GLOBAL EMERGENCY OVERVIEW
September 2013

Severe humanitarian crisis
Afghanistan
Burkina Faso
CAR
Chad
DRC
Haiti
Mali
Syria
Niger
Somalia
South Sudan
Sudan
Yemen

Humanitarian crisis
Djibouti
Ethiopia
Kenya
Malawi
Myanmar
Nigeria
oPt
Pakistan
Tajikistan
Uganda

Situation of concern
Angola
Bangladesh
Bolivia
Botswana
Cameroon
China
Gambia
Guinea
Honduras
Iraq
Jordan
Kyrgyzstan
Laos
Lebanon
Namibia
Nicaragua
Philippines

Watch list
DPRK
Eritrea

Snapshot 26 August – 02 September

In Syria, intensive fighting continued in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Rural Damascus and Homs. Intensive clashes which ignited at the start of the month between Government and opposition groups in the governorate of Lattakia appeared however to have ceased. At the start of the week, the US warned that a military strike against Syria was imminent, following the alleged use of chemical weapons near Damascus on 21 August. By the end of the week, President Obama indicated that he would seek congressional approval of the Congress before undertaking such an action. Against this background, Damascus accused opposition forces of using chemical weapons to prompt an international military intervention, while the opposition has accused the Government for this attack. Meanwhile, almost 2 million Syrians have been registered with UNHCR or are awaiting registration in neighboring countries.

Since early August, Pakistan has experienced severe rains and flash floods across the country. As of 29 August, the number of affected stood at between 1.3 and 1.5 million people across the country according to the authorities. The floods have reportedly killed 193 people and injured over 1,100 people.

From June to August, several provinces in the Northern and Central part of Laos were flooded due to heavy continuous rainfall while the country was affected by two tropical storms Jebi (31 July–3 August) and Mankhut (5-7 August). According to the UN, an estimated 119,625 people have been affected by the flooding with over 20
people killed in 7 of the country's 17 provinces.

Last Updated: 02/09/2013 Next Update: 11/09/2013
AFRICA

BURKINA Faso: Food Insecurity, Displacement

Highlights

As of end of August, 2,576 suspected cases of measles were reported mostly in the Sahel region.

26 August: The current number of Malian refugees in Burkina Faso (unchanged since April) stands at 49,975, including 27,146 children.

As of end of August, food access has improved for poor and very poor households following the cash assistance programme and adapted prices.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

Displacement: As of 26 August, UNHCR noted that the current number of Malian refugees in Burkina Faso (unchanged since April) stands at 49,975, including 27,146 children, according to UNICEF. Refugees are located in seven formally recognized camps and informal settlement sites: Mentao, Damba, Fereiro, Goudebo, Gandafabou, Bobo Dioulasso, and Ouagadougou. The majority of the camps are in the northern region of Sahel, in the provinces of Soum, Oudalan and Seno, where almost 90% of the Malian refugees are settled. The presence of Malian refugees and their cattle in this arid area exacerbates the scarcity of natural resources and poses a risk of increased tensions between local communities and refugees.

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to WFP, cereal production from the 2012/2013 agricultural season was over 30% higher than the 2011/2012 production, and FEWSNET indicated in August that food access has improved for the poor and very poor, following the cash assistance programme and adapted prices. This allows the targeted population to remain at minimal levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 1). However, the country has undergone several shocks over the past five years, including the 2011/2012 drought, and the population has not yet recovered from the last food crisis, mainly because many households still suffer from the effects of negative coping strategies, such as the sale of assets, implemented during the 2012 crisis.

Cereal prices have been stable since January 2013 and at levels slightly above the five-year average (by no more than 12%). OCHA reported in early August that the cost of coarse grains rose by 8% for millet, 19% for local sorghum, and 11% for maize. Limited non-agricultural income is expected to further affect the quantity and quality of food access until September 2013. During this period, 25-30% of households in the north will have food security issues and will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity.

FEWSNET previously stated that, as of June 2013, about 80% of the 16.9 million Burkinabe are currently meeting consumption needs and face Minimal/None (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity. OCHA noted that at end June, 1.8 million people (20% of the population) in Burkina Faso were food insecure. Difficulties in accessing food are primarily due to low purchasing power, low household agricultural production, and difficult geographical access to markets. A March FAO report found that the food insecure are predominantly in the Sahel, North and East regions.

In the Sahelian area of Burkina Faso, an estimated 90% of the population depends on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods. Civil strife in northern Mali has contributed to increased food supply issues in parts of the country, and OCHA reported in early July that the arrival of Malian refugees and their cattle had further increased pressure on scarce resources leading to tensions with local communities. A May WFP and UNHCR joint assessment showed that 15% of the Malian refugee households have poor or borderline food consumption, against 13% in the host population. A February FAO report found that the food insecure are predominantly in the Sahel, North and East regions.

The 2013 total annual caseload of children <5 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), as reported by UNICEF in late August, remains at January levels at an estimated 120,000. The number of children affected by Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) is estimated at 400,000, marking a decrease from January levels, bringing the <5 General Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate to 10.9%. According to 2012 assessments, the highest GAM rates were recorded in the regions of Centre North, East, North, Centre and Boucle de Mouhoun. In May, UNHCR and WFP reported that malnutrition is alarming among certain Malian refugee communities, especially in Goudebo, where the rates are beyond critical thresholds (SAM: 5.3%, MAM: 19.1%).

Health: In late August, 2,576 suspected cases of measles were reported, 35% were in the Sahel Health Region. Of the 35% Sahel cases, 40% were from the refugee camps.

According to UNICEF, the incidence of meningitis was at 1,679 cases as of early May 2013. In comparison to the previous year which saw 4,814 officially registered cases for the same period. The incidence rate this year is 66% lower indicating that the country is emerging from the high-transmission meningitis period and will most likely not experience an outbreak in 2013.

Updated: 02/09/2013
**Highlights**

**20-29 August:** Insecurity resurfaced in Bangui between 20 and 27 August. Reports indicated that at least 13 people were killed and over 30 injured during an alleged disarmament operation of supporters of the ousted President F. Bozize by the new authorities. The operation mainly targeted the Boy-Rabe and Boeing neighbourhoods, two strongholds where many supporters of the former regime reside. According to various international observers, the manoeuvre was marked by arbitrary arrests, detention, torture, extortion, armed robberies, physical violence, restriction of movement, and lootings and led to an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 people fleeing from the Boeing quarter to take refuge in the nearby Bangui International airport. The people have since dispersed after an intervention of the peacekeepers posted at the airport and are now sheltered in hospital and churches where overcrowding and deteriorating sanitary conditions are a major concern according to UNHCR. Following these events, UNHCR called on 29 August for authorities in the Central African Republic to protect civilians from fighting in the capital. The previous day, the new President Djotodia had allegedly barred fighters from the Seleka coalition from further participating in policing operations in Bangui and had declared that the task had to be left to the African Union-led International Support Mission to Central Africa (MISCA).

**27-28 August:** Violence is reportedly ongoing in various parts of the Central African Republic. Eight civilians were killed by Seleka fighters in the village of Ngaoundaye, about 500 km northwest of the capital with fighting between local residents and Seleka military also ongoing in the nearby Makele village where at least two Seleka military were killed. The previous day fighting was reportedly ongoing in Bo village, 50 km from Ngaoundaye, and in Beboura village, 140 km east of Ngaoundaye, with at least 10 civilians being killed in separate incidents.

**Late August:** As reported by FAO, an estimated 978,000 individuals were experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity levels while about 309,000 individuals are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) as of July. Accordingly, the total number of people in need of food assistance adds up to a total of about 1.29 million people (about 40% of the total population) nearly double the estimated level in February 2013. The estimation of the exact number of food insecure people in CAR remains nevertheless difficult to establish.

**Political and Security Context**

On 18 August, the former rebel leader Michel Djotodia, head of the Seleka coalition that took control of the Central African Republic (CAR) following a coup in late March, was formally sworn in as the country’s new president. The inauguration of Djotodia officially marks the beginning of his interim administration’s 18-month deadline to restore order and organise elections. The ceremony was attended by Chad’s President Idriss Deby and Congo Republic’s President Denis Sassou Nguesso in what may be seen as a sign of support of regional strongmen to the new CAR leadership.

The situation in CAR remains highly volatile with various sources reporting widespread insecurity and clashes between elements of the Seleka coalition and the population. Various rebel leaders, de facto new warlords, are reportedly dominating the country outside of the capital Bangui. On 14 August, the new CAR leadership reiterated its intention to fight against the spread of small weapons within the country. Looting and destruction is virtually unchecked, with an increasing number of unpaid Seleka members roaming the streets and setting up checkpoints to collect money. Increasingly, the local population is responding by organising vigilante groups.

According to a senior UN official who visited the country in early August, the security is at present virtually non-existent beyond the capital while state institutions are close to collapse. In various parts of the country, human rights infringements, arrests and executions are reported. In mid-August, another UN official commented that the country is on the brink of collapse and the crisis is threatening to spread beyond CAR’s borders.

With several international organisations having ceased operations in CAR, information on levels of violence remains difficult to ascertain. According to local reports, on 28 August, eight civilians were killed by Seleka fighters in the village of Ngaoundaye, about 500 km northwest of the capital with fighting between local residents and Seleka military also ongoing in the nearby Makele village where at least two Seleka military were killed. The previous day fighting was reportedly ongoing in Bo village, 50 km from Ngaoundaye, and in Beboura village, 140 km east of Ngaoundaye, with at least 10 civilians being killed in separate incidents.

This string of violent incidents came after insecurity resurfaced in Bangui between 20 and 27 August. Reports indicated that at least 13 people were killed and over 30 injured during an alleged disarmament operation of supporters of the ousted President F. Bozize by the new authorities. The operation mainly targeted the Boy-Rabe and Boeing neighbourhoods, two strongholds where many supporters of the former regime reside. According to various international observers, the manoeuvre was marked by arbitrary arrests, detention, torture, extortion, armed robberies, physical violence, restriction of movement, and lootings and led to an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 people fleeing from the Boeing quarter to take refuge in the nearby Bangui International airport. The people have since dispersed after an intervention of the peacekeepers posted at the airport and are now sheltered in hospital and churches where overcrowding and deteriorating sanitary conditions are a major concern according to UNHCR. Following these events, UNHCR called on 29 August for authorities in the Central African Republic to protect civilians from fighting in the capital. The previous day, the new President Djotodia had allegedly barred fighters from the Seleka coalition from further participating in policing operations in Bangui and had declared that the task had to be left to the African Union-led International Support Mission to Central Africa (MISCA). In mid-April, a first disarmament operation in Boy-Rabe had been widely criticised by foreign observers, including Human Rights Watch, as it resulted in widespread lootings of houses amidst indiscriminate shootings of civilians by members of the Seleka coalition.

Caritas informed that clashes between the local population and fighters of the Seleka have been reported from the town of Bohong in the north of the country on 16-18 August. On 11 August, UNHCR reported new clashes between the population in rural areas and some elements of the Seleka in the village of Beboura, 30 km from Paoua, a city near the Chadian border. Although information to date remains limited, casualties were reported and...
moved to a hospital in Paoua. In a separate incident on the same day, local sources reported violence in Bossangoa city, in the northwest prefecture of Ouham, that resulted in seven people killed in clashes with Seleka elements. Two other people were reportedly killed in the area in mid-August while local sources reported widespread insecurity along the road between Bozoum and Bossangoa where armed men attacked several villages.

In early August, Caritas also reported ongoing violence in a village called Ouhman Bac in the country’s northwest where between 30 and 50 people were killed. While information remains difficult to ascertain, local reports also pointed to possible mass killings occurring in the area of Bambari, the country’s third biggest city in the south. On 5-6 August, attacks and arbitrary killings by Seleka-affiliated elements continued to be reported from the capital Bangui. As of June, OCHA reported that at least 8 attacks, 20 killings and 60 abductions took place in the second quarter of 2013, notably in the northwestern Haut-Kotto Préfecture.

On 1 August, the Multinational Force of Central African States (FOMAC) that had been dispatched to CAR to help in improving security has become the African Union-led International Support Mission to Central Africa (MISCA) with the main mandate of helping restore control of the authorities over the whole territory. MISCA is composed of 2,475 military from Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Gabon and Chad. FOMAC had been operating in CAR since before the coup, alongside the 550 French military posted in CAR, with a role to helping with the disarmament of militias and in easing tensions.

Initially, violence had erupted in CAR in December 2012, when the Seleka coalition, a group of five rebel movements, took up arms against the Government claiming that the latter had failed to honour the 2001 and 2007 peace deals declaring amnesty for fighters who laid down their arms. Throughout March, the Seleka rebels took control of various towns and continued their advance until they seized Bangui on 24 March and toppled President Bozizé who fled to Cameroon.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

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

**Displacement:** UNHCR indicated on 21 August that there are presently an estimated 225,000 internally displaced people in the country, including at least 100,000 children. This number may however be higher, given that humanitarian access to parts of the country remains restricted due to insecurity. Recent unrest in Bangui in late August has reportedly triggered the further displacement of up to 6,000 people.

As of late August, UNHCR reported that 62,714 people have fled from CAR since the latest CAR crisis erupted last December. The Democratic Republic of Congo alone has received an estimated 40,500 refugees while Chad witnessed the arrival of 13,087 people, including 4,125 who arrived in the Moissala area since mid-July; an additional 4,841 people moved to Republic of Congo and 4,286 to Cameroon respectively. Cumulatively, there are over 220,000 refugees from CAR in neighbouring countries.

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

According to OCHA, in June 2013, the number of displaced in Lord’s Resistance Army LRA-affected areas remains at 21,000 but requires verification when the situation stabilises; 3,815 DRC refugees remain hosted in Haut-Mbomou with a majority (3,225) in Zemio camp.

**Access:** In Bangui, a local UN staff member was reportedly attacked by rogue Seleka elements on 12 August. This last incident followed one a week earlier, in which another local UN staff member was seriously wounded and his wife killed. UNHCR reported that it remains extremely concerned with the limitations on humanitarian access, although access to the refugee camps at Bambari, Batalimo, and Zemio that host mainly Congolese and Sudanese refugees in central and southern CAR, have improved. On 14 August, Caritas reported ongoing attacks against aid workers in the country.

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

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

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As reported by FAO in late August, an estimated 978,000 individuals were experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity levels while about 309,000 individuals are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) as of July. Accordingly, the total number of people in need of food assistance adds up to a total of about 1.29 million people (about 40% of the total population), nearly double the estimated level in February 2013. The estimation of the exact number of food insecure people in CAR remains nevertheless difficult to establish. In June, OCHA and the Food Security/Nutrition Working Group reported that 2 million people in CAR faced Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity. On 8 August, WFP announced that it was scaling-up operations in CAR, amid increasing concerns that ongoing insecurity is fuelling hunger among people who have fled their homes and farms.

According to a FEWSNET report published in late August, due to poor food availability and reduced income levels, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute food insecurity will continue
Until the end of the lean season in September for northern, eastern, and central, conflict-affected areas. With the definitive start-of-season in the south and west, poor households are consuming wild and cultivated vegetables, which have improved food security conditions in these areas.

However, due to an unstable security situation, households have not been able to make effective use of their livelihood assets and will continue to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes through September. The September harvests will enable households in most areas of the country to access food through their own crop production. However, in certain areas of northern, eastern, and central CAR, harvests are expected to be delayed and below-average. Consequently, households in these areas will continue to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes between October and December.

A recent Rapid Emergency Food Security Assessment indicated that the most vulnerable populations have begun adopting negative coping mechanisms, such as eating once a day only, and reducing food diversity. Unless urgent food assistance is provided, a nutritional crisis is highly likely during the lean season. The report highlights that the food security situation of IDPs remains critical. Displacement has led to fields not being cultivated and a famine situation is currently developing.

As reported by FAO in late August, market supplies are tight across the country and food prices are at high levels following the severe and widespread market disruptions due to increased civil insecurity. The average inflation rate, which surged from 1.3% in 2011 to 5% in 2012, is forecast to rise further to 8% in 2013.

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

**Health:** As reported by Merlin in early June, 3.2 million people are living without health care. In August, OCHA reported that less than 20% of the country’s medical facilities are operational. In July, MSF stated that even before the coup, the country was in a state of crisis with mortality rates being well above the emergency threshold in several regions.

Malnutrition and preventable diseases are reportedly rife while malaria is the leading cause of death. In the first quarter of 2013, MSF teams saw alarming numbers of malaria cases, at 33% higher than during the same period last year. Children <5 are among the worst affected by the epidemic. Some 23,910 children sought treatment for malaria during this period in 2012, while nearly double (44,469) have done so this year.

According to UNICEF, a measles epidemic in Bangui County was confirmed and the organisation coordinated a vaccination campaign in late May. While the epidemic was initially diagnosed in the western region, it later spread to large parts of the county, such as the towns of Ngaoundaye, Abba and Carnot, Begoua and Mbaki, as well as the suburbs of the capital Bangui.

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

**Protection:** INGOs have reported a sharp rise in human rights abuses across the country, including attacks on civilians, child recruitment, arbitrary arrest, illegal detention, summary executions, rape, and other violations against civilians. Overall, several INGOs have indicated that children, notably those displaced by the conflict, remain a particularly vulnerable group. Several organisations, including UNICEF, have reported the re-recruitment of children <18, some of whom had been recently demobilised, into Seleka forces. According to OCHA, as of mid-August, at least 3,500 children have been recruited into armed groups.

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

**Updated: 02/09/2013**

**CHAD FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY**

**Highlights**

**28 August:** Food insecurity remains stressed (IPC Phase 2) in Logone Oriental, Tangjilé, Logone Occidental and Mayo Kebbi West, mostly due to seasonal price increase and depletion of stocks.

**21 August:** Heavy rains struck eastern Chad and led to the destruction of over 2,000 houses in the Sudanese refugee camp Mile. The number of affected people is unknown.

**13 August:** On-going political turmoil in the Central African Republic (CAR) has led to 13,087 CAR refugees crossing into Chad since December, bringing the total number of CAR refugees in Chad to more than 70,000.

**19 July:** The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reports that regional instability is leading many Chadians refugees to return to Chad, along with refugees from CAR, northern Nigeria and Sudanese Darfur.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Access:** Insecurity, particularly in eastern and southern Chad, continues to limit humanitarian access. The rainy season starting in July is expected to obstruct humanitarian access to Tissi, with the aerial route between Tissi and the humanitarian bases in Koukou and Goz Beida likely to be closed from late June.

**Disaster:** On 21 August, local media reported that heavy rains struck eastern Chad and led to the destruction of more than 2,000 houses in the Sudanese refugee camp Mile. The number of affected people is unknown.
Displacement: Chad has witnessed an escalating influx of migrants and refugees from neighbouring countries since March. According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on 29 July, instability in CAR, northern Nigeria and Darfur region of Sudan has led many Chadians to return home with an estimated 1,000 returnees from CAR, 1,500 returnees from Nigeria and 22,000 returnees fleeing Sudanese Darfur to the border town of Tissi.

As of early July, 20,640 Chadian returnees and 30,448 Sudanese refugees had arrived at Tissi. This marked the largest influx of Sudanese refugees into Chad since 2005, and according to UNHCR on 18 August, the total number of Sudanese refugees in Chad has increased to 330,000 people. The displaced fled a conflict over gold mines in northern Darfur between the Binheissin and Rizeigat ethnic groups, and another wave later crossed into Chad fleeing inter-communal violence between the Salamat and Misseriya ethnic groups in Um Dukhun, Central Darfur.

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

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

People fleeing violence in northern Nigeria have crossed into Western Chad around the area of Lake Chad. Returnees from Nigeria are primarily unaccompanied minors from fishing villages in Bagakawa, according to UNICEF. As of early June, Chadian authorities reported an estimated 1,200 returnees dispersed across three hard-to-reach locations: Bagasola, Ngouboua and Tchoucoutelia.

Food Security and Malnutrition: Two consecutive years of continued climatic shocks, including poor rainfall in 2011, caused significant food security concerns in Chad in 2012 and continuing into 2013. According to WFP and the Chadian Government, 13% of households (around 1.2 million people) face severe food insecurity and another 9% face moderate food insecurity in 18 regions across Chad. In total, 2.1 million people are reportedly food insecure. According to FEWSNET on 28 August, food insecurity remains stressed (IPC Phase 2) in Logone Oriental, Tangjlé, Logone Occidental and Mayo Kebbi West, mostly due to seasonal price increase and depletion of stocks earlier than usual (direct effect of the 2012 floods).

The Chadian Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation reports that the final cereal production figures for the 2012/2013 agricultural season stand at 3.1 million tons of cereals. This marks an increase of 91% compared to the previous season and 54% compared to the five-year production average. The good 2012/2013 harvests have allowed very poor and poor households to replenish food reserves while market prices across Chad have remained stable and even occasionally trending downwards. According to FEWSNET, food security conditions will steadily improve with the rebuilding of the production capacity and the replenishment of livelihood assets.

However, despite a net cereal production surplus form the current harvest season, production deficits have been registered in some structurally food-deficient regions of the Sahel belt. The main reasons are: drought, crop diseases, and destruction by birds. In the southern part of Chad, deficits are largely a result of floods.

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

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

Health: Local media reported on 25 July that Sudanese refugees of camp Treguine in eastern Chad have complained of high rates of malaria, diarrhoea, deterioration of the environmental health, and lack of medicine.

Updated: 02/09/2013

DEMONCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

**Highlights**

**As of 30 August**, close to 2 million people are internally displaced in DR Congo, including more than 975,000 in North Kivu, 352,617 in Orientale, 368,000 in Katanga and 250,000 IDPs in Maniema provinces. The latest population movements are reportedly due to the activism of armed groups in the region, and clashes between various militias and between the official military forces FARDC.

24-28 August: The official military forces FARDC clashed with the Patriotic Resistance Force of Ituri (FRPI) in Walendu-Bindi, Bavi and Olongba (Oriental). The fighting lasted four days, and displaced 30,000 people in the south of Irumu territory, including 20,000 who sought refuge in Soke. Other displaced were still moving toward Aveba, Kaguma and Geti.

24-26 August: Heavy rains caused flooding in South-Kivu and Orientale, destroying up to 200 houses and leaving hundreds of people homeless.
21–26 August: Fighting in Goma (North-Kivu) and surroundings left more than 80 people dead in the most serious outbreak of violence in months. Shelling of residential areas by the M23 forces the UN intervention brigade to be drawn in the fighting.

24 August: A demonstration was organised in the capital (Ndosho area) following the shelling on Goma, and two demonstrators were killed.

22 August: 1,500 people sought refuge around the MONUSCO base in Pinga (North-Kivu), after the area was attacked by an armed group on 19 August. Other displaced persons headed toward Lubero in the south.

21 August: Ethnic conflict involving the Barundi and the Batulirro resulted in the death of eight people. These latest events, combined with the activities of rebel groups in the villages of Sange, Mutalure and Rwena (South-Kivu), caused 1,211 DRC refugees to flee into Burundi between 16 and 21 August.

19 August: Clashes between the militia NDC (Nduna Defense of Congo, a rebel group based in Pinga) and the Rwandan Hutu rebel group DFLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) in the territory of Walikale (North-Kivu), caused displacement for three consecutive days.

As of 15 August, an outbreak of measles in the area of Kamonia killed 40 children in Kamako (Kasai Occidental), exacerbated by unsanitary conditions following massive population displacement and overcrowding in settlements.

Political and Security context

North-Kivu

Fighting in Goma and surroundings left more than 80 people dead this week in the most serious outbreak of violence in months. At least 10 civilians died, and dozens were wounded, after shells landed in the residential areas of Goma city where more than 150,000 have been displaced since 2012. Clashes between the M23 and the official military forces FARDC that took place between 21 and 26 August caused heavy casualties on both sides, as well as civilian deaths, and have forced the UN intervention brigade to be drawn in the fighting for the first time since the beginning of its unprecedented mandate to launch military operations against M23, a Tutsi-dominated insurgency group at the heart of nearly two decades of conflict. The UN reported on 28 August that one of its peacekeepers has been killed and three other wounded in the clashes.

On 24 August, a demonstration was organised in the capital (Ndosho area) following the shelling on Goma, and two demonstrators were killed.

On 21 August, local media reported fighting between the M23 (a Tutsi-dominated insurgency group) and the governmental forces FARDC in Kibati and Kanyaruchina, causing most of the people to flee the area.

On 14 August, MONUSCO (the UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) reported that its intervention brigade and the FARDC currently control areas between Sake, Mutaho and Moja, which constitute potential entry points for a rebel attack on Goma. This followed the threat by the M23 to retake the capital if the government did not respect its commitment to peace talks at the beginning of August.

Hostilities between the FARDC and the M23 began on 14 July in areas around Mutaho, Kanyarucinya, Kibati and in the mountains near Ndsho (a few kms from Goma) and are considered to be at the deadliest events since the beginning of the rebellion in April 2012. During June, the M23 reinforced its position around Goma, and launched a series of attacks on 12 July in retaliation for the interruption of peace talks that took place in Kampala between the DRC Government and the M23, after representative of the insurgents claimed that government teams left the talks. On 30 July, the UN peacekeeping mission in DRC announced that it would use its intervention brigade to enforce a security zone around Goma, giving M23 rebels (and individuals who are not members of national security forces) 48 hours to hand in their weapons to a MONUSCO base and join the Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement process. Though the rebel group disregarded the ultimatum, the security zone was established around Goma-Sake.

On 2 August, people demonstrated in Goma to request the extension of the safety zone to Rutshuru and Nyiragongo territories, which continue to experience large-scale M23 exactions against civilians. National dialogue is ongoing in Kampala, in neighbouring Uganda.

On 19 August, local media reported that clashes between the militia NDC (Nduna Defense of Congo), a rebel group based in Pinga, and the Rwandan Hutu rebel group DFLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) in the territory of Walikale have caused displacement for three consecutive days. An unknown number of people from Kishimba and Ikobo sought refuge in Bulewusa, Miriki, and Kanyabayonga. Earlier in August, clashes between the militia NDC and the Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS), a Hunde-dominated rebel group based in northeastern DRC) caused the displacement of an unknown number of people from Bihiiri, toward Malemo and Kalembre. The zone around Pinga has experienced insecurity and tension for over a year, with the two rebel groups fighting for control of the area.

On 1 August, clashes between the militia NDC and the FARDC between Walikale and Kisangani caused an unknown number of people to flee toward Njingala (western North-Kivu). The same week, the population of five villages around Pinga sought refuge inside Pinga following the arrival of the Rwandan Hutu rebel group DFLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) in the area, local media reported on 15 August. Though information is difficult to ascertain, an estimated 150 people have been killed in Pinga since late May.

On 11 July 2013, the Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU) rebels attacked the town of Kamango in North-Kivu, causing at least 66,000 refugees to cross the border into western Uganda's Bundibugyo district. Initially, the ADF/NALU rebel movement fought the Ugandan government of Yoweri Museveni, but it has been based in eastern DRC since 2000 and has been recruiting, training and reorganizing to carry out attacks on Uganda. FARDC, tasked with fighting rebel groups across the country, has been engaged in several clashes with ADF/NALU in North-Kivu. On 11 July, ADF/NALU ousted FARDC from Kamango, but the city was taken back by the Congolese army on 12 July. Following reports of human rights abuses by ADF/NALU against civilians in Kamango district near Beni in North-Kivu, a UN patrol was sent to
assess the security situation in the area and address concerns related to the protection of civilians, the UN reported on 16 July.

According to local media, North-Kivu harbours 27 different armed groups. The UN has reported ongoing human rights abuses by militias and governmental troops. According to ICRC, there are reports of indiscriminate and fierce attacks on civilians and of increasing tension.

South-Kivu

In the Uvira area, on the Rusizi plain, local media reported on 15 August that unidentified armed men attacked Muturule-Katekama, killing 11 people including a woman and four children. On 13 August, local media reported heavy fighting in Baraka, between the official military forces (FARDC) and the militia Yakutumba (a rebel group also known as Fal Alleluia). Four militiamen died and five civilians were wounded in the attack on FARDC headquarters which was aiming at releasing rebel fighters arrested on 9 August. No displacement was recorded but villagers were advised to restrain their movements until the situation stabilized. The Uvira area, along the Burundi border, currently hosts six armed groups and has experienced increasing tensions since end of July, according to local media.

Maniema

On 30 July, OCHA reported the presence of armed groups in eastern areas of Maniema, affecting the safety of civilians. Looting was reported on 15 July and the town of Kitamuna is still under the control of armed groups since January 2013, causing the displacement of hundreds of villagers.

Oriental

According to local media, unidentified armed men attacked four villages on 24 August in Kakwa and Kaliko in Ituri. All the houses were burnt and people forced to flee in the bush, until the FARDC ousted the attackers. On 23 August, FARDC also clashed with the Patriotic Resistance Force of Ituri (FRPI) in Walendo-Bindi, Bavi and Olongba. OCHA reported on 28 August that the fighting lasted four days, and displaced 30,000 people in the south of Irumu territory, including 20,000 who sought refuge in Soke. Other displaced were still moving toward Aveba, Kaguma and Geti.

OCHA reported on 21 August that clashes between the FARDC and a rebel group based in the Mambasa region allegedly caused the death of four civilians on 16 August. In Mahagi, north of Lake Albert, along the Ugandan border, local media reported on 23 August that tensions are rising between the FARDC and the Ugandan army.

Katanga

Militia fighters allegedly killed the member of a local organisation on 7 August in Kanwankolo, south of Pweto, because of his apparent links with FARDC. In Pweto, OCHA reported on 16 August that clashes between the FARDC and local militia displaced over 4,000 people toward Lwantete (north) and Mutabi (southwest). In the same area, the presence of the rebel group Popular Self-Defence Forces (FAP) around Kizabi is creating tension and risk of additional clashes. In Katanga Province, the separatist militia group Bakata Katanga has carried out continuous attacks since early June in Nganie causing large displacement and unrest for the local communities.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access: Access is limited in large parts of DRC. Physical and infrastructural impediments to delivering aid are significant due to mountainous and volcanic terrain and a lack of asphalted roads in some areas, especially in Maniema province. In Kabeya Kamwanga in Kasai Oriental, IDPs remain without assistance or shelter.

Tensions between aid workers and the local population, with incidents of hostilities against aid workers and interference in delivering of aid, have been reported. Between January and August 2013, 137 security incidents against aid workers occurred across the country.

In North-Kivu, the INGO Médecins Sans Frontières announced early August that it would cease its activities in the area of Pinga, where clashes between rebel groups and the FARDC have caused increasing insecurity, and after receipt of threats of attack on its staff. The suspension will worsen an already dire health and humanitarian situation.

In Orientale province, an estimated 20,000 IDPs are reportedly blocked from access to humanitarian services. The situation of IDPs from Lowa and Mitchaliko in Ubundu territory cannot be assessed because of ongoing military operations, OCHA reported on 16 July.

Disaster: In Orientale, local media reported on 30 August that more than 500 people are currently homeless after flooding destroyed 170 houses in Dungu. Water has also damaged crops to a large extent, and wells have been flooded.

In South-Kivu, local media reported on 26 August that more than 20 houses were destroyed on 24 August after heavy rains in Malenga, in Kamiji territory. Many other buildings are reported severely damaged, and affected people are staying in host families.

In Equateur, local media reported on 12 August that torrential rains in the town of Gbadolite (northeast, along the CAR border) destroyed the houses of thousands of people.

Displacement: As of 5 July, OCHA estimated that 2.6 million people remained displaced in DRC as a result of fighting between the Congolese army and various rebel groups; 450,000 Congolese refugees are currently residing in neighbouring countries.

UNHCR reported that DRC faces increasing numbers of refugees crossing from CAR with 40,500 refugees who have arrived in DRC since December 2012, as of 13 August. According to UNHCR on 31 July, DRC hosts over 183,000 refugees among whom over 127,000 come from Rwanda and the rest from CAR, Burundi, Sudan, Uganda and the Republic of Congo.

North-Kivu

OCHA reported on 30 August that North-Kivu is currently hosting more than 975,000 IDPs, which represents a 0.87% increase compared to June. The latest population movements are reportedly due to the activism of armed groups in the region, and clashes between various militias and between militias and FARDC in the territories of Masisi, Beni and
Rutshuru.

In Walikale territory, local NGOs reported mid-August that 16,000 displaced people from Munzanga, Kisone, Munzanga, Busakara and Pinga are located in the villages of Rusamambu, Buleusa, Kateku, Kilambo et Bukumbiriwa, following clashes between armed groups. According to NRC end of August, 15,000 people have fled Kituba in July, and are still displaced in Nyanzale, Kihondo and Kasoko, after attacks by armed men suspected to be part of the militia Nduma Defence of Congo (NDC). On 19 July, clashes between the militia NDC and the Rwandan Hutu rebel group DFRL in the territory of Walikale had already caused displacement for three consecutive days. An unknown number of people from Kishimba and Ikobo sought refuge in Bulewusa, Miriki, and Kanyabayonga. Local media reported IDPs are staying with host families or outside, and are in urgent need of food.

On 22 August, OCHA reported that 1,500 people sought refuge around the MONUSCO base in Pinga after the area was attacked by an armed group on 19 August. Other displaced persons headed toward Lubero in the south.

From 5-11 August, clashes between the two militia NDC (Nduna Defense of Congo) and the APCLS (Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo) displaced an unknown number of people from Bihiri, toward Malemo and Kalembé. On 1 August, clashes between NDC and the official military force between Walikale and Kisangani caused an unknown number of people to flee toward Njingalal (western North-Kivu).

On 13 August, OCHA reported that a joint assessment conducted in Cantine (Beni territory) showed the presence of 6,600 IDPs: 5,800 people from Province Orientale, namely Pangoy, Kitembo, Mabutua, and Camp Liberté; and 940 people from Kambau and Midele (northwest of Lubero). These population movements occurred from 22-29 July after attacks by Simba militia.

In Kikuvo (southwest of Lubero), OCHA reported on 13 August the presence of 3,000 IDPs (from Ndwali, Munia, Kakindo, Musutti, Bukunuru, Yupwanzu and Matolu), displaced after clashes between the FARDC and the armed group Congolese Patriotic Resistance (PARECO) which occurred in May 2013 and fighting between militias Shetani and Nyatura in June 2013. A joint assessment reported high levels of food insecurity, and concerns around the WASH situation of the displaced.

In early July, OCHA reported that clashes around Kibati and Kanuarucinya, between the M23 and the FARDC had led 6,000 to seek refuge in Goma and in neighbouring towns of Kibumba and Kabuhanga, in Rwanda. Since April, clashes in North-Kivu have displaced over 74,000 people. OCHA notes that North-Kivu has the highest number of IDPs (967,050 IDPs). According to OCHA on 23 August, Goma is running out of space for DR Congo’s displaced, with 43,000 IDPs already residing in and around the capital in overstretched camps.

On 11 July, the ADF/NALU’s attack on the town of Kamango led to 66,000 people from eastern DRC North-Kivu province fleeing into neighbouring Uganda. On 1 August, WFP reported that 70% of the refugees have returned and now face food shortages. A joint assessment conducted from 25 to 28 July reported that 37,000 of these displaced people are currently in the area of Nobili, 10,700 in Kizimba, and 810 in Kinigi and Rubaya. Some IDPs (in Kizimba, Kinigi and Rubaya) are reported to have fled clashes related to other armed groups including the Popular Congolese Forces (FPC) and the militia Nyatura.

South-Kivu

UNHCR reported on 21 August that ethnic conflict involving the Barundi and the Bafulinro resulted in the death of eight people. These latest events, combined with the activities of rebel groups in the villages of Sange, Mutalure and Rwena, caused 1,211 DRC refugees to flee into Burundi between 16 and 21 August. The newly displaced are currently hosted in the two transit centres of Cishemere and Kajaga or reside with host communities in the area of Cibitoke. Since January 2013, 6,000 DRC refugees have entered Burundi.

In South-Kivu, 52,600 new IDPs have been registered since January. As of late June, WFP reported that the number of people displaced has increased from 702,093 to 712,254 since end of March 2013, following clashes between the FARDC and local militias. On 1 August, OCHA reported that between January and June 2013, 184,530 IDPs who previously fled South Kivu have returned, mainly in Shabunda territory.

Maniema

OCHA reported on 26 August that Maniema province is currently hosting 250,000 IDPs as a result of the ongoing conflict in the Kivus. They are mainly located in the east of the province between Punja and Pangi and suffer from very limited access to aid.

On 30 July, OCHA reported the displacement of 1,000 people from Kitamuna toward the south of Punja after an armed group attacked and looted their village. Kitamuna is reportedly still under control of the rebels.

Oriental

As of end of August, OCHA reported that some 351,617 people (of whom 51,262 have been displaced since January 2013) remain displaced in Orientale province. Additionally, on 23 August, the FARDC clashed with the Patriotic Resistance Force of Ituri (FRPI) in Walendu-Bindi, Bavi and Olongba. OCHA reported on 28 August that the fighting lasted four days, and displaced 30,000 people in the south of Ituri territory, including 20,000 who sought refuge in Soke. Other displaced were still moving toward Aveba, Kaguma and Geti. The province is also affected by the activism of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), a Ugandan militant movement operating in DRC since 2005, which allegedly conducted 30 attacks in Q2 of 2013, mostly in Dungu territory.

Kasai oriental

Early July, local sources reported that hundreds of people have been displaced following clashes in the area between two Dimbelenge communities in which seven people were killed. According to the information available to date, IDPs in Kabeya Kamwanga remain without assistance or shelter.

Katanga

Since April, clashes between Mai-Mai groups and the FARDC have led to new population displacement. At least 368,000 people were reportedly displaced in the province as of 30
August. Since the beginning of June, attacks in Katanga Province by the Bakata Katanga militia resulted in the displacement of 23,000 people according to official sources. Most recently IDPs fled from Nganie to Mwanza, straining Mwanza resources, mostly with heightened food insecurity.

On 17 August, elements from the rebel group Popular Self-Defence Forces (FAP) tried to abduct IDPs in the spontaneous camp of Mwasi, in the Pweto area. This is the second incident of this type this month showing the persistent insecurity in the province. A UN assessment conducted from 7 to 12 August recorded 43,800 IDPs in Pweto in July. According to OCHA on 22 August, population movements are mainly on the axes of Pweto/Mutabi/Lwantete and Pweto/Lukonzolwa/Nzwiba.

Food Security and Malnutrition: A June report by FSNWG estimated that 6.4 million people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity, which represents an increase of about 75,000 people compared to October 2012. Two-third of them (about 4.2 million people) are severely food insecure and are concentrated in the east of North-Kivu province and the south of Katanga province, where civil conflict has been escalating since March. Persistent insecurity has severely damaged local livelihood systems, caused massive displacement and restricted access to land and agricultural inputs. High food prices in eastern and southern provinces are exacerbating food insecurity for poor households.

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

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

In Maniema, an inter-cluster assessment conducted in Punja territory between 11 and 18 July showed that more than 130,000 displaced and returnees (18,755 households) are living in very dire conditions, eating down to 4 or 2 times per week. The conflict between the FARDC and the milicia Raïa Mutomboki in Punja (December 2012 – April 2013) caused the population to miss two agricultural seasons and to lose all their assets in their displacement.

Health: Across the country, 19,000 cholera cases were registered for 2013 as of 30 August, OCHA reports. 337 deaths have been reported for a fatality rate of 2%. Over 60% of the cases (more than 18,163) are registered in Katanga Province. During 2012, DRC had 30,753 registered cholera cases, with 709 deaths, compared to 21,700 cases in 2011. The surge in cholera cases is largely the result of limited access to safe drinking water, poor hygiene conditions, and poor sanitation. More than 4 million cases of malaria have been reported since the beginning of 2013 as of 17 June; 8,500 deaths have been registered due to malaria during the same period. On 1 August, WHO reported 519 measles cases since January 2013. In Kasai Occidental, local media reported on 15 August an outbreak of measles in the area of Kamonia. 40 children have died of the disease in Kamako (including 28 deaths on 6 and 7 August) due to unsanitary conditions following massive population displacement and overcrowding in settlements.

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

South-Kivu
According to MSF on 27 August, at least ten people died of rabies, mostly in the Lemera health zone, which triggered a rabies intervention in the east of the country.

Maniema
An inter-cluster mission conducted in Punja and Kasese from 11 to 18 July reported several deaths among children due to both measles and severe anaemia. The health zone of Punja records very high level of infant mortality due to anaemia, mostly because of access and provision issues of medication stocks in health centres. At least 29 deaths of children under 5 were reported in June.

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

Katanga
According to OCHA on 26 August, more than 1,500 deaths due to malaria were recorded within the last 8 months in the province.

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

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

Updated: 02/09/2013
As of 29 August, an estimated 509,000 people continue to remain displaced in Mali and in neighbouring countries. The number of internally displaced has increased since January from 261,000 to 333,622 at the end of August.

28 August: Fifty-five people were killed by heavy rains that provoked flash floods in almost all the neighbourhoods of the capital Bamako, and made thousands of people homeless. Earlier in August, OCHA reported that heavy rains caused flooding in the Kidal and Segou regions, destroying fields, houses and latrines, and affecting 11,300 people.

15 August: Ibrahim Boubacar Keita was announced winner of the Malian presidential elections with 77.6% of the votes.

Early August: In areas occupied by armed groups, 65% of health structures are reported partially or non-functional compared to 17% nationwide.

1 August: Between 25 June and 12 July, 8,148 refugees returned to Mali and were registered in Gao, Mopti and Tombouctou.

28 July: Malians voted in the first polls since a military coup and insurgency 16 months ago.

18 July: Clashes occurred between Tuareg and other communities following a rumour about the upcoming reinforcement of the Malian army’s presence in Kidal.

Political and Security Context.

On 15 August, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita was announced winner of Mali’s presidential elections with 77.6% of the votes. Both rounds passed without incident, though OCHA reported on 14 August that sporadic violence continues in the north of Mali where civilians live in fear of attacks by Tuareg rebels, namely the MNLA (National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad).

Between 28 July and 11 August, Malians voted in the first polls since a military coup and insurgency 16 months ago. The election process was seen as an important step on the path to recovery for the country which also witnessed renewed fighting between Government forces and Tuareg rebels, as well as the seizure of its northern territory by radical Islamists.

On 18 July, clashes occurred between Tuareg and other communities following a rumour about the upcoming reinforcement of the Malian army’s presence in Kidal. The city has been occupied by the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) Tuareg rebels since February, until their confinement by official Malian forces on 5 July.

On 8 July, Mali’s army accused Tuareg rebels of violating the ceasefire signed on 18 June by attacking civilians and the military just days after troops entered the flashpoint northeastern town of Kidal to secure it for national elections. The ceasefire agreement aimed to prepare for a second phase of negotiations, planned to take place 60 days after the elections. This allowed Malian troops to enter Kidal on 5 July, when Mali lifted a nearly six-month state of emergency.

On 18 July, Nigeria announced plans to withdraw some of its 1,200 soldiers from the UN peacekeeping force in Mali and Sudan’s Darfur region, saying the troops are needed for security at home. The Nigerians are part of a force of 12,600 African troops who took over from a French-led mission on 1 July.

Security in the three northern regions of Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal has improved, but remains volatile. Attacks in recent months have highlighted the continued threat posed by Islamist militants and the growing coordination of their operations against African and French forces.

On 1 July, authority for the stabilisation of Mali was transferred from the forces of France’s involvement in the conflict came after Islamist fighters moved to within 20 km of Mopti, a strategically important town on the border between rebel and Government held territories, taking control of the strategic town Konna on 10 December 2012. With support from France’s armed forces, the Mali Government started a counter-offence on 1 January.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access: Humanitarian access continues to improve in central regions and parts of the north and aid is increasing in the accessible parts, according to OCHA. Aid activities in other parts of the north are limited due to continued insecurity and banditry. Access to basic social services (water, education, and health) remains limited in the north largely because of the low return of civil servants, the destruction of infrastructure, and a lack of materials to support basic services.

Disaster: On 28 August, 55 people were killed by heavy rains which provoked flash floods in almost all the neighbourhoods of the capital Bamako. More than 100 homes were destroyed and thousands of people were made homeless after the Niger river burst its banks. Earlier in August, OCHA reported that heavy rains caused flooding in the Kidal and Segou regions, destroying fields, houses and latrines, and affecting 11,300 people. On 23 August, Malian authorities had issued a flood warning for the upper Sankaran Basin (southwestern Mali). Underground and surface water was said to be potentially contaminated and the humanitarian situation is expected to deteriorate, with risks of waterborne diseases and malaria.

To date, severe flooding affected more than 200,000 people across six countries of the
Displacement: According to OCHA as of 29 August, an estimated 509,000 people continue to remain displaced in Mali and in neighbouring countries, due to the crisis in the north. The number of internally displaced has increased since January from 261,000 to 333,622 at the end of August. As larger areas of central and northern Mali are secured, an increasing number of IDPs have started to return home. According to IOM, 137,422 people returned to the north between January and May 2013. On 1 August, OCHA reported that between 25 June and 12 July, 8,148 Malian refugees who previously fled to neighbouring countries returned to Mali and were registered in Gao, Mopti and Tombouctou. Another joint assessment by OCHA and UNHCR reported that 226 refugees returned to the Douekire, namely to Inalkary, Dongwe-Haussa, Adjowal, and Takumbout, while an unknown number of refugees returned from Mauritania to Goundam Circle at the end of July.

IOM reported at end July that reasons cited for return by refugees and IDPs are: the return to relative stability in the north following recent attempts to restore order; the desire to participate in the country’s elections; and the desire to survey what was left of homes and possessions. The gradual return of IDPs to the north is likely to strain limited social services.

According to OCHA as of 29 July, 175,282 Malians are still registered as refugees in neighbouring countries, with 75,261 in Mauritania, 50,000 in Niger and 49,975 in Burkina Faso.

Food Security and Malnutrition: As the lean season unfolds, there has been significant deterioration of food security in northern Mali. People affected by food insecurity are estimated at about 3.5 million, including 1.4 million in need of immediate assistance according to assessments finalized in May.

According to FEWSNET as of July, food security conditions remained at Crisis levels (IPC Phase 3) in the north (regions of Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu), while the lean season is underway. The depletion of household food stocks, the decline in livestock sales (due to low demand), and the lack of income-generating opportunities for residents of conflict-affected areas in northern Mali are severely curtailing household food access.

Food security levels were expected to improve gradually in August due to resumed economic activities, seasonal improvements of pastoral conditions and following the scale-up of large-scale humanitarian assistance programs. However, the June FEWSNET report still indicated that the northern regions would be likely to remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of food insecurity from August through September 2013. Additionally, FAO reported that IDPs and Malian refugees are progressively returning to the north of the country despite the extreme food insecurity situation in Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu. According to the government, 70 to 90% of the northern population is severely or moderately food insecure, and will continue to be in need of food assistance.

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

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

Updated: 02/09/2013

MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 26/08/2013.

22 August: Mauritania announced a six-week postponement of elections planned for 12 October after opposition parties said they would boycott the vote.

Early July: Some 800,000 people are food insecure in Mauritania, with 240,000 persons (30%) classified as severely food insecure. This number marks an increase from the estimated 560,000 food insecure people in January 2013.

Political and security context

On 22 August, Mauritania announced a six-week postponement of elections planned for 12 October, after the Coordination of Democratic Opposition (COD, a coalition of opposition parties) said they would boycott the vote. The current president Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz seized power in a 2008 coup and was elected a year later, but the COD has never accepted his presidency as legitimate.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: The number of Malian refugees in Mauritania has levelled off since March 2013 standing at 75,261 people as of 30 June, according to UNHCR. Almost all refugees (over 74,000) live in the Mbéra camp, 80% are women and children, according to UNICEF, and have lived in the camp for over a year.

Food Security and Malnutrition: As of late June, FEWSNET reported that the food security situation has remained steady since May. Most poor households throughout the country are likely to remain in IPC Phase 1 until September. According to a FAO report released in early June, the food security outlook is generally favorable following a good harvest. The stability of food prices, that are likely to continue to follow normal patterns, is helping to improve the food security situation.

Despite the generally more favourable food security context, OCHA reported that 800,000 people are food insecure, with 240,000 persons (30%) classified as severely food insecure. This marks an increase from the estimated 560,000 food insecure people reported in January 2013.

FEWSNET reports that poor agro-dominant households in non-oasis areas of the north, northwest, and south agro-pastoral areas and the south-east rain-fed agriculture zones remain in Stressed food insecurity conditions (IPC Phase 2) as of June. The food security
situation in Mbéra camp in the southeast also remains dire.

According to FAO, more than 105,000 children <5 suffer from GAM, compared to 90,000 in 2011, as of March 2013. In 2013, the expected GAM caseload is 122,719 children, including 23,901 cases of SAM, according to UNICEF. The highest malnutrition rates were recorded in the Hodh Ech Chargui (16% GAM), Assaba (16.4% GAM), Brakna (17% GAM) and Tagant (18.2% GAM) regions in the southeast of the country.

Reviewed: 02/09/2013

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

### Highlights

**As of 29 August,** OCHA reported that severe flooding killed 20 people, affected up to 58,000, and destroyed more than 3,000 ha of farmland. The Maradi, Tahoua, Diffa and Dosso regions are among the most affected areas.

**28 August:** Thousands of Nigerians are reported to be crossing into Niger, due to ongoing military offensive against Islamist militants.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Disaster:** As of 29 August, OCHA reported that severe flooding killed 20 people, affected up to 58,000, and destroyed more than 3,000 ha of farmland. The Maradi, Tahoua, Diffa and Dosso regions are among the most affected areas, and the UN warned that crops are threatened by a locust invasion as a result of the floods.

**Displacement:** According to UNHCR, an estimated 11,672 people have crossed into Niger since the start of military intervention in Mali on 11 January. As of 30 June, there are around 50,000 Malian refugees registered, or awaiting registration, with UNHCR. There are also 3,991 Nigerian returnees in the country, bringing the total number of displaced from the Malian conflict into Niger to over 53,000. Malian refugees continue to place a significant stress on the country with the large majority settling in regions hardest hit by the nutrition and food security crisis.

According to the UN on 28 August, thousands of Nigerians were reported to be crossing into Niger, fleeing the ongoing military offensive against Islamist militants. As of 20 June, an estimated 6,240 people arrived from Nigeria to flee the Nigerian army offensive against Boko Haram in the north of the country. UNHCR reported 2,692 Nigerian nationals, 3,544 Nigerian returnees, and 94 people of other nationalities (mainly Chadians). These refugees have been crossing into Niger since mid-May and have mainly settled in Bosso, Diffa, Kablewa, Maine, Tam, Tcokoujani and Garin Amadou. The majority live with host families, while others live in rented houses but lack the money to pay their rent or have no shelter at all.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to OCHA on 19 July, some 2.9 million people remain food insecure in Niger. UNICEF estimates, based on initial figures from a June food security assessment, found 2,889,863 people affected by food insecurity. However, across the country, household incomes are considered average to good this year and should allow households to purchase sufficient cereal to meet food needs. Aside from exceptionally high prices, other food security drivers are in line with normal seasonal trends, the combined positive effects of which should keep food insecurity in most parts of the country at minimal (IPC Phase 1) levels between now and September according to FEWSNET. FAO reported on 26 August that since Niger depends on food imports from Nigeria during the lean season and the current insecurity in the northeast have disrupted trade with surrounding countries and affected food availability.

In Diffa, higher prices, the destruction of pepper crops, and the effect of the conflict in Nigeria on cross border livestock trading are likely to expose poor households in agro-pastoral and farming areas of this region to Stress levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 2) through September.

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

On 31 July, OCHA reported that malnutrition has slightly decreased, with a rate of 13.3% GAM for children <5, compared to 14.8% in 2012, except in Maradi district where 16.3% GAM rate is source of concern.

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

On 10 May 2013, the government of Niger officially declared a cholera epidemic. Between 18 June and 12 July, 11 new cholera cases were registered in Niger, bringing the total number of cases since the beginning of the epidemic to 398, including 10 deaths. The majority of cases are registered in the Tillaberi region in north-western Niger. There is a high risk that the disease will spread along the Niger River. In 2012, more than 5,785 cholera cases and 110 deaths were reported countrywide.

Updated: 02/09/2013

**SOMALIA** CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**29 August:** Tensions persist between the central authorities and the semi-autonomous Puntland region. The president of Somalia’s Puntland region said that the central government was undermining plans to create a federal system and that he would develop potential oil resources in his area even without a revenue-sharing deal with...
Political and Security Context

Conflict remains widespread in Somalia as the country struggles to curb an Islamist insurgency led by the Al-Shabaab, an Islamist organization allegedly tied strongly to al-Qaeda, which continues to conduct terrorist attacks and fight Government forces. Although security in the capital Mogadishu has improved since its lowest point in August 2011, attacks by Al-Shabaab in urban centres and along transport axes are common. On 4 August, Al-Shabaab militants staged several explosions in the Somali capital wounding several people. Government forces reportedly started a massive military operation across Mogadishu in response to the attacks as the insurgents have called for a renewed campaign of attacks in the capital.

In July, over 25 people were killed in several attacks, including one against the Turkish embassy and one against a convoy of African Union troops, staged by Al-Shabaab in Mogadishu prompting the authorities to launch a military operation against Al-Shabaab in south and central Somalia. In mid-June, Al-Shabaab militants launched a high-profile assault targeting the UN compound in Mogadishu. The attack killed 15 and caused all UN missions outside Mogadishu International Airport to be suspended for 24 hours. Since June, violence has been flaring up in Kismayo in Jubaland in the far south of Somalia, bordering Kenya and Ethiopia. On 19 August a simultaneous series of land mine explosions occurred in the central business district of Kismayo, targeting African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) troops. To date, the number of casualties is still unknown. In the area, control was long split between multiple forces including clan militia, Al-Shabaab and Kenyan and Ethiopian soldiers. On 28 August, it was reported that the central government agreed to establish a former Islamist commander as the interim leader of the southern Juba region, a deal which if implemented could end months of clan fighting and solidify plans for a federal nation. In an unexpected reversal, an official from Mogadishu allegedly signed a deal with Sheikh Ahmed Madobe, who has competed for control of Jubaland's port city of Kismayo and adjacent hinterland against a clan warlord, Bare Hirale, who was widely seen before as backed by the central authorities.

In the latest round of fighting of the rival Somali warlords over Kismayo from 27-29 June, WHO reported that 71 people were killed and more than 300 injured. Fighters from the Ras Kamboni militia of Ahmed Madobe, who proclaimed himself president of the Jubaland region in June, battled against forces loyal to Bare Hirale, a former Somali defence minister. In early June, two days of heavy fighting between Madobe’s forces and gunmen loyal to Ifthin Hassan Basto, another local warlord claiming the presidency, left over 30 dead and almost 40 wounded. First reports indicate that more than 1,604 people have been displaced by the violence. These were the heaviest clashes the city had seen in over four years and the first since several rival warlords claimed control of the lucrative port and fertile hinterlands in May. OCHA data indicated that some 60,000 people were in need of humanitarian assistance in Kismayo in early July.

In the aftermath of the June clashes, the central government has called for the withdrawal of Kenya Defence Force troops from Kismayo believing that they sided with Madobe. Following the announcement, there have been a series of elders meetings in Dhobley to discuss the way forward.

Tensions persist between the central authorities and the semi-autonomous Puntland region. On 29 August, the president of Somalia's Puntland region said that the central government was undermining plans to create a federal system, and that he would develop potential oil resources in his area even without a revenue-sharing deal with Mogadishu. The statement further underlined deep ongoing national divisions. On 5 August, Puntland region had already cut all ties with the central government in a clear sign of distrust toward Mogadishu.

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: An estimated 1.1 million Somalis are currently internally displaced
according to UNHCR, mainly in the South-Central region. In March-April, thousands of new IDPs were reported in the vicinity of Xudur after the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from the area. The flooding that affected the country also led to the displacement of an additional 50,000 people, notably in the Jowhar and Baidoa areas.

As of 4 July, over one million Somalis are refugees outside Somalia, mostly in Kenya (494,000), Ethiopia (242,000) and Yemen (230,000). Nevertheless, Somali refugees continue to return home, with 3,200 people reportedly returning in April 2013. UNHCR states that a total 20,207 refugees have returned from neighbouring countries to Somalia since January 2013.

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

**Disaster**: As reported by OCHA, following the early beginning of the main rainy season (the Gu) in mid-March, an estimated 50,000 people were displaced and 6,400 hectare of crops damaged by floods.

**Access**: On 14 August, MSF announced an immediate stop to all operations in Somalia as a result of increased attacks on its staff. MSF has operated in Somalia since 1991 and has treated roughly 50,000 people each month. Following the announcement, the Somali Government on 15 August urged MSF to reconsider its planned withdrawal, stating that the decision “will direct affect the lives of thousands of vulnerable people” and could lead to a “catastrophic humanitarian crisis.” On 15 August, al-Shabaab militants looted MSF hospitals in Dinsoor (Bay region) and Mararey (Middle Jubba region) towns.

In southern and central Somalia, OHCA notes that humanitarian access has remained challenging, with several incidents against humanitarian personnel and interference of aid delivery recorded in April and May. The withdrawal of Al-Shabaab from key towns in southern Somalia has permitted an increased international presence in some areas. Insecurity in these areas, however, continues to affect trade and market activities and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. FSNAU notes that conflict has disrupted the movement of food and other basic commodities in most parts of these regions, particularly in Bakool.

The attacks on aid workers pose a serious constrain for humanitarian operations. An attack in Mogadishu on 5 May led to closure of main roads in the capital, hampering movement of aid workers and supplies. According to OCHA, sporadic armed clashes took place between Somaliland security forces and the militia groups operating in Togdheer and in the disputed regions of Sanaaq and Sool, further hampering humanitarian access and aid delivery.

Between November 2011 and February 2012, humanitarian aid worth £480,000 was appropriated by Al-Shabaab in southern Somalia from the offices and warehouses of partner organisations.

**Food Security and Malnutrition**: According to FSNAU, as of August, an estimated 1.05 million people in Somalia, including 615,000 IDPs, were at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity and in need of assistance. Between October 2010 and April 2012, famine in Somalia led to the deaths of 258,000 people, according to May OCHA estimates.

FSNAU stated that most rural households will experience stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security conditions between July and December 2013. Most pastoral households are likely to see improvements due to the positive effect of Gu rains on rangeland and water conditions leading to improved milk yields. This is with the exception of coastal areas in central and northeastern regions which are likely to face deteriorating food security from May to September due to declining livestock production, poor rainfall in the last six months, and unfavourable pasture conditions. Therefore, it is likely that the population in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in Hiran and Central agro-pastoral livelihood zone, the cowpea belt, will increase between July and September due to crop failures and an expected below average crop production.

FAO reported in June that current maize prices were 15-25% below their levels of 12 months earlier and about 60-80% below the peak reached in June 2011 when famine was declared.

The overall nutrition situation in Somalia has improved since the 2011 famine. However, the prevalence of malnutrition still remains above the WHO emergency threshold of 15%, especially among IDPs. As reported by FSNAU, the nutrition status of IDPs in central and northern regions of Somalia has deteriorated. Sustained malnutrition levels were seen among the displaced in settlements in Bossaso, Gaalkacyo, Garowe, Dhusamaareb, Kismayo, Dhooley and Mogadishu.

In January 2013, FSNAU estimated 215,000 children <5 to be acutely malnourished of whom at least 45,000 were severely malnourished. This is attributed to an inadequate health infrastructure and poor feeding practices. At the start of August, FSNAU reported critical levels of GAM (GAM rate ≥15% and <30%) in North East, Central and South Somalia. In Kismayo, 19% GAM rates were reported in a recent flashpoint area for tribal fighting that also hampered the polio vaccination campaign. The nutrition situation in Kismayo suggests decline in acute malnutrition and improved nutrition when compared with results from December 2012 assessment which reported a GAM rates of 28%.

**Health**: The first confirmed case of the wild poliovirus since 2007 was reported in Mogadishu on 9 May. As of 18 August, 105 cases have been confirmed primarily in Banadir and Bay regions of Somalia. According to OCHA on 18 July, the Somaliland Minister of Health confirmed the disease had reached the northern regions with a case of polio in Sool region. The first vaccination campaign began on 14 May in Somalia. However, recent fighting in Kismayo has halted the polio vaccination campaign planned for July, targeting 24,000 people. Large areas of south-central Somalia have not conducted vaccination campaigns since 2009 due to insecurity, leaving up to 600,000 children particularly vulnerable according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Two cases were confirmed from these parts of Lower Shabelle region. The risk to populations across other areas of Somalia is also very high, due to substantial subnational population immunity gaps.

Updated: 02/09/2013
SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

2 September: South Sudan's President Salva Kiir is scheduled to visit Sudan on 3 September, for talks with President Omar Hassan al-Bashir about the oil conflict. This will be his second visit to Khartoum since 2011.

26 August: OCHA states that access remains challenging in Pibor county, Jonglei state, due to insecurity. Humanitarian actors have for the second time in August halted distribution of food assistance due to security constraints. Following widespread violence in July that affected over 140,000 people, aid workers had reached close to 21,000 people with food distributions as of 18 August but had to stop operations to review operational constraints, including guarantees of safety for civilians receiving assistance and for aid workers supporting them.

Political and Security Context

On 23 August, the UN issued an official statement urging Sudan authorities to halt oil pipeline shutdowns that are the sole conduit for crude exports from South Sudan. Meanwhile, Khartoum and Juba are allegedly still working on a way to resolve the oil dispute that has jeopardised bilateral relations since June. South Sudan's President Salva Kiir is scheduled to visit Sudan on 3 September, for talks with President Omar Hassan al-Bashir about the oil conflict. This will be his second visit to Khartoum since 2011.

On 12 August, Khartoum announced that it is extending the deadline to allow the flow of oil from South Sudan until 6 September, following mediation by the African Union (AU). On 15 August, Juba announced that it was optimistic an agreement may be reached between the two countries ahead of the new deadline. On 1 August, in a joint communiqué, the two sides officially agreed to cease immediately support or harbouring of rebel groups from either sides and prevent rebels them from crossing the common border. On 5 August, despite ongoing negotiations, tensions remained high along the border with one Sudanese soldier killed after a South Sudanese patrol allegedly crossed into Sudanese territory near Khartoum's main oilfield in the border area of Heglig, an area also disputed with South Sudan.

On 26 July, Sudan announced the postponement of closure of the pipelines carrying oil from South Sudan for two weeks to allow more time to end a quarrel over alleged support by Juba to rebels in Sudan. South Sudan has repeatedly denied the claim and accused Khartoum of backing rebels fighting in Jonglei State, South Sudan. If implemented, the oil stoppage would cut off the crude and transit fees that make up both countries' main source of foreign income.

On 18 July, in a new spike of the oil dispute, Juba reduced its oil output and announced plans to shut it off completely. The announcement was a response to Khartoum's early June statement that it would stop exporting South Sudanese crude oil through its territory unless Juba gave up support for insurgents operating across their shared border.

Against this background, South Sudan had earlier accused Sudan of launching two separate attacks on areas near their disputed border, notably Unity state. Although little information is available, Khartoum denied the attacks and Juba said it would not retaliate to what it labelled as provocations.

Renewed tensions between Khartoum and Juba came as a stark contrast to the gradual improvement of the relations witnessed in previous months, which led to the signature in March of a technical agreement on the establishment of a safe demilitarised border zone, the deployment of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the activation of all agreed security-related mechanisms.

The two states had agreed on a plan for the coordinated implementation of all elements of the 27 September 2012 agreements including the re-launch of crude oil exports from South Sudan.

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

Ethnic clashes and violence continue across much of South Sudan with an increasing number of human rights abuses reported, notably by government forces, according to a Human Rights Watch (HRW) report released in July. Violence is concentrated primarily in Jonglei state and the tri-state area of Lakes, Unity and Warrap. In Jonglei state, the precarious security situation stems from the protracted conflict between armed groups and official troops, and from ongoing inter-tribal fighting. Boma, Pibor and other population centres remain deserted due to fighting; almost all civilians have fled into the bush, amid increasing tensions between state and non-state armed actors.

In late July, violence between ethnic groups, state and non-state actors raged in Pibor County in Jonglei state. Although the situation remained tense locally with inter-communal fighting in Gumuruk and Verthet payams and along the Nanaam River being reported, most of the violence has allegedly calmed in August according to local sources. The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) has increased its military presence in the area to secure the environment. In July, widespread fighting affected large parts of Jonglei state, mostly Pibor County and to a lesser extent Pochalla County. The fighting has forced tens of thousands of civilians to flee. Initially, local authorities reported that groups of heavily armed South Sudanese gunmen, belonging to the Lou Nuer and Dinka tribes, were fighting their way toward a rival community, the Murle people, in eastern Jonglei state. This last spike of tribal clashes in Pibor County has forced thousands of Murle civilians to flee the advance of the militias. As of mid-August, information, including numbers of casualties, remains unverified, although according to the authorities, over 300 people were killed during the clashes and at least 4,000 people injured.

Violence in Jonglei came after a fierce round of fighting in early July between government troops and various non-state actors. Against this background, HRW reported in mid-July an increasing number of abuses against civilians committed by South Sudanese authorities during the anti-insurgency campaign in Jonglei state. Earlier, the UN Security Council and
the US had called for Juba to better protect civilians in Jonglei state amidst reports of killings, lootings and beatings, including by government troops.

On 19 June, the rebel leader of a Jonglei-based rebel group, David Yau Yau, a member of the Murle group, officially agreed to begin peace talks with government representatives. According to local media, preliminary meetings were conducted last week. The conflict between the Yau Yau rebel group, who calls itself South Sudan Democratic Army (SSDA), and the South Sudan Army (SPLA) has escalated since early March, after Juba conducted a major operation against the SSDA. South Sudan issued an ultimatum to David Yau Yau on 5 June asking him to choose between ceasing hostilities unconditionally or risking being pursued by the state’s military forces. Following the recent spike in tribal fighting in Jonglei, local sources reported the increasing involvement of the David Yau Yau rebel group in support of the Murle tribe.

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

Cattle-raiding is a recurrent issue throughout South Sudan with recent incidents in Jonglei and Unity states. In mid-August, OCHA reported that violence in Pibor County in July was followed by an increasing number of cattle-raids and clashes in other parts of Jonglei. On 8 August, nine people were killed and seven injured in a cattle raiding incident in Twic East County in Jonglei state. Cattle raiding mirrors local ethnic tensions with officials blaming the Murle group and the David Yau Yau group for staging the last raid. Another incident was recorded in Bor County on 6 August. In mid-July, another incident was reported in Twic East and a separate one recorded in Panyijiar County in Unity state.

On 1 August, increased insecurity was reported in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State according to local sources. At least three people were killed and an estimated 100 displaced in clashes between local armed groups.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: OCHA reported that 55,763 persons are newly displaced due to inter-tribal conflict, insurgency, and insecurity in South Sudan as of 14 July.

Following increased inter-communal violence in Jonglei, various international organisations have reported new IDPs. On 21 August, MSF reported that security concerns and floods are keeping an estimated 90,000 IDPs from seeking assistance in Pibor County, Jonglei state. To date, only an estimated 28,000 people are accounted for while the rest is still hiding and considered “missing”. Among the 28,000 accounted for, only part is receiving the assistance they need. In early August, local sources reported that at least 6,700 were displaced in Pochalla County, in Jonglei state, following the fighting. IDPs in the area reportedly face food shortages.

In July, ECHO reported that there were 148,000 conflict affected people, most of whom were displaced within Pibor County or have fled to Juba or neighbouring countries following fighting. As reported by MSF, up to 120,000 civilians, mostly from the Murle group, fled their homes as a result of recent spikes in the ongoing battle between state and non-state armed actors and inter-communal clashes.

Vulnerable populations in Pibor County are living outside protected communities and without consistent access to food, safe drinking water, shelter, and health care. Most IDPs have resorted to extreme coping strategies, with some eating wild fruits and leaves. Following cattle raids, reported to be in the tens of thousands of cattle, the population is slaughtering female cattle for meat, even if this means that they cannot replenish stocks. According to the UN, 100,000 people have been cut off from vital aid in Jonglei state. As of 26 July, according to the authorities, some IDPs have begun to return home.

UNHCR states that an estimated 5,000 South Sudanese have arrived in western Ethiopia, predominantly from violence-affected Pibor County in Jonglei state. Instability in Jonglei has resulted in a further influx of refugees into neighbouring countries with roughly 23,000 people crossing into Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda as of 30 July. To date, information remains limited and the figures are difficult to ascertain.

On 21 July, the SPLA urged civilians displaced by fighting in Pibor County to move to towns for protection. MSF noted that over 4,000 victims of recent fighting in Jonglei state are receiving treatment in the city of Gumruk in Pibor County. According to WHO, the increasing numbers of IDPs and returnees in Pibor, Gumruk, Akobo and Boma is of high concern to humanitarian partners.

As of 21 July, according to preliminary estimates released by OCHA, 4,000 people were displaced in Koch County in Unity state, following cattle raids. As of mid-August, an additional 800 people were confirmed as displaced by cattle-raids in Unity state’s Guit County.

Local authorities in Fashoda County, Upper Nile state in South Sudan reported that a significant number of refugees crossed into the area from South Kordofan in recent days. In mid-June, according to OCHA, an estimated 3,000 new IDPs arrived in Northern Bahr El Ghazal state, fleeing increased insecurity and armed attacks in areas around River Kiir, South Darfur and South Kordofan. 26,000 people are reportedly displaced as of 21 July. According to MSF, the remote area is practically inaccessible and IDPs have little access to aid. Their food situation is already dire and may further worsen as the rainy season gets underway.

UNHCR stated that recent estimates of numbers of South Sudanese arrivals in Ethiopia are smaller than suggested by earlier reports; UNHCR noted the arrival of 2,178 refugees from 1 May–7 June. More refugees are expected to arrive in Ethiopia from Nyalongo, Kiwa and Niate areas of South Sudan.

In the first five months of 2013, over 5,390 South Sudanese from Jonglei were registered at the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. These numbers approach the total number of people that arrived in Kakuma from South Sudan in 2012. In Uganda, 2,700 refugees from Jonglei have arrived since the beginning of the year, averaging about 527 per month.
Some 223,228 refugees, mostly from neighbouring Sudan are in South Sudan as of mid-August. There are currently over 117,000 Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile state and nearly 74,000 in Unity state who need humanitarian assistance according to ECHO. According to OCHA, an estimated 50,000 South Sudanese returned from Sudan since January 2013, the lowest number for the period since 2007. Fewer than 500 refugees have reportedly crossed from Sudan into Unity and Upper Nile states in July. Yet, some 580 people fleeing from South Kordofan in Sudan have been registered as newly arrived to Upper Nile state since the beginning of August. Up to 350,000 South Sudanese remain in Sudan.

Disaster: Over the last week, heavy rains and floods have affected parts of South Sudan. Though information remains limited, an estimated 18,000 people were affected and partly displaced in Maiwut County, Upper Nile state, following the floods. According to a 21 August WHO assessment, the health situation in Maiwut is deteriorating as malaria and waterborne diseases spread through the area.

In mid-August, OCHA reported that hundreds of people had been displaced by floods in Unity state. Compared to 2012, flood levels in the area remain low, but could affect more communities if the rains continue. Intensive rains have been reported in Jonglei state, affecting people displaced by violence in July.

According to local sources, floods have cut off the main road to Uganda, leaving busses, trucks and passenger vehicles stranded at the Ugandan side of the border as of 28 August. The disruption is between the towns of Atiak in Uganda and Elegu in South Sudan.

Access: On 5 August, unidentified gunmen attacked an MSF vehicle outside the capital Juba. The attack resulted in the death of one MSF South Sudanese staff. Insecurity and poor infrastructure continue to severely hamper humanitarian access nationwide.

As reported by OCHA on 26 August, access remains challenging in Pibor County because of insecurity. Humanitarian actors have for the second time in August halted distributions of food assistance due to security constraints. Following widespread violence in July that affected over 140,000 people, aid workers had reached close to 21,000 people with food distributions as of 18 August but had to stop operations to review operational constraints, including guarantees of safety for civilians receiving assistance and for aid workers supporting them. In mid-August, the most pressing needs in the area included food, household items, clean water and sanitation facilities. Protection is another major concern.

On 14 July, as reported by OCHA, for the first time this year, aid agencies reached parts of Pibor County, Jonglei, where thousands of civilians have been hiding in the bush following clashes between state and non-state actors. Permanent insecurity in Pibor County makes it complicated for humanitarian actors to operate in the area. In July and August, aid agencies reached IDPs in Dorein, Labrab and Pibor town. As of 5 August, multiple areas still remain cut off from assistance due to insecurity according to OCHA.

The rainy season is affecting roads across the country, according to OCHA, making them inaccessible and hindering humanitarian access, notably in Jonglei and Lake states, Unity state, and Northern Bahr El Ghazal. Up to 60% of the country is inaccessible by road from May to October, with only 10% of Jonglei accessible during the rains. Limited air assets mean that responding to flooding over the coming months will be restricted.

Food Security and Malnutrition: As reported by WFP in mid-August, the food security situation has improved compared to the same period in 2012 even if an estimated 8% (over 850,000 people) and 34% (over 3.5 million people) remain respectively severely and moderately food insecure in South Sudan. In 2012, an estimated 4.7 million people were food insecure across the country.

In June, FAO estimated that 4.1 million people were food insecure in South Sudan and would remain so until the next harvest in September. FEWSNET also indicated that the food security is forecast to improve in October due to the harvest, with only a few counties in Jonglei state remaining in crisis phase.

Yet, WFP reported that the food security situation has deteriorated in some areas – Unity state, eastern parts of Eastern Equatoria and Lakes – that are experiencing drier-than-normal conditions characterised by erratic rainfall coupled with prolonged dry spell. In addition, the food security situation, notably because of problematic access to food due to limited and unreliable income and poor purchasing power, is grim in southeastern Jonglei state following prolonged insecurity in Pibor County. The food security situation across the country is projected to remain precarious in the coming months. IDPs and the returnees from Sudan remain especially vulnerable.

In early August, FEWSNET highlighted that ongoing insecurity has negatively impacted food security outcomes in Pibor County. In Unity, Warrap, and Lakes states, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity was also expected and was expanding to other areas previously considered to be in Stress (IPC Phase 2). An estimated 1.2 million were considered to be at Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and 4) with parts of Jonglei (especially Pibor County), Unity, Lakes, Warrap states and the Abyei area, disputed between Sudan and South Sudan, of particular concern.

According to WFP, there is an ongoing rise in prices, albeit on a smaller scale than a year ago, that is coherent with seasonal patterns in South Sudan. As indicated by FAO, prices of locally produced cereal crops are increasing in most markets as the lean season progresses, household food stocks are beginning to dwindle, and most roads, especially in remote areas, are impassable during the rainy season, disrupting market supplies.

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

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

Sudan’s Ministry of Health declared an outbreak of meningitis in Malakal County, Upper Nile state. As of 27 May, 141 cases and five deaths had been reported with additional cases being reported from Jonglei state and Aweil West County.
Updated: 02/09/2013

SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

2 September: South Sudan’s President Salva Kiir is scheduled to visit Sudan on 3 September, for talks with President Omar Hassan al-Bashir about the oil conflict. This will be his second visit to Khartoum since 2011.

29 August: According to OCHA, heavy rains and floods have affected 16 states across Sudan and the contested Abyei area since 1st August, particularly hitting North and South Darfur, Khartoum, Northern and Red Sea, River Nile and Blue Nile, West Kordofan, El Gezira states. More rains are expected in the coming weeks. As of 29 August, according to OCHA and the authorities that have now revised downward their earlier figures, an estimated 341,000 people have been affected by the floods across Sudan. Khartoum is worst affected with over 128,000 people affected, followed by El Gezira with over 60,000 affected and Blue Nile with 50,000 affected. Immediate needs include emergency shelter, health, water, and sanitation support. The floods have also destroyed or damaged around 66,900 houses in states affected in Sudan. Khartoum is the most affected state with roughly 36,000 houses completely destroyed or damaged.

26 August: An ICRC convoy of two cars travelling from Zalingei in Central Darfur to Nertiti was hijacked and four staff abducted. Although ICRC staff was released the next day, the vehicles and the other looted materials were not returned. In Nyalia, South Darfur, guesthouses used by ICRC and their warehouses in Nyalia were attacked and looted by armed men. ICRC staff was beaten and personal property was reportedly confiscated.

25 August: In recent weeks, there have been reports of increased violence from SAF and affiliated militias against IDPs in camps in Darfur, and IDPs across Darfur continue to face attacks from different armed non-state actors. According to the Association of Displaced Persons and Refugees of Darfur, North, Central, and West Darfur are the hardest hit. New attacks occurred in Hila Beeda near Zalingei, capital of Central Darfur, at Hamidiyah camp in Central Darfur and near IDP camp Dankoj in Saraf Omra locality in North Darfur.

Political and Security Context

Sudan – South Sudan

On 23 August, the UN issued an official statement urging Sudanese authorities to not shut down oil pipelines that are the sole conduit for crude exports from South Sudan. Khartoum and Juba continue to try to resolve the oil dispute that has jeopardised bilateral relations since June. South Sudan’s President Salva Kiir is scheduled to visit Sudan on 3 September, for talks with President Omar Hassan al-Bashir about the oil conflict. This will be his second visit to Khartoum since 2011.

On 12 August, Khartoum announced that it was extending the deadline to allow the flow of oil from South Sudan until 6 September following mediation by the African Union (AU). On 15 August, Juba announced that it was optimistic an agreement could be reached between the two countries ahead of the new deadline. On 1 August, in a joint communiqué, the two sides officially agreed to immediately cease the support or harbouring of rebel groups from either sides and prevent rebels from crossing the common border. Despite ongoing negotiations, tensions remain high on the border, contributing to an incident where a South Sudanese patrol allegedly crossed into the Sudanese territory in the border area of Heglig, resulting in the death of one Sudanese soldier.

On 26 July, South Sudan had announced the postponement of the closure of the pipelines carrying oil from South Sudan for two weeks to allow more time to end a quarrel that started early June over alleged support by Juba to rebels in Sudan. South Sudan has repeatedly denied the claim and in return has accused Khartoum of backing rebels fighting in Jonglei State, South Sudan. If implemented, the oil stoppage would cut off the crude and transit fees that make up both countries’ main source of foreign income.

Renewed tensions between Khartoum and Juba since June were a stark contrast to the gradual improvement of the relations witnessed in previous months, which had led to the signature in March of a technical agreement to establish a demilitarised border zone, the deployment of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, and the activation of all agreed security-related mechanisms.

The two states had also agreed on a plan for the coordinated implementation of all elements of the 27 September 2012 agreements, including the re-launch of crude oil exports from South Sudan. On 7 May, Sudan announced that cross-border oil flows had resumed and the first cross-border shipment was received at Heglig.

Insurgent Groups

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

On 24 July, in an indication of increasing levels of coordination between various armed movements, fighters of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), part of the SRF from the Darfur region, attacked an army position in al-Rachad in central North Kordofan, with deaths reported on both sides. Rachad is close to the state capital El-Obeid and Um Ruwaba, a city stormed in a coordinated attack by the SRF in April.

On 17 July, Minni Minawi, Deputy President of the SRF alliance and leader of one faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM-MM), announced, during a meeting in Geneva, that the SRF is ready to accept a humanitarian cessation of hostilities in Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan as a first step before taking part in a comprehensive process aiming at resolving Sudan’s multiple conflicts on a national scale. It is yet unclear how the Sudanese authorities, who have been suspicious of negotiating with the SRF umbrella group rather than with each separate paramilitary group, will respond to that proposition.

Abyei

Violence has escalated in the contested Abyei border area between South Sudan and...
Sudan where a self-determination referendum is planned for October 2013. On 4 May, members of the Khartoum-allied Misseriya tribe killed the paramount chief of the Nine Ngock Dinka tribe of Abyei supported by Juba.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: An estimated 2.8 million Sudanese are currently internally displaced due to food insecurity and conflict. As of mid-July, there were an estimated 191,400 Sudanese refugees in South Sudan and another 32,000 in Ethiopia, according to UNHCR.

OCHA stated that an estimated 50,000 South Sudanese have returned from Sudan since January 2013, the lowest number for the period since 2007. Fewer than 500 refugees from Sudan reportedly crossed into Unity and Upper Nile states in July. Yet, some 580 people fleeing from South Kordofan in Sudan have been registered as newly arrived in Upper Nile state since the beginning of August. Up to 350,000 people of South Sudanese origin are still in Sudan. UNHCR reports that there were 153,000 refugees originating from other countries in Sudan as of mid-July.

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

According to information released in August and republished by OCHA, up to 60,000 of the over 100,000 people displaced from Abyei in May 2011 have returned.

Disaster: According to OCHA, heavy rains and floods have affected 16 states across Sudan and the Abyei contested area since 1st August, particularly hitting North and South Darfur, Khartoum, Northern and Red Sea, River Nile and Blue Nile, West Kordofan, El Gezira states. More rains are expected in the coming weeks.

As of 29 August, according to OCHA and authorities that have now revised downward their earlier figures, an estimated 341,000 people have been affected by the floods across Sudan. Khartoum is the worst affected state with over 128,000 people affected, followed by El Gezira with over 60,000 affected and Blue Nile with 50,000 affected. According to OCHA, immediate needs include emergency shelter, health, water, and sanitation support.

The floods have destroyed or damaged over 66,900 houses in affected areas. Khartoum is the most severely affected state with an estimated 36,000 houses completely destroyed or damaged.

As noted by WHO, heavy rains and floods may aggravate outbreaks of communicable diseases, especially acute watery diarrhoea, malaria, dengue fever, and Rift Valley fever. Inconsistent chlorination, population movements, flooded and destroyed toilets, and poor community hygiene practices are risk factors for the potential outbreak and spread of water-borne diseases.

Earlier reports from humanitarian actors indicated that the floods had damaged several roads, affecting transport and disrupting markets. Local media reported a lack of bread and an approximate 27% increase in commodity prices in some areas in Khartoum last week.

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

To date, the Sudanese government still refuses to grant international humanitarian groups access to rebel-held areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

The heavy rains that have hit Sudan since early August have affected the transport system while stagnant water remaining in some areas is hindering humanitarian access to affected populations.

According to OCHA, as of early July, access to Abyei remained blocked from Sudan.

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to FEWSNET as of July, an estimated 3.7 - 4 million people in Sudan faced Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phase 2 and 3) levels of food insecurity. According to OCHA as of March, an estimated 4.3 million people faced Stressed and Crisis food insecurity. Some 560,000 people experienced Emergency (IPC 4) levels of food insecurity, notably across SPLM-N controlled areas in South Kordofan, the Darfur states and Abyei as of June.

In July 2012, 4.6 million people were food insecure in Sudan. The slight decrease in the number of registered food insecure is mostly attributed to a good 2013 harvest. The total area planted during the 2012-13 season is over double the previous year’s figure, and yields are expected to be significantly higher due to favourable rainfalls and decreased pest infestations. A surplus of 1.4 million MT of sorghum and millet is expected.

Despite the good harvest, Crisis and Emergency 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. 80% of the food insecure population is located in these four areas.

In Abyei, most households face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) level food insecurity according to FEWSNET. Due to high food prices, restricted cross-border trade with South Sudan, and the decrease of the cultivation areas, local communities in Abyei have expanded their livelihoods strategies, switching to coping mechanisms employed in times of severe food insecurity. As more and more people return to the area where tensions eased in the wake of the signing of the agreement between Juba and Khartoum, it is likely that the humanitarian assistance will challenged to keep up with rising needs.

Nationally, GAM levels for children <5 stand at 16.4%, above the emergency threshold of 15%. In mid-June, the Sudanese Ministry of Health issued a report noting that 33% of Sudanese children are chronically malnourished while 5.3% suffer from severe acute malnutrition. An estimated 500,000 children <5 suffer from SAM and up to two million
Malnutrition rates in east Sudan (Red Sea, Kassala and Gedaref states) are the highest in Sudan, with 28% of children suffering from moderate or severe acute malnutrition in Red Sea state.

Health: According to WHO, between 13 and 30 May, 33 suspected cases of Dengue Fever, including one death, were reported from Port Sudan locality (10 cases) and Sawakin (23 cases) in Red Sea state. From 1 January 2013 to 31 May 2013, 317 suspected meningitis cases including 14 deaths were reported.

Darfur

Political and Security Context

In late July, the UN Security Council renewed the mandate of the AU-UN Hybrid Operation in the western Sudanese region (UNAMID) until 31 August 2014. Since the beginning of 2013, violence has significantly risen across Darfur.

Insurgent Groups

Clashes between the rebel group Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Minawi (SLM-MM), part of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) umbrella movement, and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) have been ongoing in Southern and Eastern Darfur since April. At present, because of the lack of information, it is difficult to evaluate the intensity of the fighting. According to local sources, the SRF conducted an attack on a military convoy to the east of Kass in South Darfur on 19 August that resulted in 21 killed. Fighting between the SAF and allied militias and SLM-MM was reported in Onganja, South of Nyala, then Labado and Muhajria to the east and later in Donkey Darisa, leaving hundreds of thousands of civilians without home and shelter in May. Government forces also face attacks from the dissident faction of the SLM led by Abdul Wahid al-Nur in Northern Darfur. Fighting has resulted in the displacement of civilians north and northwest of Nyala.

On 20 August, a consultation with Darfur’s three rebel groups – SLM-MM, SLM-AW, and JEM – was organised under the auspices of the head of UNAMID in Arusha, Tanzania. It came after a first meeting was held in May. Though representatives of the rebel movements allegedly welcome such initiatives, spokesmen for the groups reiterated their goal to negotiate with Khartoum on a national agenda, and not on separate regional issues, through the SRF. The SRF is an alliance that includes the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), fighting in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, and has ties with opposition political groups in Khartoum. It is unclear how Khartoum will respond to the initiative.

As reported since the beginning of August, SAF is continuing regular air raids targeting East Jebel Marra in South Darfur, and Kadja and Dady areas of North Darfur. On 18 August, heavy bombing reportedly destroyed an entire village in East Jebel Marra and killed at least four persons. Air raids in North Darfur on 11 August killed nine people and wounded dozens. A European international organisation, the Society for Threatened Peoples (STP), condemned what it described as “indiscriminate air raids on civilians in the Jebel Marra Mountains” that forced thousands of people to flee the area. As reported in local media on 20 August, renewed bombardments from SAF were reported over the village of Abu Tega in North Darfur with the death toll still unknown. Areas east, north and west of Marashag locality in South Darfur were also reportedly targeted.

Since April, near the cities of Katila, Um Dukhun, Kubum and Rhaid Albirdi in Darfur, tribal fighting between the Abbala and Beni Hussein, the Salamat and Ta’isha, Al-Gimir and Beni Halba, Dajo and Beni Halba, Misseriya and Salamat tribes have intermittently flared. Clashes between the Tarjam and Fur tribes were reported in Southern Darfur in May.

Central Darfur

Clashes between the Misseriya and Salamat tribes raged in late July, with allegedly over 230 people being killed after two weeks of fighting as of 30 July. Previously, both parties had signed an agreement in Zalingei that proved to be yet another unsuccessful attempt at a lasting reconciliation. Since April, violence had flared between the two tribes with ongoing clashes reported between late May and mid-June, causing large-scale displacement and numerous casualties. In April, fighting between the Misseriya and Salamat led 50,000 people to flee into Chad, according to UN estimates.

On 26 August, an ICRC convoy travelling from Zalingei in Central Darfur to Nertiti was hijacked and four staff abducted. Although ICRC staff was released the next day, the vehicles and the other looted materials were not returned.

South Darfur

Tribal disputes over land ownership continued in July, requiring Khartoum to deploy Special Forces to enforce a buffer zone between the Al-Gimir and Beni Halba tribes. In April, conflict between the two tribes reignited after a relatively stable period since February. Fighting intensified at end May in South Darfur, leading to 23 people being killed and 51 injured. The violence led to the burning of Katela town of the Al-Gimir tribe, large displacements, and the Al-Gimir tribe accusing the Sudanese authorities of colluding with the Beni Halba tribe. On 26 June, conflict resumed in Katela with nine killed and dozens displaced. Clashes between the Dajo and Beni Halba tribes were reported in Kubum, South...
Darfur.

Around the state’s capital Nyala, attacks against civilians and widespread insecurity were reported with ongoing fighting between different paramilitary factions in early July. On 26 August, guesthouses used by the ICRC and their warehouses in Nyala were attacked and looted by armed men. ICRC staff were beaten and personal property confiscated. In early July, fighting in the area resulted in the looting of offices and premises of several international organisations. During the lootings, two aid workers from World Vision were killed and three others injured.

North Darfur

In North Darfur, on 26 July, the Abbala and Beni Hussein tribes signed a comprehensive peace agreement in El Fasher, the capital of the state. On 18 August, the treaty allegedly came into effect with the reopening of roads linking Saraf Omra with Al Sareif Beni Hussein. Since the start of 2013, the two tribes have clashed violently over control of the Jebel Amer gold mine in Al Sareif Beni Hussein, leaving 839 people dead according to the authorities and an estimated 100,000 displaced according to the UN.

Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

In recent weeks, there have been reports of increased violence from SAF and affiliated militias against IDPs in camps in Darfur, and displaced people across Darfur continue to face attacks from different armed non-state actors. According to the Association of Displaced Persons and Refugees of Darfur, North, Central, and West Darfur are the hardest hit. New attacks occurred in Hila Beeda near Zalingei, capital of Central Darfur, at Hamidiyah camp in Central Darfur and near IDP camp Dankoj in Saraf Omra locality in North Darfur on 25 August. The last attacks occurred after violence was reported from Armenkol camp in West Darfur on 21 August, from North camp in Nertiti in Central Darfur on 21 August, and from the area of Krekir in North Darfur on 24 August. Since late June, several similar incidents have been reported from Zalingei camp in Central Darfur, El Salam, Dumma and Toum Kitter camps in South Darfur, Murnei camp in West Darfur, Dreige camp in South Darfur, Um Haleeb camp and Nertiti camp in Central Darfur.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

Displacement: OCHA stated on 30 June that an estimated 287,000 people have been displaced or severely affected by intertribal fighting and conflict between various armed groups and the Government from January to June. According to an August UNHCR report, there are almost 300,000 new IDPs since the beginning of 2013.

UNHCR cited an estimated 74,000 people fleeing into Chad since January 2013, including Sudanese (30,000) and Chadian refugees, following intertribal fighting in North and Central Darfur. It is the largest influx of refugees from Sudan into Chad since 2005. There are currently an estimated 330,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad. As instability persists across Darfur, this number may increase. Roughly, 5,000 people were also displaced from Sudan to CAR in March according to the UN.

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

In South Darfur on 21 May, renewed violence between Al-Gimir and Beni Halba tribes led to the displacement of 20,000 residents of Katela town to the southern neighbouring locality of Tulus. IOM reported that fighting between Salamat and Taisha tribes led over 1,800 people to flee their homes in East and South Darfur and take refuge in South Darfur’s Kalma IDP camp.

An estimated 60,000 people also took refuge in El Sereif and Saraf Omra localities in North Darfur.

In East Darfur, according to UNAMID, 10,000 people in Labado town continue to seek refuge near the UNAMID Team Site, with the town remaining empty. In Kulaykili Abu Salama in Assalaya locality, East Darfur, tribal tensions forced an estimated 500 people to flee the area in mid-July. New displacements may be expected as fighting is reportedly spreading to southeastern Darfur.

Since April, although verification is currently ongoing, roughly 22,300 people have been displaced in Central Darfur in the Um Dukhun area, following fighting between Misseriya and Salamat tribes. According to the Humanitarian Aid Commission, most of these IDPs have not received food assistance, although some have benefited from non-food item distributions and water and sanitation assistance.

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

According to UNHCR as of mid-August, there are 2.4 million IDPs in Darfur; an estimated 1.4 million live in camps.

Disaster: In early August, heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding was recorded across North Darfur, affecting the El Fasher, Mellit, El Kuma, and El Malha. The rains have destroyed thousands of buildings and affected at least 10,000 people.

Heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding was also recorded in South Darfur, in Nyala and surrounding IDP camps, killing seven people and destroying 400 houses. Rains reportedly also affected the districts of Al Wadi, Jebel, Al Jeer, Taiba and Texas.

Access: On 6 August, UNHCR stated that it had increasing difficulties negotiating the renewal of work permits for international staff in Darfur. After some staff had to leave Sudan, UNHCR had to temporarily scale down operations in Darfur. Other agencies such as WFP and UNICEF have not experienced problems with the renewal of work permits.

OCHA reported that, as of 21 July, relief supplies for new IDPs in Um Dukhun in Central Darfur are still stranded in Zalingei and El Geneina, the state capitals of Central Darfur and West Darfur respectively, due to logistic and security challenges. Most commercial
transports in the area are unwilling to go to Um Dukhun, citing insecurity. Inter-tribal violence reigned in the area over the previous week.

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

In South Darfur on 15 July, government security forces informed humanitarian agencies about criminal groups in Nyala town, most of whom come from Kass locality and other areas north of Nyala. The UN has warned of threats of carjacking and abductions targeting the UN and international NGOs. In early July, growing insecurity in Nyala heavily impacted humanitarian actors after two aid workers from World Vision were killed and three others injured as a result of fighting in the city.

Food Security and Malnutrition: As of early June, approximately 3.5 million people were receiving food aid, including 1.4 million in Darfur camps, according to OCHA. As reported by FEWSNET in early August, conflict-affected areas and new IDP populations in Darfur states, particularly in South Darfur are likely to remain at IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) levels through September and into the post-harvest season.

As violence has increased across the region, and especially in and around IDP camps, local sources reported that in Central Darfur, poor security has resulted in a failed planting season for IDPs in the vicinity of Zalingei.

Health: Almost 275 cases of severe food poisoning from contaminated grain were reported from Murnei camp in West Darfur on 25-26 August. The poisoning resulted in 13 deaths; large numbers of livestock have also reportedly died.

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

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

Blue Nile and South Kordofan states

Political and Security Context

Fighting has calmed in South Kordofan and Blue Nile with the onset of the rainy season, however, local sources reported renewed bombing resulting in one death in South Kordofan's Rashad locality on 8 August.

On 24 July, in an indication of increasing levels of coordination achieved between various armed movements, elements of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF), an alliance of armed opposition movements comprising notably People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) from South Kordofan and the JEM from Darfur, attacked an army position in al-Rachad in central North Kordofan, with people reportedly killed on both sides. Rachad is near the state capital El-Obeid and Um Ruwaba, a city stormed in a coordinated attack of the SRF in April. On 27 July, elements of the SRF staged an attack on a Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) patrol in Al Deleima village 18 km north of Delling town and 150 km from Kadugli on the main Kadugli - El Obeid highway linking the capital of South and North Kordofan respectively. While the situation reportedly remains volatile, the UN has temporarily suspended road movement between Kadugli and El Obeid. The fighting comes as the AU is trying to mediate the oil crisis that has led to the worsening of the relations between Juba and Khartoum over the past weeks.

On 27 April, talks about a possible ceasefire between the rebel SPLM-N and the Sudanese Government stalled over the issue of humanitarian access corridors. According to SPLM-N, the adjournment of the negotiations is linked to Khartoum’s insistence on convoluting the humanitarian issue to the political one, a condition the rebel group strongly rejects. Humanitarian access to the area remains limited. As of June, no announcement regarding the date for the next round of talks had been made public.

In May, the city of Abu Karshola in the area of Rashad in Southern Kordofan state was the scene of fierce fighting between rebel groups, under the umbrella of the SRF, and SAF.

At the end of April, after seizing the Abu Karshola village town, an SPLM-N armed group briefly besieged and looted the town of Um Ruwaba, a strategic stronghold linking Southern Kordofan state to Northern Kordofan state. This unprecedented attack and the fighting that ensued in the aftermath triggered regional resonance, leading Khartoum to overtly accuse Juba of supporting the rebels. According to Human Rights Watch, authorities arrested over 26 people believed to be supporting the SRF. As of 10 July, at least seven Darfuri and Nuba civilians remained in custody at unknown locations.

On 23 July, local reports indicated rising tensions between Kawaha al-Humr and Kawaha al-Zurug clans in the Balula area with six civilians reportedly killed. To date, there is limited information on the scale of the clashes and possible resulting displacement in the area.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

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

According to the South Kordofan and Blue Nile Coordination Unit (SKBNCU), ground fighting and aerial bombardment in SPLM-N-controlled areas of South Kordofan resulted in...
displacements in Buram, Dellami, Heiban, Rashad and Um Dorain counties in May. Fighting in South Kordofan, in Rashad County where the village of Abu Karshola is located, led to the displacement of over 63,000 civilians across SAF- and SPLM-N-controlled areas in late May according to various sources, including IOM, SKBNCU, HAC and SRCS. According to reports, 21,000 displaced people have recently returned to areas of origin in South Kordofan, particularly to Abu Karshola, with returns ongoing in late July. The remaining IDPs need food assistance and non-food supplies according to WFP.

During May, SKBNCU reported that aerial bombardment and ground fighting resulted in civilian displacement in Blue Nile state, from Mayak, Olimedon, Mufu, Abu Dera, Marmiton, and Khor Bashum in Wadeka payam, to Beilila and Samari areas, moving closer to the Sudan border. In Kurmkun County, ongoing internal displacement of over 20,000 civilians in Wadeka payam was reported late May to early June. The SKBNCU estimated that over 52,000 people were forcibly displaced in Blue Nile state in May.

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

According to UNHCR, an estimated 300 Sudanese refugees from South Kordofan cross the border to South Sudan daily. Reportedly, 200,000 people have fled to neighbouring South Sudan and Ethiopia.

Access: According to a UN report released on 6 June, access has remained constrained to rebel-held areas while it has improved in government-controlled areas since January. As of mid-August, there is no humanitarian access from Sudan to rebel-held areas in South Kordofan.

In mid-July, the UN continued to advocate with the Government and SPLM-N to allow a polio vaccination in areas not under Government control. To allow for the vaccination campaign to take place, both sides need to agree on a temporary cessation of hostilities and agree on a location for the vaccination and on where the vaccines should be sourced. On 13 July, the SPLM-N openly proposed to involve the UN Interim Security Force for Sudan and Ethiopia (UNISFA) in the vaccination campaign. As of 21 July, negotiations were advancing but with no resolution to date.

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

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

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to FEWSNET in July, food security conditions in SPLM-N controlled areas of Blue Nile and South Kordofan are likely to further deteriorate during the peak of the lean season from August to September. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels are likely to prevail in SPLM-N-controlled areas in Blue Nile and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels in SPLM-N-controlled areas in South Kordofan.

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

Conflict-affected areas controlled by the government in Blue Nile and South Kordofan are expected to be at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels through September, depending on access to land, labour opportunities and levels of displacement.

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

Updated: 02/09/2013

DJIBOUTI FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

Mid-August: According to FEWSNET and WFP, as of August, the Global Acute Malnutrition stood at 17.9% while chronic malnutrition stood at 35.2%. Some 33% of children are underweight, and 15% of women of reproductive age are acutely malnourished.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: The continued influx of refugees from Somalia is leading to an increase in humanitarian needs in both rural and urban areas. As of 17 April, there were 8,725 Somali refugees in Djibouti.

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to FEWSNET, food security conditions are expected to further deteriorate due to the effects of poor rainfall and the ongoing lean season, particularly in the southeastern border areas and Obock pastoral areas through September.

Several consecutive years of drought have led to a critical food security situation in Djibouti. Currently, 70,000 vulnerable people are at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity. The northwest, southwest and southeastern pastoral border livelihood zones are the worst affected. Rainfall levels in coastal areas at the end of the Heys-Dadaa rainy season (October through March) were 50% to 75% below normal. Rural areas near Obock town in the northeast, in the central pastoral lowland
livelihood zone, are experiencing severe water shortages and critical malnutrition levels. In the southeast, water access is expected to become increasingly limited, particularly in the areas of Sankal and Kabah-Kabah.

With the start of the lean season, households in southeastern pastoral border areas will continue to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity from June, according to FEWSNET. According to the April WFP report, food insecurity in Djibouti has increased since November 2012 while households’ own food production has decreased from 14.6% to 5.1% due principally to delayed rainfall and persistent cold.

Food security among poor households in Djibouti City’s urban centres of Balbala, Radiska, and Baulaos is anticipated to heighten but remain within Stressed levels (IPC Phase 2) following a substantial decline in labour opportunities and increase 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 the second semester of 2012. These prices depend heavily on the availability of food aid on markets of the interior regions.

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

Updated: 02/09/2013

ETHIOPIA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 26/08/2013.

23 August: A polio outbreak on the Horn of Africa has spread in Ethiopia, with one confirmed case in the Warder district, the first case since 2008.

End of July: UNHCR reported that Ethiopia is hosting 415,038 refugees: 243,643 Somalis; 74,513 Eritreans; 65,447 South Sudanese; 30,614 Sudanese; and 4,238 refugees from other countries.

Mid-July: According to UNHCR, an estimated 5,000 South Sudanese sought refuge in western Ethiopia. Most arrived from South Sudan's Pibor County in Jonglei state where violence between various non-state actors and Government forces has surged over the past weeks.

Political and Security Context

As of mid-June, Kenyan and Ethiopian surveyors finalised a fresh demarcation of the disputed border around Lake Turkana. The exercise is expected to resolve protracted armed conflict among pastoralists from the two countries and enable fishing in Lake Turkana.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: As of end July, UNHCR reported that Ethiopia is hosting 415,038 refugees: 243,643 (58%) Somalis; 74,513 (18%) Eritreans; 65,447 (16%) South Sudanese; 30,614 (7%) Sudanese; and 4,238 (1%) refugees from several other countries.

UNHCR registered 5,779 new arrivals in July, up from 3,555 In June. Over 3,000 new arrivals originated from South Sudan (mostly from Pibor County in Jonglei state, where violence between various non-state actors and Government forces has surged over the past weeks), and another 1,519 from Eritrea, representing the highest arrival figure from that country so far this year. The new camp at Hitsats now accommodates 2,570 Eritrean refugees.

UNHCR is relocating thousands of South Sudanese refugees currently settled in the border Wanthowa district to the existing Pugnido camp in Ethiopia’s Gambella region. Although 16,000 South Sudanese are estimated to reside at the border with host communities, their exact number is unknown since refugees in the area remain unregistered.

Disaster: OCHA noted on 9 May that floods have affected an estimated 50,000 people across the country since April. Oromia and Somali regions were the most severely hit. Over 8,300 hectares of belg cropland were destroyed by armyworms in Wolayita zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples’ Region (SNNPR), an area that suffered from heavy rains which had already damaged belg crops. The damage caused by armyworms will further reduce the expected harvest from July to September. The infestation is rapidly spreading with armyworms reported in Boricha, Bona Zuria, Dara, Dale, Hawassa Zuria and Loko Abaya woredas of Sidama zone; Loma and Mareka woredas of Dawro zone (SNNPR), as well as in drought prone areas of East and West Hararge zones of Oromia region. In Borica woreda, more than 655 ha of belg cropland was destroyed in a week.

Food Security and Malnutrition: As of March, OCHA estimated that 2.4 million people in Ethiopia faced Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) levels of food insecurity, notably in the Afar, Oromia, SNNPR and Somali regions. Other estimates suggested that the total number of people affected by food insecurity might be as high as 3.5 million.

Recent reports indicated that East and West Hararge zones in eastern Ethiopia have deteriorated into food insecurity Crisis (IPC Phase 3) following two consecutive, poorly-distributed rainy seasons and a below average meher harvest in October-November 2012.

According to OCHA, delayed belg rains in most belg-receiving parts of the country, including SNNPR, north eastern Amhara, eastern and southern Tigray and central and eastern Oromia regions, have led to late planting of belg crops. According to FEWSNET, poor households in affected areas will not be able to meet their food needs through the next harvest without depleting livelihoods assets. Most households have turned to the market to access food as early as January, as their food stock from the 2012 belg and meher harvest was exhausted. Following the seasonal decline in grain supply, wholesale prices of main cereals increased from March to mid-May by 5-10% in most markets.
In *belg* cropping areas of southern Tigray and eastern Amhara regions, the planted area was reported to be well below average levels. Despite an increase in rainfall since mid-April, the delayed onset of seasonal rainfall has led to unfavourable ground conditions for northeastern *belg* producing areas of Ethiopia. The erratic nature of the seasonal rains has negatively impacted cropping activities, likely resulting in below-average crop yields.

The situation is particularly difficult in sweet potato growing areas of SNNPR following the poor output of the recent harvest and the reduced income opportunities from coffee plantations as a result of low coffee production and prices.

Poor rains in pastoral areas mean that pasture availability will remain lower 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.

WFP reported in June that year-on-year prices have increased by 7.4% for general, 3.7% for food, and 11.9% for non-food items, compared to same time in 2012. The wholesale price of staple cereals increased in all monitored markets compared to the previous month. The retail price of maize, wheat and sorghum also showed a month-to-month increase in most markets. However, the rate of increase is higher in most of East and West Hararghe woredas markets and in a few markets in SNNPR and Tigray region.

**Health:** On 23 August, a polio outbreak on the Horn of Africa was reported to have spread in Ethiopia, with one confirmed case in the Warder district. This is the first case since 2008, but the area is considered high risk because of its proximity to Somalia.

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

**WASH:** According to the UN, critical water shortages continue to be reported in Afar Region. Water availability also deteriorated over the past month in Tigray Region. Water shortages were reported in Adadle and Kebridehar woredas. However, the seasonal rains have fully replenished water sources in Somali and SNNP regions, and in nearly all woredas of Oromia and Amhara Regions. More than 566,000 people are in need of water trucking across the country, down from 720,500 people in March.

*Reviewed*: 02/09/2013

**KENYA  FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY**

**Highlights**

**As of 30 August**, inter-clan clashes which broke out on 21 August continued in the north of the country, resulting in the death of 12 people. Attacks were reportedly caused by inter-community rivalry opposing the Borana and the Gabbra.

**As of end of August**, poor households are likely to be able to meet minimum food requirements, however they will remain at Stressed levels (IPC Phase 2) through September 2013 in localized parts of Makueni, Kitui, Taita Taveta, and Kwale counties.

**16 August:** An attack blamed on Somali Islamist insurgents killed at least four people in Garissa, southeastern Kenya and displaced hundreds of people into the bush.

**End of July:** Heavy rain has increased water levels of Lake Baringo in western Kenya, forcing around 2,000 people in Marigat district to flee their homes for higher ground. Food crops have been destroyed, and local leaders say many people are at risk of starvation.

**11 July:** At least 181 people were killed, 217 injured and over 52,000 people newly displaced from their homes since January 2013 as a result of inter-communal conflict in Kenya.

**Political and Security Context**

Local sources reported that inter-clan clashes which broke out on 21 August continue in the north of the country. On 30 August, heavy gunfire was heard in the area of Butie, near the town of Moyale. On 25 August, violence spread to parts of Mandera county, following fresh tribal clashes in Moyale and Marsabit which caused the death of 12 people between 21 and 26 August. Attacks were reportedly caused by inter-community rivalry opposing the Borana and the Gabbra.

On 16 August, an attack blamed on Somali Islamist insurgents killed at least four people in Garissa, southeastern Kenya, and displaced hundreds of people into the bush. Dadaab has experienced high levels of insecurity due to the volatile situation in Somalia where clashes are reportedly occurring between the Garre and Degodia ethnic Somali clans, who have been feuding in Mandera County since March 2012. Tension and conflict between the two communities has historically revolved around competition for natural resources. Since March 2013, however, emerging tensions are attributed to political disagreements over governance issues under the new devolution structures. Inter-clan violence has spread to neighbouring Wajir County. Leaders from the warring Garre and Degodia clans signed a peace agreement on 23 June to stop the clashes, but violence resumed 24 June.

On 11 July, OCHA reported that since January 2013, at least 181 people have been killed, 217 injured and many displaced as a result of inter-communal conflict in Kenya. The Kenyan Red Cross reported that conflict between the Garre and Degodia clans in Mandera County had left over 85 people dead as of 25 June.

From June 2012 to May 2013, Dadaab camp has also seen kidnappings of humanitarian workers, explosions, grenade attacks, random shootings, and increased banditry. In 2010/2011, the camps experienced a huge influx of refugees from Somalia. During 2012 and 2013, the refugee population has remained relatively constant.

In unrelated violence in western Kenya, tension is high along the West Pokot and Turkana County border after three herders were killed and another injured in a raid on 28 June, according to Kenyan police. Motives behind the attacks are unclear as the raiders...
allegedly did not steal any cattle. Western province saw a surge in indiscriminate attacks by various armed groups and gangs in early May, affecting the cities of Bungoma and Busia. However, the two communities recently held talks where they agreed to peacefully resolve feuds between them.

Across Kenya, at least 153 people have been killed and 237 injured as a result of inter-communal conflict since the beginning of 2013, OCHA reported.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

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

**Displacement:** On 11 June, OCHA reported that inter-communal conflict has caused over 52,000 people to be displaced from their homes since January 2013.

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

The influx of Somali refugees into Kenya continues. According to UNHCR, the total number of Somali refugees amounts to 494,704 as of 30 June. Of these, 425,000 reside in Dadaab refugee complex in northern Kenya. The Kenyan Government estimated the number of Somali refugees in Kenya at 600,000 people as of late June 2013. In July, Kenya and Somalia signed a deal for "voluntary repatriation", though the actual modalities remain to be agreed.

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

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** The food insecure population declined to 1.1 million in February 2013 from 2.1 million in August 2012 according to the Kenya Food Security Steering Group 2013 short rains assessment. This was attributed to near average short rains crop production and improved grazing conditions compared to the 2012 August to September lean season.

In the southeastern and coastal marginal mixed farming livelihood zones in Kenya, the average to above average rainfall in March and April 2013 was followed by a dry spell in May, which ceased during a critical stage of maize development. Nonetheless, the dry harvest of maize will likely begin in July, and some dry maize along with more drought resistant pulses are expected to sustain minimally adequate consumption. FEWSNET reported in August that poor households are likely to be able to meet minimum food requirements, however they will remain at Stressed levels (IPC Phase 2) through September 2013 in localized parts of Makueni, Kitui, Taita Taveta, and Kwale counties. The proportion of children ‘at risk’ of Malnutrition declined between June and July by almost 10% in Makueni and marginally in Kitui County, and the proportions remained below their five-year averages.

FEWSNET also reported that the March to May long rains have been beneficial in the pastoral areas of Kenya, where livestock conditions and milk production have improved, and the prices of livestock have generally increased compared to the dry season.

**Health:** In the Horn of Africa, the outbreak of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) has reached 31 cases in total. According to OCHA on 16 August, ten cases were registered in Kenya, all in Dadaab in northeastern Kenya. This is the first WPV outbreak in Kenya since 2011. To date, two rounds of outbreak response activities have been undertaken, targeting 1.35 million people, including all age groups in Dadaab.

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

**Updated: 02/09/2013**

### MALAWI FOOD INSECURITY

**Highlights**

No new developments this week. Last update was: 01/07/2013

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Disaster:** In total, almost 173,000 people have been affected by flooding and storms since the onset of the rainy season in February. The hardest-hit areas were the Mangochi, Phalombe and Nsanje districts, located in the south of the country, in the same region that had previously suffered from rain shortages and drought.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** An estimated 2 million people were classified as food insecure in Malawi, marking a significant increase since June 2012 with some areas having experienced four consecutive poor harvests. 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 being the most severely affected. Even before the current crisis, 40% of the population was living below the poverty line.

In central and northern parts of the country, low crop yields due to the dry spells are expected to result in stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security conditions until September as households begin to deplete their food stocks and incomes from crop sales.

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. Between April and May, average national maize prices dropped by 19% in response to increased supplies. However, in May, the average national retail price for maize was 129% higher than the average retail price in the corresponding period in 2012. As a result of high prices, social unrest has increased within the country.

Simultaneously, low strategic grain stocks are contributing to lower levels of maize availability on the market. FEWSNET reported that informal cross border maize exports...
have decreased significantly and are now less than half of the export levels registered in May 2012. This is mainly due to restrictions placed upon the transport of maize that are being imposed by local leaders and the government’s strict enforcement of the maize export ban.

Reviewed: 15/07/2013

UGANDA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 19/08/2013.

16 August: The Ministry of Health declared an outbreak of Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) in Omot sub-county of Agago, northern Uganda.

7-10 August: Heavy rain in the eastern district of Bududa and northern district of Amuru affected respectively 10,000 and 6,000 people.

1 August: 70% of the 66,000 Congolese refugees who fled to Uganda after ADF/NALU’s attack on Kamango (Democratic Republic of Congo) have now returned to their village, according to WFP.

11 June: Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU) rebels attacked the town of Kamango in neighbouring North-Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), causing at least 66,000 refugees to cross the border into western Uganda’s Bundibugyo district.

Political and Security Context

On 11 July 2013, the Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU) rebels attacked the town of Kamango in North-Kivu, causing significant population displacement from Kamango and surroundings toward Uganda’s Bundibugyo district. Initially, the ADF/NALU rebel movement fought the Ugandan government of Yoweri Museveni, but it has been based in eastern DRC since 2000 and has been recruiting, training and reorganizing to carry out attacks on Uganda. The Congolese official military force FARDC, tasked with fighting rebel groups across the country, has had several clashes with ADF/NALU in North-Kivu. On 11 July, ADF/NALU ousted FARDC from Kamango, but the city was taken back by the Congolese army on 12 July.

On 30 June, the cities of Mamundioma and Totolito, located in the district of Beni in North-Kivu along the DRC-Uganda border, passed under the control of ADF/NALU with at least 16 people killed in the fighting according to local media reports. Over the past decades, the area has been highly volatile with incursions by militias from neighbouring Uganda being regularly reported.

President Museveni’s current term in office has been characterized by increased opposition action and mounting parliamentary pressure on the government, especially over governance. There have been periodic tensions between opposition protestors and security forces, especially in 2011.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: On 10 August, heavy rain and hailstorms ravaged several villages causing landslides and floods in Bududa district (eastern Uganda). Many people are reported missing and local sources reported that over 10,000 people may require urgent resettlement. On 7 August in Amuru district (northwestern Uganda), heavy rain caused the Unyama stream to burst, causing flooding and leaving over 6,000 homeless.

In May 2013, heavy rains caused the banks of the Nyamwamba River to burst, resulting in flooding in Western Uganda’s Kasese district. As of early May, 25,445 people were reportedly affected by the floods, according to the Uganda Red Cross Society.

Displacement: Since 11 July, insecurity in neighbouring DRC has led 66,000 DRC refugees to cross the border into western Uganda’s Bundibugyo district over the last month. On 1 August, WFP reported that 70% of the refugees have returned and now face food shortages. UNHCR reported on 17 July that Uganda was already host to over 125,000 DRC refugees and asylum seekers before the latest clashes.

Instability in South Sudan and movement of South Sudanese into Uganda is also an issue of concern. OCHA reported 3,200 refugees from Jonglei as of 31 July.

Food Security and Malnutrition: Food insecurity is increasing among poor and very poor households, putting 1.2 million at risk according to reports from the government and aid agencies.

According to FEWSNET on 19 July, harvesting of 2013 first season crops is underway and production prospects are near average. Overall food security is satisfactory but deteriorating in the Karamoja region. According to the Uganda Food Security Steering Group, about 80,000 people are considered in crisis food security conditions (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, IPC, phase 3), mostly concentrated in Karamoja region. Also in Karamoja, an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) conducted in June analysis revealed that up to 975,000 people in the semi-arid region faced Stressed levels of food insecurity, with an additional 234,000 unable to meet minimum food needs. In May, an assessment carried out by WFP indicated that the food security situation was especially poor in the districts of Kotido, Kaabong, Moroto, Napak and Nakapiripirit. By mid-July, about 66,000 refugees fled fighting from North Kivu province in DRC and arrived in Uganda’s western district of Bundibugyo. The influx of refugees is putting pressure on the capacity of Government and humanitarian agencies to meet new refugees’ needs in terms of food, water, shelter, sanitation and health.

Health: On 19 August, local media reported that clinics outside the capital are facing drug shortages, HIV test kits, and anti-retroviral treatment (ARVs).

On 16 August, the Ministry of Health of Uganda declared an outbreak of Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) in Omot sub-county of Agago, northern Uganda. One case has been confirmed so far and three deaths are under investigation.

In June, the Red Cross Movement confirmed an outbreak of Ebola haemorrhagic fever in
Luwer district (Central Uganda).

In April, the Uganda Ministry of Health reported an outbreak of cholera in the eastern districts of Hoima, Nebbi and Buliisa. Since the beginning of 2013, the cumulative number of reported cases from cholera affected districts has reached 216 cases with seven people killed by the epidemic. The national case fatality rate from these districts stands at 3.2%. An estimated 217,350 persons (38,128 households) in affected sub-counties are severely at risk of cholera infection, with a wider population of 900,500 people in the districts also at risk due to the high mobility of local populations. Many affected communities are fishing communities where lack of clean water coupled with poor sanitation and hygiene practices have contributed to the outbreak and spread of the disease.

**Reviewed: 02/09/2013**

**ANGOLA FOOD INSECURITY**

**Highlights**

No new development this week. Last update was: 19/08/2013

14 August: Some 1.5 million people are reported to be food insecure due to the impact of the current severe drought.

27 June: Over 1.8 million people have been affected by a severe drought in Angola that has destroyed crops in parts of the country. The most severely affected areas are the five southern provinces of Namibe, Cunene, Kuando Kubango, Huila, and Benguela.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** Since November, Angola has been affected by a prolonged drought leaving 1.5 million people food insecure as of 14 August. The five southern provinces of Namibe, Cunene, Kuando Kubango, Huila and Benguela are the most severely hit. In Cunene, the hardest hit province, the GAM rate has reached 24%. Crop losses in Cunene are expected to reach up to 80%, adversely impacting farmers including semi-nomadic communities and children <5. This represents 50% of Cunene’s population of whom 130,000 are children <5.

In Namibe province, a joint assessment conducted in early June found that roughly 250,000 people were affected by drought and 70% of crops destroyed. According to CARE, remaining household food stocks will not last until September. After food insecurity, the greatest reported problem is lack of access to water. Half of all water points are no longer working or have dried up according to UNICEF. People are reportedly migrating in search of water and pasture for their cattle.

As a result of the drought, and despite an anticipated improvement of food security nationally compared to 2012, southern provinces are expecting a poor cereal harvest for the second consecutive year, negatively impacting food security. Crop and livestock productions have been adversely affected on account of the prolonged dry conditions and the resultant poor pastures. The government has established an emergency plan to provide assistance in the southern province of Cunene, where roughly 640,000 people are affected by drought.

An estimated 533,000 children suffer from varying levels of malnutrition in a country that is still recovering from decades of civil war lasting until 2002.

**Health:** As a result of the use of untreated stagnant water, levels of water-borne disease are increasing. An estimated 1,571 cases of cholera have been reported in the provinces of Huila, Cunene and Benguela, with 62 deaths. The Ministry of Health has reported an epidemic of dengue fever (over 900 cases and ten deaths) and an outbreak of measles in 60% of the municipalities across Angola, particularly affecting children suffering from malnutrition. Malaria is affecting large numbers of Angolans, with 75 deaths reported in eastern Lunda Sul province in the first quarter of 2013 and over 15,000 cases registered overall, according to official sources.

**Reviewed: 02/09/2013**

**BOTSWANA DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY**

**Highlights**

No new updates. Last updated: 05/08/2013.

23 July: The Government declared the 2013/14 agricultural season a drought year following a government drought assessment. The food insecure rural population is estimated at 372,479 (49% of the rural population), 18% of the total population.

**Humanitarian Needs and Context**

**Disaster:** The Government declared the 2013/14 agricultural season a drought year following a drought assessment. The food insecure rural population is estimated at 372,479 (49% of the rural population), 18% of the total population. The exercise confirmed that rainfall was poorly distributed and much below normal in most parts of the country. The overall food situation across Botswana has deteriorated and the whole country was declared to be affected by the drought. The most affected areas are Ngamiland District, Ghanzi, Kgalagadi, Southern and Central districts.

The 2012/13 cropping season was also largely characterised by a prolonged period of below average rains, punctuated by intense rainfall in January which caused localised flooding and minor damage to the agriculture sector. In addition to the unfavourable weather conditions, an outbreak of armyworms in late 2012, mainly concentrated in south-eastern areas of the country, infested approximately 4,500 hectares of cropped land, representing about 3% of average cropped area to cereals.

The national annual inflation rate remained comparatively stable between the last quarter of 2012 and first quarter of 2013, averaging at about 7.4% over the six months.

The human water supply is generally low, especially the southern part of the country supplied from Gaborone Dam which is facing a precarious situation due to the dam’s low...
water volume. Agro-based livelihoods are expected to suffer income losses and asset depletion, especially in light of the anticipated drought related livestock mortality.

Roughly 28% of Botswana's population suffers from chronic food insecurity.

Reviewed: 02/09/2013

CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 19/08/2013.

13 August: 4,286 Central African refugees have been registered in Cameroon between January 2013 and August 2013.

29 July: Attacks carried out by the religious extremist group Boko Haram throughout Nigeria and the North East of Cameroon have led to a significant deterioration of security in the states of Borno, Yobe and KL Adamaoua.

17 July: The International Red Cross estimated that there are about 10,000 Nigerian refugees in Cameroon. Government and UNHCR figures indicate over 8,000 located in the Far North Region alone.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: On 29 July, operational INGOs reported that attacks carried out by the religious extremist group Boko Haram, operating throughout Nigeria and the North East of Cameroon, have led to a significant deterioration of the security situation in the states of Borno, Yobe and KL Adamawa. Since 10 June 2013, Nigerian refugees have been crossing the border to Cameroon’s far north region, mainly in the departments of Mayo Sava, Logone Chari and Mayo Sanaga. As of 17 July, the International Red Cross estimated that there are about 10,000 Nigerian refugees in Cameroon. As of 15 July, Government and UNHCR figures showed more than 8,000 located in the Far North Region, mainly women and children. A joint assessment mission conducted on 20 June by UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, and WFP in Zelevet concluded that needs among the arrived refugees are largely in WASH, Health and Nutrition sectors.

According to UNHCR on 13 August, 4,286 Central African refugees have been registered in Cameroon between January 2013 and August 2013. 1,800 registered refugees are in the eastern region and roughly 1,400 live in urban areas, mainly Yaounde and Douala. UNHCR cites an estimated 85,000 CAR refugees living in Cameroon.

Food Security and Malnutrition: The two Sahelian regions, Far North and North, remain extremely vulnerable to food insecurity. The regions have been slow in recovering from the 2011-2012 drought and 2012 floods. As of 30 June, OCHA reported that 350,000 people are food insecure. In the second half of 2013, a further increase in vulnerability is expected due to the exacerbating effect of the present inflation of grain prices. According to UNICEF in early July, prolonged drought in northern Cameroon has reduced food output and pushed up prices, further exacerbating the severity and prevalence of malnutrition in the whole Sahel region.

UNICEF reports that the nutrition situation for 2013 is similar to that in 2012 due to a structural vulnerability of populations in the northern regions which has increased with each consecutive crisis. As of 30 June, an estimated 83,233 children <5 suffered from SAM and 134,680 suffer from MAM.

Reviewed: 02/09/2013

GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 15/07/2013.

Early July: Some 103,000 people are estimated as food insecure in the Gambia. This marks a decrease from over 241,000 people estimated to be food insecure at the same time in 2012.

Humanitarian context and needs

Food Security and Malnutrition: Although the agricultural production in 2012/2013 was higher than in the previous season, OCHA observed that it remained below the 5-year seasonal average as of July. In addition, floods, outbreaks of epidemics, or a reoccurrence of the Contagious Bovine Pleuro-pneumonia (CBPP) remain risks that would exacerbate the existing vulnerabilities further.

As of early July 2013, humanitarian actors estimated that 103,000 people still required food assistance across the country. This number marks a decrease from over 241,000 people estimated as food insecure at the same time in 2012. The proportion of food insecure is generally higher in urban areas of Banjul, Kanifing and Brikama.

Despite an improved domestic harvest, prices of imported cereals are likely to stay high, in view of the continuing depreciation of the Dalasi, the Gambian currency. Access to food will remain difficult for the population with a significant portion continuing to be food insecure in 2013 as a result of high food prices and of the lingering effects of last year’s food crisis, according to FAO.

As of July, 29,500 children are malnourished of whom up to 4,000 suffer from SAM and the remaining from MAM as of July.

Reviewed: 02/09/2013

GUINEA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 29/07/2013.
25 July: The death toll rose from 58 to at least 100 with 242 wounded, and 30,000 displaced after a sudden outbreak of ethnic violence in south eastern Guinea between 15-17 July.

Political and Security Context

The Guinea Government reported on 25 July that the sudden outbreak of ethnic violence killed at least 100 people between 15-17 July, a significant increase compared to previously announced death toll of 58. UNHCR reported on 19 July that 242 were wounded after Guerze tribesmen, who form the majority population in the forest region, allegedly attacked three ethnic Konianke in the town of Koule. Fighting spread to the provincial capital Nzerekore, 570 km southeast of Conakry, and clashes reached the town of Beyla on 17 July. According to the UN, security and defence forces were deployed to restore order, with the support of additional troops from Macenta and Gueckedou, and calm seems to have been restored as of 22 July.

On 3 July, in a political breakthrough, Guinea's presidential coalition and opposition parties signed an agreement to hold legislative elections in September 2013. Guinea's electoral commission, CENI, had previously postponed the parliamentary elections scheduled for 30 June, after the Government and the opposition failed to agree on how to proceed with the vote.

Guinea's opposition parties withdrew from UN-mediated election talks with the government after violence broke out on 20 June and left three anti-government activists shot and nine others wounded. The negotiations aimed to secure opposition participation in the long-delayed parliamentary polls, which are meant to seal the mineral-rich nation's transition to civilian rule following a coup in 2008.

On 8 June, President Alpha Conde had announced that he might delay legislative elections scheduled for 30 June if authorities found technical problems. The statement was seen as a concession made to the opposition while more than 50 people have been killed in the country in three months of clashes between protesters and security forces. The opposition activists have accused President Conde of seeking to rig the legislative polls and are asking for the elections to be postponed until their complaints are met.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: Several international organisations reported on 23 July that 30,000 people were displaced following the outbreak of ethnic violence from 15-17 July. On 19 July, UNHCR reported that several hundred IDPs sought refuge in military camps in Nzerekore and Beyla.

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to FAO, land preparation and planting of the 2013 rice and coarse grain crops are underway following the start of the rainy season in May. Crops benefited from favourable climatic conditions in most areas of the country. The aggregated 2012 cereal production is estimated to have increased by about 10% to 3.2 million tons compared to 2011. Overall, access to food has improved in recent months, driven mostly by lower prices of imported commodities. However, despite the improved food security situation, FAO indicated that 600,000 people, located mostly in Kindia, Labe and Nzerekore regions, still suffer from severe food insecurity, while an additional 1.1 million people are considered at risk.

Reviewed: 02/09/2013

NAMIBIA DROUGHT

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 13/05/2013.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Food Security: On 17 May, the President of Namibia declared a national drought emergency and called for assistance from the international community. WFP has identified 331,000 people as food insecure (14% of Namibia's total population). Another 450,000 are moderately food insecure, according to an 8-20 April 2013 Emergency Food Security Assessment. Results of an Inter-Agency Emergency Food Security Assessment also indicated that agricultural production will be very poor due to the lowest seasonal rainfall for decades.

The Government forecast that following the prolonged dry period during the 2012-13 cropping season (November-June), Namibia's main cereal production for 2013 will be down by an estimated 42% compared to 2012 production levels. Grazing pastures have also been severely affected in six regions where many households rely on livestock production; 4,000 livestock deaths have been recorded. The cumulative rains between January and March were approximately one-third of the average with the poor rains most pronounced in southern and western Namibia. The north western Omusait Region, which contributes approximately 14% to the national cereal output, was severely affected by below-average rains and an outbreak of army worms. It is expected to record a sharp decline in cereal production, estimated at 50% below average. The most affected provinces are Omusati, Kunene, Erongo, Otjozondjupa, Khomas, and Kavango according to low resolution satellite images.

Water levels are decreasing, and 40-50% of water points no longer function. Many farmers are forced to sell cattle, due to lack of pasture, while cow-herds from Angola, which also suffers from the drought, are reportedly crossing the border in search of food, fuelling tribal tensions as competition for scarce pastures intensifies.

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

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

Despite the early response, the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management reported that, as the number of affected people increases, there will be a significant funding gap.

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

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

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

Reviewed: 02/09/2013

ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 19/08/2013.

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

Political and Security Context

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

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: According to UNHCR, Eritrean refugees crossing to neighbouring Ethiopia are on the rise, while the number entering Sudan has dropped compared to 2012.

Since January, UNHCR and the Ethiopia government’s refugee agency, the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), have registered over 4,000 new Eritrean refugees. As of June, Ethiopia hosts nearly 72,000 Eritrean refugees, a record high, in four camps in the northern Tigray region and two others in the Afar region in north-eastern Ethiopia.

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

Djibouti also receives an estimated 110 Eritreans each month.

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

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

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

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

Reviewed: 02/09/2013

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights
2 September: Taliban fighters have attacked a car park for NATO vehicles at a US military base in Nangarhar province. A gun battle between the fighters and security forces reportedly ensued while no reliable reports on casualties are yet available.

27-30 August: Violence has noticeably intensified across the country as the Taliban insurgents forcibly increased pressure on the NATO contingents currently withdrawing from Afghanistan. While the insurgents continue to strike against various foreign targets and government forces and workers, they have also started to deliberately target civilians that are seen to be cooperating with the government. On 30 August, a suicide bombing, the last in a string of attacks this week, killed 12 people, including a district governor, in northern Kunduz province.

28 August: Seven people were killed and 62 wounded in a Taliban attack on a base operated by Polish and Afghan forces in eastern Afghanistan’s Ghanzi province. Several other attacks were recorded across the country on the same day. Two attacks in southern Helmand province, in the province’s capital Lashkar Gah and at the outpost of Nad Ali, killed three soldiers and 10 Afghan civilians while wounding over 20 additional people. In Bakwa district of Farah province, near the border with Iran, Taliban insurgents killed 15 police in an ambush on a main highway in the west of the country. On 27 August, the insurgents reportedly torched 40 trucks that supply NATO-led forces with fuel and killed six Afghan drivers.

27 August: It was reported that the Taliban executed 12 Afghan workers, including five Afghan employees of the US-based NGO International Rescue Committee, in the considered “stable” Herat and the restive Paktia provinces after accusing them of working for the government.

26 August: President Karzai arrived in Islamabad to attempt to mend bilateral relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, while testing the ground regarding Pakistan’s involvement in peace talks with the Taliban.

Political and Security Context

On 14 August, as reported by a senior Afghan peace negotiator, a former Taliban diplomat now working with the Karzai government, the resumption of peace talks in Qatar with the Taliban is becoming increasingly unlikely. To date, fresh talks in Turkey or Saudi Arabia seem to be considered as a more realistic option by Kabul. No Western source has yet commented on the statement, although it is unlikely any negotiation with the Taliban might be conducted without the US. In the meantime, the Taliban movement officially announced on 6 August that it did not intend to participate in the presidential election scheduled for next year in April and would continue fighting until all foreign troops leave the country.

The US leadership was forced to delay planned talks in Qatar, following the Afghan Government’s fury over being bypassed in the negotiations, and by the opening of a Taliban political office in Qatar. To date, Kabul is refusing to participate in peace talks that are not “Afghan-led”. On 30 June, President Hamid Karzai restated his suspicions regarding direct dealings between the West and the Taliban in Qatar and the role played by neighbouring Pakistan in brokering the talks, though he expressed hope that the peace talks would begin soon. Bilateral relations between the two neighbours allegedly worsened after a Pakistani official openly floated the idea of an Afghan power-sharing arrangement between Kabul and the Taliban. On 26 August, President Karzai arrived in Islamabad to attempt to mend bilateral relations while testing the ground regarding Pakistan’s involvement in peace talks with the Taliban.

A spokesperson for the Taliban indicated in late June that the insurgents have no intention of changing their tactics in conflict-plagued Afghanistan despite the possible peace talks. Since they vowed to start a new campaign of attacks on 27 April, launching “insider attacks” as a key tactic against foreign and Afghan military forces targets, the Taliban have intensified their offensive across the country. Since May, the insurgents have also largely targeted foreign humanitarian targets. On 22 July, the Afghan parliament voted to remove the country’s Interior Minister after accusing him of failing to quell attacks from militants as the responsibility for security has been handed over to the local forces.

Violence has noticeably intensified across the country over the past week as the Taliban insurgents forcibly increased pressure on the NATO contingents currently withdrawing from Afghanistan. While the insurgents continue to strike against various foreign targets and government forces and workers, they have also started to deliberately target civilians that are seen to be cooperating with the government. On 2 September, Taliban fighters have attacked a car park for NATO vehicles at a US military base in Nangarhar province. A gun battle between the fighters and security forces reportedly ensued while no reliable reports on casualties are yet available. On 30 August, a suicide bombing, the last in a string of attacks this week, killed 12 people, including a district governor, in northern Kunduz province. On 28 August, seven people were killed and 62 wounded in a Taliban attack on a base operated by Polish and Afghan forces in eastern Afghanistan’s Ghanzi province. Several other attacks were recorded across the country on the same day. Two attacks in southern Helmand province, in the province’s capital Lashkar Gah and at the outpost of Nad Ali, killed three soldiers and 10 Afghan civilians while wounding over 20 additional people. In Bakwa district of Farah province, near the border with Iran, Taliban insurgents killed 15 police in an ambush on a main highway in the west of the country. On 27 August, the insurgents reportedly torched 40 trucks that supply NATO-led forces with fuel and killed six Afghan drivers.

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insurgents, 9% by pro-government forces, and 12% resulted from ground fighting between the two sides. These numbers are a significant increase when compared to the first half of 2012 and close to the record casualties recorded during the same period in 2011. The increase in attacks underscores rising levels of violence as the international troops have started to disengage from the country.

As of August, ICRC continued to operate with caution in Afghanistan, following the major security incidents on the IOM compound on 24 May in Kabul and on their own compound in Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province on 29 May.

Most of the 85,000 international troops stationed in Afghanistan are scheduled to withdraw by the end of 2014, and over 75% of the country was expected to be under national security control by end-July 2013, following the formal handover of national security from the US-led NATO coalition to Afghan forces on 18 June. Within the US-led NATO coalition, there is widespread concern regarding the capacity of the 352,000-strong Afghan security forces to cope with the insurgency. To date, there is no clear understanding over how many international troops, if any, will stay in Afghanistan after 2014 as relations become increasingly tense between Kabul and Western allies.

Against this background, military operations are ongoing. Five Afghan policemen were accidentally killed in a US air attack on 31 July, during an overnight operation in Nangarhar Province. Casualties of Afghan military caused by air strikes conducted by NATO-led forces have long been a major source of friction between Kabul and its international allies.

Heavy military operations were reported in Faryab, Badakhshan and Maidan Wardak provinces in May and June. On 11 August, two US soldiers were killed in combat operations against insurgents in Paktia province, at the eastern border with Pakistan, an area that has seen some of the highest levels of fighting over the years. In early July, an Afghan general commented that the insurgents have stepped up operations in the east. According to Afghan military sources, insurgent numbers are up around 15% on last year’s summer fighting months. In early May, tensions sharply escalated between Kabul and Karachi following two border incidents, further straining the relations between the two countries.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

As reported by OCHA in mid-June, Kandahar, Helmand and Nangarhar are among the most vulnerable Afghan provinces, ranking high in the number of security incidents, civilian casualties, and conflict displacement, health and nutrition indicators. Across Afghanistan, an estimated 7.7 million people are in need of protection while the situation in the country is increasingly volatile.

**Displacement:** In 2013, conflict displacement is the main cause of acute humanitarian need, with a marked increase in previously stable provinces in the north, particularly Faryab and Badakhshan, notes OCHA. As of 31 May, there are an estimated 570,000 internally displaced people in Afghanistan.

Nearly 2.9 million registered Afghan refugees remain in exile in Pakistan and Iran, with an estimated additional 2.4 million undocumented refugees. The Government of Pakistan agreed not to expel Afghan refugees who had permission to stay in the country until June, with Kabul and Islamabad also agreeing, at a recent UN-backed meeting, to continue efforts to solve the protracted refugee situation. Pakistani media reports that the presence of Afghan refugees is triggering tensions in host provinces. On 5 July, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a province hosting roughly 60% of Afghan refugees, officially opposed extending Afghan refugees’ stay in the country and suggested that should the need arise, registered Afghans be equally distributed among the four Pakistani provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab and Baluchistan.

Overall, an estimated 5.4 million people are affected by the ongoing conflict.

**Disaster:** In early August, flash floods triggered by days of torrential rain killed over 60 people, according to the authorities. The rains and subsequent floods affected nine eastern and southeastern provinces and some districts of Kabul. As of 6 August, an estimated 3,400 people were affected by the flash floods with 458 houses completely destroyed and an additional 61 damaged.

**Access:** As reported by the UN in June, security incidents continued to affect humanitarian workers. Although humanitarian programmes are not suspended, movement restrictions are increasingly applied and several organisations are reviewing their security protocols.

The humanitarian space in Afghanistan continues to shrink as security is becoming increasingly precarious. Local sources, quoted by OCHA, registered an increase of 62% in attacks on aid workers, excluding UN staff, during the first three months of 2013 compared to the same period in 2012. In June, 25 incidents against humanitarians were reported in 16 provinces, ranging from killings, intrusion of health facilities, abduction, arrest and detention, collateral impacts of IEDs, intimidation, disruption of aid distributions, theft of humanitarian assets, direct small arms fire and rocket attacks.

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

According to a WFP report published in mid-August, though final production estimates are not yet available, a preliminary forecast put the 2013 wheat production at 4.9 million tons, slightly below the 2012 harvest which was the second highest on record for the last 35 years. However, large differences exist between provinces. Smaller wheat harvests were gathered in Faryab, Ghor Jawzjan, and Khost due to dry spells and early rains combined with wheat rust in some areas. Despite bumper harvests in 2012 and 2013, wheat and wheat flour prices in some provinces have been increasing since June 2012. Flour prices recorded higher increases reflecting limited availability of domestic flour. Continuous depreciation of the Afghani over the last two years amplified the price increases in local currency.

As noted by WFP in mid-August, the current average price of wheat in the main cities of Afghanistan is 14.5% higher compared to July 2012, and 2.9% higher than the last 5-year average price recorded in July. The current wheat flour average price is higher by 18.6% and 11.8% compared to July 2012 and the last 5-year average price recorded in July, respectively. In July 2013, wheat and flour prices in Kabul were reportedly both 3% higher...
than in June, but over 20% higher than a year earlier. The current average price of low quality rice, the second main staple food in Afghanistan, is higher by 23% compared to July 2012, and by 30% compared to the last 5-year average price recorded in July. The current average price of high quality rice is also higher by 28% compared to July 2012, and by 35% compared to the last 5-year average price recorded in July.

As reported by OCHA in mid-June, 125,692 children <5 suffer from Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), including 28,650 suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).

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

Updated: 02/09/2013

SYRIA CIVIL WAR

Highlights

31 August: President Obama puts on hold a plan to attack Syria for its alleged use of chemical weapons pending a United States Congress vote on the use of military force. Congress is due back from its summer recess on September 9.

30 August: Prime Minister David Cameron definitively rules out British involvement in military action against Syria after the House of Commons voted against plans for a possible intervention.

26 August: UN inspectors visit for the first time the site of an alleged chemical attack in Eastern Ghouta. Under its mandate the team is not permitted to investigate which party was responsible for using chemical weapons, only to confirm what chemical agents were used during the 21 August attack. Under an agreement with the Syrian Government, the UN team has until the end of 1 September to complete their investigation. The UN stated that it will take around two weeks after the investigation has concluded for the research report to be finalised.

23 August: Over 42,300 refugees, mainly Syrian Kurds, have crossed the border into Iraqi Kurdistan since 15 August when the Kurdistan Regional Government authorities in northern Iraq opened the Peshakapor and then the Sehela border crossings allowing access from Al-Hasakeh governorate into the Kurdish region of Iraq.

21 August: A large-scale chemical weapons attack in Ghouta killed hundreds of people, according to opposition groups. Doctors stated they had received over 3,600 patients displaying neurotoxic symptoms in three Médecins Sans Frontières-supported hospitals in Damascus governorate on 21 August. 355 of these patients reportedly died.

15 August: A group of Syrian activists, including military leaders and members of the opposition coalition, presented a roadmap for political transition in Syria should President Bashar al-Assad’s Government fall.

10 August: The president of Iraq’s semi-autonomous Kurdistan region released a statement declaring willingness to intervene to defend the Kurdish population caught up in Syria’s unrest if fighting between Kurds and Islamist anti-Government forces in northern Syria continues.

8 August: After months of negotiations, UN inspectors arrived in Damascus on a mission to investigate the alleged use of chemical weapons in the country.

31 July: In the north-western Homs district of al-Waer, UNICEF warned that 400,000 civilians, who had moved there to seek shelter from the violence in central Homs, were cut off from assistance.

Political and Security Context

Overview

At the start of the week, the United States warned that a military strike on Syria was imminent, following the alleged use of chemical weapons near Damascus. By the end of the week, President Obama indicated that he would seek congressional approval of US Congress before any such action. Congress is due back from its summer recess on September 9. On 21 August, opposition groups claimed that poisonous gas attacks occurred in Zamalka, Arbeen and Ein Terma in the eastern suburbs of Damascus. The Syrian Government accuses opposition forces of using chemical weapons to prompt an international military intervention. Meanwhile, intensive fighting continues in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqâ, Rural Damascus and Homs. Intensive clashes which ignited at the start of the month between Government and opposition groups in the governorate of Lattakia appear to have ceased.

Fighting

Damascus/Rural Damascus

In Rural Damascus, fierce fighting continues around Damascus city, including in areas that were allegedly hit by a chemical attack on 21 August. Air raids on opposition targets were launched on multiple occasions, while the Government reported that several mortars exploded in the centre of Damascus on 26 August. In addition, a car bomb killed nine soldiers southeast of the capital on 29 August, according to the Government reports, triggering clashes between Government troops and opposition fighters.

Opposition groups claim that the Government has used chemical weapons during military operations in the eastern and western Ghouta zones in Damascus on 21 August. Médecins Sans Frontières confirms that three hospitals supported by the NGO in the region have received over 3,600 patients suffering from neurotoxic symptoms. Whilst the organisation could not confirm the cause of the symptoms reported, the symptoms reportedly strongly indicate mass exposure to a neurotoxic agent. The Syrian Government denies responsibility for the use of chemical weapons. If confirmed, the attack would be the deadliest use of chemical agents since its use by Saddam Hussein in northern Iraq in the 1980s. The use of chemical weapons was reported by opposition groups on at least 5 previous occasions, in areas of Damascus and Aleppo.
Aleppo

Local activists report that an incendiary bomb hit a school playground, killing at least 7 people and leaving over 50 injured. BBC reports that video material of the attack suggests that the bomb contained something similar to napalm or thermite.

Fierce clashes continue in the governorate. On 27 August, Syrian opposition forces took control of Khanasir, a strategic town between Aleppo and Hama, thereby cutting off the Government forces’ only supply route out of the city of Aleppo.

Homs

Opposition forces have revitalised their bid for the central governorate of Homs. On 12 August, armed groups tried to take control of the strategic town of Talkalakh, 4km from Lebanon's northern border. Its capture would allow opposition groups in the Homs countryside to replenish their supplies. For weeks, Government forces have been attempting to consolidate control of the governorate, which is considered vital to securing their access from Damascus to the president's coastal stronghold.

Lattakia

A prominent Alawite religious leader was reportedly killed in the province of Lattakia at the start of the week. Sources report that Jabhat al-Nusra killed the religious leader after he was kidnapped in the northern suburbs of Lattakia earlier this month. Clashes in the governorate have decreased after Government forces reclaimed opposition controlled villages in the coastal governorate of Lattakia. The only remaining opposition-held area in the governorate is the Salma region.

Al-Hasakeh

At the start of August, the Islamic State of the Levant (ISIS) pressed a fresh offensive to take control of majority Kurdish areas. The fighting hit the villages of Dardara, Hmeid and Jafa, as well as others surrounding the strategic town of Ras Al ‘Ain, near the Turkish border. A Kurdish suicide bomber reportedly attacked opposition groups in Ras Al ‘Ain. The continuing fighting is one of the reasons for a major influx of refugees to Iraqi Kurdistan which started on 15 August. The refugees, who are mostly Kurdish families, say they are fleeing the upsurge of violence in areas of Aleppo, Efrin, Al-Hasakeh and Qamishli in northern and north-eastern Syria, as well as a lack of access to services.

International context

Security incidents in Lebanon continue, with clashes between armed groups and the Lebanese Armed forces in the northern city of Tripoli, tit-for-tat kidnappings, shelling of border areas and frictions on the outskirts of Palestinian refugee camps. At least 47 people were killed in Lebanon’s northern city of Tripoli after two bombs exploded on 23 August, a week after a car bomb killed at least 27 people in a Hezbollah-supporting district of Beirut. Syrian armed opposition groups have threatened to attack Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon since the group stepped up its armed support for President Bashar al-Assad’s Government in April.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

In April, the UN estimated that over 6.8 million people were in need of humanitarian aid as a result of the heavy fighting and subsequent lack of access to livelihoods and services. Heavy fighting continued over the last four months and a continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation is reported. Hence, it is likely that this number is significantly higher. The UN is planning to publish an updated figure of the number of people in need by the end of September.
Two UN response plans, one requesting funding for Syria and one for host countries, were launched on 7 June, requesting over 5 billion USD to fund humanitarian operations in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt. By 2 September, only 42% of the appeal had been covered. Without more funding, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent warned that 150,000 people might have to go without food aid in October.

Displacement: Since the start of the conflict, over 5 million people have been displaced inside Syria. The prospect of a US-led military strike has reportedly led to small scale displacements away from military bases. UNRWA estimates that over 50% of the Palestinian refugees registered in Syria are now displaced either within Syria or to neighbouring countries.

Refugee numbers in the region continue to increase. Since 3 August, over 40,000 new refugees were registered, bringing total across the region to 1.98 million by 2 September. By 27 August, more than 55,000 Syrian refugees had crossed into Iraq's Kurdish region since 15 August when the Kurdistan Regional Government in northern Iraq re-opened its borders with Syria. The local government is transporting many of the refugees to temporary camp sites while two new refugee camps in Erbil and Sulayamniyah are being prepared.

Over 718,000 Syrians are registered or awaiting registration in Lebanon (Government estimates 1 million Syrians in total, including a large number of Syrian migrants), over 518,000 in Jordan (Government estimates 600,000 Syrians in total), almost 464,000 in Turkey (Government estimates of 490,000), almost 172,000 in Iraq (the recent influx is not fully reflected in this figure) and close to 111,000 in Egypt (Government estimates up to 300,000).

Amid the large scale influx, Lebanon has introduced stricter measures for Syrians trying to enter the country. Since 22 July 2013, the Lebanese General Security Office has imposed controls that require Syrians above the age of 15 to present full, undamaged documentation when entering the country. A number of people have been turned back.

Following the recent unrest in Egypt and subsequent deterioration of the situation for Syrian refugees in the country, there has been a recent spike in the number of Syrians departing. Most of the Syrians have cited anxiety, insecurity and diminished livelihood opportunities as reasons for wanting to leave Egypt. Since the beginning of July, approximately 280 Syrians have been arrested, of which around 140 are currently in detention.

Access: The escalating conflict in Syria is limiting access to communities, particularly in northern governorates. Relief organisations cite an increase in airstrikes, localised fighting, and conflict-related road closures as impediments to humanitarian operations in Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Idlib, and Lattakia governorates. In addition, divisions among rebel forces are limiting humanitarian access to opposition-held areas in the Syrian conflict. Active fighting, widespread insecurity, and numerous checkpoints along transportation routes are limiting humanitarian access from the city of Damascus to other parts of southern Syria. WFP reports that many locations in Rif Damascus governorate have been inaccessible for several months. A large number of aid workers are caught in the cross fire or targeted by parties to the conflict. To date, 22 Syrian Arab Red Crescent workers have been killed during the conflict.

WASH: ICRC reports that in addition to acute shortages of food and medical supplies, access to potable water is of concern in several areas in Syria. Water networks, pumping stations and generator sets have been subject to severe damage and destruction. A water pipeline in Hama that serves some 1.3 million people was damaged in heavy clashes two weeks ago, for example. In addition, UNICEF reports localised water contamination in East Ghouta due to poor chlorination.

Food Security and Economy: 4 million Syrians will need urgent food aid, as crop and livestock production has been devastated by the civil war. Wheat production for 2012/2013 is estimated at about 2.4 MT, an estimated 40% decrease from the average annual harvest of more than 4 MT in the 10 years before the conflict, according to WFP and FAO.

Education: Of 22,000 school buildings, 16.5% are damaged or destroyed or being used as shelters by displaced families. The school year is anticipated to re-start in the beginning of September.

WASH and Health: The health situation is worsening with basic services becoming more inaccessible to growing numbers of people. In large parts of rural Damascus for example, there is a severe lack of medical supplies and medical personnel. The Ministry of Health reported that, at the end of April, 60% of public hospitals were partially damaged or out of service.

Updated: 02/09/2013

YEMEN

CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

31 August: Gunmen staged an attack on the motorcade of the country’s Prime Minister, Mohammed Salem Basindwa who escaped unhurt.

30 August: At least four suspected al-Qaeda militants were killed in a presumed US drone strike in the central al-Bayda province, according to local authorities. Since late July, drone attacks have killed at least 40 people in Yemen. Amidst widespread security concerns, US-led drone strikes continue to be conducted in the country with the support of the authorities.

28 August: According to OCHA, torrential rains have triggered flash floods in several parts of Yemen. The recent storms and heavy rainfall began on 14 August and have since continued. As many as 39 people are reported killed and others still missing as a result of floods and lightning strikes that affected Taizz, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah and Ibb Governorates, and the Arqa area located between Shabwah and Abyan Governorates. To date, an estimated 14,000 people have been affected. The flash floods have severely affected three IDPs camps near Haradh, northwestern Yemen in Hajjah governorate, impacting 8,000 people and destroying half the tents.

Political and Security Context
Violence and insecurity continue across Yemen with inter-tribal fighting in the north, fighting between the Government and armed groups in the southern governorates, and civil unrest in urban centres of the west and central governorates. Yemen is home to one of the most active wings of al-Qaeda – al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

In mid-August, armed clashes were reported across the country. On 19 and 20 August, fighting between Houthi members and Islah tribesmen over land on Al-Janah Mountain left 13 dead and dozens injured in Amran governorate, according to authorities. Security forces intervened but could not end the clashes as both sides were using heavy weaponry. In the aftermath, on 20 and 21 August, clashes were reported in Sa’ada governorate between Houthi affiliates and Salafis, killing three and wounding eight.

On 31 August, gunmen attacked the motorcade of the country’s Prime Minister, Mohammed Salem Basindwa who escaped unhurt. On 25 August, a bomb detonated in the capital Sana’a killing one officer and wounding several others. Since early August, local security forces continue to be on high alert amid fears of an imminent attack by al-Qaeda in Sana’a, which the US State Department described as specific and immediate. Several reports indicated that dozens of al-Qaeda militants entered Sana’a from the Hadramaut, Abyan, Marib, and Al-Shabwa Governorates and may be plotting a large scale attack using motorcycle and car bombs. The Ministry of Interior confirmed that security measures have been bolstered at all government installations in Sana’a, the presidential palace, the airport, embassies, foreign installations, and the Mövenpick Hotel which is hosting the National Dialogue Conference. Yemeni authorities reported that they have successfully hindered Islamist militants’ plans to blow up oil pipelines and take control of key cities, including two ports in the south.

Yemen remains a strategic spot for the US and its Gulf allies who need to contain threats from al-Qaeda-affiliated militants and separatist tribes to Saudi Arabia and nearby sea lanes where oil tankers pass. Amidst these security concerns, drone strikes continue to be conducted in the country with the support of the authorities. On 30 August, at least four suspected al-Qaeda militants were killed in a presumed U.S. drone strike in the central al-Bayda province, according to local authorities. Since late July, drone attacks have killed at least 40 people in Yemen.

Last year, the Yemeni army, with US backing, drove al-Qaeda militants and their allies from some of their strongholds, but the militants have since regrouped and mounted attacks on government officials and installations. At present, information available on the military operations remains scarce. In June, Yemeni governmental forces conducted several large-scale offensives against al-Qaeda affiliated groups that seized villages in the southeastern province of Hadramaut, east of the port city of Mukalla. The aim of the Islamist militants remains allegedly to set up an Islamist State in the east of the country.

On 22 August, Yemen apologised to southern separatists and northern rebels for wars against them, seeking to encourage a national dialogue aimed at drafting a new constitution and holding elections. In mid-August, southern representatives withdrew from the dialogue demanding apologies from the government and calling for the talks to be held abroad, where many of their leaders live in exile. National dialogue sessions, which started in March with a view to start drafting a new Yemeni constitution, agree on other reforms, and prepare for elections in February 2014, spurred numerous protests and violent incidents in Sana’a and the Aden governorate. In late June, the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum announced that a referendum for the new Yemeni constitution will be held on 15 October and followed by general elections. This is seen as a success following the discussions achieved so far by the National Dialogue Conference.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

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

**Displacement:** On 5 July, Yemen asked IOM to assist 200,000 Yemeni migrant workers forced to leave Saudi Arabia since April as part of a crackdown on undocumented migrants. Although a Saudi amnesty for undocumented migrants previously scheduled to expire in early July was extended until November, it is expected that the Yemeni migrants will have to leave by end September. The number of Yemeni migrants returning from Saudi Arabia could therefore increase in the coming months.

As a result of widespread conflict and according to the UN, an estimated 344,000 IDPs remain in Yemen’s north, including Sana’a. 162,000 IDPs have returned to areas of origin in the southern Abyan governorate and in neighbouring areas thanks to improved security. Further returns are ongoing, according to UNHCR, however authorities are struggling to meet the needs of the returnees.

UNHCR recorded the arrival of over 46,000 refugees and migrants during the first six months of 2013, with an estimated 39,000 from Ethiopia and the rest from Somalia. Numbers of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in Yemen have been rising for the past six years. In 2012, a record 107,500 people made the journey. While numbers are lower for January to June this year at 46,700 compared to 56,146 for the same period in 2012, this year is another year with a high number of arrivals.

Yemen hosts more than 242,000 refugees according to UNHCR. According to IOM, 22% are women and girls who have experienced repeated gender-based violence.

**Disaster:** According to OCHA, torrential rains have triggered flash floods in several parts of Yemen. The recent storms and heavy rainfall began on 14 August and have since continued. As many as 39 people were killed and several others still missing as a result of floods and lightning strikes that affected Taizz, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah and Ibb Governorates, and the Arqa area located between Shabwah and Abyan Governorates. To date, an estimated 14,000 people have been affected across the country. According to reports, the flash floods have severely affected three IDPs camps near Haradh, northwestern Yemen in Hajjah governorate, affecting about 8,000 people and destroying half of the tents.

Although to date information remains limited, there are reports of family displacements, and loss of livestock as well as livelihoods and infrastructure in several regions of the country. In some areas, scarcity of drinking water has been reported.

**Access:** Information about humanitarian needs remains difficult to ascertain. Humanitarian access is hampered by insecurity across the country. There is a high risk of abduction of foreigners.
Over the last few months, since the start of the National Dialogue, civil disobedience campaigns have disrupted humanitarian work and educational institutions in southern Myanmar.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to OCHA, approximately 10.5 million people in Yemen are food insecure. WFP reported on 23 July that 5.3 million people are severely food insecure. Food security conditions are of particular concern in Aden and Lahij Governorates where 90% of households are food insecure, and 30% severely food insecure.

The causes of food insecurity will likely persist and be aggravated by poor prospects for local agricultural production, estimated to be roughly 8% lower than in 2012, and by rising wheat and wheat flour prices. According to FAO, the recent surge in prices that reached their highest level since 2011 in April is likely due to conflict in several southern areas. During April 2013, Yemen's general inflation was 14% while that of food inflation stood at 16.5%.

The Ministry of Agriculture announced that swarms of red desert grasshopper locusts have descended on Sa'ada and Al-Jawf Governorates, threatening this year’s harvests. However, considering that Yemen imports up to 90% of its staple foods, it is expected that the locusts will not have a large impact on domestic food prices and availability.

UNHCR reported that 998,000 children <5 are acutely malnourished in Yemen with the 15% emergency threshold exceeded in six Governorates. The situation is serious (GAM rates of 10-14%) in six other Governorates.

**Health:** A collapse of public services following the civil unrest in 2011 has severely disrupted access to health services, clean water, and basic sanitation. The UN reported an estimated six million people did not have access to health care across the country in May. Epidemics are again recurring, with 170 children dying from measles in 2012.

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**MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS**

**Highlights**

**Late August:** OCHA reported that an estimated 100,000 people have been displaced by conflict across Kachin and northern Shan states, including over 53,000 in areas beyond Government control. The number of registered IDPs has reached 91,000 people.

**Political and Security Context**

On 24 August, a group of 500 to 1,000 Buddhists, some carrying sticks and swords, attacked Muslim villagers in remote Htan Kone in Myanmar’s northern Sagaing region, destroying at least 20 homes and shops. Although order was reportedly restored by the authorities the following day, this last incident highlights the extent to which opposition between Buddhist and Muslims is spreading throughout the country.

Sectarian and ethnic strife between Muslims and Buddhists in various parts of the country continues. In June and October 2012, confrontations between ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and the Muslim minority shook western Rakhine state, killing hundreds of people and displacing thousands who remain in IDP camps. In recent weeks, human rights infringements were reported, and tensions remain high with the authorities imposing restrictions measures on the displaced Muslim minority.

On 9 August, violence flared up again in Myanmar’s Rakhine state between security forces and the Muslim minority, underscoring the volatility near the state capital Sittwe. A dispute over custody of a dead Muslim fisherman escalated into a day of clashes in which witnesses reported that police dispersed crowds of Muslims in the third such incident in two months. At least two people were killed and over a dozen injured. During the clashes, a police outpost in Ohntawgyi was allegedly burned down. According to international observers, the situation remained tense as of 12 August. UNHCR has issued a call for dialogue over the situation in Rakhine state.

The August outbreaks of violence follow other incidents recorded over the past weeks in Rakhine state. On 1 July, rioters torched two houses in Thandwe, a coastal town in Rakhine State in another episode of sectarian violence between Muslims and Buddhists. On 27 June, two IDPs were killed and six others wounded when security forces opened fire on a crowd outside a military post in Paungtaw Township after a dispute arose between IDPs and host communities, according to the UN. On 4 June, two Muslim women were shot dead by police in Mrak-U Township, near Parein camp, where inter-communal violence occurred last year. At the start of June, reports indicated that ethnic violence spilled over from Myanmar to nearby Malaysia where four Buddhists from Myanmar were killed in separate incidents.

On 22 July, a bomb exploded in Mandalay, the country’s second city in central Myanmar, north of Yangon, at a sermon by a radical Buddhist monk who heads a movement accused of stirring violence against Muslims. Although the explosion wounded several people, no casualties were reported, but the incident highlights the ongoing volatility of the local context.

On 20 July, authorities lifted the state of emergency imposed on the riot-hit area around Meikhtila, following the clashes and attacks, which resulted in 44 people killed and over 70 injured during March and April, and also affected Yangon and surrounding areas. New fighting between Buddhists and Muslims was reported in Lashio town in eastern Shan state in late May.

Over the past months, central authorities have made significant progress towards pacification of Myanmar, signing several ceasefire agreements with various insurgents groups representing ethnic minorities across the country. On 15 July, President Thein Sein stated that for the first time in six decades a nationwide ceasefire was possible and promised that all political prisoners would be released by end 2013. On 24 July, the UN welcomed the release of an additional 73 political prisoners on top of January’s release of 600 political prisoners.

On 5 August, the All Burma Students’ Democratic Front, a once outlawed student movement, signed a state-level ceasefire agreement with Karen State government representatives. The preliminary understanding is seen as a step toward broader national reconciliation. In mid-June, an agreement to push ahead with a national ceasefire between
authorities and the Union Peace-Making Committee and Karenni National Progressive Party, representing the Red Karen in Kayah State, was reached.

The Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) and government representatives signed a historic seven-point ceasefire agreement on 30 May. The agreement includes provisions to continue the political discussion and prevent further clashes while efforts are underway to reduce fighting. Fighting between the Government and the Kachin Independence Army, the armed wing of the KIO, who is seeking greater autonomy for the one million Kachin people residing in Myanmar, had re-ignited in June 2011.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: As of June, an estimated 140,000 people are still displaced because of the inter-communal violence between Rakhine Buddhists and the Muslim minority that occurred in June and October 2012. The displaced are mostly located across eight Rakhine townships (Kyaukpyu, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ramree and Rathedaung).

OCHA reported in August that an estimated 100,000 people have been displaced by conflict across Kachin and northern Shan states, including over 53,000 in areas beyond Government control. The number of registered IDPs has reached 91,000 people. Many have been displaced for up to two years, triggering renewed and additional needs for provision of basic services, livelihood and protection. The most urgent needs in displaced communities include education, health care, renovation of shelter, and replacement of NFIs and WASH facilities.

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

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

Roughly 440 people remained displaced as of 2 June in Lashio, following inter-communal violence at end May, while some 6,800 Muslim people remain displaced in June as a result of the clashes in Meiktila. Of the over 12,000 affected people at the beginning of the unrest in March 2013, more than 6,800 remain displaced in Meiktila as of July 2013.

While several ceasefires have been agreed in recent months, discussions on IDP returns are ongoing.

Disaster: While the monsoon season is at its peak, new heavy rains and flash floods were reported in Myanmar, notably in Yangon, the former capital, last week. To date, information on the number of people affected remains lacking.

In late July, heavy rains caused flooding along the Salween River in southern Myanmar’s Kayin (Karen) State, inundating large parts of Hpa-an, Hlaing Bwe, Kyar Inn Seik Kyi, Myawaddy, Paing Kyone and Kyondo townships. About 30 relief camps have been set up on higher ground to provide shelter to the displaced. Floods have also affected Mon, Tanintharyi and Rakhine States, and the Ayeyawadi Region.

The Myanmar Relief and Resettlement Department reported on 7 August that 7,338 people remained displaced following the monsoon floods. The number of affected and displaced had significantly decreased from the over 38,000 people reportedly displaced as of 2 August. According to authorities, 4,365 people are still affected in 22 locations in Kayin. In Mon State 1,855 IDPs are in three camps. In Ayeyawadi region, Tharbaung and Maubin townships reported 1,079 people displaced to safer places as of 7 August. In Rakhine state, 39 people were displaced due to flooding. According to the authorities, people across the flood-affected areas are returning home with shelters scheduled to close.

WFP reported that some affected rural people would require food assistance until the harvest season in November-December as floods have destroyed food stocks and paddy fields.

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

On 21 June, a UN-led aid convoy was allowed to cross into non-government controlled parts of Kachin state to deliver food and other life-saving relief to communities displaced by the conflict. It is the first time in nearly a year that the UN has been allowed to enter the area.

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

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

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

Updated: 02/09/2013

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES COMPLEX

Highlights
UNRWA reported on 27 August that one of its staff members was shot dead and another one wounded by Israeli forces during an operation in Kalandia refugee camp in the occupied West Bank. Credible reports say both men were on their way to work and were not engaged in any violent activity. An UNRWA investigation is ongoing.

On 14 July, an initial agreement between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) on direct final status negotiations was announced. A meeting between leaders of the two countries is scheduled for the next weeks in Washington.

On 26 June, the Kerem Shalom crossing reopened after being closed for two days by Israeli authorities as a response to rockets fired from Gaza. Kerem Shalom, the only functioning official crossing for goods to and from Gaza, was closed for 52 days during the first four months of 2013. Frequent closures have left OPT short of gas for cooking and heating, affecting businesses, agricultural production and health services, according to the UN.

On 27 August: An UNRWA staff member was shot dead and another one wounded by Israeli forces in an operation in Kalandia refugee camp in the West Bank.

On 14 August: 26 Palestinian prisoners were released by Israel as part of the current peace negotiations.

On 19 July: An initial agreement between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on direct final status negotiations, was announced. A meeting between leaders of the two countries is scheduled for the next weeks in Washington.

Political and Security Context

The negotiations face several severe challenges, one of which is the issue of Israeli settlements. On 16 August Israeli announced that it was moving forward with plans to build nearly 1,200 new housing units in East Jerusalem and the West Bank and another 890 units in Gilo settlement, East-Jerusalem.

While the negotiation process is expected to be lengthy, an ease of access and restriction of movement for the population in the OPT and for goods is pressing. Egypt has targeted the underground passages between Gaza and Egypt as part of a military offensive to regain control of the Sinai desert.

Following the killing of 26 Egyptian policemen in the Sinai Peninsula by an armed group on 19 August, Egyptian authorities have closed the Rafah Crossing with Gaza in both directions until 25 August, when the crossing re-opened for a few hours. Due to recent restrictions imposed by Egyptian authorities, the daily average of travelers in August prior to the closure was around 300, compared to over 1,800 in June, before the current crisis. The disruption in the functioning of Rafah Crossing has impacted the supply of drugs and medical disposables. Prior to the crisis, 25-30% of those supplies arrived via the Rafah Crossing, however, no such consignment has entered since 5 July.

On 26 June, the Kerem Shalom crossing reopened after being closed for two days by Israeli authorities as a response to rockets fired from Gaza. Kerem Shalom, the only functioning official crossing for goods to and from Gaza, was closed for 52 days during the first four months of 2013. Frequent closures have left OPT short of gas for cooking and heating, affecting businesses, agricultural production and health services, according to the UN.

On 27 August: An UNRWA staff member was shot dead and another one wounded by Israeli forces in an operation in Kalandia refugee camp in the West Bank.

On 14 August: Direct peace talks expected for that day were cancelled after clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces broke out in the West Bank. Four people were killed and 24 wounded in a clash in the West Bank’s Qalandiya refugee camp.

On 19 July: An initial agreement between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on direct final status negotiations, was announced. A meeting between leaders of the two countries is scheduled for the next weeks in Washington.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

According to OCHA, the humanitarian situation in OPT remained unchanged during 2013. Longstanding protection threats affecting the Palestinian population, including movement and access restrictions, continue to generate high levels of humanitarian need with 2.1 million people in need of assistance.

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

Food Security and Malnutrition: According to OCHA, 1.8 million people need humanitarian assistance in the Palestinian territories, with protection of the civilian population, improvement of food insecurity, provision of access to basic services, and prevention of forced displacement as the highest priorities. Over 770,000 people are food insecure in the West Bank alone as of 17 June, according to the UN.

Preliminary results of the annual joint Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey carried out by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, WFP, UNRWA, and FAO found that 1.6 million people (34% of households) were food insecure in 2012. This represented a significant increase from 27% in 2011. Contributing factors include high unemployment rates (35%), stagnant economic growth, the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank,
Updated: 02/09/2013

PAKISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

1 September: At least nine Pakistani servicemen were killed when a roadside bomb hit an army convoy passing through the troubled region of North Waziristan near Pakistan's border with Afghanistan in the last attack to date.

31 August: At least three foreign militants were killed in a suspected U.S. drone strike in the Mir Ali area of North Waziristan according to local officials.

29 August: Since early August, Pakistan has experienced severe rains and flash floods across the country. As of 29 August, the number of affected stood at between 1,3 and 1.5 million people across the country according to the authorities. The floods have reportedly killed 193 people and injured over 1,100 people while affecting 5,297 villages all over the country. During last week, moderate downpour was still ongoing on parts of the country, notably the capital Islamabad and the city of Lahore.

28 August: Health officials warned of a serious polio outbreak after the disease was detected in 16 children in North Waziristan, a tribal district where militant groups have banned vaccination. Most of the children affected were under five years old. According to the authorities, more than 240,000 in North and South Waziristan are at risk because of the imposed ban on vaccination.

26 August: Afghan President Hamid Karzai arrived in Islamabad to attempt to mend bilateral relations while testing the ground regarding Pakistan's involvement in peace talks with the Taliban.

25 August: The Pakistani authorities accused the Indian army of killing two people and wounding seven other civilians in shelling across the Line of Control (which marks the de facto border in the disputed region). Pakistani officials further reported that at least 300 villagers have fled the area on 26 August because of the shelling. Tensions have been running high along the India-Pakistan contested border in Kashmir since early August with both parties trading accusations for the ongoing incidents.

Political and Security Context

Tensions have been running high along the India-Pakistan contested border in Kashmir since early August, with international observers fearing that the November 2003 ceasefire and the stalled peace talks between the two countries might be put into question. On 19 August, New Delhi openly stated that it was running out of patience regarding the situation on Kashmir. Indian readiness to adopt a tougher stance is largely seen as an indication of the increasing influence of opposition hardliners on the governing Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who tried to relaunch peace talks with Pakistan.

Although the Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called for a "new beginning" in relations with New Delhi in mid-August, new incidents along the contested Kashmiri border continued to be reported. On 25 August, the Pakistani authorities accused the Indian army of killing two people and wounding seven other civilians in shelling across the Line of Control, which marks the de facto border in the disputed region. Pakistani officials further reported that at least 300 villagers have fled the area on 26 August because of the shelling. On 22 August, the Pakistani military reported that two of its soldiers were killed following "unprovoked" fire from the Indian side. The previous day a Pakistani soldier was killed in a similar incident while Indian authorities announced that they were only responding to Pakistani fire. In an attempt to diffuse tensions, Islamabad announced the release of over 300 Indian prisoners on 24 August.

Since 6 August, violence has spiked between New Delhi and Islamabad after Indian authorities blamed Pakistani troops for killing five soldiers in an attack on the border. India has hinted at possible retaliation. Islamabad denied being behind the attack and indicated that heavily armed terrorists, and persons in Pakistani army uniform, had perpetrated the attack. Several incidents that resulted in casualties on both sides were recorded on 7, 11, 13 and 18 August.

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

New Delhi has also accused Islamabad of trying to push through militants into its side of Kashmir to revive a decades-old revolt there. Several protests have sparked in Indian Kashmir over last weeks with three people killed on 9 August in a demonstration in the Jammu region. Underscoring Indian concerns, protesters allegedly unfolded a Pakistani flag and shouted pro-Islam, pro-independence slogans after offering Eid prayers.

On 22 August, by-elections were held in seats that were forced to annul results from the May vote due to violence or because candidates had since vacated their seats. The elections allowed Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's party, Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N), to further consolidate its hold on power and increase the new government's ability to push through unpopular economic reforms. On 30 July, Mamnoon Hussain, an ally of Nawaz Sharif, was voted to be the Pakistani President, a largely ceremonial role.

On 31 August, at least three foreign militants were killed in a suspected U.S. drone strike in the Mir Ali area of North Waziristan according to local officials. An increasing number of such attacks in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) have been reported with at least five occurring since Nawaz Sharif was sworn in on 5 June. Seeing these US-led attacks as a breach of Pakistani sovereignty, the new Prime Minister has repeatedly called for an end to US drone strikes against militants, although one such attack killed the number two of the Pakistani Taliban, Wali Ur-Rehman, in North Waziristan on 29 May. To avenge his death, the Islamist movement officially announced that it created a new wing to attack foreigners in June. As reported by the Pakistani authorities in late August, 339 drone attacks have been recorded in the country since 2004 resulting in the killing of an estimated 400 civilians within the tribal belt. No estimation of the number of insurgents
killed was made available. On 1 August, in an effort to ease tensions with Islamabad, the US Secretary of State said drone strikes in Pakistan would end soon.

According to a Pakistani Taliban spokesman, the insurgent movement has side-lined a senior commander, Asmatullah Muawiya, who welcomed the government’s offer to hold peace talks. Since arriving in power in May, N. Sharif has repeatedly suggested that his administration is ready to negotiate with the Taliban. On 19 August, he reiterated this desire in a public speech while leaving open the possibility to continue using force. The issue is highly controversial in Pakistan while it is unclear if the influential Pakistani military would welcome such talks. On 31 July, the Chief Minister of Baluchistan announced his intention to dialogue with all militant groups operating in the area as an alternative to the use of force.

Pakistan has played a pivotal role in establishing contact between the Taliban and the US in Qatar. On 26 August, Afghan President Hamid Karzai arrived in Islamabad to attempt to mend bilateral relations while testing the ground regarding Pakistan’s involvement in peace talks with the Taliban.

Tensions are running high in Pakistan with regular Taliban attacks reported across the country, notably affecting the FATA and the volatile southwest. On 1 September, at least nine Pakistani servicemen were killed when a roadside bomb hit an army convoy passing through the troubled region of North Waziristan near Pakistan’s border with Afghanistan in the last attack to date.

In August, particularly during the celebration of the Muslim festival of Eid al-Fitr, attacks surged in the area of the southwestern Baluchistan provincial capital of Quetta with over 70 people being killed and dozens injured. Quetta is at the forefront of militant Islamist violence, a Baluch separatist insurgency, and violence against the Shiite Muslim minority that constitute a little over 10% of the country’s population. Separatist Baluch groups have been active for decades in Baluchistan opposing central authorities that they accuse of depriving those of Baluch origins from their rights.

Last month, terrorist attacks and armed assaults were notably recorded in the southern port city of Karachi – capital of Sindh province, the Gilgit-Baltistan territories in the north, and the Punjab province. In July, Pakistan was plagued by almost daily violence that killed over 200 people, with attacks increasingly targeting the Shiite Muslim minority. On 30 July, a Taliban attack on a prison in the city of Dera Ismail Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, near the border with Afghanistan, allowed the insurgents to free 250 prisoners, including Taliban militants. The high-profile assault underlined growing capabilities of the Pakistani Taliban and put into question the efficiency of the new government’s efforts to combat the insurgents.

Although reports remain scarce and casualty figures are difficult to ascertain, military operations appear to be ongoing in Pakistani tribal areas between government troops and Taliban insurgents. On 14 July, according to official sources, the Pakistan Air Force bombed several alleged militant hideouts and killed at least 17 people in a mountainous tribal area between Orakzai, Khyber and Kurram understood to be the Taliban-linked militants’ main stronghold.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

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

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

According to OCHA, as of 15 July, an estimated 1.03 million IDPs were still in need of humanitarian assistance, 45% of them located in the Peshawar area in northwestern Pakistan. As noted by OCHA in early August, the situation is further complicated with most IDP families not living in camps; around 90% of IDPs live with relatives or in rented houses. Most IDPs are subsistence farmers, and relocation has forced them to leave their farms and relocate to the Peshawar area where employment and livelihood opportunities are limited. At present, many IDPs have switched to irreversible coping strategies, taking on debt and selling assets to pay for food. Most of the 1.64 million Afghan refugees located in the FATA require humanitarian assistance, according to OCHA.

On 30 June, the Government of Pakistan agreed not to expel Afghan refugees who had a permission to stay in the country until June, with Kabul and Islamabad also agreeing, at a recent UN-backed meeting, to continue efforts to solve the protracted refugee situation. Pakistani media reports that the presence of Afghan refugees is triggering tensions in host provinces. On 5 July, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a province hosting an estimated 60% of Afghan refugees, officially opposed extending Afghan refugees’ stay in the country and suggested that should the need arise, registered Afghans be equally distributed among the four Pakistani provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab and Baluchistan.

Nearly 2.9 million registered Afghan refugees remain in Pakistan and Iran. An additional estimated 2.4 million undocumented refugees from Afghanistan are in the two countries.

**Disaster:** Since early August, Pakistan has experienced severe rains and flash floods across the country. As of 29 August, the number of affected stood at between 1.3 and 1.5 million people across the country according to the authorities. The floods have reportedly killed 193 people and injured over 1,100 people while affecting 5,297 villages all over the country. During last week, moderate downpour was still ongoing on parts of the country, notably the capital Islamabad and the city of Lahore. Further heavy monsoon rains are expected in Pakistan in September.

Over 13,000 houses were destroyed in 3,826 villages; authorities have set up 243 relief
camps, mostly in the central province of Punjab, the southern province of Sindh, and the southwestern province of Baluchistan. The northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has also reportedly been severely affected. As reported by OCHA, and although information on damages remains limited, the rains have severely damaged over 321,000 acres of crops, triggering food security concerns for the affected population.

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

Access: Assessments and humanitarian operations are hampered by difficult access due to insecurity, standing floodwaters, visa delays and attacks against aid workers. In June, OCHA reported 44 attacks against aid workers between January and April, with 18 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, 15 in Sindh province, four in Baluchistan province, one in the capital Islamabad and six in the FATA. The total figure for last year was 42 across the whole country.

Insecurity continues to affect the polio eradication campaign in Pakistan. On 16 June, two anti-polio workers were killed in an attack in Swabi, in the area of Kandaro, according to local media and police sources. This was the latest in a series of deadly attacks on polio vaccination teams.

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

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

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

Health: On 28 August, health officials warned of a serious polio outbreak after the disease was detected in 16 children in North Waziristan, a tribal district where militant groups have banned vaccination. Most of the children affected were under five years old. According to the authorities, more than 240,000 in North and South Waziristan are at risk because of the imposed ban on vaccination.

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

According to reports in local media, a steady increase of the number of children’s deaths from diarrhoea and gastroenteritis was reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in May.

Updated: 02/09/2013

TAJIKISTAN FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

No new developments this week. Last update was: 14/08/2013.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Food Security and Malnutrition: As reported by WFP on 26 July, an analysis of the food security situation in 11 livelihood zones in Tajikistan for the period of January to May 2013 showed that the situation was worrying. As of July, the food security status of 3% of the population (about 152,000 people) in rural livelihood zones was classified as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). The status of 39% of rural population (about 2,285,000 people) was classified as IPC Phase 2 (Stressed).

However, food security has improved since the previous period (October-December 2012), with highly food insecure areas in Phase 3 (Crisis) shifting to moderately food insecure status Phase 2 (Stressed) across the country. In the beginning of 2013, over 3 million people (32% of Tajikistan’s population) were estimated by WFP to be at risk of food insecurity due to a prolonged lean season and depleted winter stocks.

Across the country, which heavily depends on imports and humanitarian aid, wheat flour prices were recorded at, or close to, historic highs in the main and regional markets of the country. In April 2013, they decreased compared to March, but still remained high compared to the same period in 2012. However, they are reportedly not as high as 2008 peak prices. Transportation and fuel prices have contributed to the surge of food prices.

According to FEWSNET, the prices of wheat and wheat flour fell slightly in June, most noticeably in the south, as the wheat harvest progressed in Tajikistan and prospects for northern Kazakhstan’s wheat harvest in August-September continue to be fairly good. The grain harvest in Tajikistan is likely to be of above average volume. According to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan, cereal production is tentatively forecasted to increase by 6% in 2013, leading to prices further dropping.

Reviewed: 02/09/2013

BANGLADESH INTERNAL UNREST, CYCLONE

Highlights

No new developments this week. Last update was: 19/08/2013.

Political and Security Context
Tensions between Islamic groups and secular activists are ongoing in Bangladesh. The Government, led by the Bangladesh Awami League (AL) in power since 2008, struggles to contain protests while upcoming elections loom. In a publication released in late July, Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that Bangladeshi security forces have frequently used excessive force in responding to street protests, killing at least 150 protesters and injuring over 2,000 since February 2013.

On 12-13 August, police and protesters clashed during a 48-hour general strike or hartal, called by Bangladesh's largest Islamic party Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), across the country, including the capital Dhaka. At least 50 people, including ten policemen, were injured. While the JI strike triggered tensions, it was only minimally supported by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Bangladesh’s main opposition political party, allied to JI. The strike followed a Bangladesh court ruling that declared JI as illegal on 1 August, largely forbidding it to take part in general elections due to the end of 2013. In the wake of the decision, party activists took the streets in the capital, Dhaka, and other towns including Bogra, Jessore and Gaibandha.

Authorities jailed a prominent Bangladeshi human rights activist working for HRW, over allegations that the US-based group made false accusations against the government forces after a deadly crackdown on protests in May. The move may be seen as a toughening of the AL stance prior to much awaited elections due in late December. Against this background, local observers largely expect a worsening of the situation over the coming months.

Since January 2013, Bangladesh has seen recurrent hartals called by JI or BNP, as a protest against the arrest of senior party officials for committing offences during the 1971 War of Independence with Pakistan. The hartals have caused significant disruption to business and commerce and losses to the economy.

In mid-July, after a war crimes tribunal convicted two top Islamist politicians of JI to death for crimes of genocide, conspiracy in killing intellectuals, torture and abduction committed during the Independence war, new strikes, enforced by BNP and JI, were recorded across the country. Shops and businesses were closed and main roads were largely deserted of cars in the capital Dhaka. Although information on casualties remains limited, at least nine people were killed during the protests. According to the authorities, another five JI leaders and two from the BNP are on trial.

High levels of violence were recorded in May after Islamist protesters demanding religious reforms from the government took to the streets in Dhaka and outside the capital. Several hundred people were reportedly injured and at least 20 killed in the protests. Protesters were trying to impose an Islamist agenda on Bangladesh by demanding an anti-blasphemy law with provision for the death penalty.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

Disaster: In July, torrential rainfall and consequential onrush of water from upstream resulted in floods in several northern districts of Bangladesh, notably Thakurgaon, Gabandha, Dinajpur Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Jamalpur and Sirajgonj. To date, an estimated 124,000 people have been affected with at least nine killed.

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

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

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

Reviewed: 02/09/2013
Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: Since mid-August, China has experienced two typhoons in the south of the country and extremely severe flooding in the north with an overall number of killed estimated to be over 200. The authorities estimate the total number of affected by the disasters at over 10 million.

Over the past week, new heavy rains struck southern China as the country was affected by Typhoon Trami who made landfall on 23 August. The heavy rains triggered landslides that increased the number of casualties.

According to local authorities, The Typhoon has affected almost two million people in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, coastal Zhejiang and Fujian provinces, and central China’s Hunan province. A total number of estimated displaced people stand at over 380,000 people. An estimated 1.4 million people were affected in the Zhejiang and Fujian provinces alone, with over 351,000 people displaced. At least 2 people were killed, hundreds of houses damaged and crops lost across the provinces. The information concerning the full extent of damages and casualties remains limited.

China’s southern regions were earlier affected by Typhoon Utor which resulted in 70 people dead and another 18 missing. Guangdong province experienced the most typhoon-related casualties, with 43 reported deaths as of 22 August according to IFRC.

Following its passage across the Philippines on 12 August, the Typhoon Utor, locally known as Labuyo, hit Chinese southeastern Guangdong province on 14 August. According to the authorities, it has also affected the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region while all the areas were also struck by heavy Monsoon rains in the aftermath.

Authorities reported that, as of 19 August, the Typhoon and the rains that followed have affected an estimated 8.37 million people in the south of the country. Four million people were affected in Guangdong province alone, with an estimated 513,000 that needed to be relocated, according to OCHA. At the same time, the authorities reported that some 6.67 million people were affected in Guangdong province.

Utor has reportedly also damaged at least 19,000 houses across the provinces. At least 20 people have been killed while over a dozen remain missing as of 19 August following the typhoon and the subsequent Monsoon floods.

In parallel, the provinces of Liaoqing, Jilin and Heilongjiang in north-eastern China, near the border with Russia, have been hit by severe flooding – reportedly the worst in decades – following heavy rains from 10 August on. As of 19 August, the authorities reported that 800,000 people have been affected, out of which 100,000 were evacuated, and 113,000 hectares of farmland damaged in Liaoqing. In Jilin, 760,000 people were reportedly affected, out of which over 100,000 were displaced, and 35,000 houses damaged or destroyed. In Heilongjiang, nearly 2 million people were affected, out of which 140,000 were displaced, and 15,000 houses damaged according to the authorities. As of 20 August, an estimated 3.74 million had been affected across the three provinces. At least 85 deaths were reported across the three provinces while 100 people were reportedly missing. Since these three areas are major grain producers and the autumn harvest is entering its key phase, the authorities have reported concerns regarding agriculture recovery.

In mid-August, other Chinese provinces were affected by heavy rains and subsequent floods, including central Hunan province where floods affected 85,400 people in Lanshan County. Out of the affected, 35,000 people were displaced; five people were confirmed dead in the area. At least 6,200 ha of farmland were affected and almost 200 houses damaged.

China is an extremely hazard-prone country, regularly suffering from deadly floods, earthquakes, landslides and hailstorms.

On 22 July, Chinese northwest Gansu Province was affected by a 6.6 magnitude earthquake that hit near Dingxi, Min and Zhang counties being the hardest-hit areas. Weaker-intensity earthquakes followed soon afterward. Reportedly, over 580,000 people were affected. Nearly 2,000 houses were destroyed and about 22,500 severely damaged. According to the authorities, at least 95 people were killed and more than 1,400 injured. In the aftermath of the earthquakes, heavy rains in the area affected over 440,000 people in the province, with 39,500 people relocated and 15,600 houses severely damaged. The rains have also triggered landslides that killed additionally over 21 people.

A smaller 6.1 magnitude tremor hit southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, affecting Zogang and Markam counties in Qamdo Prefecture, on 12 August. Reportedly, 3,400 people were affected, 87 injured while the quake also damaged 45,000 houses.

Reviewed: 02/09/2013

IRAQ DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

Highlights

Early September: According to new figures released by the UN, a total of 804 Iraqi citizens, mostly civilians, were killed in shootings and bombings during August. The attacks, mainly claimed by the Iraqi wing of al-Qaeda, also wounded over 2,000 people. The released numbers are lower than those reported for July when the UN indicated that there were 1,057 victims and 2,326 wounded, the highest monthly toll since April 2008. So far in 2013, nearly 5,000 civilians have been killed and 12,000 wounded as the country has slid to levels of violence unseen in five years.

1 September: Highlighting general volatility across Iraq, at least 47 people were reported killed in an Iranian dissident Camp Ashraf, north of the capital, according to the UN. In contrast, Iraqi authorities only give a figure of 19 people killed. The violence took place hours after a mortar bomb attack on the camp which the dissent group Mujahadin-e-Khalq (MEK) blamed on the Iraqi army. According to Iraq officials, army and Special Forces had opened fire on residents who stormed a post at the entrance to Camp Ashraf, a site that Iraq’s government wants closed down. On 2 September, a UN team was reportedly dispatched to the site.

31 August: Stressing the rising frustration with the ruling political group, hundreds of demonstrators reportedly took to the streets in Baghdad and central and southern Iraq to...
demonstrators reportedly took to the streets in Baghdad and central and southern Iraq to protest against generous pension payments to lawmakers in a county where many struggle to get jobs and basic services.

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

27 August – 1 September: As reported by UNICEF, huge numbers of Syrian refugees crossed into Iraq, Kurdistan in northern Iraq through the Peshkabour crossing following the opening of the border on 15 August. As of 27 August, up to 55,000 people, roughly half of them children, have fled to Iraq from Syria since 15 August. As of 1 September, the number of Syrian refugees in Iraq was over 168,000 with over 10,000 awaiting registration according to UNHCR. To date, Kurdistan host over 90% of the refugees.

27 August: Contradicting an earlier statement made by the President of Iraq’s semi-autonomous Kurdistan region on 10 August, a senior Iraqi Kurdish official indicated that Iraq’s northern Kurdistan region has no plans to send troops into Syria to defend fellow Kurds as fighting between Kurds and Islamist anti-government forces in northern Syria continues.

26 August – 2 September: The last week of August was especially deadly as Islamist militants multiplied attacks across the country. A deadly string of bombings occurred when a series of at least ten car bombings and other attacks across Baghdad’s Shi’ite and Sunni areas killed 86 people and wounded 263, according to security and medical sources on 28 August. On 30 August, the al-Qaeda affiliate Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) claimed responsibility for the bombings in Baghdad and other areas of Iraq in retaliation for the execution of Sunni Muslim prisoners.

Political and Security Context

Over the past week, violence escalated in Iraq bringing the country on the brink of general destabilization, due to deep-rooted sectarian divisions between Shi’ite Muslim, Sunni Muslim and Kurdish factions. According to new figures released by the UN, a total of 804 Iraqi citizens, mostly civilians, were killed in shootings and bombings during August. The attacks, mainly claimed by the Iraqi wing of al-Qaeda, caused over 2,000 people wounded. The released numbers are lower than those reported for July when the UN indicated that there were 1,057 victims and 2,326 wounded, the highest monthly toll since April 2008. So far in 2013, nearly 5,000 civilians have been killed and 12,000 wounded as the country has slid to levels of violence unseen in five years. At present, bombings are increasingly targeting cafes and places where families gather, as well as the usual military facilities and checkpoints. In July, Baghdad was the worst-affected governorate, accounting for more than a third of those killed nationally. Violence in Baghdad was at its height in 2006-2007 when the number of people killed per month often exceeded 3,000.

The last week of August was especially deadly as Islamist militants multiplied attacks across the country. On 2 September, a roadside bomb struck the convoy of Turkey’s consul general in Iraq travelling from Arbil to Mosul in the north without any casualties recorded. The attack came as relations between Ankara and the central Baghdad government have been especially strained over the Kurdish issue. On 31 August, a car bomb killed 12 people and wounded at least 20 in city of Ramadi, capital of Al Anbar Governorate west of Baghdad. In a separate incident, a car bomb in Maaden, southeast of Baghdad, killed one and wounded seven more. On 30 August, two attacks killed 12 people and injured ten in the town of Tuz Khormato in Saladin Governorate, north of Baghdad, an area that the central government and autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan region both claim. On 29 August, a car bomb killed 11 people and wounded 27 in the mostly Sunni city of Samarra in Saladin Governorate. On 28 August, a series of at least ten car bombings and other attacks across Baghdad’s Shi’ite and Sunni areas killed 86 people and wounded 263 according to security and medical sources. On 30 August, the al-Qaeda affiliate Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) claimed responsibility for bombings in Baghdad and other areas of Iraq in retaliation for the execution of Sunni Muslim prisoners. These massive attacks are one of the worst in the wave of sectarian bloodshed to hit Iraq in the past five years. On 26 August, attacks in the Sunni town of Tarmiyah, just north of Baghdad, resulted in 11 people killed while four people were killed in separate attacks in northern Nineveh province; another blast killed at least one person in the southern city of Basra.

On 1 September, at least 47 people were reported killed at an Iranian dissident Camp Ashraf, north of the capital, according to the UN. Iraqi authorities give a figure of only 19 people killed. The violence took place hours after a mortar bomb attack on the camp which the dissident group Mujahadin-e-Khalq (MEK) blamed on the Iraqi army. According to Iraqi officials, army and Special Forces had opened fire on residents who stormed a post at the entrance to Camp Ashraf, a site that Iraq’s government wants closed down. On 2 September, a UN team was reportedly dispatched to the site.

In July, a high profile double assault against the Abu Ghrailb and Taji prisons in the Baghdad area resulted in over 40 people killed. The attack allowed 500 prisoners to escape, which allegedly included several high-ranking al-Qaeda members and testified for the increasing strength of the ISIL.

Deadly violence has plagued areas around Baghdad and Kirkuk, raising concerns about possible complete destabilisation of Iraq as the country went through one of the deadliest Ramadan in years with over 800 killed. The majority of attacks were claimed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), a group that enjoyed strongholds in Al Anbar, Ninawa, Kirkuk, most of Salah ad Din, and parts of Babil, Diyala, and Baghdad governorates at the height of the Iraq war. The continuing string of deadly attacks is increasingly putting pressure on Iraqi authorities who are blamed for their inability to prevent the violent escalation. According to observers, levels of violence could increase ahead of elections, planned for April 2014. The elections are widely seen as the next major opportunity to shake up Iraq’s political deadlock.

The ongoing violence is linked to Iraq’s long-running political dispute between Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and religious and ethnic groups opposing the allegedly sectarian policies of his Shia-led Government. Since the start of 2013, widespread discontent of the Sunni Muslim minority has fuelled unrest with tensions at their highest since US troops left the country two years ago. During Ramadan, starting on 10 July, attacks on Shia
communities increased across Iraq with many attributed to groups affiliated to al-Qaeda. At present, the civil war in neighbouring Syria further contributes to the volatile relations between Sunni, Shi’ite, and Kurdish communities in Iraq. In July, the UN warned that escalating violence in Iraq can no longer be separated from the war in Syria due to an increased active presence of Iraqi armed groups in the conflict neighbour country. On 30 August, in another indication of the clearly regional aspect of sectarian Islamist militancy across the region, an Iraqi Shi’ite militia group al-Nujaba’a – an umbrella movement which includes Iraqi Shi’ite militants who have crossed into neighbouring Syria to fight alongside troops loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad – officially stated that it would attack US interests in Iraq and the region if Washington carries out a military strike on Syria.

The first provincial elections in Iraq since the departure of US troops, held in April were an important test of the country’s political stability ahead of 2013 parliamentary elections. The Prime Minister’s State of Law coalition came top in April’s elections, but failed to win a majority in any district. On 31 August, highlighting however the rising disaffection with the ruling political group, hundreds of demonstrators took to the streets in Baghdad and central and southern Iraq to protest against generous pension payments to lawmakers in a county where many are still struggling to get jobs and basic services.

The three provinces included in the autonomous Kurdistan region in the north of Iraq hold elections on their own timetable and are scheduled to go to the polls in September. In Iraqi Kurdistan, the Regional Government delayed local presidential elections to 2015, extending the term of Kurdish leader Barzani, on 30 June. Kurdish opposition denounced the extension as illegal.

While tensions persist between the central authorities in Baghdad and Iraqi Kurdistan, both sides have made attempts to move closer. Better relations with the Kurds should help ease pressure on Iraq’s Shi’ite leadership, which is facing increased sectarian strife that it blames on Sunni Islamist insurgents. On 8 July, Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani visited Baghdad, following a visit of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki to Kurdistan in June, the first such visit in over two years. According to local reports, Iraq’s deteriorating security situation and the practical repartition of power between the two parties over the disputed areas of administrative jurisdiction are to be addressed in their dialogue.

The withdrawal of Kurdish militants from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) from Turkey to Iraqi Kurdistan is ongoing. Despite the start of the withdrawal on 14 May, the Turkish Government stated that as of June only 15% of PKK fighters have left Turkey. Both sides have expressed disappointment with the slow pace of the process. On 4 July, Kurdish militants attacked two military outposts in southeastern Turkey, breaking a three-month ceasefire. The co-head of the Kurdish movement said on 31 July that the Turkish government must take concrete steps by September to advance a peace process with Kurdish militants or risk a return to hostilities. On 18 August, Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan stated that PKK failed to withdraw its fighters from Turkey as agreed. According to the Government, only 20% have left Turkey, and they are mostly women and children.

The arrival of former PKK insurgents is likely to strain the already tense relations between the regional Kurdish authorities and Baghdad. It is also unclear what impact the withdrawal of the PKK fighters from Turkey will have on the civil war in Syria where an increased activity by armed Kurdish groups, close to the PKK, has been reported over the past weeks.

UNHCR reported that despite political turmoil, the conflict in bordering Syria, and the tension at the Turkish border, the overall security situation in the Kurdish governorates of Iraq remains stable. On 27 August, contradicting an earlier statement made by the President of Iraq’s semi-autonomous Kurdistan region on 10 August, a senior Iraqi Kurdish official indicated that Iraq’s northern Kurdistan region has no plans to send troops into Syria to defend fellow Kurds as fighting between Kurds and Islamist anti-government forces in northern Syria continues.

Kurdish militants in Iraq previously warned that the fragile peace process is endangered by increased military activity in the area, a lack of co-operation from Baghdad, and the continued detention of Kurdish politicians. Increased military surveillance and the construction of new army posts in the mainly Kurdish southeast are seen as undermining the opposition’s withdrawal from Turkey to Iraq.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: UNICEF reported massive numbers of Syrian refugees crossing into Iraq, Kurdistan in northern Iraq through the Peshkabour crossing, following the opening of the border on 15 August. This crossing point was re-opened by Iraqi Kurdistan authorities on 15 August after a period of closure since 19 May. As of 27 August, up to 55,000 people, roughly half of them children, have fled to Iraq from Syria since 15 August. It is one of the largest crossings in the two and a half year old conflict. The influx is expected to continue with reports that there are over 100,000 IDPs on the Syrian side of the border. In late August, Iraq’s Kurdish authorities had reportedly introduced a limit of 3,000 refugees allowed into its territory a day to cope with the sudden influx. The majority of new arrivals are families (women, children and older persons) mainly from Aleppo, Afrin, Al-Hassakeh and Qamishli areas. Some families have relatives living in northern Iraq. Some students traveling alone said that they had been studying in northern Iraq and had only returned to Syria over the recent Eid holidays.

At Erbil, about 2,000 new arrivals are encamped at a site in Kawergost town where UNHCR has established an emergency transit/reception area. Some refugees are sheltered under UNHCR tents; others are in mosques or residing with family or friends in the area.

As of 1 September, the number of Syrian refugees in Iraq was over 168,000 with over 10,000 awaiting registration according to UNHCR. To date, Kurdistan hosts over 90% of the refugees. The total number of refugees is expected to double by end 2013. On 30 August, UNHCR and WFP praised the regional government for giving refuge to the increasing number of Syrian refugees in Kurdistan.

The situation at Domiz camp, in northwest Iraq’s Dohuk Governorate, is especially worrying. The camp houses over 70,000 Syrian refugees in critically overcrowded conditions with inadequate water and sanitation facilities increasing the risk of water borne diseases. Another 90,000 refugees are scattered in and around urban centres in Iraqi Kurdistan. Spontaneous returns to Syria stand at 12,807 individuals returning through the Darabun crossing point.
Many Iraqis in Syria have also returned to Iraq. As of 22 January, UNHCR cited 68,122
returnees since mid-July 2012, with Baghdad receiving the largest number of returnees. An
estimated 1.2 million remain displaced inside Iraq as of June 2012, but there is limited
updated information on displacement figures.

OCHA and NRC state that Iraq’s appeal for financial support to host the Syrian refugees is
heavily underfunded with only 14% of the money required for the humanitarian response
materialised by early July.

Access: Although humanitarian access is less restricted, security threats for international
staff remain high, particularly in Baghdad, the north, the central governorates, and the
Disputed Territories. Security in Anbar province remains unstable with underlying internal
conflict, risk of terrorism and spillover of the Syrian crisis. Access to Al Qa’im refugee
camp remains difficult, though missions can now be carried out by helicopter.

Health: Overcrowding in Domiz camp is impacting sanitation, which is already below
humanitarian standards. Congestion and warmer temperatures are increasing vulnerability
to outbreaks of diseases and tension between camp residents. Measles has been reported
in new camp arrivals.

Updated: 02/09/2013

JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

Highlights

2 September: Over half a million Syrian refugees (518,204 people), including those
awaiting registration, have crossed into Jordan since the beginning of the Syrian crisis
according to UNHCR.

Political and Security Context

Military commanders from Western and Gulf countries met on 25 August in Jordan to
discuss the Syria conflict, as Western powers weigh military action in response to a
suspected chemical weapons attack. However, the Jordanian Foreign Minister Judeh said
the meeting had been scheduled for months and was not the result of the latest
development in Syria.

The alleged chemical weapons attack drove thousands of displaced Syrians towards
Jordan in what activists are calling the largest refugee migration since the onset of the
conflict two years ago. According to activists, some 10,000 civilians fled the Damascus
governorate towards southern Syria late on 21 August, with border towns reportedly
receiving “mass waves” of hundreds of IDP families. However, border violence continues
to reduce the Syrian refugee influx into Jordan.

Jordan is reportedly increasingly concerned that the Syrian civil war will spill over and
ignite a regional conflict. In the beginning of June, the US said that it would make Patriot
batteries and advanced F-16 fighter jets available for annual military exercises in Jordan.

The US may consider keeping the jets in Jordan after the exercise.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement: In Jordan, the number of refugees crossing the border has fallen from
2,000-3,000 per day to 600-700 per day by mid-July. At the beginning of July, an average
1,600 people were crossing the border daily compared to 2,500 persons per day in
February. At end June, fighting along the Jordanian-Syrian border closed the main access
routes into Jordan forcing displaced Syrians to use more arduous desert routes to enter
the country. According to Syrian opposition groups, heavy clashes and shelling blocked off
routes into southwest Syria, forcing opposition forces to restrict cross-border activity to
“essential movement” of fighters and medical supplies and continue a suspension of mass
refugee crossings. Refugees reportedly are waiting two to three days in border regions
before crossing into Jordan due to increased security measures put in place to deal with
the increasing number of forged documents.

With a high number of Syrians reportedly waiting to cross from Syria into Jordan, and
given reports of expected post-Ramadan influxes, UN organisations are reportedly scaling
up their contingency planning to ensure capacity to rapidly respond to a large refugee
influx in the coming weeks and months.

However, as of 2 September, 518,204 Syrian refugees, including those awaiting
registration, have crossed into Jordan according to UNHCR. The Government has
estimated that 600,000 Syrian refugees were hosted in Jordan as of 4 July. Recent reports
warn of rising tensions between Jordanians and Syrian refugees especially in communities
that host large numbers of displaced Syrians, with the influx placing a huge burden on
already overstretched water and power supplies, as well as housing and education. Jordan's
Za'atari refugee camp is the equivalent of an entirely new city that would be the
country's fifth largest with over 130,000 residents.

On 13 August, officials said that Jordan is finalising preparations for its third Syrian camp,
with the facility to receive its first refugee families as early as next month (Mkheizen Al
Gharnbiya camp in the eastern city of Azraq). The camp is designed to host up to 500,000
Syrians in its initial phase, according to the UN, with an expandable capacity of up to
130,000.

In April, UNHCR reported that Syrians were returning home for a number of reasons,
including improved security in border villages, to protect their property, and to reunite with
family members and left-behind relatives and bring them to Jordan. Nearly 9,000 refugees
in Jordan left for Syria in June, bringing the number of returnees to over 68,000 in the past
two years. In the past weeks, the numbers of Syrians going home has dropped to zero due
to Syrian troops engaged in heavy shelling around border towns.

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

The large influx of Syrian refugees has significantly stretched national capacities.
According to WFP, the school feeding programme was reduced by 80% from 2008 to 2012, the fuel subsidy was lifted in November 2012, and the government is considering withdrawing or reducing other subsidies (most notably bread) which could potentially trigger social discontent and further economic deterioration.

According to the National Department of Statistics, the monthly rate of food price inflation (year-on-year) reached 4.4% in June 2013, fuelled by high increases in vegetable prices. By contrast, bread and cereal prices declined by 1.4% due to Government support schemes.

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

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

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

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

Updated: 02/09/2013

KYRGYZSTAN FOOD INSECURITY

Highlights

No new development this week. Last update was: 13/05/2013.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Food Security and Malnutrition: Findings of the most recent Household Food Security Assessment (HFSAs) conducted by WFP in March 2013 showed that an estimated 24% of households – about 1.3 million people – were food insecure. The proportion has remained high since September 2012 (25%) and indicates deterioration compared to the same month in the previous year (18%, March 2012). The highest levels of food insecurity were found in Jalalabad (48%), Osh (38%) and Batken (38%) regions.

The situation of currently food-insecure and vulnerable households has further deteriorated during spring when stocks of food from the previous harvest were depleted and additional inputs were required for the spring planting campaign. The WFP assessment also revealed that another 13% of households – i.e. 547,000 people – are at risk of becoming food insecure should they be affected by an additional shock, such as further rises in food prices.

For the first time in ten months, the retail price of wheat flour decreased by 5% on a month-to-month basis in April. However, the national average price remained 42% higher than in April 2012. Since June 2012, the retail price of wheat flour has increased by 56% in rural and 47% in urban areas, and by an average of 52% across the country. The domestic retail price of wheat flour in March was 42% higher than in the same month of 2012 and only 4% lower than the peak level of early 2011. The 2012 wheat production was affected by delayed planting due to a long cold winter, followed by a hot summer. The current forecast of cereal production is at 1.3 million MT, which is 19% lower than 2012 levels.

Reviewed: 29/07/2013

LAOS FLOODS, EPIDEMIC

Highlights

29 August: From June to August, several provinces in the Northern and Central part of Laos were flooded due to heavy continuous rainfall. The Disaster Management Office of Laos PDR reported that two tropical storms Jebi (31 July–3 August) and Mankhut (5-7 August) caused flooding in the northern provinces of Oudomxay, Xayabuly, Xiengkhouang and Bolikhamsay, and in the central province of Khammoune. According to the UN, as of 29 August, an estimated 119,625 people have been affected by the flooding with over 20 people killed in 7 of the country’s 17 provinces. The Beng district of Oudomxay province, in the north of the country, was reportedly especially severely hit with 16 people killed by the floods.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: From June to August, several provinces in the Northern and Central part of Laos were flooded due to heavy continuous rainfall. The Disaster Management Office of Laos PDR reported that two tropical storms Jebi (31 July–3 August) and Mankhut (5-7 August) caused flooding in the northern provinces of Oudomxay, Xayabuly, Xiengkhouang and Bolikhamsay, and in the central province of Khammoune. According to the UN, as of 29 August, an estimated 119,625 people have been affected by the flooding with over 20 people killed in 7 of the country’s 17 provinces. The Beng district of Oudomxay province, in the north of the country, was reportedly especially severely hit with 16 people killed by the floods.

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

Earlier in the season, after relatively normal rainfall between early May and mid-July, heavy rains between 24-26 June caused flash floods in Bolikh hamay, affecting 5,000 people and damaging houses, food stocks, livestock and equipment.

Health: As of 5 August, authorities recorded 36,000 cases of dengue fever across all provinces since January 2013. To date, there have been 77 deaths, resulting in a case-fatality rate of 0.2%. The provinces in the far northwest, centre and far south of the country are among the worst affected. The highest concentrations of cases have been recorded in the capital Vientiane (4,617 cases) and the Champasak province (3,306 cases) in the southwest of the country.

As reported by OCHA in mid-July, the epidemic is expected to worsen as the rainy season is ongoing and previous epidemics have historically peaked in August and September.

Updated: 02/09/2013

LEBANON CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST

Highlights

31 August: As of 31 August, UNHCR reported that the number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon reached almost 718,104 including close to 110,000 awaiting registration. Refugees continue to cross into Lebanon daily. With no formal camps, refugees in Lebanon are spread across 1,200 locations.

23 August: An estimated 47 people were killed and 500 wounded in blasts that exploded outside two mosques in a Sunni neighbourhood in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli. While local officials tried to play down the sectarian nature of the attack, the twin blasts came as a stark reminder of the increasing spillover of the Syrian war into Lebanon along sectarian lines. To date, no group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Political and Security Context

Insecurity in Lebanon has grown with renewed fighting between different sectarian groups while the Syrian conflict is increasingly spilling over into Lebanon, with almost daily shelling and sporadic clashes in the north and eastern border regions.

With repeated inter-sectarian strife reported in Tripoli, fears are rising that the Syrian conflict may become a regional one between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims. On 23 August, 47 people were killed and more than 500 wounded in blasts that exploded outside two mosques in a Sunni neighbourhood in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli. While local officials tried to play down the sectarian nature of the attack, the twin blasts came as a stark reminder of the increasing spillover of the Syrian war into Lebanon along sectarian lines. To date, no group has claimed responsibility for the attack. On 6 August, security in Tripoli deteriorated with clashes between gunmen reported. In June, intermittent clashes between supporters of the different Syrian parties, split along different neighborhoods in Tripoli, were reported.

On 15 August, a car bomb struck in Beirut’s Ruwais district, a stronghold of the Lebanese Shiite armed movement Hezbollah. The bomb killed 27 and wounded over 330 people. A previously unknown group, the Battalion of Aisha, said it carried out the attack because of Hezbollah’s involvement in the Syrian war. On the same day, the Syrian opposition National Coalition warned against the emergence of a “cycle of violence” in Lebanon if Hezbollah continued to send fighters to help the Damascus regime. In July, in one of the worst incidents since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, a car bomb wounded over 50 people in a Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut’s southern neighbourhood Bir Abed. A Syrian rebel group, the Special Forces 313 Brigade, claimed responsibility. The group also claimed it was behind an attack on a Hezbollah convoy in eastern Lebanon on 28 June.

Widespread involvement of Hezbollah alongside Syrian Government troops in the offensive against the opposition-held stronghold Qusayr has prompted the Free Syrian Army and Jabhat al-Nusra to separately warn that their fighters could start fighting Hezbollah inside Lebanon. In June, the first major clashes between Lebanese Hezbollah militia and Syrian opposition fighters inside Lebanese territory resulted in casualties. In the aftermath, shelling of Lebanese territory, notably the eastern town of Hermel – a reported bastion of Hezbollah, from an area in Syria believed to be controlled by opposition forces resulted in new deaths. On 10 July, the UN Security Council called on Hezbollah to end all involvement in the Syrian conflict.

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

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Both host and refugee populations are impacted by increasing pressure on the health and education systems, housing, employment opportunities and food prices. Many Lebanese families see their livelihoods eroding as wages decrease and rent prices soar, with hard-pressed Syrian refugees working for less money and sharing single-family homes with multiple families to save on rent. Real economic growth was 7% in 2010, fell to 1.5% in 2011, and 1.5% in 2012. The International Monetary Fund estimates it will be 2% in 2013. In June 2013, general inflation reached almost 9% year-on-year (compared to 2% in June 2012). Food inflation eased from 5.7% in June 2012 to 3% in June 2013. Tensions are rising between host communities and refugees over strained resources, particularly with regard to overwhelmed health facilities.

Displacement: As of 31 August, UNHCR reported that the number of registered Syrian
refugees in Lebanon reached almost 718,104 including close to 110,000 awaiting registration. Refugees continue to cross into Lebanon daily. With no formal camps, refugees in Lebanon are spread across 1,200 locations. Vulnerable Syrian families are settling in communal areas in Beirut (highway underpasses, the green spaces between major roads, etc.). Most Syrian refugees in Lebanon live in makeshift settlements, half-finished buildings and cramped apartment blocks, often in unhygienic conditions and with little access to food, water and medical care.

According to the Lebanese General Security Authority, there are currently two million Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Lebanon’s population has grown by 25% in under two years; 1.2 million Lebanese in host communities are severely affected by the refugee influx. According to media sources, the Lebanese government is implementing strict entry controls on Syrians attempting to enter the country at all border crossings; only Syrians with valid identification cards or passports can enter. At border crossings, they are required to officially identify whether they are refugees or workers. The measures reportedly aim at preventing extremist and anti-Lebanese groups from entering the country.

Unlicensed businesses owned by Syrians in the eastern Bekaa Valley will reportedly be shut by 15 August if they fail to acquire legal permits. On 23 July, Lebanese Social Affairs Minister first stated that special teams would start shutting down unlicensed Syrian-run businesses.

Access: Security in Tripoli and in northern and eastern border villages remains volatile with rockets and shelling hitting a number of towns, impeding humanitarian access in both regions, and restricting activities and the availability of services. The lack of funding continues to be a large factor hampering operations in Lebanon. On 7 June, a Revised Regional Response plan was launched, requesting 1.2 billion dollars for humanitarian operations in Lebanon; the Lebanese Government requested an additional 500 million dollars to provide aid to Syrian refugees and host communities.

Updated: 02/09/2013

PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHON

Highlights

30 August: Forming just east of the Philippines, tropical storm Kong-Rey (Nando) moved north along the coast of China and finally Japan. In the Philippines, nearly 18,000 people were affected. One person was killed and one person was injured according to the authorities.

28 August: Four days of heavy rains, triggered by the passage of the Tropical Strom Trami (known locally as Maring) and ensuing extensive floods, have affected Philippine’s Luzon Island, hitting the National Capital, where metropolitan Manila is located, Cordillera Administrative, Ilocos, Central Luzon, CALABARZON and MIMAROPA regions. The rains calmed on 21 August with only light to moderate rains observed the following days over CALABARZON and Central Luzon regions. Some affected provinces had already been flooded when Typhoon Utor (Labuyo) crossed the region on 12 August. On 25 August, the number of people evacuated peaked at over 868,000 people and has since decreased to over 230,000. As of 28 August, there are an estimated 47,800 people in 251 evacuation centres and some 182,300 people are staying with relatives and friends. Overall, the floods in late August have killed 25 people and injured 30 more while 3 remained missing as of 28 August. About 35% of all the people displaced are in Metropolitan Manila.

16 August: On 11 August, Typhoon (category 4) Utor struck the Philippines in the mountains north of Luzon. As of 16 August, the typhoon had affected over 383,000 people in 87 municipalities and five cities in 16 provinces across Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Bicol regions and the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Political and Security Context

On 5 August, at least six people were killed and 29 injured in a powerful bomb blast in the centre of the city of Cotabato in Mindanao Island in the south of the country. It was the second bombing in Mindanao in ten days after a bomb hit a nightclub in Cagayan de Oro City, killing six and wounding dozens. To date, no group has claimed responsibility for the attacks. The authorities have announced increased security measures in the area.

The area has been plagued by a decades-old rebellion by Muslim fighters that has left thousands dead. As authorities enter the last stages of negotiating an agreement with the main rebel group, officials reportedly blamed the attack on breakaway insurgent groups or possibly on an alleged new al-Qaeda-linked Islamist militant group called the Khalifa Islamiyah Mindanao-Black Flag. To date, information remains limited.

On 13 July, the Government announced that it resolved a key issue in peace talks with Muslim rebels, bringing it closer to ending the insurgency. A compromise concerning the sharing of local revenues with the creation of a Muslim self-rule area in the Mindanao region that is expected to be led by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) was achieved. The talks had resumed earlier that month amid deadly attacks by a splinter guerrilla group that left 15 dead in Mindanao. The next round of negotiations, to take place after Ramadan, should focus on the scope of MILF governing powers and how and when the rebel force will be disarmed, the last two points remaining contentious issues.

On 15 October 2012, the two parties signed an historic peace deal that opened the way for the rebel force will be disarmed, the last two points remaining contentious issues.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: As of 30 August, forming just east of the Philippines, tropical storm Kong-Rey (Nando) moved north along the coast of China and finally Japan. In the Philippines, nearly 18,000 people were affected. One person was killed and one person was injured according to the authorities.

From 18 August, four days of heavy rains, triggered by the passage of the Tropical Strom Trami (locally known as Maring) and ensuing extensive floods, have affected Philippine’s Luzon Island, hitting the National Capital, where Metropolitan Manila (Metro Manila) is located, Cordillera Administrative, Ilocos, Central Luzon, CALABARZON and MIMAROPA regions. The rains calmed on 21 August with only light to moderate rains observed the
following days over CALABARZON and Central Luzon regions. Some affected provinces
had already been flooded when Typhoon Utor (Labuyo) crossed the region on 12 August.

According to OCHA, as floodwaters began to subside as early as 21 August, flooding persisted particularly in the low-lying areas in Pampanga, Bulacan, Laguna and Rizal provinces surrounding Metro Manila, waist-deep in some locations. People in these areas may face prolonged displacement and require extended humanitarian aid. The state of calamity remained in effect at the local level in 37 areas: five provinces, 10 cities, 15 municipalities and seven barangays (villages).

On 25 August, the number of people evacuated peaked at over 868,000 people and has since decreased to over 230,000. As of 28 August, there are an estimated 47,800 people in 251 evacuation centres and some 182,300 people are staying with relatives and friends. Overall, the floods in late August have killed 25 people and injured 30 more while 3 remained missing as of 28 August. About 35% of all the people displaced are in Metro Manila.

According to OCHA, the evacuees still need food, drinking water, sleeping kits, blankets, cooking utensils, sanitation items and medicines. Suspected cases of measles and leptospirosis have been reported and are under investigation, according to the Health Cluster.

According to the authorities, the losses from Typhoon Utor and the recent monsoon floods only have a minimal impact on the country’s economic growth, and it will be possible to recover from agricultural losses.

On 11 August, Typhoon (category 4) Utor, locally known as Labuyo, struck the Philippines in the mountains areas north of Luzon at about 19:00 GMT. As of 16 August, the typhoon affected over 383,000 people in 87 municipalities and five cities in 16 provinces across Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Bicol regions and the Cordillera Administrative Region according to the authorities. Over 120,000 people were displaced to host communities. According to the authorities, most IDPs returned home the following week. Eight people were killed and another four reportedly missing. Information on damage remains limited, but at least 2,000 houses were totally or partially damaged, with road blocks, power and communications disruptions also reported.

Since 21 July, strong rains have led to flooding of the Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and Cotabato City provinces of Mindanao Island. The rains reportedly caused the inundation of the Ligusan Marsh and other waterways including the Pulangi River and Simuay River in Maguindanao. Further rainfall hit the area over the second week of August, triggering more flooding. The authorities indicated that 250,000 people across 22 municipalities were affected. No information on damage is available.

The Philippines frequently experiences natural disasters, particularly tropical storms and cyclones. As of 17 May, 6.2 million people were still affected by Bopha, which struck the country on 4 December 2012 causing extensive damage across Mindanao. 921,649 people are displaced outside evacuation centres and a further 11,767 reside in evacuation centres; 158,769 houses are totally or partially damaged.

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

**Updated:** 02/09/2013
On 27 June during a meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his South Korean counterpart Park Geun-hye in Beijing, Chinese authorities agreed to push for new talks between the two Koreas and appeared to favour a denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

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

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

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

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

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** Little up-to-date information is available on the food security situation in North Korea. According to an August OCHA report, an estimated 16 million people, of a total population of 24.6 million, are chronically food insecure in DPRK and an estimated 2.4 million people need food assistance. OCHA further reports that although the humanitarian situation has improved slightly over the last 12 months, the structural causes of vulnerability persist and external assistance is needed, notably targeting the most affected northeastern provinces.

Despite the UN reporting that the main 2012 harvest and 2013 early season crops will see a 10% increase compared to a year earlier, which allegedly should result in the smallest cereal deficit since at least the early 2000s, the food security situation remains grim.

According to OCHA, the lack of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertiliser and plastic sheets) remains the main challenge for food production.

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

**Reviewed: 02/09/2013**
Displacement: As of 5 July, nearly 3½ years after the earthquake, an estimated 279,000 people remain displaced in Haiti according to IOM, 41,000 fewer than reported in late May. In the second quarter of 2013, the highest decrease in IDP population since April 2012 was recorded. 33 sites closed and over 41,000 people were relocated, twice as many as from January to March 2013. The Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster expect the number of IDPs to further reduce to 242,000 people in September and to 211,000 by December 2013.

Currently, 352 IDP sites and camp-like settlements host the remaining IDPs. The situation in these sites remains problematic with 73,000 IDPs in 105 sites possibly facing illegal forced eviction by private land owners in the coming months. Camp-settlements remain vulnerable to floods and landslides, putting the IDP population at risk in the upcoming hurricane season.

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

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

Torrential rains caused by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 led to massive flooding, affecting 1.5 million people. Ouest, Sud-Est, Nippes, Grand’Anse and Sud were the most severely affected departments. As of early April 2013, 71,400 persons affected by Hurricane Sandy still needed humanitarian assistance according to OCHA. Forecasts by the Directorate for Civil Protection anticipate that 600,000 people could be affected and 200,000 displaced by adverse weather conditions this year. The first tropical storm of the season, Chantal, did not result in a humanitarian impact despite a red alert. The storm, initially expected to directly hit Haiti, never reached Hispaniola.

Food Security and Malnutrition: In early August, OCHA reported that 1.5 million people across Haiti are severely food insecure and risk a nutritional crisis; another 5.2 million people face moderate food insecurity. These 6.7 million people struggle to meet their own food needs on a regular basis according to WFP. A total 44 of 140 municipalities have been affected, with over half the population facing high food insecurity. An estimated 800,000 people suffering from severe food insecurity have reportedly not received any emergency assistance.

The June IPC round in Haiti indicated that most departments are facing stressed food security conditions (IPC phase 2). Some households in these areas, such as the agro-pastoral areas of North, Artibonite and Central Highlands, are in crisis food security conditions (IPC phase 3).

According to FEWSNET 2014, spring agricultural production will be between 20% and 30% below normal. On-going harvests in areas where adequate rainfall occurred have lowered food prices. Nevertheless, in July, prices remained 15% above normal compared to July 2012 in most areas.

The seasonally adjusted rice and maize prices in Haiti have risen slightly by 9% and 7%, respectively. The poor and very poor in some municipalities in the Sud-Est, Ouest and Nord-Est departments faced crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) and have switched to irreversible coping strategies. Planting of the 2013 spring season cereal crops, mainly maize, which normally starts in February/March, was delayed in the main valleys due to below average rains during January and the first half of February. Poor seed availability due to increasing prices, which are 20-30% higher than the 5-year average, is also threatening this year’s crop yields.

An estimated 82,000 children <5 suffer from acute malnutrition, including 20,400 with SAM. Rural children are especially affected.

Health: Recent rains have triggered major localised cholera outbreaks in several departments, especially in Artibonite, Nord-Est and Centre; 992 new cholera cases and six deaths were reported in the week of 13-19 July alone. Nationally, the number of new cases in July was 5,136 after a 40% increase of new cholera cases was reported in June compared to May with cases surging rom 3,357 in May to 4,713 in June.

The number of reported cases since the beginning of 2013 is 32,290 and the number of deaths 285. Artibonite is the most affected and most vulnerable department, with just seven partners involved in the cholera-response. The number of new cases in the department almost doubled from 173 in the last week of June to 344 in the last week of July.

Since the start of the cholera outbreak in October 2010, the cumulative number of cases is 658,053. According to OCHA, 8,120 people have died since the start of the outbreak. As many as 120,000 potential new cholera cases are forecast for 2013 due to the upcoming rainy season. Funding for the cholera response is covered by the least funded component in the Humanitarian Action Plan with only 16% of funding requirements for the health sector met to date.

Contamination of rivers, unhygienic conditions, and inadequate sanitation remain the principal causes explaining the spread of the disease.

Reviewed: 02/09/2013
SOUTH AMERICA

BOLIVIA FLOODS

Highlights

28 August: Heavy snowfall in the departments of Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, Potosi and La Paz claimed the lives of five people and affected 17,500. Extreme temperature caused significant damages to crops, and the population is in urgent need of food, medication and clothing.

23 August: More than 60 people were injured and 29 killed in fighting between inmates at the maximum security area of the Palmasola jail in the city of Santa Cruz.

End July: According to WFP, the impact of price increases for staple foods such as rice and maize (both up 43%) are having a severe impact on the basic food basket in Bolivia, exacerbating the impact of the current drought which affects more than 220,000 people.

Political and Security Context

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disaster: On 28 August, the Government reported that heavy snowfall in the departments of Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, Potosi and La Paz claimed five lives and affected 17,500 people (3,500 households) and 70,000 cattle. Extreme temperature caused significant damages to crops, and poses an access issue to populations in urgent need of food, medication and clothing.

Five of the nine departments are affected by some type of water deficit: Tarija, Santa Cruz, Chuquisaca, Beni and Cochabamba. In March, several southern departments were severely affected by damaging levels of torrential rain and floods, especially in Chuquisaca, Potosí, Tarija and Cochabamba. Overall, the floods affected 145,000 people in nearly 25% of Bolivia’s municipalities. In Cochabamba alone, 40,000 people were affected between 18-25 March.

On 19 June, the Government issued a National Emergency Decree due to drought in the Departments of Tarija, Chuquisaca, El Chaco, Santa Cruz, and southern Cochabamba. As of 2 August, an estimated 220,000 people are affected by drought and 86,450 hectares of crops have sustained damage.

The department of Tarija is the worst hit with 43,724 hectares of crops estimated to have been lost. Santa Cruz recorded the highest number of affected cattle with 29,357 dead. In Cochabamba, 24,805 hectares in 594 communities reported damage during the first half of 2013. The most serious damage was caused by flooding (51%), drought (33%), and other lower-impact weather events.

Food Security and Malnutrition: FAO reported that the 2013 aggregate cereal production is forecast to decrease by 11% compared to the previous year. The recently harvested 2012-13 main season maize crop was severely affected by drought during the vegetative period.

WFP noted at the end of July that the impact of price changes of staple foods on the cost of the basic food basket from April to June was severe. The seasonally adjusted price increases for rice and maize both stood at 43%. After declining in the last few months, the price of wheat flour, which is mostly imported, rose sharply in the first half of June, increasing by 19% and 36% in the major cities of La Paz and Santa Cruz respectively, and remaining significantly higher than a year ago. It is expected that available food reserves of drought-affected households will be exhausted in the next month, deepening the crisis, and deteriorating the food and nutrition security situation of thousands of families.

According to the Ministry of Rural Lands and Development, at least 15,000 hectares of crops were damaged by the torrential March rains in the south of the country, but the Ministry has discounted the possibility of food security risks. However, according to WFP, at least 25,000 people needed food assistance in March. Subsistence farmers who normally cultivate crops at the riversides were the most affected. The floods hit at the end of the lean season, as farmers were about to harvest their crops and food reserves were at the lowest. Families that traditionally store their harvested potatoes and onions in the fields also lost reserves.

Updated: 02/09/2013
Introduction to the Global Emergency Overview Update

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

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

The Global Emergency Overview consists of three main sections:

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

The priority levels are assigned on the basis of:

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

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

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

Third, narratives for each country included in the Global Emergency Overview reflect major developments and underlying vulnerabilities of a country over the last months. Narratives are written based on secondary data. For each country, a specific highlights box is also added to put emphasis on the major developments that happened over the past 10 days.

The Global Emergency Overview is a mobile application.

To download the mobile application for Android phones click here.


To download the mobile application for iOS phones click here.


Update

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

Disclaimer

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