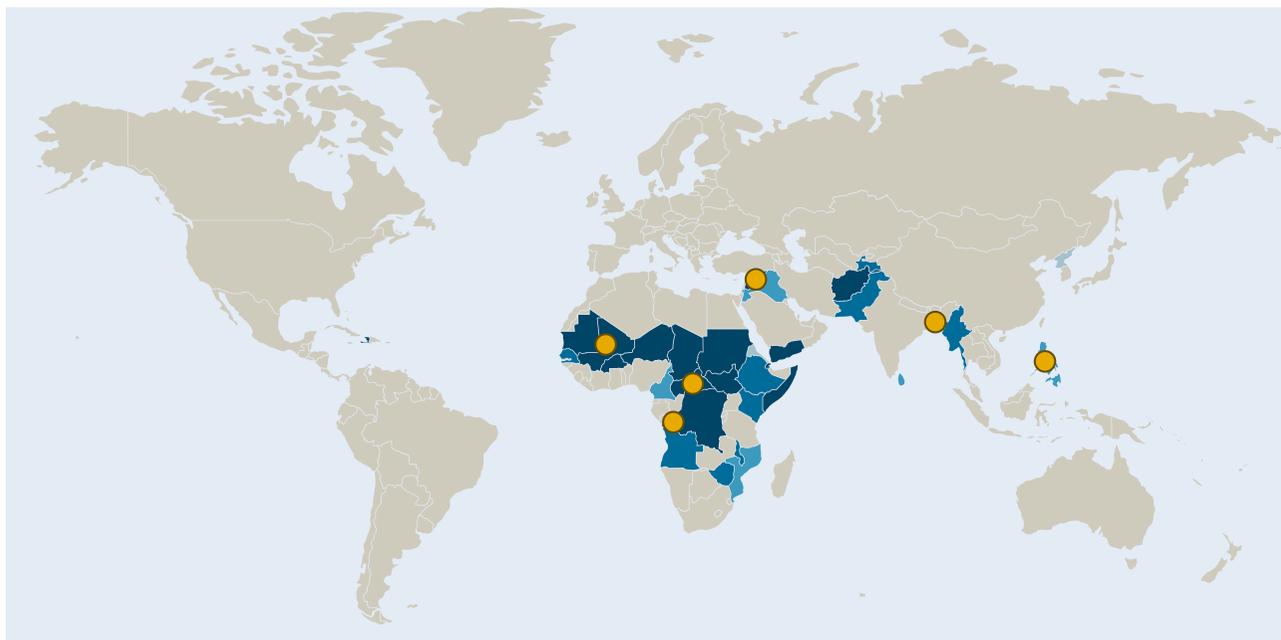




GLOBAL OVERVIEW

March 2013



Severe humanitarian crisis

Afghanistan	Mauritania
Burkina Faso	Niger
● CAR	Somalia
Chad	South Sudan
● DRC	Sudan
Djibouti	● Syria
Haiti	Yemen
● Mali	

Humanitarian crisis

Angola	oPt
Ethiopia	Pakistan
Kenya	Senegal
Malawi	Tajikistan
Myanmar	Zimbabwe

Situation of concern

● Bangladesh	Mozambique
Cameroon	● Philippines
Iraq	Samoa
Jordan	Sri Lanka

Watch list

DPRK	Eritrea
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Snapshot 25 February - 4 March 2013

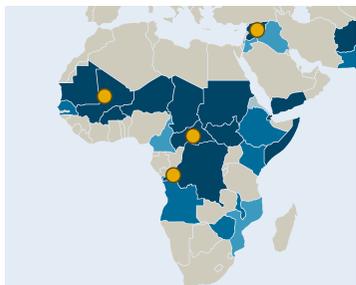
Clashes and violence escalated during the past week in **Bangladesh**, following the sentencing to death of a senior Islamist leader, marking the bloodiest bout of violence since the country's independence four decades ago.

Continuous rains have caused floods in Agusan del Sur in the Province of Pampanga in the **Philippines**. Some 49,073 persons were affected as of 27 February.

In **Syria**, the Government renewed its campaign to suppress the insurgency around the capital, leading to heavy clashes. Intense fighting was also reported in Aleppo and north-eastern Syria. The number of Syrian refugees continued to rise, amounting to a total of 958,098 as of 28 February.

Intense fighting persisted over the last week in the Adrar des Ifoghas mountains in northern **Mali**, where rebels have regrouped. Meanwhile, rebels continue to undertake reprisal and guerilla attacks in liberated towns of northern Mali, in particular Gao and Kidal.

In **Central African Republic**, an armed faction of the Seleka rebel coalition attacked the northern town of Sido in



AFRICA

BURKINA FASO FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Burkina Faso has been affected by insecurity and the on-going military intervention in Mali. As of 22 February, some 47,205 refugees were registered with UNHCR in Burkina Faso. Between January 11 and February 22, more than 5,800 Malians fled to camps and spontaneous sites in Burkina Faso, primarily arriving from Bamako, Bambara Maoude, Dar es Salam, Douentza, Gossi, and Tombouctou. The refugees are residing at seven sites (Mentao, Damba, Fereiro, Goudebo, Gandafabou, Bobo Dioulasso, Ouagadougou) which are recognized as refugee camps by the Government, as well as at several spontaneous settlements.

The Government of Burkina Faso declared a national emergency on 1 March 2012 due to food insecurity and malnutrition which is affecting 2.8 million people. Prolonged drought, high food prices, displacement and chronic poverty are the main causes. However, according to official production figures last season's cereal production, from November to January, was close to 4.9 million metric, marking a 26.9 % increase compared to the five-year average. Likewise, production of cash crops was up 16.5 % and production of other food crops (cowpeas, yams, and sweet potatoes) was up 29.9 percent compared to the five-year average, according to FEWSNet.

In 2012, the national Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate was 10.9%, compared to 10.3% in 2011, with the highest GAM rates in the regions of Centre North, East, North, Centre and Boucle de Mouhoun. According to UNICEF, more than 100,000 children <5 suffer from severe acute malnutrition.

Updated: 04/03/2013

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

On 1 March an armed faction of the Seleka rebel coalition attacked the northern town of Sido in an apparent breach of the recent peace accord. Fighters of the "CPJP Fondamentale" (the Convention of Patriots for Peace and Justice) came across the border from Chad and attacked Sido.

On 25 February the Seleka rebels had already threatened to resume fighting, accusing

President Francois Bozize of failing to honour the peace deal. The insurgents said they were still waiting for the President to free prisoners and withdraw most of the foreign forces that were brought to reinforce the army during the uprising. Despite a peace deal agreed between Seleka rebels and the Central African Government last month, rebels have maintained their control of the towns they seized at the start of an offensive on December 10. The security situation is still worrying and several attacks on civilians have been reported in the Mboki, Zemio and Obo regions.

The Central African Republican Government has in contrast reported on 24 February that it will begin removing rebels from villages and towns they have occupied since December. The operation's aim was to re-establish the freedom of movement for civilians in rebel-controlled areas. The operation will seek to identify the rebels, disarm them and reintegrate them into society, when possible, starting in the central regions of Bria and Kaga.

1,100,000 people (25% of the population) are estimated to be affected by the current crisis in the Seleka-controlled areas.

The Seleka, a coalition of three rebel movements, took up arms against the Government on 10 December 2012. Seleka accused the Government of failing to honour the 2001 and 2007 peace deals under which fighters who laid down their arms were to receive compensation. This group took control of several towns across the country, including four prefecture capitals, and advanced as close as 75 km from the capital Bangui. Due to insecurity, humanitarian access to the affected population had been significantly reduced. Several UN offices and warehouses were looted during the rebel offensive and the violence prompted temporary evacuations of humanitarian staff out of affected areas.

In addition to conflict, CAR is facing a food and nutrition crisis. In December 2012, OCHA reported that an estimated 664,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance, primarily in Vakaga, Haut-Mbomou, Nana-Gribizi and Mbomou. A recent IPC seasonal analysis classified the entire country in either Phase 3 (stressed) or Phase 2 (crisis). In 9 out of 16 prefectures, the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition in children <5 is above the emergency threshold of 2%. Chronic poverty was identified as the general cause of food and nutrition insecurity with civil insecurity exacerbating conditions in the north and north-east. In Bangui, WFP reports that food prices have risen by 27% during the past month possibly due to stores closing in fear of looting and food becoming scarce with the main source of staples in Kaga Bandoro Dekoa, Grimari and Bambari seized by the rebels.

Updated: 04/03/2013

CHAD FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

Two years of continued climatic shocks, including erratic rainfall in 2011, have caused significant food security concerns in 2012 into the beginning of 2013 in Chad. According to the UN, 1.8 million people are food insecure. The nutritional situation in Chad's Sahel belt is at critical levels with a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate surpassing the emergency threshold of 15% in 9 out of 22 regions, according to OCHA. The areas most affected are Batha (25% GAM), Wadi Fira (22%), Salamat (22%), Beg (21%), and Kanem (21%).

However, good 2012/13 harvests have allowed very poor and poor households to replenish their food reserves and market prices across the country are stable and trending

downwards. According to FEWSNet, food security conditions are steadily improving with the rebuilding of production capacity and the replenishment of livelihood assets. Nevertheless, structurally deficient regions will continue to face a shortage of grain.

Despite the good harvest, an estimated 126,000 children will suffer from severe acute malnutrition in 2013, according to UNICEF. Households have accumulated large debts during the lean period in 2012, which means that poor families have to sell much of their produce immediately after harvest. In 2012, 149,963 children were admitted for severe acute malnutrition (SAM), well above the 127,300 forecast.

In addition, southern Chad suffered from significant crop losses due to major flooding. At the start of December, 700,000 people were affected by floods following heavy rains in July and August this year. As a result of the floods, there is an increased risk of cholera.

On 18 February a yellow fever outbreak was confirmed by WHO in the town of Goz Beida, where 5,000 Sudanese refugees have arrived over the past two weeks as a result of recent tribal clashes in *North Darfur*. There were 139 suspected yellow fever cases and 9 deaths reported. A vaccination campaign against the disease was launched in Djabal camp for Sudanese refugees in the east of the country. Neighbouring Sudan is also experiencing a yellow fever outbreak in 35 localities in Darfur with 849 suspected cases and 171 deaths (case-fatality rate of 20.1%) as of 6 January 2013. Currently more than 288,450 Sudanese refugees reside in Chad.

Insecurity, particularly in eastern Chad and in certain areas in southern Chad, continues to limit humanitarian access.

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO **CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY**

Clashes were reported in Kitchanga in Masisi Territory on February 27, between the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) and the Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS). According to the UN, the violence left at least 36 people dead, of which 10 were civilians. Some 3,000-4,000 people have taken refuge at the MONUSCO base in the area. In a related event, a shell hit a hospital in Kitchanga on 27 February, injuring or killing 57 people among the patients and staff of the hospital according to the UN.

The most recent wave of violence in the area broke out between 24-25 February. Since November 2012, the security situation in the Kitchanga area remains unstable. In late January, the area had 80,000 internally displaced persons, more than half in camps and spontaneous settlements.

Meanwhile, dissension within the rebel group M23 triggered clashes between two factions of the movement. Heavy weapons fire was reported on 28 February and 1 March in the Rutshuru Territory, 30 kilometres north of Goma, following the ousting of the group's political chief. According to the Red Cross in DRC, some 4,000 people fled towards the border with Uganda. The old rivalries within the rebel faction have deepened since 11 countries on February 24 signed a UN-brokered framework accord for peace in the east of DR Congo, following talks in Addis Ababa.

On 8 February, Southern African leaders agreed to allow a 4,000-strong regional peacekeeping force to engage directly with rebels fighting in the DRC. No deployment date has been fixed.

Congolese rebels had declared a unilateral ceasefire on 8 January, ahead of a second round of peace talks with the Government. Negotiations between the Government and M23 rebels resumed in January, following two weeks of negotiations in December that ended without an agreement. The M23 rebel group turned against the Government in April 2012, citing poor conditions in the army and the Government's unwillingness to implement the 23 March 2009 peace deal. It later broadened its goals to include the "liberation" of the country and the removal of President Joseph Kabila. Although the rebels were persuaded to withdraw from Goma at the end of November, they are still in control of large stretches of territory in the eastern region of DRC.

Between February 7 and 13 more than 8,500 refugees fled Mobaye in the Central African Republic for the Democratic Republic of Congo for fear of attacks by rebels. Mobaye is a Central African border town close to positions held by the rebel Seleka coalition, which signed a peace accord with the Government last month. According to several sources, there are currently more than 15,000 Central African refugees in parts of North Ubang in need of food and health assistance.

The UN estimates that 914,000 people have been displaced by violence in North Kivu as of 18 January, an increase from 500,000 in April. In South Kivu, in December 2012, more than 50,000 people were displaced due to clashes between the armed forces and militias. Since January 2, an estimated 35,000 have been displaced in Walangu, one of the most unstable provinces in South Kivu. However, according to OCHA some IDPs began to return to their homes in early February.

Nationwide, as of November, more than 2.4 million people were reported displaced as a result of fighting between the Congolese army and various rebel groups. An estimated 450,000 Congolese refugees are residing in neighbouring countries.

The renewed conflict in eastern DRC has significantly contributed to the deterioration of the food security and nutrition situation, according to WFP. The December 2012 IPC analysis reports that 6.4 million people are in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis (IPC phases 3 and 4). With 70% of the rural population without access to drinking water, there is an increased risk of cholera. A cholera outbreak continues to affect 9 out of 11 provinces, with around 32,000 cases between January and December 2012. The west of DRC, although relatively stable compared to the east, faces chronic food insecurity due to isolation, the lack of social infrastructure and effects of several aggravating economic shocks.

Humanitarian access has been limited due to mountainous and volcanic terrain, coupled with widespread and shifting insecurity. Tensions between the local population and international aid workers have escalated.

Updated: 04/03/2013

DJIBOUTI **FOOD INSECURITY**

On 25 and 26 February Djibouti security forces clashed with opposition supporters in an attempt to disperse protests against the ruling coalition's parliamentary election victory. The police fired tear gas to disperse demonstrators demanding the release of Sheikh Bashir Abdourahim, a prominent opposition figure who was arrested on 25 February.

President Guelleh's Union for the Presidential Majority (UMP) declared victory in the election, claiming 49 out of the National Assembly's 65 seats. The opposition rejected the vote as flawed and promised demonstrations. International observers however reported no major incidents during the electoral process. Guelleh has effectively presided over a one-party state since coming to power in 1999. The opposition accuses the 65-year-old leader of mounting oppression against Djibouti's 920,000-strong population.

Several consecutive years of drought have led to a critical food security situation in Djibouti. Currently, some 150,000 people are affected by drought, of which 70,000 vulnerable people are currently at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity. The northwest pastoral zones are worst affected.

Conditions for urban poor households are expected to remain critical during the coming months due to on-going increases in food prices. High unemployment rates (48%) and high staple prices are causing urban to peri-urban migration to areas such as Balbala. Wholesale prices of wheat flour, which had been stable at low levels since the beginning of 2012, increased from November to December 2012 by 17%. However prices are still about 25% below the high levels recorded in 2011. Prices of rice (Belem), mainly consumed in urban areas, were stable during second semester of 2012.

Successive years of poor rains have also eroded the coping mechanisms of pastoralists in Djibouti's rural regions, even as high food prices and unemployment rates afflict the country's urban areas.

The continued influx of refugees from Somalia is leading to an increase of humanitarian needs in both rural and urban areas. As of 28 February there were more than 18,463 Somali refugees in Djibouti, of which 211 arrived since the beginning of 2013.

Updated: 04/03/2013

MALI CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

Intense fighting persisted over the last week in the Adrar des Ifoghas mountains in northern Mali, where rebels have regrouped after losing control of urban areas. Fierce fighting between Islamist militants and French and Malian troops was also reported close to Gao on 1 March. The death toll from the clashes remains unclear. Meanwhile, rebels continue to undertake reprisal and guerilla attacks in liberated towns of northern Mali, in particular Gao and Kidal. On February 26, a suicide bomber in northern Mali drove a car bomb at a checkpoint in the city of Kidal manned by Tuareg rebels supporting the French-led offensive, killing seven people and injuring 11.

Troops from neighbouring African nations, including 2,000 Chadians, have been deployed to Mali and are meant to take over leadership of the operation when France begins to withdraw forces, scheduled for this month. In addition, the European Union formally approved the launch of a 500-strong EU military mission to train the Malian army on 18

February.

Humanitarian access in central regions and parts of the north continues to improve and aid is increasing in the accessible parts, according to OCHA. Security remains a serious threat in other parts of the north, especially in and around Gao, due to the on-going military operations, threat of mines by armed groups, recent intra-military clashes and suicide bombings. Several Malian soldiers have been killed in landmine explosions on a main road leading north. The Douentza-Gao road has been opened but road traffic north of Douentza is discouraged. However, WFP and partners opened a new land route from Niger to reach northern Mali and a first convoy of trucks was delivered.

France's involvement in the 12 month long conflict came after Islamist fighters moved to within 20 kilometres of Mopti, a strategically important town on the frontier between rebel-held and Government-held territories, taking control of the strategic town Konna on 10 December. With support from France's armed forces, the Mali Government started a counter-offence on 11 January.

According to the Committee for Population Movement, there are 260,665 IDPs in Mali as of 20 February, compared to 227,206 as of 31 December 2012. In addition, UNHCR reports that as of 26 February, more than 170,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries (around 69,000 in Mauritania, 54,000 in Niger and 47,000 refugees in Burkina Faso).

As larger areas of central and northern Mali are secured, UNHCR estimates that a significant number of displaced people will return to their homes, although considerable challenges and poor conditions remain for a large share of those returning. As of 15 February, observed returns of displaced people remain extremely limited.

The education of some 700,000 Malian children has been disrupted, and some 200,000 still lack access to school both in the North and South of the country, according to UNICEF. Since January 2012, 115 schools in the North were closed, destroyed, looted and in places contaminated with unexploded ordnance.

Recent assessments warn of a looming food security crisis in northern Mali. According to FEWSNet, food security will decline in the first quarter of 2013, with crisis levels (IPC Level 3) in large areas of the north by April. Shut down of key markets, restrictions on movements of people and food, and the beginning of the lean season are drivers behind this trend. As of January 2013, WFP estimates that 585,000 people are food insecure in northern Mali, with another 1.2 million vulnerable to food insecurity.

In total, an estimated 4.3 million people in Mali are in need of humanitarian assistance, according to OCHA. As of January 2013, WFP estimated that 585,000 people were food insecure in the north, with another 1.2 million vulnerable to food insecurity. According to FEWSNet, food security will decline in the first quarter of 2013, reaching crisis levels (IPC Level 3) in large swathes of the north by April. An estimated 660,000 children <5 will suffer from acute malnutrition in 2013, including 210,000 from severe acute malnutrition.

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MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY

The number of Malian refugees has levelled off over the last week. As of 22 February, the total number of Malian refugees in the country amounts to 69,221. Some 13,359 new arrivals were registered between 11 January and 22 February. 90% of the Malian refugees are women and children.

According to MSF, there is an alarming prevalence rate of global acute malnutrition (GAM) at 4.6% and 17% in Mbera, the refugee camp in the southeast of Mauritania.

Hodh Ech Chargui hosts the majority of the Malian refugees fleeing the armed conflict in northern Mali. Food insecurity and malnutrition is chronic in Mauritania: the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate for children <5 has been around 12% since 2008. In 2013, similar to other years, an estimated 122,719 children will be acutely malnourished. The highest malnutrition rates have been recorded in Hodh Ech Chargui (16% GAM), Assaba (16,4%), Brakna (17%) and Tagant (18,2%) regions in the south-east of the country.

In 2012, around 700,000 people were affected by food insecurity as a result of last year's drop in cereal production and require urgent food and nutrition assistance. However, the outlook for the 2013 harvest is 25% above the five year average, and cereal prices have started their seasonal fall. The recovery of internal and external trade flows and commercial imports, regular normal seasonal income, further contribute to greater food availability.

Poor agro-dominant agropastoral households in northwestern agropastoral areas and southeastern rainfed agriculture zones are expected to move into Stressed food security conditions (IPC Phase 2) between March/April and June, along with northern households impacted by the protracted drought in that area since last year. According to FEWSNET from 27 February an estimated 5,000 farm households (25,000 people) are already experiencing Stressed food security conditions (IPC Phase 2).

Potential threats to food security include an upsurge in locust activity, reported by the National Locust Control Center in Hodh El Gharbi, Tagant, Brakna, Trarza, Inchiri, and Adrar, as well as high prices for millet, which is an essential dietary staple.

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NIGER FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

Niger is coping with four concurrent disasters: the Sahel food crisis, the Malian refugee crisis, flooding and a cholera outbreak. According to OCHA, 6.4 million people were affected by food insecurity in 2012, due to consecutive poor harvests, drought and rising food prices. The number of food insecure is expected to decrease to 2.5 million in 2013 as a result of a surplus cereal harvest. Recent estimations In spite of the nationwide production surplus, certain areas affected by localized shocks saw below-average harvests, particularly in Ayorou, Tillabéri, and Torodi departments where 700,000 people will be unable to meet their food needs without assistance, compared with the norm of 300,000 to 400,000 people in these areas.

Compared to the five-year average, the prices of dry cereals are rising on most markets, with millet (17% to 41%), sorghum (5% to 39%) and maize (2% to 21%) displaying the largest increases.

The number of Malian refugees residing in Niger has decreased from 62,000 Malian at the end of November to around 53,353 as of 20 February. Some 2,451 new Malian arrivals were registered in Niger between 11 January and 6 February, with a decreasing trend over the past week. The refugees continue to place a large strain on the country with the large majority settling in the regions hardest hit by the nutrition and food security crisis. New arrivals are expected due to the on-going military intervention in Mali. Around 2,000 Malian refugees entered Niger since 11 January.

In the west of the country, more than 700,000 people were affected by flooding in December 2012, of which around 175,000 are displaced. The regions of Tillabéri and Dosso have been most severely affected. A surge in malaria and cholera cases was reported in most of the affected areas. As of 9 December, around 5,000 cholera cases have been reported (CFR 2.1%). Floods rendered refugee camps inaccessible in Tillabéri, an area which hosts an estimated 36,000 Malian refugees.

Updated: 04/03/2013

SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

According to the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), an estimated 1.05 million people in Somalia are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. This marks a 50% decrease from 2.1 million in August 2012. Nevertheless, 1.65 million remain in stressed food security conditions and malnutrition rates in Somalia remain among the highest in the world.

The improved situation is linked to recent harvests which have resulted in improved access to food and declining market prices. The positive impact of the 2012 *Deyr* rains, as well as favourable and continued humanitarian response, is expected to continue in the first half of 2013. Yet, regular seasonal deterioration of food security conditions, starting in early 2013, is expected with the onset of the long dry season. Climate predictions point towards abnormally hot and dry conditions in early 2013.

Although most livelihoods in Somalia are likely to be classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2), Critical to Very Critical nutrition situations (IPC Phase 3 and 4) are expected to remain in most IDP settlements of the north and central regions and in other parts of the south, north and central regions. The epicentre of the crisis continues to be in the south, largely due to the long-term effects of conflict, drought and famine, as well as the short-term effects of this year's poor *Gu* rainy season. As a result of the lack of health infrastructure, poor feeding practices and possible outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea and measles during the April to June rainy season 236,000 children <5 are expected to remain severely malnourished.

Results from the Somalia post-Deyr seasonal assessments carried out by the FSNAU and FEWS NET in December suggest that current acute food insecurity levels may be upheld from January to June. An estimated 1,346,000 million rural people are at the Stressed (IPC Phase 2), 127,000 in the Crisis (IPC Phase 3), and 108,000 in the Emergency (IPC Phase 4) phases of acute food insecurity. Nearly 80% of the nearly 1.34 million rural people in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) reside in southern Somalia and are only able to meet their food needs by compromising non-food expenditures.

Conflict is still widespread in Somalia. Military operations by Somali forces, supported by African Union peacekeepers, against militants forced a large number of al-Shabaab rebels out of their strongholds in the southern and central regions. As a result of the food crisis and conflict, between 1.1 million and 1.36 million people are currently internally displaced according to UNHCR estimates. Another one million Somali's are living as refugees outside of the country.

Somali Government troops and African Union forces seized the formerly Islamist-held town of Burhakaba from the Al-Qaeda linked Shebab fighters on 27 February. The capture of Burhakaba marks a key stage in efforts to open up the main highway from the capital Mogadishu running northwest to Baidoa, a major town wrested from the Shebab by Ethiopian troops last year. Burhakaba lies some 160 kilometres (100 miles) northwest from Mogadishu, leaving some 60 kilometers (40 miles) until AU troops can reach Baidoa by road.

In January, humanitarian access remained extremely challenging in parts of central and southern Somalia, but continued to improve gradually, following the trend of the last three months of 2012 where attacks on aid workers reduced from 13 in October to 4 and 5 in November and December, respectively. The withdrawal of al-Shabaab from key towns in southern Somalia has permitted an increase in the international presence in some of these areas.

Updated: 04/03/2013

SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Violence and cattle-raiding in south Sudan has affected some 23,350 people in Akobo East, Akobo West in Jonglei State and Ulang in Upper Nile since 8 February, according to inter-agency assessments and OCHA. A violent cattle raid by rebels and ethnic allies in Akobo County in Jonglei State on 8 February left at least 118 people dead and close to 10 people severely injured. The attack marked the worst violence in Jonglei State since South Sudan's independence from Sudan in 2011. Related clashes in Dilule payam, Jonglei State, on 10 February caused some 4,000 people to be displaced. Another cattle-raiding incident in Gogrial East, Warrap State, on 23 February caused displacement of about 1,000 people and left about 23 people dead, according to OCHA.

South Sudan has struggled to assert control over remote territories awash with weapons after the 1983-2005 war with the north as well as characterized by ethnic rivalries. According to the UN, more than 1,500 people have been killed in Jonglei since the country's independence.

Clashes between South Sudan's army and militiamen broke out on 9 February in the volatile borderland between Sudan and South Sudan, according to the southern army. South Sudan accused Sudan of supporting the militia, and reported that the clashes had left at least 24 people dead. In separate clashes on the Sudanese side of the border, rebels from the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-North) accused a militia supported by South Sudan of having attacked a village, allegedly killing 17 people.

Progress was reported in the relation between the South Sudan and Sudan on 27 February, as the Sudanese Government reaffirmed its full commitment to the implementation of joint

cooperation agreement signed by both Sudan and South Sudan in 2012. The agreement calls for the establishment of a demilitarized 'buffer' zone on the border between the two nations as well as a mechanism for the monitoring and verification of this. South Sudan previously accused Sudan of building up forces along the border, a sign that efforts to set up a buffer zone between the neighbours had made no progress.

The influx of Sudanese refugees from North Kordofan and Blue Nile state continues, with over 204,000 Sudanese refugees currently present in South Sudan, primarily in Upper Nile and Unity state. Cases of Hepatitis E are increasing across refugee camps in Maban County, Upper Nile. According to the Ministry of Health and UNHCR, 6,000 suspected cases of Hepatitis E have been reported, of which 126 people have died as of 17 February.

Although favourable rains have improved the food security situation in the western, central and eastern regions of the country, 4.6 million people will remain in need of food or livelihoods support in 2013, according to the UN. Food insecurity is caused by a series of factors including diminished cross border trade with Sudan, inter-communal clashes, increasing number of IDPs, returnees and refugees, fuel scarcity and high food prices. Inflation rates nearly doubled, from 22% in October to 41% in November, according to the South Sudan Bureau of Statistics. The cost of food increased by 43% in 2012 compared to 2011. However, sorghum and maize is estimated to be about 35% above the 2011 estimates and about 6% above the average of the previous five years. Planted area has increased in all states, except in Jonglei where more than 315 000 people have been displaced either by floods or by conflict with negative impact on planted area.

Insecurity, poor infrastructure and seasonal rains continue to severely hamper humanitarian access nationwide. Over the course of 2012, there was a 48 % increase in access incidents compared to 2011. The overall spike in access constraints is largely attributed to increased interference in humanitarian operations, hostilities and the physical environment. Inhospitable terrain also remains extremely challenging in South Sudan, with more than 60% of the country cut off during the rainy season.

Updated: 04/03/2013

SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

Dispute over land ownership between two South Darfur tribes allegedly led to violent tribal clashes that killed four people, wounded another four and left six villages burnt on 28 February. Fighting ceased following the deployment of the Sudanese army to the area, but the situation remains tense and civilians were evacuated to nearby villages.

On 23 February, clashes between Bani Hussein and Rizeigat tribes erupted in El Sireaf in North Darfur, killing 53 people and wounding 83. In January clashes between Reizegat and Beni Hussein tribes in North Darfur have led to a mass displacement of 130,000 people, according to OCHA. The villages of Saraf Omra, Kabkabya and El Sereif are the most affected. In El Sireaf town alone, there are some 60,000 people who have sought refuge since early January due to the fighting between the Reizegat and the Bani Hussein tribes according to OCHA. The renewed fighting highlighted once again the vulnerability of civilians in the area.

Fighting also broke out between government forces and rebels in central Sudan, in a

possible escalation of violence that has hitherto been concentrated closer to the African country's borders. Rebels of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) from the western region of Darfur allegedly launched an attack on the army in North Kordofan state. JEM and two other Darfur rebel groups formed an alliance with a rebel group from southern Sudan, the SPLM-North, in 2011 to try to topple veteran President Omar Hassan al-Bashir.

Fighting between Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and SPLM-N forces in parts of Blue Nile and South Kordofan has since affected an estimated 908,000 people since it started in June 2011 and. There is no humanitarian access to 420,000 people affected in rebel held areas in the two states. Fighting in South Kordofan has escalated in recent months with insurgents shelling the capital of South Kordofan, Kadugli. According to UNHCR, some 300 Sudanese refugees from South Kordofan cross the border to South Sudan daily.

Fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and an armed movement in the Jebel Marra area in Darfur, as well as conflict between some farmers and pastoralists in Masteri in West Darfur has in addition displaced more than 15,000 people at the end of January. Around 1.4 million displaced people live in camps across Darfur, dependent on aid rations, according to the United Nations.

On 9 February fresh fighting erupted in Upper Nile, the volatile borderland area between Sudan and South Sudan. The Presidents of Sudan and South Sudan met on 5 January to discuss security, oil and border and the contested deals. On 27 January, the two Presidents committed themselves to implement the cooperation agreement signed in September of last year. The Sudanese government reaffirmed its full commitment to the implementation of joint cooperation agreements signed by both Sudan and South Sudan last year, on February 27.

However, on 11 February the Sudanese Government signed a ceasefire accord with the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), the main rebel group in Darfur.

There are currently some 37,500 reported Umbararo nomads in South Darfur who are unable to cross into South Sudan because the border between the two countries is closed. These nomads have settled in 13 locations in Tullus and Dimso localities.

As of 31 January, an estimated 3.5 million people in Sudan face Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phase 2 and 3) levels of food insecurity, compared to 4.6 million people in July 2012. Some 80% of the food insecure population is in the conflict-affected areas of Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Abyei. The decrease is mostly attributed to a good harvest this year. The total area planted during the 2012/13 season is more than double the previous year's figure, and yields are expected to be significantly higher than last year due to favourable rainfall and decreased pest infestations. A surplus of 1.4 million MT of sorghum and millet is expected. In spite of the good harvest, stressed and crisis levels of food insecurity persist in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, Darfur, and Abyei due to the impacts of conflict on production, market access, and livelihood options. FEWSNET reported that 200,000-250,000 people in areas of southern Blue Nile and South Kordofan are facing Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity. Food insecurity will also remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels in conflict-affected areas in North Darfur in particular in the Jebel Marra and Jebel Amir areas currently affected by conflict until at least June 2013.

On 29 October 2012, Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health declared a yellow fever outbreak in seven localities in Central and South Darfur. As of 6 January, the total number of

suspected cases had reached 849, including 171 deaths (CFR 20.1%). The majority of cases are reported from Central Darfur, North Darfur and West Darfur. An emergency mass vaccination campaign targeting 3.4 million people is currently being implemented. In addition, on 12 December, the Ministry of Health of West Darfur announced the outbreak of Hepatitis D in the state.

Nationwide, over two million people are currently displaced due to food insecurity and conflict.

Updated: 04/03/2013

ANGOLA FOOD INSECURITY

At the beginning of November, OCHA reported that more than 1.8 million people in Angola have been affected by a food security crisis, caused by a prolonged drought. The Ministry of Agriculture reported a 60% decrease of average rainfall over the planting season resulting in 30% drop in crop production. Ten coastal and central highland provinces have been affected. In some areas, families are sharing limited water sources with livestock, leading to contamination of these sources. Consequently, the possibility of outbreak of water related diseases is very high. There have been media reports of a cholera outbreak in the south, but these have been refuted by WHO. In addition, an estimated 533,000 children suffer varying levels of malnutrition. At the same time, the country is still recovering from decades of civil war which lasted until 2002.

Updated: 04/03/2013

ETHIOPIA FOOD INSECURITY

Recent reports indicate that East and West Hararghe Zones in eastern Ethiopia have deteriorated into Crisis (IPC Phase 3) following two consecutive, poorly-distributed rainy seasons and a below average Meher harvest in October/November 2012. According to FEWSNET, food security outcomes are unlikely to significantly improve until June 2013 when consumption of green Belg crops begins.

According to the Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) released on February 28, about 2.5 million people are food insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance between now and June. Households requiring assistance are concentrated in Afar, Oromia, and Somali Regions. Below normal to normal March to May Belg/Gu/Genna/Sugum rains are forecasted over much of northeastern and southeastern regions. Poor rains in pastoral areas means that pasture availability will remain poorer than usual and water sources will not fully refill, leading most pastoral areas to be classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from April to June. Following two consecutive, poorly-distributed rainy seasons and a well below average Meher harvest in October/November 2012, East and West Hararghe Zones have deteriorated into Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

As the dry season continues and the belg rains (mid-February to May) have yet to start, increasing water shortages are reported across the country. In Somali, immediate water trucking needs were identified. Some 683,328 require water trucking as of 25 February.

The food security situation continues to be poor or deteriorating in parts of SNNP, Tigray,

Somali, Oromia, eastern Amhara, and northern Afar Regions. The number of Somali refugees in Ethiopia as of 20 February stands at 231,327 with 3,654 new arrivals in 2013. The increasing rate of new arrivals is expected to place additional pressure on the already limited refugee food pipeline.

Updated: 04/03/2013

KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

Kenyans began casting votes on 4 March in the country's first general elections since December 2007, when a disputed outcome led to serious violence that caused over 1,300 deaths and displaced around 600,000 people. This year's elections are the first under the new constitution and citizens will cast six ballots at once, electing a President, but also senators, governors, members of the lower house, councillors and women's representatives.

The Kenyan police issued alerts on 3 March of impending attacks, and there were reports of violence before the voting started.

Kenya has experienced an escalation of localized outbreaks of inter-communal conflict and cattle rustling in the run-up to the elections, mostly in northern areas of Rift Valley and North Eastern Provinces.

The number of food insecure in Kenya is likely to increase from the current level of 2.1 million due to the poor performance of the October-to-December Short Rains in parts of the south-eastern and coastal marginal mixed farming zones. Almost one million people are expected to face crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity through March, primarily in the southeastern and coastal marginal mixed farming livelihood zones. This is largely due to the below average performance of the October to December short rains.

The long drought in late of 2012 was followed by heavy rains in the first two weeks of January, resulting in floods in the capital Nairobi, as well as Nyanza and North Rift regions, since the parched land was not able to absorb the large volumes of water. The floods have resulted in devastation of large agricultural areas. Moreover, according to the UN, the floods resulted in 20 deaths and a total of 2,156 households were affected, of which 1,217 households are situated in Rift Valley and 939 households in Nyanza (West Kenya). In addition, as of January 29, a total of 13 people have lost their lives to mudslides in the North Rift region and 765 displaced.

The influx of Somali refugees into Kenya continues, with 209 new arrivals since the beginning of January. According to the UNHCR, the total number of Somali refugees in the country amounts to 509,870. A large part of these - 425,000 - reside in Dadaab camps and have limited access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, water and sanitation. Moreover, since the beginning of December, heavy rains have caused floods in the camps. According to the UNHCR, eleven epidemic outbreaks were reported in 2012. Between November and December 2012, the number of children admitted to the MSF hospital for severe acute malnutrition doubled. The situation is expected to deteriorate due to an influx of new arrivals following the Government's decision to transfer Somali refugees from urban areas to camps around Dadaab.

Updated: 04/03/2013

MALAWI FOOD INSECURITY

Flooding in southern Malawi continues to affect the population. More than 1200 families are stranded in houses in the town of Chikhwawa alone – as heavy rains hit more than 110,000 people nationwide.

According to OCHA as of 15 February, the flooding has displaced some 33,000 people in southern Malawi. In total, 86,000 people have been affected by floods and storms since the onset of the rainy season. The hardest-hit areas are Mangochi, Phalombe and Nsanje districts, all in the south of the country and in the same region that was previously suffering from rain shortages and drought. Humanitarian access has been hampered by persistent rains resulting in the destruction of roads. More rainfall is expected over southern Malawi, which could exacerbate flood conditions, according to OCHA.

An estimated 2 million people are classified as food insecure, indicating a significant increase since June 2012. Some areas have experienced four consecutive poor harvests, indicating a deteriorating situation. As many as 15 out of 28 districts are affected by the food crisis, with the southern (Mulanje and Chikwawa Districts) and central parts (Balaka District) of the country most severely affected. Even before the current crisis, 40% of the population was living below the poverty line.

The situation is compounded by the devaluation of the local currency and the increasing price of maize, the staple food, which already far exceeds the purchasing power of most rural households. The national inflation rate continues to rise, with 33.3% price inflation in December. Historical seasonal trends indicate that maize prices will continue to climb until April 2013, when new supplies from the harvest will supplement market stocks. The persistent high maize prices prompted the Government to maintain a maize export ban.

In addition, according to the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA), armyworm outbreaks infesting maize crops and pasture have been reported in Ntcheu, Dedza, Kasungu and Mchinji districts of Kasungu and Rumphu district of Muzuzu. This could further affect maize prices and availability.

Updated: 04/03/2013

SENEGAL FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

Nationwide, an estimated 739,000 people are affected by food insecurity in Senegal according to FAO. Preliminary results from a joint mission (Government/Action Aid/Senegalese Red Cross/FAO/WFP) carried out in late December 2012 show critical levels of food insecurity in areas of Bakel (65%), Matam (64%), Medina Yoro Foula (63%) and Linguere (55%). Food insecurity is low in all areas of the regions of Fatick and Kaffrine where it is less than 15%, while it is moderate in the departments of Dagana and Podor. The results indicate that food insecurity currently affects more than 230,000 people in some villages and rural communities in St. Louis, Louga, Matam, Kolda and Sedhiou, and in the regions of Fatick, Kaolack and Kaffrine. According to UNICEF, in 2013 four out of fourteen regions are estimated to surpass the emergency threshold of 10% of Global Acute Malnutrition: Tambacounda, Kaffrine, Matam, Saint Louis.

Although the 2012 harvest was generally good, the agricultural production has been affected by the floods in August and September 2012 in the Senegal River Valley and western regions of the country. As a result, it is likely that a food crisis in 2013 will persist among vulnerable families which have depleted their livelihoods and do not have the means to restore them. While 20,000 children were estimated to be severely malnourished in 2012, this number is expected to double in 2013.

Updated: 04/03/2013

ZIMBABWE FOOD INSECURITY, UNREST

As Zimbabwe is entering a critical electoral period with the constitutional referendum taking place on 16 March, the UN Special Rapporteurs on human rights have received increasing numbers of reports about acts of intimidation and harassment, physical violence and arrests against civil society actors, mostly working on human rights issues. In recent weeks, the police have reportedly been conducting a crackdown on NGOs and human rights groups, raiding offices, confiscating files and arresting employees. Although President Robert Mugabe has called for peaceful conduct during and after the referendum and national elections, violence continues to be reported across the country. Skirmishes between ZANU-PF and MDC supporters in Manicaland, 200km east of the capital, were reported. Police in Zimbabwe have announced a ban on the possession of shortwave radio receivers, saying they are being used to communicate hate speech ahead of next month's constitutional referendum and elections set to be held in July.

Heavy rains in January caused extensive flooding affecting some 8,490 people as of 15 February, according to OCHA. The worst affected provinces are Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Masvingo and Midlands. While the rains are slowly subsiding, February is the peak of the rainy season and large areas remain under threat of major flooding. However, below-normal rainfall is forecast for the southern regions of Zimbabwe throughout the coming season. Despite recent heavy rains in most parts of the country, most districts in Matabeleland South province suffer from drought conditions.

The acute food security crisis in Zimbabwe is currently reaching its peak period with an anticipated 1.6 million people in need of food assistance in the period leading up to the April 2013 harvest, according to the UN. Late and erratic rains, poor agricultural practices, limited access to agricultural inputs, and a reduction in planted area have all contributed to a 33% decrease in the harvest in Zimbabwe compared to 2011. In the most affected areas maize prices are reported to be between 12% and 47% higher compared to prices in maize surplus areas. Prices of cereal and flour are likely to remain high compared to last year making food accessibility difficult for affected households.

3.7 million (29% of the population) people are chronically food insecure. Chronic and acute child malnutrition stands at 32% and 3% respectively. Masvingo, Matabeleland North and South, and parts of Mashonaland, Midlands and Manicaland provinces are the worst-affected areas. A recent armyworm outbreak threatens to exacerbate the food insecurity in the country. The outbreak has so far hit five of the country's eight farming provinces. It is reported to have destroyed hundreds of hectares of the staple maize crop in Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West and Manicaland, the country's top food-producing provinces.

The full extent of the impact on overall agricultural production has not yet been assessed. The food security crisis is also aggravated by the high HIV-prevalence rate, which is 14% compared to 5% for the rest of the southern Africa region (as % of the total population aged 15-49).

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CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY

Some 350,000 people, 23% of the total population, are affected by food insecurity in northern Cameroon as of 22 February, according to FAO.

SMART Nutritional post-harvest season survey conducted in November and December in five regions of Cameroon show a prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) at 6.3% in Far North region 5.5% in North.

Widespread flooding in August to November 2012 in the North and Far North districts of Cameroon has exacerbated the food insecurity situation, with crops being destroyed. Some 88,640 (50,824 people in the North and 37,816 in the Far North region) were displaced, and the effects of the flooding continue to cause extreme hardship for the local populations.

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MOZAMBIQUE FLOODS, EPIDEMIC

Floods in Mozambique have displaced some 186,238 people and cumulatively affected 240,827 people as of 20 February since the beginning of the rainy season in October 2012. The majority have been affected since January 2013. An estimated 114 people have died in the floods, including cases due to secondary causes such as electrocution. Thousands of households have been damaged and road infrastructure and electricity and drainage systems have been interrupted. The southern Gaza Province is the most affected with around 175,700 people affected and 172,600 temporarily displaced followed by Inhambane and Maputo provinces, and the central province of Zambezia where 33,956 people have been affected and 10,522 others temporarily displaced. A storm system has formed in the Mozambique Channel, which has the potential of causing heavy rains across much of central and northern Mozambique, exacerbating flood conditions, according to OCHA.

A cholera outbreak was confirmed on 8 February. As of 21 February, 413 cases and 2 deaths were reported in Cabo Delgado Province, northern Mozambique. Already endemic in the region cholera could be exacerbated by the current floods. According to OCHA, in Gaza province there was a marked increase of cases of severe malaria requiring in-patient services/referral in Chokwe.

The last quarter of 2012 was considered relatively dry in Mozambique. The recent heavy rains have not been absorbed by the dry land, leading to flooding of crop fields in southern and central Mozambique. If crop losses ensue, this can have a negative impact on food security, especially in the most vulnerable communities. The country already suffers from high chronic food insecurity, affecting nine million people (39% of the population).

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ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

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

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

Eritrea is currently dealing with a locust infestation: according to FAO on the southern coastal plains of the Red Sea in Sudan, four small immature and maturing swarms and groups of adults were reported and treated near the border of Eritrea.

An estimated six million people in Eritrea are food insecure (98% of the population). Local food and fuel prices are likely to remain high, putting severe pressure on vulnerable groups' coping mechanisms. The Government of Eritrea officially denies any food shortages within its borders and refuses food aid. There is a lack of updated and reliable data on the humanitarian situation due to limited humanitarian access and a ban on humanitarian organisations assessing needs. No confirmed data on the food security situation or food price levels is available. Therefore, Eritrea is not included within the Global Overview prioritisation.

Updated: 04/03/2013



ASIA

AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

More than five hundred people protested in an outburst of anger against U.S. special forces accused of overseeing torture and killings in the capital of Afghanistan's Wardak province on 26 February. The protesters called for the immediate withdrawal of the American soldiers and threatened to join the Taliban if their demand was not met. A

spokesman for Afghan President Hamid Karzai had previously announced that all U.S. special forces must leave Wardak province within two weeks following the accusations that Afghans working for them had tortured and killed innocent people.

In addition, deadly attacks on the civilian population as well as on national and international authorities continue. Four different attacks across the country took place on 24 February, wounding six police officers and security guards and killing three security guards. The surge in attacks has raised the possibility that insurgents are increasingly focused on testing Afghan security forces in Kabul, and marks a change from the series of high-profile attacks on western targets last year. Humanitarian access has been increasingly compromised in Afghanistan due to insecurity. January saw 27 security incidents involving humanitarian workers in 15 provinces of Afghanistan, driven by active hostilities and physical access constraints related to winter.

The NATO-led force in Afghanistan said on 26 February it had incorrectly reported a 7% drop in the number of attacks by Taliban insurgents last year, acknowledging that in fact there had been no decline in the closely watched statistic. The accurate number for insurgent attacks in 2012 showed the assaults had remained at the same level as in 2011, at more than 3,000.

Around 85,000 international troops are currently supporting the Government in its fight against the Taliban. However, all international combat troops are preparing to withdraw by the end of 2014 and more than 75% of the country is expected to be under national security control by July 2013.

According to UN reports in November, more than nine million people (34% of the total population) are food insecure in Afghanistan, of whom two million are severely food insecure. Despite a bumper harvest in 2012, wheat prices have been increasing since June 2012, and Afghanistan is experiencing minimal (IPC Phase 1) levels of food insecurity. Although most households entered the lean season more food secure than last year, those in northern Badakhshan and the Wakhan corridor are currently in stressed food security conditions (IPC Phase 2).

Households in the extreme northeast, central highlands and low income households across the country remain vulnerable to food insecurity due to the increase in prices. 18% of children <5 nationwide suffer from malnutrition while acute malnutrition rates in the south are as high as 29.5% for children <5.

Overall, 5.4 million people are affected by the on-going conflict. The displacement crisis in Afghanistan stands at more than 450,000 people currently internally displaced. Since 2001, UNHCR has supported the return of 4.7 million Afghan refugees from neighbouring countries. However, nearly three million registered Afghan refugees are still living in exile in Pakistan and Iran.

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SYRIA CIVIL WAR

Intense fighting with heavy gunfire between rebels and government troops was reported in Aleppo 26-28 February and the Syrian Army allegedly used cluster munitions on a

residential area on 1st of March. On 17 February, four ballistic missiles launched by the Syrian troops caused large physical destruction in a neighbourhood of Aleppo. In Damascus, Syria's army continued its campaign to suppress the insurgency around the capital, with army tanks striking the rebel-held town of Daraya southwest of Damascus while fresh clashes broke out in Irbin, northeast of the city. Clashes on 1-2 March lead to insurgents seizing control of half of the northeastern Syrian town of Yaarabiya, including a border post with Iraq. The clashes raised concerns over the potential spillover of the Syrian conflict into neighboring Iraq. Fighting in ar-Raqqa and Quneitra has also been reported.

A meeting of the Friends of Syria group in Rome on 28 February concluded with pledges of increased political and material support to the Syrian opposition, although without giving details on the kind of support that would be made available. Talks scheduled for 2 March intended to put in place a provisional Governmental structure that would operate in rebel-controlled areas of Syria was postponed without a new date being set.

On 10 February the Syrian National Coalition said that it is willing to hold talks with President Bashar al-Assad's representatives in rebel-held areas of northern Syria. The opposition Syrian National Coalition is willing to negotiate a peace deal to end the country's civil war under the provision that President Bashar al-Assad steps down and cannot be a party to any settlement. On 25 February, the Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem said that the Government was ready to talk to the country's armed opposition, but did not indicate whether the government had any conditions for starting dialogue.

The substantial influx of Syrian refugees into neighbouring countries continues with an average of 7,000 Syrian refugees arriving each day. This influx is putting enormous pressure on neighbouring countries. According to UNHCR, a total of 958,089 refugees have been registered or are awaiting registration by UNHCR as of 28 February, and the number of refugees is expected to reach 1.1 million in March. As of 3 March, there are 312,961 refugees in Jordan, 325,873 in Lebanon, 184,585 in Turkey, 102,829 in Iraq and an estimated 28,000 in Egypt. The actual size of the refugee population is believed to be much larger, as an unknown number of refugees are unable or unwilling to register. Large-scale displacement is resulting in over-crowded shelters and host communities' capacity to support is overstretched.

According to the UN human rights chief, the death toll is approaching 70,000 people since the beginning of the conflict. The UN estimates that over four million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, and recent joint rapid assessment in parts of six northern governorates identified 3.4 million people in urgent need of assistance. Some 2.5 million people are internally displaced. Access to food remains limited due to increased prices and reduced availability. The prices of staple commodities have risen by 80% to 100% in some areas. WFP recently reported that they are unable to access more than one million out of 2.5 million people in need of emergency food assistance. According to FAO, Syria's wheat and barley production dropped from 4-4.5 million tons in normal years to 2 million tons in 2012 due to the on-going conflict. Waterborne diseases are on the rise, with an outbreak of Typhoid reported in the north of the country.

Humanitarian access remains limited, with assessments and relief operations being hampered by the widespread insecurity, violence against humanitarian personnel and

impediments to entry

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YEMEN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

On 2 March security forces clashed with armed separatists in Yemen's southern city of Aden. Security forces had been deployed in the port city to clear away boulders and tyres that supporters of former Vice President Ali Salem al-Baid had placed on streets in protests calling for southern independence which began on 23 February. The crackdown on the protesters has inflamed tensions in the country. There were also reported armed clashes in another southern town, al-Dalea. Unrest intensified across southern Yemen last month when protesters marking the first anniversary of the ouster of former strongman Ali Abdullah Saleh clashed with police in Aden.

An estimated 13 million people (55% of the population) are in need of humanitarian assistance in Yemen, according to OCHA. Violence and insecurity continues with inter-tribal fighting in the north, fighting between the Government and armed groups in the southern governorates and civil unrest in urban centres of the west and central governorates. As a result, some 385,000 people remain internally displaced. In the south, more than 100,000 internally displaced people have returned to their areas of origin in Abyan governorate and further returns are on-going, according to UNHCR.

In addition, Yemen currently hosts more than 237,000 refugees, virtually all of them of Somali and Ethiopian origin, according to UNHCR. The number increased significantly during 2012, which saw record high levels of new arrivals, amounting to 107,532 people in one year. As of 31 January, 7,518 new arrivals were reported, the majority of which (6,231 people) from Ethiopia.

Approximately 10.5 million people in Yemen are food insecure, according to OCHA. 970,000 people suffer from Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM). The emergency threshold for GAM >15% is exceeded in six Governorates: Hajjah, Al-Jawf, Al Hudaydah, Taiz, Aden and Lahj. The situation is serious (GAM 10-14%) in six other Governorates (Raymah, Ibb, Abyan, Amran, Al-Mahwit, and Al Dhale'e).

A collapse of public services following the civil unrest in 2011 has severely disrupted access to health services, clean water and basic sanitation. As of January 28, an estimated 13.1 million people lack access to safe water and sanitation.

Epidemics are re-occurring, with 170 children having died from measles in 2012. Information about humanitarian needs remains difficult to ascertain due to insecurity.

Updated: 04/03/2013

MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS

Despite positive steps in the de-escalation of conflict over the past weeks, sporadic security incidents continue to be reported across Kachin state.

Peace talks between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and Myanmar's Government were held on 5 February in an attempt to end the conflict which has intensified in the past

two months. The Government has allowed the UN and international aid groups to access all displaced civilians in war-torn Kachin State. The Government previously blocked international relief from reaching thousands of civilians in rebel-held areas. Meanwhile, access to the affected population in Rakhine state remains difficult as campaigns have taken place based on claims of favouritism by international aid agencies towards the Rohingya.

Fighting between the Government and KIA had re-ignited in June 2011, when a 17-year ceasefire between the Government and KIA rebels broke down. KIA is seeking greater autonomy for the one million Kachin people residing in Myanmar. As a result of the fighting, an estimated 100,000 people have been displaced. Around 20,000 residents and 15,000 displaced people are thought to be in Laiza. According to the UN, nearly 2,000 people were newly displaced from Northern Shan State, as a result of the latest fighting.

In June and October 2012, Rakhine State in Myanmar experienced wide-spread inter-communal violence between predominantly Muslim and Buddhist communities. By 24 December, more than 115,000 people were still displaced across eight Rakhine townships (Kyaukpyu, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ramree and Rathedaung).

The rice harvest in 2013 is expected to be significantly affected by heavy flooding at the beginning of September as the rains have inundated around 250,000 hectares of crops.

Updated: 04/03/2013

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES COMPLEX

Clashes between Jewish settlers, Palestinians and Israeli soldiers broke out in the occupied West Bank on 23 February. The clashes came a week after a wave of violent protests in solidarity with four Palestinian hunger-striking prisoners, coupled with the death of another Palestinian in detention. At least six Palestinian protesters were shot and badly wounded in the violence.

Between 7 and 10 January intensive rain and snow storms generated floods in several parts of the territory affecting 12,500 people and killing two persons. Some 200 homes were severely damaged or destroyed and 650 people were temporarily displaced. Most affected were Tulkarem and Qalqilia, in the northern region. The weather conditions exacerbated pre vulnerabilities stemming from movement, access and planning restrictions faced by Palestinian communities.

On 29 November 2012, the General Assembly voted to grant Palestine a non-member observer State status at the United Nations, while expressing the urgent need for the resumption of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians moving towards a permanent two-State solution. Direct negotiations between the two sides have been on hold since September 2010, with the Palestinians insisting on a settlement freeze before returning to the negotiating table and the Israelis insisting on no preconditions. President Mahmoud Abbas has warned that he will disband the Palestinian Authority if there is no Israeli movement toward renewing peace talks after Israel's elections on January 22.

A December 2012 Food Security Assessment reports that people having lost an income source due to the conflict in November will need several months or years to replace it, and

as a result may need to be supported by longer-term emergency food assistance. Before the start of the latest violence, 1.8 million Palestinians were in need of humanitarian assistance.

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PAKISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS

On 2 March a suspected suicide bomber attacked Shi'ite Muslims as they were leaving a mosque in Karachi, killing at least 45 people.

Continued attacks by insurgency groups are fostering an increasing trend of violence in Pakistan since December 2012. On 16 February a bomb attack in Quetta in the Baluchistan Province in southwest Pakistan left at least 64 people dead and some 200 injured. The group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi claimed responsibility for the attack. Baluchistan has increasingly become a flashpoint for sectarian violence between Sunni Muslim and Shi'ites.

Pakistani Shi'ites agreed to bury those killed in the most recent sectarian bombing, ending four days of protests, after the Government said on 19 February that it had arrested 170 suspects linked to the attack.

Insecurity remains fragile in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in Pakistan's semi-autonomous tribal belt on the Afghan border in the northwest, where Taliban and Al-Qaeda-linked militants have carved out strongholds. The recently escalating violence has raised fears of a renewed Taliban campaign that could threaten the upcoming national elections.

Government operations against non-state armed groups as well as sectarian violence have caused significant population movement since July 2008. According to OCHA, more than 758,000 people remain displaced in KP due to complex emergency as of 31 January.

Flash floods triggered by heavy rains in September caused destruction across Pakistan. According to the Government of Pakistan, the flooding had affected around 4.8 million people in Baluchistan, Punjab and Sindh provinces as of 31 January, with around 142,000 people residing in camps. Many of the affected districts, particularly in Baluchistan and Sindh, were already struggling to recover from the floods of 2010 and 2011. Areas still inundated may remain under water for several more months due to lack of drainage and slower evaporation during the winter months. The winter season is causing a deterioration of the humanitarian situation, particularly for those residing in makeshift shelters.

Malnutrition rates in some of the flood affected districts were beyond emergency thresholds before the current floods and are predicted to worsen. In addition, 60% of the population in Pakistan is food insecure and inflation, rising fuel prices and stagnating domestic productivity are pushing up food prices. Seven districts are classified as facing IPC phases three ('Crisis') and four ('Emergency').

Measles cases in 2012 surged by almost five times compared to 2011, leading to the deaths of more than 300 children, up from 64 deaths in 2011. Sindh province, the area hardest hit by the measles outbreak, is also most affected by the current floods. The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported 141 measles outbreaks throughout the country

since the beginning of the year. The WHO report has described the situation in Pakistan as alarming due to a steady increase in measles cases and deaths.

Assessments and humanitarian operations are hampered by difficult access due to insecurity, standing flood waters and visa delays. More than 15 polio vaccinators have been killed in targeted attacks in December and January.

Update: 04/03/2013

TAJIKISTAN FOOD INSECURITY

Since the beginning of January 2013, over 2 million people (32% of the population) in Tajikistan are estimated by WFP to be at risk of food insecurity due to a prolonged lean season and depleted winter stocks. In the first half of 2012, IPC declared a humanitarian emergency in one district and warned of a dire situation in others. Most of Tajikistan's territory then was classified as an acute food and livelihoods crisis.

In Tajikistan, which heavily depends on import, prices of wheat flour remained stable or showed some declines in December 2012, though still by 33 percent higher than a year earlier. During 2012 an increase in food prices was recorded on other staple food products such as potatoes (by 19 percent), beef (by 15 percent), bread and other staple products. Transportation and fuel prices have contributed to the surge of food prices

High prices are likely to continue and place pressure on vulnerable families to meet food needs due to high and increasing prices in Kazakhstan and as households deplete their own stocks and rely more on market purchases.

Since 20 January temperatures dropping from minus 35 to minus 55 degrees Celsius and heavy snowfall have completely isolated several villages in Murgab District of Badakhshan Province affecting more than 6,000 people according to IFRC. Blocked roads, power shortages and broken communication lines made it almost impossible to reach the affected areas. Above average precipitation is projected for February, which may increase the likelihood of heavy snowfall and avalanches.

Updated: 04/03/2013

BANGLADESH INTERNAL UNREST

Clashes and violence escalated over the past week in Bangladesh, following the sentencing to death of a senior Islamist leader. The recent clashes mark the bloodiest bout of violence since the country's independence four decades ago. An estimated 34 people were killed on 28 February in 15 districts across the country. On 1 March, hundreds of pro-Government supporters and followers of the rival Jamaat-e-Islami party clashed at a market in the northern district of Gaibandha, leaving one man dead. On 2-3 March, another six people were killed in fresh clashes, with more than 5,000 protestors, in Shahjahanpur town in northern Bangladesh. The total death toll in the clashes over the war crimes verdicts has risen to 62 since January.

Demonstrations over the trial and sentencing of senior political leaders of the Jamaat party, the country's largest Islamic party, including the party's leader and deputy leader

over their role in the 1971 independence war, have resulted in several numerous clashes between the police and protesters since January.

A cold wave since mid-December affected more than two million people in 22 districts. The north-western regions of Rangpur and Rajshahi were most affected.

The cold wave has caused crop losses, which is likely to have a longer term negative impact on Bangladesh's economy. Due to extreme cold in northern parts, normal crop development, particularly boro seedlings, will be affected. Some 40% of the population is food insecure and this is aggravated by rising food prices and disasters destroying infrastructure and inundating land. Bangladesh is considered one of the world's most hazard prone countries and is often subject to floods. In 2012, the affected north-western region was hit by floods three times.

Updated: 04/03/2013

IRAQ DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

On 1 March, Iraq's Sunni Finance Minister resigned, after more than two months of demonstrations against the Shi'ite-led Government. Iraqi authorities said the Minister's bodyguards had confessed involvement in assassinations carried out in coordination with security men employed by Sunni Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi, who fled into exile a year ago and was later sentenced to death in absentia for terrorism. Tens of thousands of Sunni Muslims have taken part in demonstrations. The rallies were sparked by the arrest on December 20 of bodyguards of Iraq's Finance Minister and have spurred allegations that the Government was using anti-terror legislation to target the Sunni minority.

Two blasts in southern Iraq killed 5 people on 1 March. The blasts followed a series of explosions targeting Shi'ite neighbourhoods of Baghdad late on 28 February in which at least 22 people were killed

The violence is a continuation in the surge in unrest that has left 246 people killed in January, the highest number since September 2012. The unrest and attacks are linked to the country's long-running political dispute, with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki facing hardening opposition against his rule, and demanding an end to allegedly sectarian policies of the Shia-led Government.

As of 20 February, the number of Syrian registered refugees in Iraq stands at 96,270 with the autonomous region of Kurdistan hosting the large majority of refugees. Measles have been reported amongst new arrivals in Domiz refugee camp. In addition, a large number of Iraqis residing in Syria have returned to Iraq. As of 22 January, the total number of Iraqi returnees from Syria since mid-July 2012 is 68,122, according to UNHCR. Baghdad continues to be the governorate to receive the largest number of Iraqi returnees, followed by Anbar and Ninewa. On 3 March Iraq shut a border crossing with Syria after Syrian rebels seized the other side of the frontier post from the Syrian army.

An estimated 1.2 million were displaced inside Iraq by 11 June 2012. There is a lack of updated displacement figures. Although humanitarian access has become less restricted, security threats for international staff remain high, particularly in Baghdad, north/central governorates and the Disputed Territories.

Heavy rainfall throughout the country caused severe damage in Salaheddine province on 29 and 30 January. Local authorities in Tikrit issued a warning while an estimated 5,000 persons were evacuated in and around Beiji sub-district, located 50 km from Tikrit.

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JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

The number of Syrian refugees crossing the border to Jordan continues to increase. As of 3 March 260,273 Syrian refugees have been registered by UNHCR in Jordan and another 52,688 await registration. These figures do not include Syrians that have not registered or await registration. As a result, Jordan's economy, as well as water and energy resources, remain strained. The prices of commodities are higher in Jordan compared to Syria and the purchasing power of the refugees to cover basic needs is rapidly decreasing. Furthermore, food prices in Jordan have increased by nearly 50% due to the reduction of food imports and increased demand from new arrivals from Syria.

Jordanians voted on 23 January in the country's first parliamentary election since the Arab uprisings although without the participation of the main Islamist party which is demanding an end to official corruption and a louder voice for the urban poor. Turnout was 56.6% when polls closed after voting had been extended for an extra hour. Islamists accused the authorities of trying to inflate a low turnout to disguise the impact of their boycott. Preliminary results suggest that tribal coalitions and independent candidates loyal to King Abdullah won around 90% of the seats in Jordan's lower house of parliament.

Flooding caused by torrential rains at the beginning of January, affected the Zata'ari refugee camp in northern Jordan, which hosts 62,000 Syrian refugees. Widespread flooding swamped tents, and overwhelmed the camp draining system. Relief workers distributing aid to Syrian refugees were injured in a "stampede" in a camp where hundreds of tents have been destroyed by the rains. An influx of over 10,000 refugees over the past few weeks has pushed the Zata'ari camp over its 60,000-person capacity, and a second, 30,000-capacity camp near Zarqa is expected to open by the end of the month.

Updated: 04/03/2013

PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON

Continuous rains have caused floods in Agusan del Sur in the Province of Pampanga since last week. Some 49,073 persons are affected as of 27 February, according to the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office. The Municipality of San Luis has the highest number of affected, amounting to 19,577 across 11 barangays, followed by the municipality of Veruela with 12,125 persons affected across 12 barangays. Several municipalities have suffered damages on large agricultural stretches.

On 19 February, Tropical Depression "Crising" made landfall on the southern tip of Davao del Sur and moved northwest towards southern Palawan before moving away from the country on 21 February. According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Control (NDRRMC), some 52,325 households, or 262,880 persons, were affected in 137 barangays of seven regions. 39,406 of these were previously affected by

Typhoon Bopha. As of 25 February, 223,134 receive assistance inside and outside of evacuation centres.

Four consecutive days of rain combined with the tail-end of a cold front led to rising water levels in Mindanao in January. As of 26 January, there were more than 507,700 people affected, the majority of them, 369,000 people, in Davao Region.

The Philippines frequently experiences natural disasters, particularly tropical storms and cyclones. Typhoon Bopha (Pablo) struck the Philippines on 4 December 2012, causing extensive damage across the island of Mindanao. As of 13 February, 6.2 million people were still affected by Bopha, 925,412 people are displaced outside evacuation centres and 8,925 are displaced inside evacuation centres. A total of 233,163 households were totally or partially damaged. Humanitarian access to those affected is hampered by the remoteness of the affected areas, heavy rain, as well as the wide-scale impact.

Previously, tropical storm Wukong (Quinta) made landfall over the island of Leyte on 26 December, resulting in the displacement of estimated 60,000 people. As of 31 December, more than 240,000 people were affected by the tropical storm. Flood-affected towns in Capiz were placed under state of calamity on December 28.

The affected region of Mindanao is still recovering from four decades of conflict between the Government and rebel groups fighting for independence.

On 27 November, the Department of Health reported over 3,700 dengue cases since 1 January 2012, which is a 45% increase compared to the same period last year. A 1.15% Case Fatality Rate (CFR) has been recorded, with the highest CFR in General Santos City.

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SRI LANKA FLOODS

Heavy rain and flooding in Sri Lanka at the beginning of January has affected 355,000 people with 50,000 displaced as of 28 January. The rain and floods hit six of the country's nine provinces. The worst affected districts are Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Polonnaruwa, Puttalam and Kilinochchi.

Flooding and heavy rains are common in Sri Lanka: by the end of November, 210,000 people were affected by floods and landslides and 137,000 people were affected by cyclone 'Nilam' in October.

Just prior to the November rains, much of the country had been hit by a 10-month-long drought with 1.3 million people facing (severe) drought conditions in the north of Sri Lanka. This area is recovering from a civil war which lasted until 2009 and left more than one million people food insecure.

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DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

European Union Governments agreed on 18 February to tighten sanctions against North

Korea, restricting the country's ability to trade following last week's nuclear test. The sanctions expand those approved by the UN Security Council in January, adding measures preventing trading in North Korean Government bonds, gold, precious metals, and diamonds, EU diplomats said.

The UN Security Council unanimously approved a resolution condemning DPRK's long-range rocket launch in December. The announcement was met by DPRK with vows of strengthening military capacities and nuclear deterrence in January.

According to WFP, some three million people are estimated to face food deficits and remain vulnerable to under nutrition in five provinces in the north-east of the country.

Some 57% of households have 'borderline' food consumption. Chronic food insecurity in DPRK continues to affect two-thirds of the country's 24 million people. However, acute malnutrition rates seem to have improved this year due to better food rations and a consistent food assistance pipeline. According to the UN, the main 2012 harvests and 2013 early season crops will see a 10% increase compared to a year earlier and the production is expected to reach 5.8 million metric tons.

DPRK still requires international assistance. Flooding and a subsequent typhoon in July and August 2012 further affected an estimated 700,000 people, damaged health facilities and reduced access to primary and secondary health care. The floods further aggravated the impact of a severe dry spell in southwest and central provinces: a 30% decline in soybean production due to the dry spells in the first half of 2012 has been reported.

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

Updated: 04/03/2013



NORTH AMERICA

HAITI FLOODS, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE

Some 2.1 million people in Haiti are living in severe food insecurity and risk a nutritional crisis, according to the UN. An estimated 81,600 children under five suffer from acute malnutrition, of which 20,400 Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Rural populations are especially affected. Haiti is likely to face a second, consecutive below average harvest

due to early season dry conditions and flooding caused by Hurricane Sandy in November 2012. Large parts of the country face Stressed levels of food security (IPC Phase 2). Projections of the food security situation indicate that the poor and very poor in some municipalities in the Sud-est, Ouest and Nord-est departments will enter IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) between January and March 2013.

Since the start of the cholera outbreak in October 2010, the cumulative number of cases amounts to 645,964, with 118,000 potential new cholera cases in 2013. As of 19 February, 8,020 deaths have been reported. According to the Ministry of Public Health and Population, approximately 8,643 new cholera cases and 126 deaths were reported between 15 December 2012 and 15 January 2013. This represents a 40% decrease over the previous month but still represents a 65% increase over the same period last year. Artibonite department is most affected with 817 new cases of cholera (compared to 619 new cases for the same period in December) recorded during the first two weeks of January, due to contamination of rivers, unhygienic conditions and inadequate sanitation.

Torrential rain caused by Hurricane Sandy led to massive flooding, affecting 1.5 million people. Ouest, Sud-Est, Nippes, Grande-Anse and Sud were the provinces most affected by Hurricane Sandy. As of 15 February, 71,400 victims of Hurricane Sandy are still in need of humanitarian assistance according to OCHA. Recent surveys show that 119 out of 140 municipalities were severely affected by the drought, Tropical Storm Isaac and/or Hurricane Sandy in 2012, displacing at least 58,000 people in total.

In addition, almost three years after the earthquake, there are some 358,000 IDPs in Haiti.

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OCEANIA

SAMOA CYCLONE

On 13 December, flash floods and power cuts hit Samoa as tropical cyclone Evan struck the island-state with high winds and heavy rain. On 14 December, the Government declared a state of disaster, which expired on 21 January. Close to 17,000 people were affected. Substantive damages to power lines, roads, infrastructure and homes have been reported and the Alao area could be without water for up to four months. In addition to a disruption of water and sanitation schemes, livelihoods and crops and plantations have been severely affected. South-West, Central and Southern parts of the central highlands

on Upulo Island were worst affected.

The International Monetary Fund has indicated that the country's economy will be as hard hit as it was by the tsunami in 2009.

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Introduction to the Global Overview Update

The Global Overview is a weekly update that provides a snapshot of current humanitarian priorities and recent events. The Global Overview collates information from a wide range of sources, including Reliefweb and media sources, and displays this information in a manner that allows for quick comparison of different humanitarian crises. The primary objective of the Global Overview is to rapidly inform humanitarian decision makers by presenting a summary of major humanitarian crises, both recent and protracted. It is designed to provide answers to four questions;

1. Which humanitarian crises currently exist? (World map)
2. What has happened in the last seven days? (Highlights and snapshot)
3. What is the situation in the country affected by a crisis? (Narrative)
4. Which countries could be prioritised in terms of humanitarian response? (Prioritisation)

The Global Overview consists of three main sections:

Firstly, the **world map** provides an overview of how the countries are prioritised, indicated by different shades of blue. The countries are subdivided by four **priority levels**: "on watch", "situation of concern", "humanitarian crisis", and "severe humanitarian crisis".

The priority levels are assigned on the basis of:

- the number of people affected by recent disasters
- the level of access to the affected population
- the <5 mortality rate
- the level of development of the country
- the number of protracted IDPs and refugees.

If a country experienced a disaster in the seven days prior to an update, or witnessed an escalation of an on-going crisis, a country is **highlighted** by a yellow dot on the map.

Secondly, the **snapshot** briefly describes what has happened in the last seven days from the date of publication, by outlining the crises that have occurred in the different highlighted countries.

Thirdly, **narratives** for each country included in the Global Overview reflect recent major developments and underlying vulnerabilities of a country. Narratives are written based on secondary data.

The Global Emergency Overview is a mobile application.

To download the mobile application for Android phones [click here](#).

Or go here: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.acaps.acaps>

Update

The Global Overview will be updated once a week and the results will be available every Monday before midday (Central European Time/Central European Summer Time). In case of major new humanitarian events or an escalation of an on-going crisis which triggers a change of prioritisation, the Global Overview will be updated on an ad-hoc basis.

Disclaimer

While ACAPS has defined a methodology striving to ensure accuracy, the information provided is indicative and should not be used in isolation from alternate sources of information for any decision making. ACAPS is not responsible for any damage or loss resulting from the use of the information presented on this website.

More information on the Global Overview Methodology can be found in the [Global Overview Methodology Brief](#) and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).