14/08/2015).

Food access

Thousands of families cannot afford food due to a lack of income from seasonal work (Reuters, 14/08/2015). Households in poor, rural communities have resorted to eating only one or two meals a day (Reuters, 14/08/2015).

Nutrition

There are indications that the nutrition situation is deteriorating in areas affected by a rain deficit. 119 children under five have reportedly died due to malnutrition since the beginning of 2015. In 2014, 130 deaths were reported. SAM in children under five is between 3.3% and 5.7% country-wide (Redhum, 10/11/2015; OCHA, 06/10/2015). In some communities in the dry corridor, GAM reaches 13%. Health systems in rural areas have limited resources and might not be able to deal with the increasing malnutrition (OCHA, 07/09/2015).

Chronic malnutrition is reportedly increasing due to consecutive years of extended dry spells (Reuters, 14/08/2015). Most chronic malnutrition is reported in the northwest in the departments of Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz, Quiche, and Huehuetenango (Redhum, 27/11/2015).

Health

14,600 cases of dengue fever, including nine deaths, have been reported since January 2015. This is an increase on 12,533 cases recorded in 2014 (Redhum, 09/11/2015).
1.4 million people are affected by drought in Honduras, in 146 municipalities – 81 of the municipalities are considered severely affected (OCHA 06/10/2015).

As of 14 September, 250,000 people are reported to be in immediate need of food assistance. Priorities are food security, WASH, and nutrition (OCHA 14/09/2015). A state of emergency was declared in twelve departments. 91% of municipalities in the ‘Dry Corridor’ in the southeast are affected. La Paz, Lempira, Intibucá, Choluteca, Valle, Francisco Morazán, and El Paraíso are the most-affected departments (WFP 26/09/2015).

November rainfall was significantly above average, causing moisture surplus across southern Honduras. Some moisture deficits are still reported in many departments of northern coastal areas (FEWSNET 04/12/2015).

El Niño, which has decreased the amount of precipitation, is expected to continue until early 2016 (OCHA 04/07/2015; El Heraldo 03/07/2015).

In 2014, 930,000 people in 165 departments were affected by drought (Government 13/01/2015). Choluteca, Valle, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán, Intibucá, and Lempira departments were most affected (ECHO 20/08/2014).

Floods

In the week to 7 December, heavy rains caused widespread flooding. On 5 December, Tela municipality declared the maximum level of alert for flooding. As of 7 December, over 1,000 people were reported affected by floods in the north shore departments of Atlántida and Cortes. 228 people were evacuated. The municipalities of Tela and Arizona were the worst affected (ECHO 07/12/2015; Government 07/12/2015; RedHum 05/12/2015).

Displacement

Internal displacement due to gang violence is high in the main cities of Honduras, and in particular in San Pedro Sula, considered one of the most dangerous cities in the world (Insight Crime 26/02/2015; Business Insider UK 31/12/2014; OHCHR 18/11/2015).

Many Hondurans, including many unaccompanied children, try to migrate towards the United States, and every year thousands are repatriated to Honduras after having been blocked at the borders (Congressional Research Service 18/08/2015). Honduras is also country of passage for several flows of refugees, especially for Cubans, in the same migration patterns towards the United States through Mexico (Reuters 02/02/2014; Panam Post 18/09/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

Thousands of Cubans have travelled through Honduras trying to reach the United States in the last months. Cuban migrants are increasingly passing through Central American countries, especially Honduras, in their trip towards the United States, because thanks to recent US-Cuba agreements, this allows them to fulfil immigration requirements. The risk of human trafficking is reported to be very high in the country. In the last five years, 24,196 Cubans have passed through Honduras (La Prensa 19/11/2015; Panam Post 18/09/2015).

Refugee returnees

As of October, over 7,000 Honduran children were repatriated from the US and Mexico in 2015, the majority from Mexico. A study highlighted that 39% of Honduran emigrant children travel alone (Proceso Digital 30/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

The Dry Corridor, and in particular Honduras, is generally affected by less-than-average rainfall, when El Nino occurs (ACT Alliance 14/10/2015). Starting from 2014, El Nino caused a severe drought that affected Honduras and other countries in Central and South America. Most poor households, living off subsistence farming in southwestern areas of the countries are estimated to be in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) throughout February 2016, with the poorest households projected to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), from November 2015 up to March 2016 (FEWSNET 10/2015). Maize prices have increased by 20% in some areas, compared to 2014 levels (FAO 14/09/2015). Despite reported improvements in the current season, food production prospects remain uncertain, with food assistance provided by international actors and by the government to the worst affected (FAO 03/12/2015).

Food availability

The ongoing drought is expected to result in damage or complete loss of crops in the *primera*, *postrera*, and *apante* harvests (FEWSNET 06/2015). A 96% loss in maize, 87% loss in beans, and a 19% decrease in the amount of sorghum were recorded in the Dry Corridor in the southeast of Honduras in the *primera* season. At a national level these correspond to a 15% loss for maize, 12% for beans, and 50% for sorghum (WFP 26/09/2015).

Livelihoods

Farmers are reporting that low levels of rainfall and lack of seeds are the two main challenges for the *postrera* planting season. The drought may cause increased migration to urban areas, as labour opportunities in rural areas are affected (El
Herd of households are reported to use emergency coping mechanisms, such as consuming seed stocks that were being conserved for next year, and selling farming animals (WFP 26/09/2015).

Health

In Honduras several communicable diseases are present, including typhoid, hepatitis A and B, rabies, and malaria. Most of these diseases are transmitted by contaminated food, or water (CDC 2015). Respiratory issues are a primary concern in rural areas of Honduras, due to the fact that many families cook using wood, with open flames, in poorly ventilated households (Public Health Brigades 08/11/2015). Maternal and infant mortality rates are high due to poor services, and adolescent pregnancies (MEASURE 06/06/2015).

Dengue

On 13 November, three of sixteen deaths under investigation were confirmed to be due to dengue. 470 new dengue cases were recorded in the week up to 22 November. The deaths occurred in the departments of Comayagua, Choluteca, and Valle, which are the most affected areas (RedHum 13/11/2015; 24/11/2015).

Zika

As of 4 December, Honduras’ first suspected case of Zika is being investigated (La Tribuna 04/12/2015). On 7 December, media sources reported a second suspected case (Honduras News 07/12/2015).

Nutrition

23% of the children under five years of age in Honduras is suffering from chronic malnutrition. In western Honduras, stunting is reported to affect more than 40% of children (Feed The Future 30/04/2015; WFP 30/06/2015) 58% of children in the Dry Corridor suffer from chronic malnutrition (World Bank 11/11/2015).

Updated: 09/12/2015

PAPUA NEW GUINEA DROUGHT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant development this week, 09/12/2015. Last update: 02/12/2015.

OVERVIEW

Prolonged drought has affected 2.4 million people across the country; 1.3 million are living in areas considered severely affected. Food and WASH are reported as priority needs.

Politics and security

Inter-communal violence displaces thousands of people every year. Between May and August 2015, nine people were killed in incidents of inter-communal conflict in the Eastern Highlands province. According to the local police, about 30 conflicts are ongoing in the province (Inter Press Service, 14/08/2015). Tribes in Western Highlands have been engaged in armed conflict for more than 30 years (Radio New Zealand, 17/07/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

An estimated 22,500 people are internally displaced as a result of inter-communal violence or natural disasters. 1,200 were estimated displaced in 2014, although the real number is most likely higher. The majority of the displaced live in Madang and Morobe provinces in northern Papua New Guinea. Around 85% of the displaced live in government-run camps (IDMC, 11/12/2014).
Refugees, asylum seekers, and detainees

Papua New Guinea hosts an estimated 10,000 refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR, 12/2014). About 1,000 people seeking asylum in Australia are detained in an Australian-run transit centre on Manus Island. Overcrowding, inadequate WASH facilities, and health concerns – including outbreaks of malaria and typhoid – have been reported; however, conditions have reportedly improved in the last year (The Sydney Morning Herald, 10/09/2015; The Guardian, 08/09/2015; 18/02/2015). According to Australian officials, Papua New Guinea will begin a process to resettle the refugees within Papua New Guinea (BBC, 23/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

Only 3% of roads in Papua New Guinea are paved; travel between provinces is mostly by air or boat (WFP, 07/09/2015). Travelling by inland rivers has become difficult due to reduced water levels (Government, 30/09/2015).

Access of affected population to assistance

Inter-communal tension is reportedly preventing the drought-affected population in the Highlands from migrating to lower altitudes (Radio New Zealand, 15/09/2015).

Natural disasters

Drought

The impact of several months of drought, and frost in the Highlands region, has reached 2.4 million people across the country; 1.3 million are living in the most severely affected areas in the Highlands region (Government, 30/09/2015; 24/08/2015). The most affected provinces include Chimbu, Southern Highlands, Enga, Eastern Highlands, and Western Highlands (OCHA, 24/08/2015). Drought conditions are expected to last for another eight–ten months (IFRC, 15/09/2015).

Enga and Southern Highlands provinces have declared a state of emergency (WFP, 07/09/2015). Some people in the Highlands region have reportedly moved to lower altitudes to live with relatives (ABC, 19/08/2015). An increase in bushfires has been reported in several drought-affected areas (IOM, 01/11/2015; Radio New Zealand, 25/09/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Frost and drought have destroyed crops, in particular sweet potato – the staple food of the affected areas. Livelihoods have been affected, and food prices have increased.

Food availability

Frost has destroyed crops in the most affected areas, and food is reported as a priority need (AFP, 24/08/2015). Provinces where sweet potato is the staple crop are expected to be severely affected, while provinces which mainly depend on sago and banana are likely to be less affected (Government, 24/08/2015). Frost in Tambul, the main agricultural district in the Highlands, has damaged sweet potato and potato gardens (CARE, 31/08/2015). Fish ponds have dried up, reducing the availability of an important source of protein (ECHO, 14/09/2015). Livestock numbers have fallen as animal feed is depleted (The Guardian, 02/12/2015).

In Eastern Highlands province, food production fallen by an estimated 50% (Radio New Zealand, 20/11/2015). November rains have caused the limited food available to rot. In the Highlands, frost has also destroyed wild plants) that are usually eaten in periods of food shortages, leaving the population with limited coping mechanisms (government, 27/10/2015).

The situation in the mountainous and forested areas has improved, new productions are still expected to take six–nine months to mature and be available (CARE, 23/11/2015).

Food access

Market access is extremely limited in rural areas in the Highlands, and the rural population is therefore expected to be the most vulnerable to the impact of the drought (WFP, 07/09/2015). Food prices have increased in areas where the population has access to markets, as vegetable supply has decreased (ECHO, 14/09/2015). Some markets have closed (IFRC 30/10/2015).

Livelihoods

Livelihoods have been affected by damage to coffee plantations, one of the main cash crops in the Highlands (IOM, 04/09/2015). Fisheries and livestock are also affected. Damage to food gardens means families cannot rely on selling their surplus to purchase food or essential NFIs (CARE, 15/10/2015). Areas dependent on watercourses to transport cash crops to markets are affected by reduced water levels (FAO, 30/10/2015).

Affected families are resorting to negative coping mechanisms, including limiting the number of meals (CARE, 15/10/2015).

Health

Water shortages have caused hospitals and health centres in the affected provinces to scale down operations (ECHO, 14/09/2015; UNDP, 26/08/2015).

The only two hospitals in Simbu province have reportedly closed (Inter Press Service, 13/11/2015).
Inadequate hygiene practices are resulting from limited water availability, and an increase in diarrhoea, dysentery, typhoid, and skin disease cases has been reported across the country (CARE, 15/10/2015; Government, 30/09/2015). Rural health centres lack the capacity to deal with any potential large disease outbreaks (IOM, 04/09/2015).

WASH

With water sources drying up, the population has resorted to using less reliable water sources, including potentially contaminated rivers (CHO, 14/09/2015; ABC, 18/08/2015). Sources traditionally used for washing and bathing are now also being used for drinking water (IFRC, 15/09/2015). Distances to collect water have increased, and the time spent collecting water has doubled in many affected areas (CARE, 15/10/2015; ECHO, 14/09/2015).

Open defecation is widely practised in the affected areas, and may lead to contamination of water sources (Government, 15/09/2015).

Education

Attendance rates among both teachers and students have dropped as a result of the drought (CARE, 15/10/2015). Water shortages have caused several schools in the affected provinces to close or keep shorter hours, so that children can help their families fetch water (Caritas, 25/11/2015; CARE, 15/10/2015; ECHO, 14/09/2015).

Reviewed: 09/12/2015

KEY CONCERNS

- 5.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 19/11/2015).
- 6.3 million IDPs. 193,000 are expected to be displaced by the end of 2015 (OCHA, 31/10/2015).
- In the first half of 2015, around 2 million people suffered limitations in humanitarian access or mobility, due to conflicts, natural disasters, or mass protests (OCHA, 03/08/2015).
- Approximately 1.3 million people are affected by natural disasters every year (floods, heat waves, and droughts) (OCHA, 24/02/2015).

OVERVIEW

5.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Colombia. Five decades of armed violence, coupled with the country’s frequent natural disasters, have had serious humanitarian consequences. Forced displacement and landmine contamination are major concerns. For rural communities, restricted movement due to armed group activity limits access to basic health services, crops and labour markets, especially in the Pacific region. On 1 October, Colombia declared a state of emergency due to drought, which is expected to affect the country until March 2016.

Politics and security

Colombia’s armed conflict has spanned five decades, pitting the central government, right-wing paramilitaries, and left-wing guerilla groups such as the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP) and the National Liberation Army (ELN) against one another. Paramilitary groups underwent a partially successful process of disarmament and demobilisation between 2003–2006, however many post-demobilised armed groups remain active.

The latest FARC-EP–Government peace negotiations began in November 2012 in Havana, Cuba (Reuters, 18/08/2015). On 23 September, FARC-EP and the Colombian government agreed on a six-month deadline for a peace deal, which means it must be signed before 23 March 2016 (BBC, 24/09/2015). The government has pledged that the Colombian public will be asked to give a vote of approval or rejection to any peace deal through a plebiscite, scheduled for next spring (Colombia Reports, 19/11/2015). 16 December has been set as
the date by which to reach agreement over beginning a bilateral ceasefire. Both parties have agreed to invite the UN as ceasefire monitor (Latin One 03/12/2015).

Reaching the proposed agreements may be later than planned (Colombia Reports, 02/11/2015). In an effort to move things forward, the government recently pardoned 30 convicted FARC members (Colombia Reports, 23/11/2015). On 1 December the government also, for the first time, refused to extradite a FARC member guilty of drug trafficking to the United States (The Guardian, 01/12/2015).

The intensity of the armed conflict has decreased substantially since the peace negotiations began. The FARC-EP’s unilateral ceasefire began on 20 July. Military activity between the two parties has almost completely ceased (Colombia Reports, 22/09/2015). The Colombian Centre for Conflict Analysis (CERAC) recently reported the lowest levels of FARC attacks, and government attacks against guerilla groups, in 40 years (Colombia Reports, 21/10/2015). The head of FARC has ordered a halt to recruitment and the purchasing weapons (El Espectador, 10/10/2015; BBC, 11/11/2015).

The ELN has been involved in exploratory talks about beginning peace talks with the government since June 2014 (Colombia Reports, 25/08/2015). Formal discussion is yet to begin (BBC, 01/12/2015).

**Venezuela–Colombia relations**

On 19 August, Venezuela closed its border to Colombia due to security concerns. More than 1,600 Colombians were deported and another 160,000 returned voluntarily (AFP, 22/08/2015). On 29 September, the Venezuelan government agreed to let the deportees return and to legalise their status (Colombia Reports, 24/09/2015; AFP, 22/09/2015; Voice of America, 29/09/2015). Efforts are being made to normalize relations, but the border remains closed (Latin Post, 22/09/2015; OCHA, 31/10/2015).

**Stakeholders**

**FARC-EP:** The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP) is the oldest left-wing militant group in Colombia. It was formed in 1964 by the Colombian Communist Party, as fighting between the liberal and conservative parties led to rural unrest. Approximately 7,000 fighters make up the FARC-EP today, which allegedly makes USD 500–600 million profit from the illicit drug trade (UNRIC 2013; BBC 29/08/2013). FARC-EP has been active throughout the country, but especially in Arauca, Meta, Norte de Santander, Cauca, and Antioquia.

**ELN:** The National Liberation Army is a left-wing militant group formed in 1965 and composed of an estimated 2,000 fighters. On 7 January, it stated that it intended to join peace talks and would consider disarmament (AFP, 07/01/2015). Preliminary discussions between the ELN and the government continue (17/11/2015). The ELN has been active in Arauca, Norte de Santander, Nariño and Cauca departments (Kienyke, 2013).

**Government forces:** The government’s strategies to combat non-state armed groups have been closely linked to eliminating the cultivation of illicit crops in the country, which finances the armed groups.

**BACRIM and post-demobilised armed groups:** Criminal gangs (bandas criminales, or BACRIM) under the names Urabeños, Black Eagles, and Erpac, among others, are generally made up of former paramilitary fighters. They are involved in drug trafficking and extortion throughout Colombia, Venezuela and Panama. These groups are particularly active in Antioquia department, and the Pacific and Caribbean regions (BBC 29/08/2013).

**Conflict developments**

In the northwest, conflict over control of drug-trafficking routes continues between the Urabeños post-demobilised armed group, FARC, and ELN (Colombia Reports, 22/10/2015). On 3 November it was reported that at least 12 Urabeños were killed in a military bombing raid in Chocó in the northern municipality of Unguia. This is the first airstrike reported by the Colombian military against either paramilitaries or their successors (Colombia Reports, 03/11/2015).

FARC-EP declared a unilateral ceasefire in July. This has allegedly been violated on four occasions (Colombia Reports, 17/11/2015).

Despite plans for a bilateral ceasefire the government recently claimed responsibility for the killing of four FARC members. FARC has accused the government of continuing to seek military advantage and warns that the peace process is under threat unless a truce is agreed upon imminently (Colombia Reports, 09/11/2015).

As the peace process progresses and FARC begins to withdraw from certain areas, there is a risk of changing dynamics. Other armed groups may move in to areas previously held by FARC, causing further humanitarian consequences (OCHA, 31/10/2015; Colombia Reports, 17/11/2015).

Since May, the ELN has intensified its operations in the departments of Arauca, Norte de Santander, Chocó, Antioquia, and Boyacá. Violent acts conducted by the ELN have increased slightly compared to this time last year (OCHA, 31/10/2015). On 27 October, ELN killed 11 soldiers and one police officer in Boyacá. In Novita municipality in Chocó department the ELN are allegedly responsible for the recent kidnapping of two civilians and for sending death threats to the mayor of Novita and a human rights worker (Colombia Reports, 07/12/2015).

President Santos ordered security forces to intensify military operations against the ELN and has reaffirmed unwillingness to formalize talks unless the ELN demonstrate the intention for peace (Colombia Reports, 27/10/2015; BBC, 01/12/2015).

**Natural disasters**
The El Niño phenomenon is considered the strongest in 18 years and due to last through December, causing both drought and flooding (OCHA, 30/09/2015; ECHO, 08/08/2015).

Drought and wildfires

On 1 October, Colombia declared a state of emergency due to drought, which is expected to affect the country until March 2016 (Oxfam, 01/10/2015; OCHA, 21/09/2015). As a result of El Niño, river levels across the country are well below average (Colombia Reports, 22/09/2015). The most drought-affected departments include La Guajira, Bolivar, and Magdalena in the north, Valle del Cauca on the Pacific coast, Boyacá, Santander and Cundinamarca in the centre, and Tolima and Quindío in the west (Colombia Reports, 22/09/2015; UN, 04/12/2015; El Espectador, 02/12/2015).

More than 77,000 hectares of agricultural land have been destroyed in wildfires, including in Boyacá, Santander and Cundinamarca (RCN Radio, 16/09/2015; El Espectador, 02/12/2015).

Floods

Floods have hit Cauca Department, in the municipalities of Guapi and Timbiquí. An estimated 7,000 families (approximately 28,000 people) have been directly affected (Pan American Health Organisation, 10/11/2015). Food shortages, transportation difficulties, and loss of crops and animals have been reported. Many people are without shelter. Rain is expected to continue (Colombia Reports, 09/11/2015; Pan American Health Organisation, 05/11/2015; 09/11/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

It is estimated that by the end of 2015, 193,000 people will be have been displaced this year (OCHA, 31/10/2015). Two in four IDPs are children. Between January 2013 and August 2015, almost 15,000 people were forcibly displaced every month on average (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

Communities in regions affected by armed conflict are frequently temporarily or permanently displaced, due to clashes between armed groups and security forces, or fear of potential clashes. This particularly affects indigenous groups in Antioquia, Chocó, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, and Norte de Santander departments (OCHA, 5/11/2015; 31/10/2015; 28/08/2015; 21/08/2015). 60% of all IDPs are in Antioquia, Valle del Cauca, Cauca, Narino and Chocó (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

Colombian refugees in neighbouring countries

360,000 Colombian refugees in neighbouring countries (Colombia Reports, 22/06/2015).

Costa Rica: 16,620 refugees and 210 asylum seekers;
Panama: 15,550 refugees and 800 asylum seekers;
Venezuela: 5,000 refugees, 168,500 unregistered refugees and 250 asylum seekers;
Ecuador: 121,320 refugees and 11,580 asylum seekers (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Humanitarian access

Between January 2013 and August 2015 around 480 events restricted civilians’ movement, causing humanitarian need for approximately 27,000 people every month. Between January and August 2015, 177 situations of mobility and access constraints were reported. Over half of these incidents were related to situations of armed violence (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities are disproportionately affected. In Chocó department over 3,000 people in the municipalities of Riosucio and Carmen del Darién, and over 10,000 residents in the Bajo Atrato area, are experiencing restricted movement due to the presence of armed groups (Colombia Reports, 22/10/2015). People are unable to pursue agricultural livelihood activities, as travelling presents a constant risk (OCHA, 31/10/2015).

Indigenous groups in La Guajira are particularly vulnerable to the Venezuela border closure, as many live and work on both sides. Although they are being permitted to cross, further restrictions may impact their food security and livelihood situation (OCHA, 15/09/2015). Fuel shortages are reported in the border departments, as almost all fuel in the region is imported from Venezuela (Colombia Reports, 24/09/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

1.2 million people are food insecure, due to low food production, poverty, and internal displacement (OCHA, 20/01/2015). 557,000 require food assistance. Indigenous communities in Nariño, in the southwest, are among the most affected (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

Severe drought as a result of El Niño is affecting Colombia’s coffee output, threatening the livelihoods of farmers in Nariño department, (Colombia Reports, 05/11/2015).

WASH

1.75 million people need WASH assistance (OCHA, 30/09/2015).

Water
Only 35.5% of the population consumes safe drinking water, with only 15% of rural areas consuming treated water (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

238 of Colombia’s 1,123 municipalities are facing severe water shortages due to drought: La Guajira, Bolívar, Valle del Cauca, Caldas, Cundinamarca, Cauca, Magdalena, Boyacá, Cesar, Huila, and Tolima are among the most affected. Water is being stored in unsafe facilities, causing an increase in the likelihood of the spread of mosquito-borne diseases (OCHA, 30/09/2015). 85% of water sources in Cundinamarca are in critical condition; 60 areas in Facatativá municipality, Cundinamarca, have had a severe lack of water since mid-September (Pan American Health Organization, 02/10/2015; El Espectador, 05/10/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

1.48 million need shelter (OCHA, 30/09/2015). Many of those displaced by armed conflict come from rural areas and have difficulty re-obtaining rights to their homes when they return. A legal process is in place in the departments of Atlántico and Magdalena in the north, though some claimants have received threats from paramilitary groups (Amnesty, 23/01/2015).

Health

2.5 million people need health assistance (OCHA, 30/09/2015).

Protection

3.8 million people need protection (OCHA, 30/09/2015). Torture and ill-treatment in various forms are common in Colombia, and measures for protection and compensation are either limited or ineffective (Red Cross, 04/06/2015).

On 4 November Amnesty International released a report stating that at least eight million hectares of land, 14% of the country’s territory, has been abandoned or illegally acquired by armed groups as a result of the conflict (Amnesty International, 04/11/2015).

Children

There are approximately 2,000 underage fighters in FARC (Reuters, 15/04/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Afro-Colombians and indigenous peoples are highly vulnerable groups, as they are minorities and generally live in areas more likely to be cut off by conflict (NRC, 09/2014).

Colombia has reported a significant increase in the number of attacks against human rights activists in 2015. 399 attacks were reported in the first half of the year, compared to the 194 attacks reported in the same period in 2014. The vast majority of attacks are carried out by post-demobilised armed groups (ABColumbia, 01/09/2015).

Updated: 09/12/2015

Mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERWs)

Between January–August 2015, 181 victims of ERWs were registered in 15 departments, 31% were civilians (OCHA, 27/10/2015). There have been frequent reports of landmine explosions involving both civilians and security personnel in the departments of Cauca and Caquetá (BBC, 17/06/2015; Government, 03/06/2015). Most recently three people died in a landmine explosion in Novita municipality in Chocó department. Security forces have been unable to assess the area due to the presence of the ELN (Colombia Reports, 07/12/2015). Landmines have been planted in at least half (550) of Colombia’s municipalities (La Prensa, 18/01/2015). In March, the Colombian government and FARC-EP agreed to remove landmines and explosives, aiming to complete demining by 2025 (Reuters, 09/03/2015).
Introduction to the Global Emergency Overview

The Global Emergency Overview (GEO) is a weekly update that provides a snapshot of current humanitarian priorities and recent events. Its primary objective is to rapidly inform humanitarian decision makers by presenting a summary of major humanitarian crises, both recent and protracted. It collates information from a wide range of sources, including ReliefWeb and media, and displays this information to enable quick comparison of different humanitarian crises. It is designed to provide answers to four questions:

1. Which humanitarian crises currently exist? (World map)
2. What has happened in the last seven days? (Snapshot and Latest Developments)
3. What is the situation in the country affected by a crisis? (Latest Developments and Narrative)
4. Which countries could be prioritised in terms of humanitarian response? (Prioritisation)

The world map and the table provide an overview of how the countries are prioritised. The countries are subdivided by four priority levels: "watch list", "situation of concern", "humanitarian crisis", and "severe humanitarian crisis".

The priority levels are assigned on the basis of:

- the number of people affected by recent disasters
- the level of access to the affected population
- the under-5 mortality rate
- the level of development of the country
- the number of protracted IDPs and refugees.

If a country experienced a disaster in the seven days prior to an update or witnessed an escalation of an ongoing crisis, a country is highlighted by a yellow dot on the map.

The snapshot briefly describes major events in the seven days to the date of publication.

Narratives for each country in the GEO reflect major developments and underlying vulnerabilities of the country over recent months. They are based on secondary data. The latest developments for each country cover the incidents over the past seven days, and key concerns highlight humanitarian priorities.

More information on the Global Emergency Overview Methodology can be found in the Global Overview Methodology Brief and the Frequently Asked Questions.

The Global Emergency Overview is a mobile application.

To download the mobile application for Android phones click here.


To download the mobile application for iOS phones click here.


Updates

The Global Emergency Overview prioritisation will be updated once a week and the results will be available every Tuesday. In case of major new humanitarian events or an escalation of an ongoing crisis which triggers a change of prioritisation, the Global Overview will be updated on an ad hoc basis.

Disclaimer

While ACAPS has defined a methodology striving to ensure accuracy, the information provided is indicative and should not be used in isolation from alternative sources of information for any decision making. ACAPS is not responsible for any damage or loss resulting from the use of the information presented on this website.