Snapshot 25 June - 1 July

**Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone:** The Ebola outbreak that started at the beginning of 2014 has resurged, with more than 635 cases recorded, including 399 deaths, as of 23 June. WHO is urging a wider, inter-country response to the subregional crisis.

**South Sudan:** SAM was found to be at 6% from a screening of 500,000 children. In Bentiu UN base, the under-five mortality rate has passed the emergency threshold. 2,300 cases of cholera have been reported.

**Iraq:** Nearly 2,000 people, including 1,393 civilians were killed in June, the highest figure since May 2007. 1.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, a 300% increase from February 2014. ISIL declared a Sunni caliphate spreading from Aleppo in Syria to Diyala in Iraq.

**Pakistan:** Some 468,000 newly displaced by military operations in North Waziristan are reportedly living in poor conditions. Concern for the spread of polio is high, as the region is a hotspot for the disease. Attacks in North Waziristan continue.

*Updated: 01/07/2014. Next update: 08/07/2014*
AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

27 June: Anti-balaka and Seleka members agreed to take part in peace talks brokered by a conflict resolution group, international media reported.

24 June: A human rights group reported that crimes against humanity and war crimes had been, and continued to be, committed in CAR since 2013.

24 June: The number of child soldiers coerced into joining various armed groups could approximate 10,000, an upward revision from 6,000 in February (OCHA).

23 June: Violence erupted in Bambari following a suspected anti-balaka attack on a Peul Muslim community and subsequent retaliatory attacks. At least 50 people were killed and 10,000 displaced (OCHA, 24/06/2014).

KEY CONCERNS

- Communal violence has surged across the country in 2014, with attacks reported in nearly all prefectures.

- 2.7 million people require immediate humanitarian assistance (WFP, 06/2014). The entire CAR population of 4.6 million people, half of whom are children, has been affected by the conflict (UNICEF, 04/2014).

- 1.7 million people are in Crisis and Emergency phases of food insecurity (FAO, 06/2014).

- 536,000 people are estimated internally displaced, 111,000 of whom are in the capital Bangui (OCHA, June 2014).

OVERVIEW

Health, protection, food, and wash are the priority needs in CAR, as violence, looting, and displacement have all led to a massive deterioration in the humanitarian situation across the country, affecting the entire population. Even prior to the crisis, basic services covered only a limited part of the territory.

Fighting between predominantly Christian anti-balaka militias and majority Muslim Seleka fighters, and civilian mob violence, have caused mass displacement, targeted killings along communal lines, and human rights abuses since December 2013. The Government has virtually no control of the territory, and new warlords have established dominance over a number of territories.

Political Context

International Response

On 12 May Chad announced that it was closing its border with CAR (international media, 12/05/2014). Chad has also reportedly deployed security forces to its southern regions, which border CAR (OCHA, 09/05/2014).

On 9 May, the UN Security Council voted to impose sanctions on an anti-balaka leader, a Seleka leader, and former CAR President Bozize.

A UN commission to investigate abuse of human rights and international humanitarian law in CAR is due to report to the Security Council by September. A senior UNHCR official stated on 28 February that “ethno-religious cleansing” was ongoing in CAR.

National Political Context

On 14 March, the press reported that the CAR National Transitional Council had started working on a new constitution.

In mid-February, local sources reported that several ex-Seleka commanders had openly mooted the idea of dividing the country. Muslim residents of Bambari, Ouaka prefecture, also reportedly made frequent demands for partition in late April, according to international media (25/04/2014). The French Defence minister has announced that France would not recognise any partition of CAR.

Catherine Samba-Panza, previously mayor of Bangui, was elected interim President by members of the National Transitional Council on 20 January. On 25 January, Samba-Panza appointed Andre Nzapayeke, as Prime Minister. Nzapayeke’s Government reportedly includes both supporters of Christian militias and supporters of Seleka.

In March, government figures met Seleka and anti-balaka leaders and organised peace

- 374,000 mostly long-term CAR refugees are registered in neighbouring countries (UNHCR, May 2014).
talks. Violence has continued despite these moves.

Security Context

A UN death toll in early February indicated that at least 2,000 people have been killed in CAR since the start of the crisis, including 1,118 in Bangui since early December 2013.

The CAR government has repeatedly requested rearmament, but this is currently prohibited by the UN Security Council arms embargo (international media, 12/06/2014).

The majority Muslim Seleka seized power in Bangui on 24 March 2013. Violence intensified as, despite having been disbanded, Seleka began attacking the mostly non-Muslim civilian population, and 'self-defence' Christian and animist militias, known as anti-balaka, mobilised. International peacekeepers were deployed in December 2013.

Seleka, officially dissolved in September 2013 and numbering an estimated 25,000 fighters, are composed roughly of 5,000 core fighters from the largely Muslim northeast; 5,000 foreigners, mainly Sudanese and Chadian; and 15,000 people recruited during Seleka's advance in 2013.

International Military Presence

UN Peacekeeping Mission

On 10 April, the UN Security Council allowed the deployment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) for one year. The transfer of authority from the AU-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA) is scheduled to take place on 15 September. The initial deployment will be of up to 10,000 military and 1,800 police.

AU Peacekeeping Mission

As of 5 March, an estimated 6,000 AU peacekeeping troops from Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, and Rwanda and 2,000 French troops were deployed in CAR.

Chadian troop withdrawal: The Chadian MISCA contingent withdrew in April, after one soldier was killed in a clash with anti-balaka, and non-MISCA Chadian soldiers fired on a civilian crowd having reportedly been attacked by a Christian militia (OHCHR).

French Peacekeeping Forces

The UN Security Council authorised the continued deployment of the 2,000 strong French peacekeeping mission Sangaris on 10 April. President Catherine Samba-Panza asked France to extend its military presence until the CAR presidential election, which should take place in February 2015 at the latest. On 9 March, a demonstration against the French peacekeeping operation, Sangaris, took place in Ndele, in the northern prefecture of Bamingui-Bangoran.

In mid-February, half the French troops were deployed in Bangui, while the other half were in the regions.

EU Military Intervention

The EU Force in CAR (Eufor-RCA) was authorised by the UN Security Council on 28 January, and became operational on 30 April. The force has a six-month mandate and reached its maximum strength of 700 on 15 June, official sources reported. Eufor-RCA represents the biggest EU military operation in six years.

US Military Assistance

The US is providing logistical support and advisers to African troops operating against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in eastern and southeastern CAR.

Conflict Dynamics

On 27 June, anti-balaka and Seleka members agreed to take part in peace talks brokered by a conflict resolution group, international media reported.

In mid-February, French military sources reported that anti-balaka had emerged as the main threat to peace in the country. By early March, anti-balaka armed groups, retaliating for widespread abuses committed mostly against Christians by Seleka fighters, were massively targeting Muslim populations and committing various abuses.

In late March, observers have noted an increase in both Seleka and anti-balaka activism, and the increased targeting of international peacekeepers by armed groups. Seleka fighters were said to be attempting to take back areas of northern CAR. In mid-March, foreign fighters belonging to Darfur militias, including Janjaweed, Misseriya and Rizeigat, were reported to be arriving in Bakaga to support Seleka. The town of Ndele was attacked in March.

In late April, several media reports confirmed that renewed Seleka offensives were affecting the north of the country, especially Ouham and Ouham-Pende. Seleka captured the town of Bouca, Ouham, on 22–23 April, according to international media. There was fighting between anti-balaka and Seleka in Dekoa, Kemo. In Grimari, Ouaka, Sangaris was reportedly deployed. Further clashes occurred in Sagani, Nana-Mambere, and Bamatara.

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Clashes erupted in Bambari on 23 June following a suspected anti-balaka attack on a civilian crowd having reportedly been attacked by a Christian militia (OHCHR).
attack against a Peul Muslim community and subsequent retaliation. At least 50 people were killed and 10,000 displaced (OCHA, 24/06/2014). The town has reportedly seen intense fighting since May (UNHCR, 25/06/2014). On 9-10 June, clashes between anti-balaka and Seleka and Fulani herders in Liwa, near Bambari, reportedly left 22 people dead. Seleka killed four hostages in Bambari, where it recently established its command, and at least ten more bodies have been found (media, 19/06/2014; donor, 20/06/2014). Violent clashes occurred between Sangaris and Seleka in Bambari over 22 -23 May (OCHA and international organisations).

Mambere-Kadei: Clashes between MISCA and anti-balaka on 23 May reportedly left three civilians and one anti-balaka dead in Carnot (UNHCR, 29/05/2014).

Kemo and Nana-Grebizi: In May, clashes between militias in and around Kaga Bandoro, Nana-Grebizi, killed at least 55 people, many of whom were civilians.

Nana-Mambere: On 9 May, clashes in the area of Bouar left 12 Seleka and anti-balaka fighters dead (OCHA).

Ouham: On 5 May, French peacekeepers were attacked by ex-Seleka on the way to Boguila. Between 1 and 5 May, international media reported that over 30 people had been killed in clashes between Seleka and anti-balaka in Mala. Between 30 April and 2 May, attacks by Seleka had reportedly left 20 people dead in Markounda. On 14 May, attacks by armed men reportedly left 22 people dead (OCHA, 22/05/2014). Boguila saw the killing of 22 people and an attack on a convoy of Muslims in late April.

Ouham-Pende: On 15 May UNHCR reported that fighting had been ongoing for two weeks in Bemal. At least 55 people were reportedly killed in the area of Paoua between late April and early May.

Violence in Bangui

On 8 June, a voluntary disarmament day organised by the Government in Bangui reportedly led to 192 people handing in weapons.

The security situation in Bangui reportedly deteriorated after the killing of three Muslims in May. On 28 May, 17 people had been killed following a retaliatory attack by Muslim gunmen against a displacement site in Bangui (UNHCR and international media). The total death toll stood at 25 as of 29 May (UNHCR, 29/05/2014) Over a few days from 21 March, 69 people lost their lives, with reported hotspots including district PK5, PK12, Kango, and the third and eighth districts.

LRA Attacks

The LRA has been active in eastern CAR since before the latest crisis, but attacks increased in 2013, as the political crisis left a power vacuum, according to an NGO monitoring report of February 2014.

On 7 May, LRA attacks were reported near Obo (Haut Mbonou). On 22 April, the Ugandan army announced that it had captured a Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) officer and freed ten hostages.

Disarmament Operations

Disarmament operations have been handled by French and MISCA troops, as well as by national military forces. Disarmament has triggered widespread violence and looting, and has been heavily criticised for resulting in indiscriminate attacks against civilians, according to international observers.

In late February, disarmament operations by international peacekeeping forces focused on the anti-balaka in Bangui, especially in PK13 and Boy Rabe districts.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

As of June, 2.7 million people (half of whom are children), of an estimated population of 4.6 million, need immediate assistance (WFP, 25/06/2014); 2.6 million were reported in urgent need in the January Multi-sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA). The MIRA reported that the whole population of the country was living in affected areas.

Outside the capital, health was reported to be the highest priority need, followed by protection, food, and WASH. Five of the six top health concerns were WASH-related (MIRA, 01/2014).

In Bangui and surrounding areas, the priorities were reported to be food, WASH, health, and protection (MIRA, 01/2014). Shelter was a problem for one-third of key informants within Bangui city.

Access

On 25 June, WFP reported that rains were hampering the delivery of supplies. The rainy season began in May.

As of 25 June, UNHCR reported that the renewed clashes in Bambari since May had hampered access to the area.

The surge in violence has had serious consequences for humanitarian assessment and response (OCHA). In the countryside, the security of humanitarian workers remains dependent on the willingness of local strongmen, while insecurity affects roads.

At 17 June, the subprefecture of Markounda in Ouham was entirely inaccessible to humanitarian aid (OCHA). On 24 May, an INGO reported that access in the area of Kaga Bandoro, Nana-Grebizi, was hampered by fighting. Access was also restricted in Nana-Mambere and Ouham-Pende prefectures (UNHCR, 22/05/2014).

On 7 June, an attack on truck drivers left three dead on the supply road from Cameroon, according to a donor report. Drivers have reportedly refused to resume transportation from Cameroon into CAR.

On 12 May, OCHA reported that the roads linking Bangui to Kabo via Boali, Bossembele, Bossangoa, Bouca and Batafango, were considered a high security risk. Roads linking Kaga Bandoro, Dekoa, Sibut, Kouango and Grimari were also considered insecure.
**Trapped Communities**

At 9 June, an estimated 21,000 people, mostly Muslim, were trapped in 12 locations. The number is unchanged since 9 May. Very high risk locations comprised Boda (Lobaye prefecture), Yaloke (Ombella Mpoko), Berberati (Mambere-Kadei), Bozoum (Ouham-Pende), Boganangone (Lobaye), and the PKS district of Bangui, while Bouar and Baoro were considered as 'high risk' (UNHCR). The Protection Cluster defines populations as ‘at risk’ when insecurity, restrictions on freedom of movement, and lack of access to humanitarian aid threaten their lives or physical integrity.

On 12 April, 14,000 Muslims were reported trapped in the city of Boda, Lobaye, surrounded by anti-balaka militia and unable to leave, according to the media.

On 7 March, 1,800 people were reported trapped in PK12 district of Bangui.

**Security Incidents Affecting Aid Workers**

Between 1 and 4 June, three separate attacks against NGO offices and vehicles were reported in Mboki (Haut Mbomou), Ndele (Bamingui-Bangoran), and Sibut (Kemo).

On 1 May, a member of UNHCR staff was killed in Bangui, bringing the death toll of aid workers since September 2013 to 13. Staff abduction, vehicle theft, death threats and physical attacks have all been reported.

**Displacement**

On 7 March, Human Rights Watch reported that the country had been virtually emptied of its Muslim communities. On 5 March OCHA estimated that 80–85% of Bangui’s minority population had fled, and that the entire Muslim population had fled or been evacuated from Yaloke (previously home to 10,000 Muslims), Baoro in Nana-Mambere (4,000 evacuees), and Mbaiki in Lobaye (OCHA). Most Muslim inhabitants of Boali, and of Bossemptele, Ouham-Pende, had also left.

**IDPs**

At 27 June, there were an estimated 536,000 IDPs (UNHCR). Displacement surged from late March, having slowly decreased between January and March (OCHA). In early February, OCHA reported that half of the displaced were children.

The dynamics of displacement within CAR vary considerably: rural inhabitants flee their villages and seek refuge in the surrounding countryside, while urban inhabitants seek safety in different districts. Armed elements are often present in IDP sites, according to the MIRA.

**Nana-Grebizi:** By early May, the number of displaced in the Kaga Bandoro area had doubled in a month, to 23,000 (UNHCR).

**Ouaka:** Violence in Bambari since May has displaced 13,000 people (UNHCR, 27/06/2014).

**Bangui:** 117,000 IDPs are in 40 sites (OCHA, 17/06/2014). The most frequently cited needs are housing, security, and non-food items. In June, 60% of IDPs indicated that they intended to return home in the next four weeks (OCHA, 17/06/2014).

**CAR Refugees in Neighbouring Countries**

387,000 CAR refugees are registered in neighbouring countries, 144,000 having arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR, 27/06/2014). UNHCR reported 214,000 CAR refugees in Cameroon, 95,000 in Chad (100,000 on 15 May), 60,000 in DRC (63,000 on 19 March), and 17,000 in Congo.

On 5 June UNHCR said it was investigating claims that refugees had been denied entry into Chad at the border point of Sido. At 22 May, CAR refugees were still crossing into Chad unhindered, despite Chad’s earlier announcement that it was closing the border (UNHCR 05/2014; international media, 12/05/2014). Although only 15,000 CAR refugees are considered to have arrived in Chad since 1 December (UNHCR, 27/06/2014), OCHA reported on 17 June that 110,000 people had crossed from CAR to Chad since 2013.

**Refugees in CAR**

At 15 May, an estimated 10,000 refugees and asylum-seekers were in CAR, mostly from DRC and Sudan; an estimated 1,700 South Sudanese refugees were in CAR as of 31 March (UNHCR).

On 23 June, the 2,200 Sudanese refugees living in Bambari were reported to be in fear of attack. As of 25 June, UNHCR reported that violence in Bambari had caused the interruption of a number of humanitarian programmes for the 1,900 Sudanese refugees residing in the Pladama Ouaka camp.

On 10 May, the repatriation of over 6,200 DRC refugees from Batalimo camp was completed (OCHA).

**Third-country Nationals Fleeing CAR**

On 26 June, OCHA reported that 125,000 people had been evacuated from CAR, both Muslim CAR nationals and others. The Chadian Government announced the completion of its air evacuation programme on 20 February.

**Returnees**

At 31 May, 12,000 IDPs had reportedly returned to the area of Bohon, Ouham-Pende (WASH Cluster); 2,500 people have since then reportedly returned in the areas of Ngaounday and Bang, Ouham-Pende (UNHCR, 5/06/2014).

**Food Security**

45% of the population, i.e. 1.7 million people, are at Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity: 26% are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), and 19% are in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), according to an IPC classification on 27 May. Ouham and Ouham-Pende are most affected areas. All other prefectures are at Crisis level, except Mambere-Kadei (Stressed). Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute Kotto, Yakaga and Sangha Mbaere could not be classified due
to insufficient data. Earlier assessments had found that most IDPs were facing at least IPC Phase 3 food insecurity.

At 31 April, FEWSNET reported that Bangui and northwestern and central-western areas of CAR would remain in IDP Phase 3 (Crisis) through the next harvest, which is July for the south, and October for the north.

On 27 May, FEWSNET said that lack of access to fields, shortages of seeds due to looting, and the adoption of irreversible coping mechanisms will likely result in a below-average 2014 harvest, and renewed food security deterioration in 2015.

Agriculture and Markets

The flight of Muslim traders and the refusal of transporters, most of whom are Muslim, to take to the road, has also hampered food availability and led to price hikes.

Maize prices in Bangui rose by 31% between January and November 2013, while millet prices increased by 70% between March and October in Ouham prefecture, an important sorghum and millet producing area (FAO, 12/2014). As reported by FAO in November 2013, the average inflation rate surged from 1.3% in 2011 to 5% in 2012 and an estimated 8% in 2013.

Health and Nutrition

The situation in CAR's health sector was critical even before the current crisis, with MSF documenting mortality rates well above the emergency threshold in several regions. In June 2013, the INGO Merlin reported that 3.2 million people were living without access to basic healthcare.

At 10 June, 67% of the two million people targeted by health humanitarian response had no access to basic health services (OCHA).

Health structures are almost exclusively supported by international NGOs and religious organisations, and cover only 10–20% of the population. The incidence of malaria, the first cause of morbidity, is reportedly on the rise, a situation compounded by the systemic shortage of medicine. The epidemic risk (acute diarrhoea, measles, meningitis) is high.

60% of health facilities have been vandalised, looted or destroyed, and over 80% of local medical doctors have moved to Bangui (MIRA, 01/2014; OCHA 10/2013).

HIV/AIDS

In mid-August 2013, according to a trusted source, 11,000 people living with HIV/AIDS had their antiretroviral treatment interrupted as a result of instability since December 2012.

Malaria

In early January 2014, it was estimated that malaria constituted the first cause of morbidity in CAR, with serious shortages of anti-malarial drugs in most of the still-functioning health structures. According to the Health Cluster in late January 2014, malaria was the cause of 40% of medical consultations for children under five in Bangui.

Malaria has been on the rise since December 2012, and is likely to increase further with the start of the rainy season in May 2014. In the first six months of 2013, MSF recorded 36,910 cases of malaria in Boguila, 50km from the Chadian border, compared with 19,498 cases during the same period the previous year.

Malnutrition

An estimated 28,000 children under five are expected to suffer from SAM in 2014, and 75,000 to be affected by MAM (OCHA, 17/06/2014).

Measles

On 7 May, OCHA reported measles epidemics in Carnot and Berberati (Mambere-Kadéi prefecture).

Meningitis

At 2 March, 42 cases of cerebrospinal meningitis had been reported in 2014 (WHO).

Mental Health

According to aid worker testimonies, 60% of parents whose children were admitted to Bangui's paediatric hospital for SAM presented symptoms that suggested post-traumatic stress disorder (24/06/2014).

WASH

As of 24 June, 11,000 people from displaced, relocated, and host communities in Moyen Sido had immediate and medium-term WASH needs (OCHA). As of 10 June, 42% of the 900,000 people targeted by the WASH humanitarian response had no access to safe drinking water (OCHA).

Education

According to the Ministry of Education, 45% of schools remained closed across the country at 17 June, down from 65% reported by the Education Cluster in February (OCHA, 17/06/2014). Only 6% of schools were reportedly open in Kemo and Nana-Grebi (UNICEF, 17/06/2014). 65% of 165 schools visited by UNICEF in late 2013 had been looted, occupied, or damaged by bullets or shells. As of 25 June, 80% of children were reportedly out of school (WFP, 25/06/2014).

Over a third of school students registered in 2012/2013 had reportedly dropped out in 2013/2014, representing 278,000 children.

Protection

In February, UN officials and human rights groups warned that "ethnic cleansing" was ongoing against the Muslim population – although this has been disputed by some NGOs and within the international community.

On 24 June, a human rights group reported that crimes against humanity and war
crimes had been and continued to be committed in CAR since 2013. In late October 2013, attacks, executions and torture of civilians, indiscriminate shelling, sexual and gender-based violence, and forceful recruitment of children were all documented in a report by Amnesty International.

**Child Recruitment**

On 24 June, OCHA reported that the number of child soldiers coerced into joining the ranks of various armed groups could approximate 10,000, an upward revision from 6,000 in February. On 10 June, OCHA reported that 42% of a targeted 2,000 children had been released from armed groups.

In November 2013, UNICEF reported that the increase in the number of children being recruited into armed groups was due to the rise of self-defence militias created to counter waves of attacks by former rebels. Armed groups have been re-recruiting children who had been recently demobilised.

**Chad**  **Food Insecurity, Epidemic, Displacement**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**18 June**: IOM profiling indicates that Chadian returnees represent 63% of all evacuees from CAR, while 36% are CAR refugees and 1% third-country nationals, primarily from Cameroon, Mali, and Niger. 92% lack any form of identity documentation. Over half (54%) of those profiled are children and teenagers.

**16 June**: UNHCR announced that it will be investigating reports that people fleeing CAR are being refused entry at the Sido border, in contravention of non-refoulement principles.

**13 June**: Under-5 mortality rates far surpass the WHO emergency threshold of two children per 10,000 under-fives per day, with 5.4 recorded in Gbiti and 3.1 in Gado Bedzere, according to MSF (WFP).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Chad remains at the junction of four major crises in the region: CAR, Libya, Nigeria, and Sudan. An estimated 441,000 refugees currently live in Chad (OCHA, 05/2014).
- Over 110,000 CAR refugees, Chadian returnees and third-country nationals have arrived in Chad since December 2013. The majority are women and children, many children separated from their parents, in urgent need of humanitarian assistance upon their arrival at camps and informal settlements (IOM, UNHCR, and UNICEF, 06/2014).
- 2.6 million people are food insecure, including 1.2 million at risk of extreme food insecurity (OCHA and Early Warning Food Security Alert System, 05/2014).
- High prevalence of malaria: deaths nearly doubled in 2013, with over 2,000 deaths registered and 780,000 cases diagnosed (OCHA, 11/2013). There has been a significant increase in the number of malaria cases in endemic areas (Logone, Moyen Chari, Tandjile, Batha, and Chari Baguirmi).

**Politics and Security**

**Central African Republic Crisis**

On 12 May, Chad’s President announced that the southern border with CAR will be closed to all except Chadian citizens until the crisis is resolved. On 16 June, UNHCR announced that it will be investigating reports that people fleeing CAR to seek refuge in Chad are being refused entry at the Sido border, in contravention of non-refoulement principles. Increasing insecurity in CAR, in particular near the border with Chad, has prompted the Government to deploy additional security forces.

On 16 April, officers from the African Union peacekeeping force in CAR (MISCA) confirmed that Chad had completed its withdrawal from the force and that MISCA and French soldiers had replaced Chadian troops. The Government announced the withdrawal of its 850 soldiers from MISCA on 3 April, after being accused of violence against civilians. CAR’s interim President Catherine Samba-Panza has announced the opening of an investigation into an incident on 29 March, when at least 30 people were killed and another 300 injured by Chadian soldiers in the CAR capital Bangui. In January, a UN human rights team travelled to CAR to gather evidence and testimonies relating to allegations that Chadian citizens, including peacekeepers, carried out mass killings during the violence in CAR. Chad has always denied the charges.

On 18 February, Chad’s President Deby met with President Samba-Panza and called for the establishment of a UN peacekeeping mission to contain violence in CAR. Deby’s comments marked the first time the region’s military heavyweight had publicly called for UN intervention. On 10 April, the UN Security Council unanimously approved the creation of a UN peacekeeping force in CAR.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

Situated at the junction of four major humanitarian crises (Darfur, CAR, Sahel, and Libya) Chad continues to face a complex emergency as a result of chronic food insecurity, repeated food crises, malnutrition, natural hazards, epidemic outbreaks, and population displacement.

**Access**

According to OCHA, humanitarian organisations in the south eastern Tissi area and in the landmine-affected northern region of Tibesti have limited access due to proximity to conflict-affected border areas, heavy rains, and general insecurity.

**Displacement**

Successive waves of instability and conflict in neighbouring countries have caused large-scaled population movements into Chad, which now hosts the seventh highest number of
Refugees, Returnees, and Third-Country Nationals from CAR

Over 110,000 people have arrived in Chad from CAR since December 2013, including 14,000 CAR refugees and 97,000 Chadian returnees and third-country nationals. The pace of new arrivals has decreased to fewer than 100 new registrations a day, compared to 3,000 a day at the height of the influx in early January (IOM, 19/05/2014). Chad is the largest recipient of CAR evacuees and refugees.

Most of the first arrivals were women and children, their numbers later being equalled by men (IOM). Chadian returnees represent 63% of all evacuees, while 36% are CAR refugees and 1% third-country nationals, primarily from Cameroon, Mali, and Niger. 92% lack any form of identity documentation. Over half (54%) of those profiled are children and teenagers (IOM, 18/06/2014). Some 106 unaccompanied or separated minors remain in Doyaba camp, and 1,160 have been reunited (Ministry of Social Affairs, 05/2014).

The humanitarian community is also preparing to assist some 5,000 Chadians who have requested evacuation to Chad from Cameroon, where they initially fled. Conditions are dire in the Cameroonian transit sites of Garoua Boulai and Kentzou, near the border with CAR (UNHCR, 20/06/2014). On 17 March, IOM repatriated 1,500 Chadians and third-country nationals, including Malians and Sudanese, from Cameroon.

Chadian Returnees

Chad has stepped up the evacuation of its citizens as violence intensified in CAR. As of 30 April, OCHA reported 97,000 Chadian returnees including 23,000 in Sido and 17,000 in N’Djamena.

Many Chadians reported being targeted by Christian militia, who accused them of having links to Seleka. The evacuation operations, both on emergency flights and in land convoys, stopped in mid-February. However, more people continue to arrive, and the living conditions of returnees are deteriorating.

The Government has increased the maximum stay in transit centres from ten days to one year to allow the restoration of family links and better prepare relocations.

Many returnees are entering Chad for the first time and hold CAR citizenship, which may lead to concerns about their legal status (migrant versus refugee). Second and third-generation Chadians from CAR have been recognised as de facto nationals by the Government. UNHCR is working with authorities to formalise recognition and avoid statelessness. The Government will provide birth certificates to every child born in a transit site. According to government figures, over 300,000 Chadian nationals lived in CAR prior to the current crisis.

As of April 2014, 150,000 Chadians had returned from Libya since the start of the Libya crisis in 2011, according to OCHA. Sporadic arrivals continue in Faya-Largeau and areas of northern Tibesti region.

Clashes between Nigerian military and armed groups in northern Nigeria have brought 3,500 returnees and 553 Nigerian refugees to the west, near Lake Chad. Returnees from Nigeria hosted in Ngouboua are mostly unaccompanied children from fishing villages in Bagakawa. According to OCHA, returnees are dispersed across two other locations in Bol and Mao.

Refugees in Chad

Chad was host to 441,000 refugees mainly Sudan’s Darfur, CAR, Libya, and Nigeria, in February (UNHCR, 04/2014). These arrivals have placed additional burdens on host communities.

Humanitarian needs of incoming refugees are primarily access to clean drinking water, hygiene, shelter, and health and nutrition care for children and women. UNICEF reported in late April 2013 that basic social services are non-existent in Tissi, having been destroyed or damaged during the 2004–2006 civil war and following ethnic tension in the Sila region, which is mainly hosting Sudanese refugees.

CAR: An estimated 14,000 CAR refugees have arrived in Chad since December 2013, bringing the total to 90,000 (UNHCR, 16/06/2014).

Sudan: Since the beginning of the year, some 30,000 Darfuri refugees have crossed the border into Chad, joining the 353,000 Sudanese refugees hosted in 13 refugee camps at the border (UNHCR, 06/2014).

Shelter

Some 61,000 people who arrived from CAR currently live in transit sites, spontaneous sites, and host communities in southern Chad and in Zafaye in the Gaoui neighbourhood of N’Djamena (IOM, 19/05/2014).

The situation in southern transit sites remains critical. Serious gaps in assistance remain, notably in shelter and WASH (OCHA, 27/05/2014). Health professionals have reported a significant increase in cases of diarrhoea and malaria, coinciding with the start of the rainy season. Heavy rains have also destroyed tents and flooded transit sites and temporary camps in N’Djamena and southern Chad.

Two new camps in the south are still under construction: Danamadja will have a capacity of 15,000, and Maingama 30,000. Danamadja has already taken some 11,200 people, but transfers have been temporarily halted. Transfers to Maingama temporary camp began on 14 June (UNHCR, 20/06/2014). The sites will host people from the existing transit sites of Doyaba, Doba, Sido, Mbitoye and Mbaibokoum.

IDPs

According to OCHA on 19 November, an estimated 90,000 IDPs are living in protracted displacement in the east. As reported by IDMC, they were forced to flee their homes six years ago as a result of armed conflict between Government forces and armed opposition...
groups, inter-communal violence, and attacks by criminal groups known as coupeurs de route. The preferred option of most IDPs is local integration in their place of refuge or resettlement. However, conditions have not yet allowed them to achieve a durable solution. Another 91,000 IDPs have returned to their homes, integrated locally, or settled elsewhere in the country. Limited information is available on their current situation.

Food Security

The number of Chadians at crisis levels of food security will increase from 2.6 million to 3.9 million between June and September, according to the Early Warning Food Security Alert System (SISAAP) (OCHA, 19/05/2014). The Guerra region will also face crisis levels of food insecurity, bringing the total of regions in crisis to four.

Chad has been struck by successive severe food crises in recent years, which have had adverse, long-term impacts on household assets and savings. In January 2014, OCHA reported that 1.2 million people were at risk of extreme food insecurity. The Government, WFP, and FAO conducted a food security assessment between October and November 2013, which showed that the Sahel region (central Chad) is twice as badly affected as the Sudan region in the south. The worst affected region is Wadi Fira (eastern Chad), where 61% of the population is reportedly food insecure.

According to ECHO in early May, production shortfalls have resulted in an early onset of the lean season for more than 900,000 people in the Sahel belt of the country. The situation is likely to worsen with the peak of the lean season in August-September.

Since October 2013, poor households have been engaging in lean season strategies not normally observed during harvest and post-harvest periods. Households have also started migrating in October, compared to February/March in a normal year, in search of labour opportunities in large regional centres, such as N’Djamena and Abéché, and zones with more intensive off-season agriculture, such as Am Timan and Sarh.

As reported by FEWSNET in April, poor households in the Wadi Fira and southern Bahr El-Ghazel areas are facing food consumption deficits due to premature depletion of food stocks, unusually steep increases in food prices, and poor pastoral conditions. While projected humanitarian assistance should prevent a further deterioration in their food security situation, these households will remain in Crisis until the upcoming October harvests. During the peak of the lean season, they will face some of the most severe food security outcomes in West Africa’s Sahel this year.

Livestock conditions in the Sahelian zone are poorer than usual due to pasture deficits. This is reducing milk availability and livestock prices and eroding the purchasing power of pastoralists. Affected households in the Batha, northern Bahr El-Ghazel, Kanem, Guera, Silva, and Hadjer Lamis areas will have difficulty maintaining their food access and, thus, will be Stressed between April and September.

The presence of refugees and returnees in Logone Oriental, Moyen Chari, Mandoul, and Salamat is creating additional costs for their host families, is increasing the number of dependents per household, and is putting pressure on household demand, consumption, and spending. As a result, these households will be Stressed.

Health and Nutrition

Chad is very regularly afflicted by epidemics and disease outbreaks owing to low vaccination coverage and weak water and sanitation infrastructures. There are less than 500 Chadian doctors for the entire population of 11.8 million people, meaning one for 23,600 people.

Chad has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, with 1,100 mothers dying per 100,000 births.

Malaria

Malaria is a major health problem with a prevalence rate of nearly 30% across all age groups and about 36% among children under five, according to UNICEF. As of week 13 of 2014, the cumulative number of malaria cases reported is 191,630, compared to 144,640 in 2013. National authorities indicate an increase in malaria in six districts, mainly in N’Djamena. From January to March, 163,000 cases of malaria were recorded; 250 people died. The situation could worsen as the rainy season has started in the south, and will move north into the Sahel region. Last year, Chad was hit by a massive malaria outbreak, with 991,840 cases, and 2,610 deaths (compared to 616,720 cases and 1,160 deaths in 2012).

In late November 2013, OCHA reported that malaria cases had increased in endemic areas (Logone Moyen Chari, Tandjile, Batha, and Chari Baguirmi).

Malnutrition

The nutritional situation in Chad’s Sahel belt is at critical levels, with global acute malnutrition (GAM) surpassing the emergency threshold of 15% in nine of 22 regions, according to OCHA. The most affected areas are Batha (25% GAM), Wadi Fira (22% GAM), Salamat (22% GAM), Beg (21% GAM), and Kanem (21% GAM). According to UNICEF, the latest post-harvest SMART survey conducted in April indicated a severe acute malnutrition (SAM) prevalence exceeding the emergency threshold in the region of Batha (3.9%) and Beg (2.4%).

At 30 March, assessments conducted by UNICEF at the transit sites of Mbitoye, Doba and Doyaba in the south of Chad indicate levels of malnutrition above 15%, requiring emergency humanitarian interventions. MSF surveillance shows that under-five mortality rates far surpass the WHO emergency threshold of two children per 10,000 per day, with 5.4 recorded in Gbiti, and 3.1 in Gado Bedzere (WFP, 13/06/2014).

UNICEF has estimated that 500,000 children under five are likely to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2014, including 126,000 from SAM. Across the Sahel region, an estimated five million children under five are expected to suffer from malnutrition in 2014, and 1.5 million will face acute malnutrition.

The number of admissions to therapeutic feeding centres in the Sahel belt has increased since the beginning of 2014. UNICEF has registered over 63,000 cases of malnutrition this year, mostly located in the Sahel belt. Last year, 45,000 children died due to malnutrition.

Measles, Polio, and Meningitis

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Measles, Polio, and Meningitis
In late January, UNICEF reported that the CAR–Chad border region is prone to recurrent outbreaks of measles, polio, and meningitis. Immunisation rates among refugee and returnee children are unknown but believed to be low.

Cases of measles have risen since January 2014, with 7,100 registered as of 5 May and nine reported deaths, according to the Ministry of Health. The INGO Médecins Sans Frontières said 70% of reported cases are of children under five. Most reported cases (3,750 in late April) have been in the four health districts covering N’Djamena and its outskirts. Some 33 of the 77 health districts have reported cases so far.

Despite a mass vaccination campaign against measles in 15 districts, covering 700,000 children, including 15,000 in transit sites, an additional 13 districts have reported over 520 new cases of measles as of 30 March. The country is seeking additional funding for a campaign covering the 13 districts.

In the first quarter of 2014, over 1,200 more cases of measles were registered than in all of 2013, according to WHO. In 2013, 2,222 cases were recorded, including 33 deaths.

**OVERVIEW**

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

**Political Context**

**International Political Involvement**

On 24 February 2013, 11 states signed a Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the DRC and Region. In January 2014, the Framework members adopted a plan of action, and Kenya and Sudan also agreed to join the process. There are concerns about DRC’s commitment to the Framework, as implementation is not progressing.

**National Political Context**

A long-term cause of the conflicts in DRC and the degradation of human security can be found in the gradual erosion of state authority and capacity, and the subsequent weakness of the central government.

On 30 December 2013, armed youths believed to be loyal to religious leader Mukungubila, who challenged President Kabila in elections in 2006, stormed the state television station, the international airport, and the military headquarters. DRC security forces repelled attacks in Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, and Kindu: 103 people were killed, according to authorities. Late May 2014, the International Federation for Human Rights said that the Government’s response had resulted in some 250 civilians and six soldiers killed in Katanga province, and another 71 civilians killed in Kinshasa.

**Security Context**

Numerous armed groups are active in the east of the country, causing general insecurity across the region. The UN Stabilization Mission in DRC (MONUSCO) has a mandate until 31 March 2015, as does its intervention brigade charged with “neutralising” foreign and domestic armed groups.

The UN has expressed concern about the potential destabilising effect of the neighbouring CAR conflict on DRC. The presence of armed ex-CAR armed forces in Equateur and ex-Seleka fighters in Orientale triggered significant displacement (MONUSCO).
DRC and Rwandan officials accused each other's army of mounting cross-border raids over 11–12 June. Heavy fire took place between the two forces in the town of Kanyesheza, north of Goma, North Kivu. Both countries sent extra troops to the border. The clashes ended six months of relative calm.

Counter-insurgency and Insecurity in the East

Government and UN troops defeated M23, once the strongest army in the Kivu regions, in November 2013. This was followed by several waves of surrender: the Hutu-dominated militia Nyatura, the Hunde-dominated Alliance for a Free and Sovereign Congo, and the Nduma Defence of Congo.

DRC armed forces (FARDC) and MONUSCO counterinsurgency operations have since continued. The UN deployed unarmed surveillance drones in early December to monitor activities on the Rwandan and Ugandan borders.

M23

A peace deal was signed on 12 December, and M23 was dissolved as an armed group. Parliament approved an amnesty law on 4 February 2014. Ex-fighters have six months to sign up. Some 1,300 ex-M23, who had fled to Uganda, have signed amnesty papers, according to the political head of the M23 (06/05/2014).

However, M23 is still receiving support from Rwanda, and sanctioned M23 leaders are moving freely in Uganda (UN Group of Experts on DRC, 23/01/2014). The head of MONUSCO has said there was evidence to suggest that M23 is recruiting and resuming activities within DRC, notably in Ituri district (13/01/2014). The UN Security Council renewed its arms embargo and targeted sanctions on 30 January.

North Kivu

ADF-NALU: The Islamic Alliance of Democratic Forces (ADF-NALU), a 1,400-strong alliance opposed to the Ugandan Government, has been targeted since January. It has been blamed for a spate of attacks and kidnappings around Beni territory in December 2013. By April, FARDC had recaptured the last ADF-NALU base in North Kivu.

APCLS: Clashes between the Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS) and government forces were reported in January. Human rights violations and summary executions were reported in Nyamaboko villages I and II, Masisi territory, in February and operations against APCLS triggered small-scale displacements. On 23 April, local sources reported that FARDC had taken APCLS bases in Matembe, Mirenge, and Maniema, Walikale territory. The insurgents reportedly retreated into Mutongo area. They attacked MONUSCO peacekeepers and three FARDC positions in Nyabiondo area and Goma a week later.

FDLR: MONUSCO announced the launch of a military operation against FDLR in December 2013. On 13 March, local media reported that the FARDC had regained the city of Kahumo without resistance, after two years of occupation by FDLR. On 31 May, more than 100 FDLR militants surrendered in Kateku, north of Goma.

Mayi-Mayi: On 14 January, Mayi Mayi Sheka, operating from bases in Walikale territory, attacked the village of Pinga, leading to a gunfight with FARDC. MONUSCO said four DRC soldiers were killed.

South Kivu

Humanitarian actors have raised concerns regarding a potential security vacuum following military redeployment from South Kivu to other provinces, which may lead armed groups to renew activities.

Since the beginning of the year, 38 security incidents against humanitarian workers have been recorded, including 15 in Bukavu territory (UNDSS, 05/2014).

Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba: violent clashes on 8 April with FARDC in Uvira territory displaced 18,000 people along the Lulimba–Kalemie route.

FDLR: On 9 June, more than 80 FDLR militants surrendered in Kigogo, south of Bukavu, following another FDLR surrender in North Kivu the previous week.

Inter-ethnic violence: 38 Bafuliru people were killed in Mutarule, south of Bukavu, over 6–7 June. Most were killed as they slept in a church.

Katanga

Insecurity has spread since the end of December 2013 (OCHA). Dozens of new Mayi Mayi movements have been created in Manono, Mitwaba, and Pweto territories (the ‘Triangle of Death’) and insecurity spread to Malemba Nkulu and Moba territories. Mayi-Mayi originating mainly in northern Katanga have extended their activity south. Civilian communities have been victims of ‘punishment’ raids, and the surge in violence has led to the creation of several self-defence groups. Almost 70% of the region’s 500,000 IDPs are between Pweto, Manono and Mitwaba, and in Malemba Nkulu.

From January to March 2014, more than 35 Mayi-Mayi attacks were reported between Pweto, Manono, and Mitwaba territories, as well as in Kalemie, Kipushi, Malemba Nkulu and Moba territories (OCHA). Humanitarian actors are speaking of a scorched earth policy. Schools and health centres are also being targeted.

Only one FARDC battalion has been deployed to Katanga, and only 550 soldiers of the 22,000-strong UN mission are in the region.

Self-defence groups are also being created between Moba and Kalemie as conflict between pygmies and Bantus intensifies (ECHO, 25/03/2014). Ten people were killed in inter-ethnic clashes in Maloba area over 20–23 June.

Orientale

More than 300,000 people, including 150,000 IDPs, are affected by military operations in South Irumu, Ituri district (OCHA, 05/2014).

The near absence of effective policing in Ituri is fuelling mob violence, according to local civil society groups. A three-month voluntary disarmament campaign for civilians, launched in Ituri district in early March, has been extended to Haut Uele, Bas Uele and
FRPI: A joint FARDC–MONUSCO offensive launched on 3 April against the FRPI in Nyasumbe plains, Ituri, has caused preventive displacement.

ADF-NALU: Some ADF-NALU have retreated from FARDC offensive in North Kivu into Mambasa forest and Irumu territory (OCHA, 01/02/2014).

LRA: The Ugandan Lord’s Resistance Army is mainly active in Haut and Bas Uele. The first quarter of 2014 saw fewer incidents, with 41 attacks, two deaths and 48 abductions (10% of the abductees being children) representing a decline of 21%, 86%, and 58%, respectively, compared to the last quarter of 2013 (OCHA, 04/2014). 88% of attacks and 58% of abductions occurred in Haut Uele. LRA was responsible for 164 incidents in the province in 2013.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

The mountainous and volcanic terrain, and lack of tarred roads limit access across DRC, and access worsens during the rainy season. In the east, insecurity is a major constraint. According to humanitarian partners, over 250 incidents involving humanitarian workers were recorded in 2013.

Katanga: Growing insecurity is hindering the delivery of assistance support to up to 500,000 displaced, and access to healthcare (OCHA, 17/02/2014; Médecins Sans Frontières, 09/01/2014). Katanga has the smallest humanitarian community of the four eastern provinces. Agencies are targeted by Mayi Mayi militias seeking to pillage supplies.

North Kivu: Heavy rainfall has damaged some sections of the Sake–Masisi road (OCHA, 03/04/2014). Some secondary roads near Masisi are also inaccessible, isolating thousands of displaced people. In Walikale territory, illegal checkpoints have been set up on many roads (OCHA).

South Kivu: 60% of roads are almost impracticable due to recurrent floods (OCHA, 05/2014). River flooding in Shabunda territory is limiting humanitarian assistance to thousands of people in Fizi territory (OCHA, 07/05/2014).

Oriental: 13 INGOs have withdrawn from Haut Uele and Bas Uele since mid-2013 due to lack of funding, leaving thousands of people without assistance.

At least 30% of IDPs in Ituri and Tshopo are inaccessible due to insecurity. Logistical constraints are also a major obstacle, especially in eastern Tshopo.

Disasters

Floods

In April, 30,000 people were reported affected by heavy rains and flooding in Katanga, particularly in Bukama and Kasenga territories, of whom more than half are returnees (OCHA). The flooding and lack of nutrition services make the current cholera outbreak in the territory of great concern.

At 22 April, more than 3,600 people had been affected by heavy rain in Tshikapa area, Kasai-Occidental, local media reported.

Displacement

An estimated 2.6 million people are internally displaced in DRC, and more than 440,000 have fled to neighbouring countries. Population displacement is frequent and often repeated.

IDPs

2.6 million people were estimated internally displaced at end March 2014, a decrease of 11% compared to the last quarter of 2013 (DRC Commission on Population Movements and UNHCR, 11/06/2014). Numbers have fallen in all provinces except Katanga. Armed conflict and insecurity represent 97% of the causes of displacement. Some 42% of IDPs live in sites, against 28% in December 2013.

North Kivu: At 1,048,080 or more than a third of the total number of IDPs, North Kivu has the most IDPs in the country. This is an increase of 12,000 since April, although returns in Rutshuru, Walikale and Lubero, and around Goma have also been observed. Masisi and Walikale territories host more than 600,000 people while an estimated 450,000 IDPs live in Beni, Rutshuru, Lubero, and Goma. Two-thirds of IDPs are living with host families and the rest in public buildings and camps (DRC Commission on Population Movements and UNHCR, 25/05/2014).

Masisi territory hosts 344,200 IDPs. In late March, residents were gradually returning to locations taken by the FARDC on the Mbau–Kamango route, although the security situation remains fragile (OCHA).

In Lubero and Walikale territories, an estimated 17,550 people were displaced by the activities of several armed groups between early April and mid-May. Urgent needs include water and food (OCHA, 21/05/2014).

In southern Lubero territory, an estimated 20,000 people were displaced by the activities of several armed groups. Urgent needs include WASH, NFIs and food (OCHA, 18/06/2014).

Around Pinga, clashes between APCLS, Nduma Defence of Congo (NDC), and FARDC since mid-January have displaced thousands towards Walikale and Masisi. Fighting between APCLS and FARDC in the neighbouring area of Kitshanga in January displaced 8,000 people.

In Beni territory, mainly Kamango and Nobili in the northeast, suspected ADF-NALU activity displaced 80,000 people between July 2013 and February 2014 (OCHA).

Provincial authorities have made statements regarding the alleged closure of the IDP sites, housing 108,000 people, around Goma (ECHO, 13/05/2014), leading to concern about forced returns or relocation.

South Kivu: 518,200 IDPs are in South Kivu, a decrease of 60,000 compared to
December 2013. Kalehe (40%), Mwenga (19%), Shabunda (15%), and Fizi (11%), are the most affected territories.

An estimated 49,000 new IDPs and 51,000 returnees need assistance following Raiya Mutomboki violence in Shabunda, Kalehe and Kabare territories (OCHA, 05/2014).

More than 16,000 of the 27,000 people who had fled abuses by Raiya Mutomboki in Mulungu over 2–24 April have returned to their homes (OCHA, 05/2014).

In Uvira territory, inter-communal violence over 6-7 June in Mutarule displaced an estimated 8,000 people (OCHA, 17/06/2014).

Katanga: Katanga has had the highest relative increase in IDPs, from 50,000 in March 2011 to 500,000 at the end of April 2014. The number of newly displaced since January 2014 is estimated at over 100,000, of whom almost 70% are in Pweto, Kalemie, Manono, and Malemba Nkulu (OCHA). 56% of displacement was caused by clashes between Mayi-Mayi and FARDC.

There are no IDP camps in Katanga: 85% of the displaced live with host families, while 15% live in informal settlements in Kalemie, Manono, Pweto, and Moba, or occupy public buildings.

Malemba Nkulu territory has recorded more than new 35,000 IDPs in the past three months due to Mayi Mayi activity.

Pweto recorded an increase of 23,770 people in the first trimester of 2014 and hosts up to 185,000 IDPs.

About 74,300 people were displaced in Manono territory in late May, an increase of 28,300 since the beginning of the year (OCHA, 11/06/2014). Some 16,000 people were displaced following Kata-Katanga attacks in May (local media, 15/05/2014). 15,000 people had been displaced in eastern Manono in mid-March, Kata-Katanga and FARDC clashes.

Oriental: 366,800 IDPs were hosted in Orientale at 31 March, a decrease of 183,100 compared to December 2013 (DRC Commission on Population Movements).

An estimated 105,400 people were displaced in southern Irumu territory (Bwanasura, Gety, Kagaba, Komanda, Lagabo, Soke, and Tchekeke) between March and May following clashes between FARDC and FRPI (Commission on Population Movements). Another 107,700 people returned home to Aveba, Kagaba, Nyakunde and Songolo (OCHA, 18/06/2014).

24,000 people are reported to have crossed into Ituri from North Kivu since FARDC operations against ADF-NALU began in January. Humanitarian capacities in Ituri are already overstretched.

Some 10,000 people were displaced in mid-May in Komanda town, south of Bunia, as a result of clashes between FARDC and armed groups in Mont Hoyo (WFP, 05/2014).

At 15 April, an estimated 20,000 IDPs had been living in the bush in Tshopo district for two months following the burning of their houses by militias in the area of Opieenge in Bafwasende territory (OCHA).

Haut Uele and Bas Uele have seen a substantial decrease, as more people returned home, yet LRA activity continues to cause new displacement. An estimated 113,000 people remain displaced in Bas Uele and Haut Uele.

Maniema: Maniema has an estimated 172,840 IDPs, a decrease of nearly 60% compared to the end of 2013 (OCHA, 31/03/2014). They are mostly located in Punia (64,800), Pangi (42,480), and Kasongo (38,360).

Over 37,000 people remain displaced following clashes between Mayi Mayi Yakutumba and FARDC in Fizi territory, South Kivu, over March–April. Urgent needs include WASH, shelter, and food (OCHA, 05/2014)

Refugees in DRC

DRC hosts an estimated 116,170 refugees, mainly from CAR and Rwanda (UNHCR, 31/05/2014).

From CAR: 14,800 CAR refugees have entered DRC since December 2013, despite the closure of the border in December, bringing the overall number to 60,100 (UNHCR, 25/06/2014). By the end of May, the number of CAR refugees relocated to the four camps in Equateur and Orientale provinces had reached 29,800 (29,300 in Equateur and 480 in Orientale) (UNHCR, 31/05/2014). DRC provincial authorities insist that assistance should only be delivered within camps, making it difficult to support refugees in host communities.

From Rwanda: DRC is hosting 41,800 Rwandan refugees (UNHCR, 31/05/2014). 30% of the Rwandan refugees approached by authorities have indicated their intention to return, according to data collected by the National Commission for Refugees (UNHCR, 04/2014).

From Angola: 71,750 former Angolan refugees live in DRC: 23,940 have registered for voluntary repatriation and 47,815 have opted for local integration.

DRC Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

An estimated 436,300 DRC refugees currently live in neighbouring countries, including 171,100 in Uganda, 72,000 in Rwanda, 64,000 in Tanzania, and 46,000 in Burundi (UNHCR, 31/05/2014).

Uganda: On 28 April, DRC, Uganda, and UNHCR agreed to conduct a return intention survey by the end of July 2014 among DRC refugees living in refugee settlements. It was also agreed to fast-track organised voluntary repatriation by September 2014.

Returnees

Between January 2012 and April 2014, an estimated 150,400 DRC refugees returned to their homes (UNHCR).

Returnees from Congo: A free movement of people agreement was signed by DRC and Congo on 3 June. The deal, which has yet to be ratified on each side, would allow nationals...
living along the 1,300km frontier to cross to the other side for a maximum of three days with a laissez-passer or national identity card. Those wishing to live and work in either country must have a passport and work permit.

Both countries agreed to set up a commission of inquiry on allegations of violence and violations of human rights in the recent deportation of DRC nationals from Congo Brazzaville. Since April, over 140,000 DRC nationals have been expelled. Some 3,000 people remain in the transit site of Maluku, near Kinshasa. Brazzaville initiated the operation on 4 April. Many forced returnees reportedly have little attachment to DRC and lack access to basic services. An estimated 250,000 DRC nationals in Congo might be affected by these measures.

Returnees from CAR: Voluntary repatriation of DRC refugees from Batalimo camp, CAR, was completed on 10 May. Some 95% of the 6,283 people repatriated have gone to Libenge, and the others to Businga, Mbandaka, and Zongo.

Returnees from South Sudan: Around 6,200 DRC returnees from South Sudan have been recorded since December 2013 in several localities of Haut Uele, Orientale province (UNHCR, 02/2014). Their most urgent needs include food, NFI, education, and health.

Food Security

6.7 million people, or 11% of the rural population, faced food insecurity and livelihood crisis at the end of 2013 (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, 12/2013). This is an increase of 300,000 people compared to June 2013. The populations most severely affected by food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) are in five territories of three provinces: Manono, Mitwaba, and Pweto territories, Katanga; Punia territory, Maniema; and south Irumu territory, Orientale province.

Health and Nutrition

The health system is weak due to structural problems and violence. Epidemics are rife and the burden of infectious and non-infectious disease is one of the highest in the region. Maternal and child morbidity and mortality rates remain high. Cholera, measles, and malaria take a heavy toll on the population.

Cholera

As of 8 March, UNICEF had recorded 4,277 cholera cases and 79 deaths, representing a case fatality rate of 1.8%. Local health authorities recorded 27,000 cases in 2013 – half of them in Katanga - including 491 deaths (case fatality rate 1.8%), a decrease from 30,753 cholera cases and 709 deaths in 2012. Limited access to safe drinking water, poor hygiene conditions, and poor sanitation all help the spread of the disease.

Cholera outbreaks persist in four provinces: North and South Kivu, Katanga and Orientale (WHO). Almost 2,000 cases including 62 deaths have been recorded in Katanga in 2014 (UNICEF, 08/03/2014). Katanga was the province most affected by cholera in 2013, with 13,726 cases and 348 deaths registered against 6,930 cases and 223 deaths in 2012. As of 8 March, 1,525 cases of cholera including three deaths have been registered in South Kivu, with Uvira, Ruzizi and Nundu health zones at epidemic levels. North Kivu province has reported 705 cases and 12 deaths (UNICEF, 08/03/2014). In Orientale province, the district of Ituri registered 12 cases and two deaths.

Malaria

As of late November, OCHA reported a threefold increase in the number of malaria cases recorded in the former M23 rebel stronghold of Rutshura (North Kivu) compared to past years. Over 76,000 cases were recorded in the area between January and November 2013, while the number never exceeded 25,000 per year between 2009 and 2012.

Malnutrition

An estimated two million children under five suffer from SAM (UNICEF, 12/2013). Local response capacity is limited, and complicated as health stakeholders struggle to monitor contributing factors, such as epidemics of disease and displacement.

As of 8 March, Bukama territory, Katanga province, was showing signs of a serious nutritional crisis, with SAM rates of 4.8% and 90% Kwashiorkor (UNICEF). Over 7,000 children could be affected.

Measles

As of 8 March, 6,700 cases of measles and 78 deaths had been reported in 16 health districts of five provinces in 2014 (UNICEF). In 2013, DRC recorded 89,000 cases of measles, including 1,392 deaths.

Several health districts of Kasai Oriental and Occidental (Citenge, Kansele, Mikope, Lukunga, Demba) and Bandundu (Kimputu, Mushie) are affected by epidemics. A significant decrease in suspected measles cases was registered in Orientale, Equateur, and Nord Kivu during the first quarter of 2014 in comparison with 2013.

Yellow Fever

Following confirmation of four cases of yellow fever in Orientale and one case in Katanga, a vaccination campaign is planned, targeting more than 600,000 people in high-risk zones in both provinces.

WASH

38 million people in DRC (53.5% of households) do not have access to safe drinking water (UNICEF, 27/03/2014).

Protection

Military, militias, and other armed groups are all accused of repeated abuses against civilians, including arbitrary arrests, extortion, looting, child conscription, sexual violence, and executions.

On 5 May, the trial of 39 FARDC soldiers ended with two convicted of rape and 13 others cleared. The remaining men were convicted of lesser crimes. According to a UN report, at least 102 women and 33 girls were raped by government troops in Minova, south of Goma, in November 2012.
Over 3,600 victims of sexual violence were reported between January 2010 and December 2013 (UN Joint Human Rights Office, 04/2014). Rape is used as a weapon of war to intimidate local communities, and to punish civilians. It is also an opportunistic crime. Since 2008, Médecins Sans Frontières has never treated fewer than 4,000 cases of sexual violence in DRC per year (03/03/2014).

**Katanga:** Nearly 3,000 protection incidents were reported in the territories of Kalemie, Manono, Mitwaba, and Pweto between January and May (UNHCR). At March, the territory of Mitwaba was the most affected, with about 680 incidents, followed by Pweto (500 incidents).

In 2013, over 5,100 incidents of gender-based violence were registered in Katanga, with Kalemie, Malemba Nkulu, Manono, Mitwaba, Moba, and Pweto most affected. This is almost triple the number of incidents reported in 2012 (1,650). More than 75% of incidents were rapes, with children under 18 making up half of the victims. 70% of victims were IDPs, followed by host populations, and returnees (Katanga Protection Cluster, 05/2014). 95% of incidents were assigned to armed actors.

**South Kivu:** UNHCR reported a 37.5% increase in protection-related incidents recorded in 2013 (from 17,260 in 2012 to 23,450). Despite a Raiya Mutomboki disarmament process in Shabunda, civilian protection has not improved: in 2013, protection incidents increased by 51% on 2012, to 2,858.

**Updated: 01/07/2014**

**GUINEA FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

26 June: 396 cases of Ebola and 280 deaths have been reported in Guinea (WHO). There are difficulties identifying cases, tracing contacts and raising public awareness of reducing the risk of transmission, notably in forest areas (WHO/UN Department of Public Information).

25 June: Urging an inter-country response, WHO initiated a meeting with the Ministers of Health of 11 countries and partners involved in the outbreak response in Accra, Ghana, from 2–3 July.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- A fast-spreading outbreak of Ebola virus disease in the capital Conakry and in the prefectures of Gueckedou, Macenta, Kissidougou, Dabola, Dinguiraye, Telimele, Boffa, Boke, and Dubreka has registered 396 cases and 280 deaths since 9 February (WHO and Government, 06/2014).

- 220,000 of 6.7 million people are severely food insecure in Boke, Kindia, Conakry (west), and N’Zerekore (south); 1.8 million people are estimated moderately food insecure (FAO, 02/2014).

- 139,200 children were suffering from acute malnutrition (WFP, 12/2013).

- A measles outbreak has killed five children and led to at least 1,300 suspected cases since January in the Conakry municipalities of Matam, Matoto, and Ratoma (UNICEF, 02/2014).

**Politics and Security**

The population lacks even the most basic social services and infrastructure is in urgent need of improvement. President Condé is under intense pressure to deliver concrete social and economic change ahead of the next presidential vote in 2015.

Legislative elections in late 2013 led to transition back to civilian rule after a 2008 military coup. With the exception of Hope for National Development, all opposition parties now have a seat in the National Assembly. The elections were criticised by the opposition, and the international community noted irregularities in eight of 38 constituencies. On 25 November, at least one person was killed and several wounded during a protest over the results.

On 12 December 2013, the European Union announced full resumption of development cooperation with Guinea.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Displacement**

**Refugees**

Over 6,500 Ivorian refugees live in Guinea (OCHA, 30/04/2014).

**IDPs**

In July 2013, ethnic violence between Guerze Konianke in the town of Koule spread to the provincial capital N’Zerekore and to the town of Beyla: 30,000 people were reported displaced (international organisations, 23/07/2013). UNHCR reported that several hundred IDPs had sought refuge in military camps in N’Zerekore and Beyla.

**Food Security**

Cereal availability will be sufficient to guarantee normal and regular market supplies, and to ensure normal, seasonal price fluctuations. Minimal food insecurity will be maintained through September 2014 (FEWSNET, 27/06/2014).

However, food security remains fragile. In February, FAO reported that over 220,000 of 6.7 million people were severely food insecure in Boke, Kindia, Conakry (west), and N’Zerekore (south). An additional 1.8 million were estimated moderately food insecure (FAO, 02/2014).

**Agricultural Outlook**
Heavy and above-average rains since the beginning of June have oversaturated ground conditions in northeastern Guinea. The return of heavy downpours is forecast for the next week, increasing risks for new flooding across the region (FEWSNET, 26/06/2014).

Agricultural activities for the 2014/15 season are providing normal labour opportunities for poor households. The pastoral situation is progressively improving as seasonal progress is favourable for the restoration of pasture and water sources, maintaining stable food security for poor pastoral households (FEWSNET, 27/06/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Ebola

West Africa is facing a second peak of the Ebola epidemic. As of 23 June, the total cumulative number of cases was reported 635, including 399 deaths (WHO, 25/06/2014). As of 23–24 June, the average case fatality rate (CFR) is approximately 55% (ECHO, 26/06/2014).

Ebola patients have been identified in more than 60 locations across Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, complicating efforts to treat patients and curb the outbreak. MSF is warning that it has reached the limits of what its teams can do on the ground. WHO is urging an inter-country response, and initiated a meeting with the Ministers of Health of 11 countries and partners involved in the outbreak response in Accra, Ghana, over 2–3 July (WHO, 25/06/2014).

To date, no treatment or vaccine is available for Ebola, which kills between 25% and 90% of victims, depending on the strain of the virus. The disease is transmitted by direct contact with blood, faeces, sweat; sexual contact; or the unprotected handling of contaminated corpses.

In Guinea, 396 cases and 280 deaths have been reported so far (WHO, 26/06/2014). The geographical distribution of cases and deaths since February is as follows (WHO, 23/06/2014):

- Gueckedou: 226 cases and 177 deaths
- Conakry: 65 cases and 33 deaths
- Macenta: 41 cases and 28 deaths
- Telimele: 25 cases and 10 deaths
- Bofa: 21 cases and 12 deaths
- Kissidougou: 6 cases and 5 deaths
- Dabola: 4 cases and 4 deaths
- Dinguiraye: 1 case and 1 death
- Kouroussa: 1 case and 1 death.

All age groups have been affected, but most cases are adults aged 15–59. Twenty-six health workers have been affected, 19 of whom have died (UNICEF).

There are difficulties, notably in forest areas, in identifying cases, tracing contacts, and raising public awareness about the disease and how to reduce the risk of transmission (WHO/UN Department of Public Information, 27/06/2014).

Malnutrition

In December 2013, WFP highlighted that child malnutrition remains a serious problem in Guinea. At least 139,200 children suffer from acute malnutrition.

Meningitis

Between January and June, meningitis is believed to have affected 539 people, mostly in three districts of Upper Guinea: Siguiri, Mandiana and Kouroussa. Fifty-two people have died (IRIN, 12/06/2014).

In 2013, there were at least 400 suspected cases and more than 40 deaths. Most of the cases were children under the age of 10, according to the Ministry of Health. Guinea is part of Africa’s meningitis belt.

Updated: 01/07/2014

MALI

CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

19 June: Almost half a million children under five are suffering from acute malnutrition; 85% of them are in the south of the country (OCHA).

Mid-June: The number of IDPs is estimated at 132,630, a significant decrease on 200,000 in February, and 283,700 in October 2013 (Commission on Population and IOM).

Late May: An estimated 137,200 Malians have taken refuge in neighbouring countries, including 52,900 in Mauritania, 50,000 in Niger, and 32,660 in Burkina Faso. This is a decrease of 26,000 compared to August 2013 (UNHCR and IOM).

KEY CONCERNS

- Security, particularly in the north, remains volatile, and access is limited for aid workers. Security in and around the north eastern region of Kidal is of particular concern.
- 137,000 IDPs, largely as a result of insecurity and food insecurity (IOM, 04/2014).
- 3.7 million food insecure, including 1.5 million at Crisis or Emergency levels (ECHO, 04/2014).
- 136,000 children have SAM (02/2014); 210,000 in July 2013 (UNICEF).
Overview

Violence and conflict in the north have led to a deterioration in the humanitarian situation and large-scale displacement.

Civilian rule was re-established in mid-2013, but Mali continues to face security and political challenges. The truce in the north remains fragile, and key government institutions need strengthening. Limited access to basic social services and the poor capacity of public administration are key drivers of the crisis.

Political Context

International Presence

A year and a half after French and African military intervention recaptured northern Mali from Islamist and separatist armed groups, the stability of the Sahel region is still reliant on the presence of armed foreign troops. Malian and French armies, the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and the EU military training mission (EUTM) are all present in the territory, mainly in Bamako (53%) and in northern cities such as Kidal, Gao, Timbuktu, and Menaka (28%) (OCHA, 31/05/2014).

On 15 April, the European Union (EU) established a civilian mission, EUCAP Sahel Mali, to support internal security forces and complement EUTM.

French President Hollande has confirmed that France’s military presence will be reduced to 1,000 by the middle of 2014.

National Political Context

Malian authorities launched a plan to revive stalled talks between the Government and separatist groups, and try to bring exiled armed opposition leaders back into the peace process in April. Officials said that once the first steps in the process had been taken, the goal would be to hold talks in Bamako within 60 days.

A ceasefire agreement signed on 18 June 2013 was broken by the MNLA in November. The MNLA and the Government had agreed for the Malian regular army, as well as its civil administration, to gradually return to the region of Kidal.

On 18 February 2013, in UN-led talks, opposition groups agreed with the Government to a roadmap and timetable for confining members of their groups to barracks in northern Mali, including in Lere, Kidal, Gao, and Timbuktu.

The crisis began in January 2012, when several insurgent groups began fighting for independence and greater autonomy for the northern Azawad region. The conflict initially pitted Tuareg tribesmen, who have been fighting Bamako for decades, against the Government. But then Islamist rebel groups Ansar Dine and the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) began a separate insurgency, aiming to impose shariah in Azawad and push Tuareg rebels out of major cities. The conflict was further complicated by a military coup in March 2013 and, later, fighting between Tuareg and Islamist rebels. At the request of the Government, the French military launched Operation Serval in January 2013 in response to territorial gains and a push south by Islamist fighters.

Security Context

The security situation in the north, where Al Qaeda-linked militants are known to operate, remains volatile. Unexploded ordnance and landmines remain a significant threat. A number of so-called self-defence militias, formed in 2012, are also active. Strained relations between Tuaregs and other communities in the north, such as the Fulani and Songhai, have deteriorated since 2012. Local sources and security forces report that Islamists have regained a foothold in several areas and pressured families hostile to their presence to leave their homes.

Despite the 23 May ceasefire agreement, the situation in Kidal and Gao remains tense. At least 4,000 people were displaced to rural areas, the Gao region, and Algeria, when Tuareg and Arab insurgents took Kidal and the smaller settlement of Menaka on 21 May.

On 11 June, four Chadian MINUSMA peacekeepers were killed when a vehicle exploded at the entrance of their military camp in Aguelhoc, Kidal.

On 13 May, three UN peacekeepers were injured when their vehicle hit a landmine in Kidal.

On 27 April, a vehicle belonging to the Malian army ran over an improvised explosive device near Gao, injuring seven soldiers.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

State authorities and humanitarian aid workers are impeded from working in northern
regions due to insecurity. However, humanitarian access continues to improve and aid is increasingly accessible in central and southern regions. The destruction of infrastructure, and a lack of materials to support basic services remain major challenges (OCHA, 05/2014).

On 29 May, two humanitarian workers were killed when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device on the road between Timbuktu and Goundam. On 22 April, MUJAO said a French hostage who has been held captive since 2012 was dead. On 17 April, French troops freed five ICRC staff members kidnapped by insurgents in the north of the country in February.

Displacement

IDPs

The number of IDPs is estimated at 132,630, a significant decrease on 200,000 in February, and 283,700 in October 2013, largely attributed to improved security (Commission on Population, IOM, and UNHCR, 06/2014). However, threats to peace and stability, particularly in rural areas, undermine sustainable returns and are causing new and secondary displacement, the scale of which remains unassessed (IDMC).

Recent clashes between armed groups and the Malian military in Kidal region have forced more than 18,000 people to flee their homes (OCHA, 06/2014).

In the south, Bamako continues to host the highest number of IDPs (39,700), followed by Koulikoro (16,700), and Segou (10,300). Despite a decrease of almost 15,000 IDPs, Timbuktu continues to host the largest number of IDPs in the north (29,280), followed by Gao (16,400), and Kidal (11,240) (UNHCR, 06/2014).

An estimated 28,200 Malian refugees have returned to the regions of Gao (16,100), Timbuktu (9,700), Mopti (1,700), Segou (560), and to Bamako district. This is an increase of 10,000 compared to January (Government, 06/2014).

Mali, Niger, and UNHCR signed a tripartite agreement on the voluntary repatriation of Malian refugees on 3 May. The situation in northern Mali is not yet favourable to the promotion of massive returns. In January, UNHCR stated that there is a risk of reprisal attacks on returning refugees and IDPs, and socio-economic conditions have not been restored to pre-conflict levels. However, UNHCR said it will work together with both Governments in seeking durable solutions for the refugees.

1,700 Malians had been evacuated from Central African Republic as of 17 March, through joint operations by the Government and IOM.

UNHCR is no longer calling for a suspension of forcible returns for those who had their claim for international protection rejected. Claims for international protection will now be assessed in accordance with established asylum procedures, taking into account individual circumstances (UNHCR, 01/2014).

Food Security

If adequate food assistance is not provided, the number of people at Crisis or Emergency levels of food insecurity is forecast to rise to over 1.9 million during the June–August lean season.

On 28 April, ECHO reported that 1.5 million were at Crisis or Emergency levels of food insecurity. This is an increase from 970,000 in February and 812,000 in December 2013, according to the Harmonised Framework findings. Bandiagara district in Mopti region, and Menaka and Bourem districts in Gao region are the most affected.

In the absence of humanitarian assistance, the Stressed food insecurity currently observed in northern riverine areas and agropastoral areas of Gourma Rharous district and the Bandiagara Plateau (the millet and transhumant livestock rearing livelihood zone), and the Dogon Plateau will reach Crisis by June–July (FEWSNET, 05/2014). Poor crop production and a drop in income are prompting poor households in the north and on the Dogon Plateau to resort earlier than normal to coping strategies, and these households are currently facing Stressed acute food insecurity (FEWSNET, 05/2014).

The lingering effects of the 2012 food crisis combined with the disruptions caused by the recent civil strife have had adverse, longer-term impact on household assets, notably in northern Mali (FAO).

Agriculture and Markets

An official forecast of 2013 aggregate cereal production is some 5.7 million metric tons, close to the average of the previous five years. Production of millet, the most important staple, has declined by 35%. By contrast, 2013 rice production was 15% higher than the 2012 output (FAO, 02/06/2014).
Health and Nutrition

Child Malnutrition

Almost half a million children under five are suffering from acute malnutrition – 85% of them are in the south (OCHA, 19/06/2014).

Protection

Grave violations against children including killings, sexual violence, and recruitment, were reported by the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict in May. Violations were committed by armed groups active in the North, and to a lesser extent, by Malian armed forces and pro-Government militias. The report covers the period from January 2012 to December 2013.

From January 2012 to December 2013, nearly 6,000 cases of violence affecting women and girls were identified: 532 cases of sexual violence, 521 cases of physical aggression, 827 cases of psycho-social violence, 1,201 cases of denial of resources, and 1,233 cases of violence related to traditional practices, such as forced marriage or FGM (Protection Gender Based Violence Subcluster, OCHA).

Updated: 24/06/2014

NIGER FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

19 June: 50,000 Malian refugees are in Niger, a slight increase from March figures (UNHCR).

KEY CONCERNS

- 5.3 million Nigeriens are food insecure, with 1.3 million facing Crisis levels of food insecurity. (ECHO, 04/2014).
- 396,000 children suffer from SAM, and 650,000 MAM (OCHA, 01/2014).
- 100,000 people have escaped to Niger from Mali (50,000) and Nigeria (60,000) (UNHCR, 19/06/2014)
- Niger is affected by a cholera epidemic, reportedly linked to the one in neighbouring Nigeria. Since January 2014, 95 cases and two deaths have been recorded (UNICEF, 03/2014).

Political Context

Regional Context

Niger is affected by instability in neighbouring Mali and Nigeria. Spillover from Nigeria’s Islamist uprisings is threatening Niger’s security. A growing number of incidents has been recorded, including the seizure of arms and arrest of militants.

On 16 February, the presidents of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger met in Nouakchott to create the G5-Sahel, an initiative to coordinate and institutionalise the alignment of their development and security policies. The G5-Sahel grew from a pledge from the international community for USD 8 billion to these countries to fight terrorism and support development regionally. The next meeting of the G5 will take place in Chad within six months.

National Political Context

On 13 February, police in Niger detained a union leader who criticised the President on air at Anfani private radio station. Three journalists were arrested and held as his accomplices.

On 8 February, 36 parties mobilised 18,000 people to rally in the capital Niamey in support of President Issoufou in response to large-scale opposition protests in December 2013. Thousands of protestors from the opposition coalition Alliance for the Republic, Democracy, and Reconciliation took to the streets on 28 December over the failure of the Government to improve living standards. It was the largest public protest for three years, and took place after a ban on opposition demonstrations was lifted in November.

In August 2013, President Issoufou appointed a national unity Government in an attempt to reinforce political stability, address regional security threats, and deal with corruption, impunity, and demographic and economic challenges.

Security Context

Insecurity has been rising in Niger and across the region due to a series of crises in Libya, Mali, and Nigeria. Terrorist threats from the Nigerian Boko Haram group, Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, and the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa are also a concern.

A number of incidents, including an attempted kidnapping of officials, and the seizure of arms and arrests of militants, suggest that Boko Haram may be using southeast Niger both as a base and a potential target, according to Reuters. Kidnapping of foreigners has led to fear of Al Qaeda taking advantage of some of Niger’s porous borders.

Niger is also facing increasing communal tensions connected to the Tuareg insurgency. Divided along lines of class, clan, and generation, some Tuareg are integrated into the administration. However, others have been waging a low-level war in an attempt to achieve greater autonomy for the north.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement

An estimated 100,000 people sought refuge in Niger following crises in Mali and Nigeria.
Mali Crisis

50,000 Malian refugees are in Niger (UNHCR, 19/06/2014). In March, 80% were women and children. Most live in three camps established in Tillabéry region in 2012: Abala, Mangaize, and Tabareybarey. In 2013, in an attempt to adapt to the specific needs of nomadic refugees, two refugee hosting areas were established in Intikane and Tazalit, Tahoua region.

On 3 May, Mali, Niger, and UNHCR signed a tripartite agreement on the voluntary repatriation of Malian refugees, although the situation in northern Mali is not yet favourable to the promotion of massive returns. UNHCR said it will work with both Governments in seeking durable solutions for the refugees.

Nigeria Crisis

The total registered population fleeing violence in Nigeria’s northern Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states is now at 60,000 refugees and returnees. Between 700 and 1,000 people are arriving in Diffa region from northeastern Nigeria every week (UNHCR, 05/2014). An estimated 18,000 people crossed into Diffa region between January and end of April 2014 and some 4,400 entered the country in the first three weeks of May (UNHCR and International Rescue Committee).

At current levels, 100,000 new arrivals are expected in Diffa by the end of the year. The numbers have grown significantly from 37,000 in September 2013, and 6,400 in July 2013.

Priority needs are food, shelter, NFIs, WASH, and health. There are no refugee camps in Diffa, and poor security and infrastructure make the provision of assistance particularly difficult. The majority of refugees are women and children living with host families who have limited food and water resources in Bosso, Abadam, Main Soroa, Diffa, Kablewa, Tchoukoudjani, Garin Amadou, and Baroua.

The Government has reportedly been slow in giving the newly arrived Nigerians refugee status, despite a December decree granting refugee status to people fleeing the states under a state of emergency in Nigeria. Biometric registration is expected to begin in May for both Nigerian refugees and Nigerien returnees.

CAR Crisis: Returnees

Since December 2013, 1,160 Nigerien nationals were repatriated from CAR by IOM in coordination with the Government of Niger.

Food Security

At 28 April, 5.3 million Nigeriens were food insecure, with 1.3 million facing Crisis levels of food insecurity (OCHA). In February, 80% of food insecure people were in rural areas (OCHA). In late March, 30,000 Malian refugee children needed food assistance.

As of April, the combined effects of below-average harvest stocks, poor pastoral conditions, and unusually high market prices for staple foods were leading to acute food insecurity in large parts of the country (FEWSNET). Acute food insecurity will reach Crisis levels for some poor households, particularly in Ouallam, between July and September.
30 June: A bomb exploded at Karan market in Mogadishu, killing two and injuring seven. No group has claimed responsibility (The Guardian).

27 June: Over May-June, 6 out of 12 surveyed IDP populations across the country presented a prevalence of acute malnutrition. Mogadishu IDP settlements showed extremely high levels of acute malnutrition and mortality rates (FSNAU).

26 June: An African Union military base in central Somalia was attacked by Al Shabaab gunmen, killing at least two AU soldiers from Djibouti (AFP).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 520,000 children under five urgently require measles vaccination in outbreak areas (UNICEF, 06/2014).

- Violence and insecurity are widespread, particularly in south-central Somalia, where armed non-state actors such as Al Shabaab are active. An estimated three million people live in Al Shabaab-held areas in seven regions that are affected by the Somalia–African Union military offensive: Bakool, Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan, Bay, Banadir and Lower Juba (OCHA, 05/2014).

- Insecurity and bureaucratic impediments continue to hinder humanitarian access.

- 1.1 million IDPs, mainly in the south-central region, with high concentrations in Mogadishu (OCHA, 06/2014).

- More than one million Somali refugees in neighbouring countries, mostly Kenya, Ethiopia, and Yemen (UNHCR, 03/2014).

- 2.9 million people are estimated to need humanitarian and livelihood assistance between March and September 2014 (OCHA, 04/2014).

- 857,000 people are at Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity, 74% of whom are believed to be IDPs (OCHA, 06/2014). Two million people are considered to be at Stressed levels of food insecurity. More than 203,000 children under five are acutely malnourished, mainly in south-central Somalia (OCHA, 05/2014).

**OVERVIEW**

Protracted conflict, consecutive years of drought, natural hazards, and disruption of basic infrastructure have led to large-scale displacement in Somalia and across the region. Almost half the population of Somalia, around 3.2 million people, is vulnerable to external shocks and lacking access to basic goods and services, with an estimated three million people living in seven regions who are affected by the Somalia–African Union military offensive: Bakool, Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan, Bay, Banadir and Lower Juba (OCHA, 05/2014). The UN warns of a looming humanitarian emergency (UN, 15/06/2014).

**Political Context**

Somalia suffers from a chronic fragility of state institutions as a result of two decades of civil war. Prime Minister Ahmed was appointed by President Mahamud on 12 December, ending a Government crisis that had raised significant concerns over security. Infighting between presidents and prime ministers is however a recurrent problem, and the political situation remains unstable.

**Puntland:** On 8 January, former Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed Ali was elected President of the self-declared semi-autonomous region Puntland in a tightly contested poll. On 5 August, Puntland cut all ties with the central Government in a clear sign of distrust towards Mogadishu, on the grounds that central authorities refused to share power and foreign aid with the region.

**Security Context**

Security is said to have deteriorated since March 2014, and the launch of the Somali National Armed Force (SNAF) and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) military offensive against Al Shabaab-held areas. Other armed groups are also active, mainly targeting soldiers and security forces. The number of attacks and fatalities had decreased between 2010 and 2013.

Semi-autonomous northeastern and northwestern territories Puntland and Somaliland are subject to inter-communal violence, especially during the June–November rainy season, when improved resource access and competition for cattle lead to increased raiding.

There was a surge in conflict events in February, 40% reportedly due to attacks involving Al Shabaab and over half attributed to communal and militia violence (ACLED, 31/03/2014). Observers consider that the surge is due to insufficient military commitment by the Government and AU, and discontent with the state’s inability to provide basic services, which fuels armed groups’ leverage for recruitment campaigns.

**International Involvement**

In mid-February, a leaked UN report accused the Federal Government of supplying weapons to militant group Al Shabaab. On 4 March, human rights groups called for the arms embargo against Somalia to be tightened, citing government failure to control the flow of arms into the country, and its participation in the diversion of weapons. The embargo, partially lifted in March 2013, will remain so until October 2014.

**SNAF-AMISOM Offensive**

In November 2013, the AU’s Peace and Security Council increased the strength of the AMISOM force to 22,000 from 17,600. The SNAF-AMISOM offensive was launched in early March 2014 to recover Al Shabaab-controlled areas of southern and central Somalia. An
estimated three million people live in these areas, which cover Bakool, Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan, Bay, Banadir, and Lower Juba regions (OCHA, 05/2014).

In June Kenyan fighter jets bombed Al Shabaab bases in Anole and Kuday villages, in Lower Juba. Scores of fighters were killed (AFP, 23/06/2014). 74 Al Shabaab fighters were killed during an attack by Somali and Ethiopian troops against Al Shabaab bases near the border with Ethiopia, local media reported.

On 22 March 2014, according to the AU, the town of Qoryooley, Lower Shabelle, was recaptured. However, reports indicated that Al Shabaab militants remained on the outskirts of the town on 2 April.

On 7 March 2014, Somali forces captured Hudur, capital of Bakool region, with the help of Ethiopian AMISOM troops. However, when Ethiopian troop withdrew, Al Shabaab reoccupied the town.

According to the AU on 9 May 2013, an estimated 3,000 AU peacekeepers had been killed in Somalia since 2007. After threatening to remove troops from Somalia in April 2013, Addis Ababa has since pledged that Ethiopian troops will remain in Somalia until durable peace and security is achieved.

**Al Shabaab**

Al Shabaab, a militant islaman group linked to al-Qaeda and based in Somalia, took over most of southern Somalia in 2006. Defeated by Ethiopian and Somali forces in 2007, they still remain as a potent threat with 7,000 to 9,000 militants. They were forced out of Mogadishu in 2011 and out of Kismayo in 2012. Their attacks typically target Somali government officials, AMISOM forces and perceived government allies.

Currently, Al Shabaab is reportedly fleeing south and northeast as the SNAF-AMISOM offensive advances, but has repeatedly pledged to increase retaliatory attacks. Attacks in urban centres and along transport axes are common. The insurgents retain strongholds in parts of rural southern and central Somalia and in the mountains of the semi-autonomous Puntland region.

**Militant Attacks**

On 26 June, an African Union military base in the central town of Bulo-Burde was attacked by Al Shabaab gunmen dressed in stolen government uniforms, killing at least two AU soldiers from Djibouti (AFP, 26/06/2014).

On 19 May, Al Shabaab announced that it had conducted an attack against a Kenyan military convoy on the Kenyan side of the border, although the Kenyan army denied this, according to international media. Local observers reported that the attack had claimed the lives of 30 soldiers (Media, 03/06/2014).

**Mogadishu**

On 30 June a bomb exploded at the busy Karan market in Mogadishu, killing two and injuring seven. No group has claimed responsibility yet. (The Guardian, 01/07/2014).

On 21 June, radio journalist Yusuf Keynan was killed in Hamarqeyne district, Mogadishu. An explosive device had been attached to his vehicle (UN 21/06/2014). No responsibility has yet been claimed.

On 16 June, a car bomb within Mogadishu’s Keysaney hospital compound, a facility run by the Somali Red Crescent, killed one person and injured seven. No responsibility has yet been claimed (ICRC, 18/06/2014).

In May, several attacks took place in Mogadishu. Eight people were injured when the parliament was attacked, one bomb explosion killed seven, and another injured two, including a politician. In Bay region, five people were killed in a suicide bombing.

**Puntland**

On 7 April, two UN consultants were reported killed in a suspected targeted attack by two gunmen at Galkayo airport. Puntland is struggling to uproot Al Shabaab and has scaled up operations in the Bari area, from where insurgents launch their attacks.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Access**

Conflict has disrupted the movement of food and other basic commodities in most southern regions, particularly Bakool (FAO). The withdrawal of Al Shabaab from key towns in the south has enabled increased international presence in some areas: on 31 May, the UN announced that access had been possible to five out of ten areas recently captured by AMISOM forces from Al Shabaab. However, Al Shabaab control of some supply routes continues to hamper commercial activities and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Roadblocks had been set up in various locations, including Hudur in Bakool region (OCHA, 21/03/2014). Humanitarian access in the south-central has also reportedly been hampered by bureaucratic impediments to the recruitment of staff and implementation of assistance operations.

On 10 June, international media reported access constraints in Lower Shabelle areas affected by inter-clan conflicts.

**Attacks on Humanitarian Workers**

On 18 May, a 400-strong UN military unit was deployed in Mogadishu with a mandate to protect aid workers (UN). Aid workers have reportedly been targeted by armed groups for arrest and detention in Bakool, Bay, Gedo, and Lower and Middle Juba.

On 5 June, an international NGO announced the release of three kidnapped staff after nearly two years of captivity.

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

An estimated 1.1 million Somalis were IDPs at 27 June, 893,000 in the south-central region; 129,000 in Puntland, and 84,000 in Somaliland (UNHCR). 369,000 IDPs live in makeshift camps in Mogadishu.

As of 16 May, 72,000 people had been displaced by the SNAF-AMISOM offensive,
including 27,000 in Hiraan, 17,000 in Bay, 9,000 in Lower Shabelle, and 7,000 in Bakool (OCHA). 41,000 IDPs were reported on 15 April (OCHA).

As of 10 June, according to a government official, an estimated 10,000 people have been displaced by inter-clan fighting in Lower Shabelle (UN, 11/06/2014).

The UN estimates that several thousand IDPs were evicted from settlements in Mogadishu during August and September 2013 and 27,000 people evicted in November and December. Authorities plan to relocate IDPs to allow for urban development. The proposed solution is to move IDPs to Daynille district, west of the city centre. Daynille is considered particularly insecure, and it is not clear whether the land is public property and thus available for relocation purposes.

Refugees

As of 9 April, 956,000 Somalis were refugees in neighbouring countries, around 439,000 in Kenya, 245,000 in Ethiopia, and 230,000 in Yemen (UNHCR).

Kenya: Following arrests of over 3,000 people, mainly of Somali origin, across Kenya in April, international press reports indicated that 82 people were deported to Mogadishu for being illegal immigrants. At the end of March, the Kenyan Government ordered all 50,000 Somali refugees living in urban areas to relocate either to Dadaab or Kakuma refugee camp. In 2012, according to a human rights NGO, a similar encampment order was issued to 100,000 refugees living in urban areas, and led to the arrest of more than 1,000 Somalis and Somali Kenyans.

The Kenyan Government has pushed to expedite the return of Somali refugees since the attack on Nairobi’s Westgate Mall in September 2013, citing national security concerns. On 10 November, a tripartite agreement was signed by UNHCR and the Governments of Kenya and Somalia to establish the legal framework for the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees. The international community has warned that a premature return could result in these refugees becoming IDPs in Somalia.

Disasters

In parts of southern Somalia, rain since May has caused flash flooding, destroying crops and displacing households (OCHA, 13/06/2014). On 7 May, FAO reported that flash floods due to heavy rains in Bardheere district, Gedo region, had caused an unconfirmed number of deaths.

As of mid-January, over 80,000 people were affected by flooding in Middle Shabelle region, mainly in Jowhar district (OCHA). Water had contaminated wells, disrupted markets, destroyed crops, and delayed crucial planting for the next crop season.

Food Security

There are warnings that the food security situation is likely to worsen due to erratic and delayed gu (April–June) rains, a disrupted planting season, and a blockage of supply routes causing food prices to rise. Poor households have reportedly exhausted their deyr harvest stocks and are relying on market supplies for cereals until the gu harvest (July–August), according to FEWSNET.

Of the total population of 7.5 million, 857,000 people face Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3/4) food insecurity (74% are IDPs), and 2.48 million people face Stressed conditions (IPC Phase 2).

Somaliland: 7,000 people are in Phase 3/4; 472,000 people are in Phase 2; there are 84,000 IDPs (OCHA, 03/06/2014; 31/05/2014).

Puntland: 60,000 people are in Phase 3/4; 240,000 are in Phase 2; there are 129,000 IDPs (OCHA, 03/06/2014; 31/05/2014).

South-Central: 155,000 people are in Phase 3/4; 1,336 are in Phase 2, and there are 952,000 IDPs (OCHA, 03/06/2014; 31/05/2014).

Regions with significant amounts of the population facing Phases 3 and 4 food insecurity are Galgudud, Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Bari, Mudug, Nugaal, Middle Juba, Lower Juba, and Sanaag (OCHA, 21/05/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

On 3 June, OCHA reported that the military offensive had disrupted the gu planting season (March–April). An OCHA report on 18 March indicated that the gu harvest could have especially negatively effects on the Shabelle and Juba regions and parts of Bay and Bakool.

Local grain prices increased from April to May in all markets of the south; the highest monthly gain (28%) was recorded in Bakool region. Cereal prices have shown significant increases since the beginning of the year in Bakool, Hiraan, Juba and Shabelle. Local cereal prices have increased by 136% on last year, and 50% on the five-year average in Bakool region.

Higher than five-year average prices have also been recorded in Shabelle, Hiraan, Central and Northern regions (FAO, 17/06/2014). The rises are due to th effect of insecurity on trade flows, low stocks, and a less than optimistic outlook for the next gu season. Both livestock and milk prices are higher compared to the five-year-average levels in most regions (FAO, FEWSNET, Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), 17/06/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Morbidity rates have reached 43.1% among Mogadishu IDP children, and are blamed on acute watery diarrhoea and other seasonal infections (FSNAU, 27/06/2014).

AWD and Cholera

Flash flooding has led to increased cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and cholera in Gedo, Middle Shabelle, and Lower Juba (UNICEF, 31/05/2014).

Malnutrition

Over May–June, 6 out of 12 surveyed IDP populations across the country present a
prevalence of acute malnutrition. Mogadishu IDP settlement shows extremely high levels of acute malnutrition and mortality rates (3.35/10,000/day), indicating a humanitarian emergency. Garowe IDP settlement in the northeast presents very critical levels of acute malnutrition, while Kismayo, Dolbey (in the south), Dhusamareb (central), and Galkayo (northeast) IDP settlements have critical acute malnutrition levels. (FSNAU, 27/06/2014).

203,000 children under five are acutely malnourished (UNICEF, 31/05/2014). As of March, an estimated 51,000 children suffered from severe acute malnutrition (FSNAU), an increase from 45,000 at the same time in 2013.

Measles

3,286 suspected measles cases have been reported since January, and only one-third of children have been vaccinated: 520,000 children under five urgently require measles vaccination in outbreak areas (Bari, Nugaal, Mudig, Banadir and Lower Juba). Over 1,000 measles cases were recorded in May, and over 1,300 cases recorded in March and April (WHO, 10/06/2014).

Only 15% of children in inaccessible areas of central and southern Somalia have been vaccinated (UNICEF, 31/05/2014).

Polio

Two cases have been reported in 2014, the most recent case in Jariban district, Mudug province; the other was in Punland (Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 18/06/2014). The first confirmed case of wild poliovirus since 2007 was reported in Mogadishu on 9 May 2013. The total number of confirmed cases in 2013 stands at 195. Large, insecure areas of south-central Somalia have not conducted immunisation campaigns since 2009, leaving 600,000 children vulnerable, according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

WASH

2.75 million people are in need of safe water (OCHA, 03/06/2014).

According to an INGO report, Gedo region has been affected by a severe water crisis, with four out of five water sources reportedly dry.

Updated: 01/07/2014

SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

29 June: Four people were killed by South Sudanese cattle raiders in Turkana county, Kenya, near the border with South Sudan, according to local media.

27 June: Over 2,300 cases of cholera have been recorded since the outbreak was declared on 15 May. Over 1,800 cases, 38 of which were fatal, have been recorded in Juba county. Over 400 cases and 22 deaths have been recorded outside Juba, the majority in Torit county (Eastern Equatoria state) and the rest in Central and Western Equatoria, Upper Nile, and Jonglei states. The case fatality rate was reportedly 2.7% (WHO).

25–27 June: Fighting continued in Nasir and Renk counties, Upper Nile state (UNHCR), Bentiu in Unity state (OCHA), and near the Bor UN base, Jonglei (UNICEF).

26 June: OCHA reported that the death rate among children under five in the Bentiu UN base was 2.96 per 10,000 children per day, above the emergency threshold. On 25 June UNICEF reported that the increase in under-five mortality was due to preventable diseases and malnutrition.

25 June: Clashes were reported between SPLA and SPLA defectors near Bazier, on the Wau–Tambura road, Western Bahr el Ghazal state (UNICEF).

25 June: The screening of over 500,000 children since January shows MAM rates of 12.6% and SAM rates of 6% (UNICEF).

23 June: Local media reported that thousands of herders had fled Rumbek town, Lakes state, to the bush and had threatened to launch an offensive against government forces, in a pre-emptive attack against a rumoured disarmament campaign.

KEY CONCERNS

- Ongoing conflict and clashes, particularly in Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile states. 10,000 reported dead (01/2014).

- 4 million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, 2.1 million of whom have not been reached (OCHA, 06/2014).

- 3.5 million people facing Crisis and Emergency levels (IPC Phases 3 and 4) of food insecurity, 2 million of whom are in Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei states (FAO, 06/2014).

- 1.1 million IDPs (OCHA, 06/2014); 392,000 new refugees in neighbouring countries since December, 436,000 total (OCHA, 06/2014); 101,000 people in nine UN peacekeeping bases (UNMISS, 06/2014).

- Three million of 4.2 million people in need of health assistance have not been reached (Health Cluster, 05/2014).

- An estimated 1.48 million people reside in flood risk areas (OCHA, 01/2014).

OVERVIEW
Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity are priority states, and the priority sectors are food security and livelihoods, health, NFIs and shelter, nutrition, and WASH. Insecurity is hampering the delivery of assistance. The UN reports widespread violation of human rights and targeted violence against civilians.

Violence has spread across eastern South Sudan since December 2013. Fighting is most intense in the oil-rich northeastern states. Strife has progressively adopted the characteristics of an inter-communal conflict between the Dinka tribe allied to South Sudan President Kiir and government forces, and Nuer loosely allied with former South Sudan Vice President Riek Machar.

**Political Context**

**Sudan–South Sudan**

Relations between Sudan and South Sudan have been poor since South Sudan gained independence in 2011. The violence in South Sudan since December has exacerbated tensions, with additional concerns in Khartoum regarding an influx of refugees and arms, as well as disruption of oil flow.

On 23 April, according to media reports, the Sudanese Government accused Juba of using Sudanese militia groups. The SPLM-in-Opposition confirmed that Sudanese militia supporting Juba had been killed in Bentiu, Unity state, on 15 April. The week before, the South Sudanese army (SPLA) accused Sudan of supporting the SPLM-in-Opposition, according to local media. Both the opposition and Sudanese Government denied this accusation.

There were tensions in the contested Abyei area during February and March. A UN report indicated the presence of 660 SPLA forces and police, in violation of the 2011 Agreement on Temporary Security and Administrative Arrangements for Abyei. Pro-government Sudanese militias and Sudanese Armed Forces have also been reported in the area.

In early January, Sudanese President Bashir expressed his willingness to support the Government of South Sudan, but said he had no intention of deploying troops in South Sudan.

The two states made progress in bilateral negotiations in March, agreeing to move forward with shared security measures.

**National Context**

President Kiir’s government forces, who are backed by Ugandan troops, are pitted against a loose alliance of military defectors loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar, along with ethnic Nuer militia forces. Large-scale killings in Bentiu and Bor in April have brought the ethnic dimension of the conflict under closer scrutiny. Both sides have been accused of trying to influence the conflict through manipulation of the media.

**Peace Negotiations**

On 23 June, peace talks adjourned without progress towards a transitional government. On 10 June, a peace deal was signed by the Government and SPLM-in-Opposition, international media reported. However, on 16 June both parties announced the suspension of further peace talks due to disagreements over the process. Peace talks, mediated by east African regional bloc the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), have been repeatedly suspended and delayed.

On 9 May, a ceasefire was agreed between South Sudan’s president and the head of the SPLM-in-Opposition. On 11 May, the opposition accused Juba of violating the ceasefire in several locations in Unity and Upper Nile states.

On 26 February, both parties accepted, in principle, a proposal from IGAD for an interim government, pending presidential elections. The exiled South Sudan United Democratic Alliances (SSUDA) also backed the proposal and requested participation in the peace talks. On 15 March, the exiled National Revolutionary Democratic Party/Front, Revolutionary Alliance for South Sudan, and South Sudan Republican Party all agreed to take part in peace talks under SSUDA’s leadership.

On 9 May the Jonglei-based South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army – Cobra Faction signed a peace agreement with the Government; a ceasefire had been agreed in January. The movement, led by David Yau Yau, had waged a small-scale rebellion since 2010.

**Security Context**

Fighting persists despite a reduction in violence since the 23 January cessation of hostilities agreement. Most violence is occurring in the oil-rich northeastern states of Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei.

The death toll was estimated at 10,000 in January since December 2013 (International Crisis Group), although access restrictions make numbers hard to verify. Over 5,900 people had sought treatment for gunshot wounds between mid-December 2013 and 12 March, according to humanitarian partners, although the number of gunshot patients has decreased significantly since early February.

**International Military Presence**

On 7 April, the city of Neem, in the northern part of Unity, was bombed by a suspected military aircraft (UNHCR). An aircraft was also spotted in the area of Yida two days later. Yida hosts 70,000 Sudanese refugees from South Kordofan, while Neem is located on a road used by incoming Sudanese refugees.

On 16 March, South Sudan approved the deployment of the Protection Deterrent Force (PDF), a regional force drawn from IGAD member states. While the size, mandate, command and deployment time frame of the contingent are still under discussion, it will be protecting the IGAD monitoring and verification teams, and the oil fields in Unity and Upper Nile states. Uganda announced in late February that it would withdraw its troops supporting the SPLA as soon as the PDF is ready to take over.

The UNMISS command told the UN Security Council in 19 March that it would suspend its current activities to focus on protection of civilians, prevention of inter-communal clashes, and support to IGAD as requested. The UN Security Council voted on 24 December to...
increase the number of peacekeepers in the country from 10,000 to 12,500.

Clashes between the Government and SPLM-in-Opposition

**Jonglei**

On 25 June, UNICEF reported firing near the Bor UN base. On 16 May, clashes were reported in Akobo county (OCHA).

On 17 April, 58 people were killed and over 100 wounded after an attack against the UN peacekeeping compound in state capital Bor, according to international media. The compound hosts 5,000 mostly Nuer civilians. The SPLA was deployed to protect the site the next day, according to official sources. Several clashes had occurred near Bor in February, according to military and local sources.

**Unity**

As of 26 June, clashes were still being reported in Bentiu (OCHA). On 4 May, the South Sudanese army re-captured Bentiu, according to both the government and opposition. SPLM-in-Opposition forces had taken Bentiu on 14–15 April: 406 people were killed, according to international media, with non-Nuer communities and Darfuris targeted (UNMISS, 21/04/2014). Bentiu had been held by the opposition between December and January, before it was re-taken by government forces.

As of 6 June, fighting reportedly continued in Rubkona (OCHA).

On 25 April, the SPLA announced it had recaptured the town of Mayom. The SPLM-in-Opposition denied this, saying it retained full control of the town.

**Upper Nile**

As of 27 June, fighting continued in Nasir and Renk counties (UNHCR).

On 4 May, both warring parties indicated that government forces had captured Nasir, causing massive displacement.

On 22 May, an attack by opposition fighters left 10 dead in Barlied county, according to international media. Fighting in Renk displaced 30,000–40,000 people over the last week of April (UNICEF, 29/04/2014).

**Western Bahr el Ghazal**

As of 25 June, clashes were reported between SPLA and SPLA defectors near Bazier, on the Wau–Tambura road (UNICEF). On 12 June, alleged opposition fighters seized control of areas of Buseri, south of Wau, in an attack that left six dead on the government side, local media reported.

**Inter-communal Violence**

The ethnic dimension of the conflict has come under closer scrutiny since the killings in Bentiu and Bor in April, which targeted non-Nuer and Nuer, respectively. According to local media on 3 May, members of the Nuer IDP community in Juba have requested to be relocated to neighbouring countries. They reportedly fear being targeted by government forces. On 3 April, according to local media, representatives of the Nuer community stated that over 17,000 Nuers had been killed by pro-government forces since December.

**Jonglei**

Deaths from inter-communal fighting have increased, as have attacks, abductions, and significant population displacement, since widespread militarisation of the population and availability of small arms during the second Sudanese civil war. In 2013, the rise of ethnic violence in Jonglei forced 120,000 people to flee to the bush. Tension and violence often focus around the Nuer, based in northern Jonglei, and the Murle, a minority group based in the south of the state. Inter-clan animosity stems from competition over water resources and grazing land.

**Lakes**

On 23 June, local media reported that thousands of herders had fled to the bush from Rumbek town and threatened to launch an offensive against government forces, to prevent a rumoured disarmament campaign. On 18 June, clashes between Ayiel and Panyar sub-clans left 12 people dead in Cueibet county. On 31 May, clashes during a peace conference between clan leaders of Rumbek East, Rumbek North, Cueibet, and Greater Yirol counties left one person dead. On 28 May, clashes between the Kok-Awac and Kok-Ker sub-clans in Rumbek East left three people dead, according to local sources.

On 23 May, fighting over cattle between pastoralist communities in Cueibet and Rumbek North counties had left 28 people dead, according to local sources.

**Warrap**

On 19 April, local media reported that 100 people had been killed in a cattle raid. Twenty-one people were killed during cattle raids in Tonj East and Twic county, humanitarian organisations reported on 10 April.

**Eastern Equatoria**

On 29 June, local media reported that four people had been killed by South Sudanese cattle raiders in Turkana county, Kenya, near the border with South Sudan.

On 11 June, local media reported that clashes between the communities of Bari and Omorwo villages in Torit county had left 20 people dead. Seven people were reported dead in similar clashes on 4 May.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Access**

As of 26 June, 2.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance had not been reached (OCHA). The delivery of aid has been restricted due to heavy fighting, logistical constraints, and administrative impediments.

**Logistical Constraints**
As of 4 June WFP was resorting to air lifts, as the rainy season made roads impassable. As of 20 June, the roads between Bentiu (Unity) and Rumbek (Lakes), and the roads linking Malakal (Upper Nile state), Bor (Jonglei state), Pibor (Jonglei), Akobo (Jonglei), and Kapoeta (Western Equatoria) were partially or entirely closed due to weather (WFP, 20/06/2014). On 6 June, a truck carrying humanitarian supplies hit a landmine on the road from Bentiu to Rubkona, Unity state.

Several humanitarian organisations had reported that bad road conditions threatened to complicate access to vulnerable populations in Upper Nile, Jonglei, and Unity through the humanitarian corridor established from Gambella, Ethiopia.

**Insecurity**

Insecurity has reportedly constrained road movement.

On 20 June, armed men reportedly attempted to coerce the crew of a humanitarian flight into flying civilians from Bentiu to Juba (OCHA).

Two UN staff have allegedly been illegally detained by members of South Sudan’s security forces (UN, 21/05/2014).

On 4 June, the WFP reported the looting or destruction of 1,400 metric tons of food in Nasir, Ulang and Matiang.

OCHA reported on 30 November 2013 that 293 violent incidents had been recorded since January 2013.

**Administrative Constraints**

Delivery of aid by barge has been delayed due to administrative restrictions between Juba, Bor, and Malakal (OCHA, 02/05/2014).

The South Sudan Government announced it would implement routine searches of UN and relief organisation convoys, claiming it had intercepted arms and ammunition in UNMIS-contracted vehicles in Rumbek, Lakes state (UNHCR, 21/03/2014).

Reports in January indicated that government authorities had hampered UN flights.

**Displacement**

Over a million South Sudanese have been displaced internally and across borders since December 2013, though fluid displacement patterns and limited access to rural areas make numbers difficult to verify. In mid-February, UNHCR released a non-return advisory for South Sudanese fleeing conflict.

**IDPs**

At 26 June, 1.1 million IDPs were in South Sudan; in Jonglei (405,000), Unity (259,000), Upper Nile (194,000), and Lakes (139,000), according to OCHA. An estimated 537,000 IDPs are under 18 (UNICEF, 13/05/2014).

In April approximately 70% of IDPs were living in spontaneous settlement sites, 28% in Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites, and 2% in pre-existing buildings (also referred to as collective centres), according to a Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) report.

**Over 101,000 people are sheltering in eight peacekeeping bases, including 47,000 in Bentiu, 31,000 in Juba bases, and 18,000 in Malakal (UNMISS, 26/06/2014).** A new section for 7,000 IDPs was opened at the UN base in Malakal on 9 June (UNMISS, 09/06/2014). As of 17 June, 4,900 people had been relocated (UNHCR). Fighting in Twic East and Duk counties, Jonglei state, has caused displacement towards PoC sites in Mingkaman, Lakes state (IOM, 26/04/2014).

As of 31 May, heavy rains had reportedly caused flooding in IDP sites in Jonglei, Upper Nile, Unity states (IOM). The Tomping UNMISS site was affected by flooding and stagnant water. Relocation from the Tomping base to the PoC3 base, which was opened on 28 May and is expected to host 13,000 IDPs, is reportedly underway (OCHA, 20/06/2014), with 500 relocations as of 24 June (OCHA, 26/06/2014). The Malakal PoC site was also flooded (OCHA, 02/05/2014). Up to 300,000 IDPs are living in 33 sites at risk of flooding (OCHA, 01/2014).

As of 20 January, tens of thousands of people were reportedly displaced in Eastern Equatoria, but have not crossed into Uganda (OCHA).

**Refugees in South Sudan**

As of 30 April, South Sudan was hosting an estimated 237,000 refugees, mostly from Sudan (216,000) and, according to earlier figures, mainly in Upper Nile (125,000) and Unity (80,000) states (UNHCR, 24/05/2014).

Most of the Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile state reside in four refugee camps in Maban county (OCHA, 03/04/2014). Tensions between Sudanese refugees and host communities were of concern in late March. Up to 2,000 refugees have reportedly returned from Maban county to Blue Nile state, Sudan, due to food shortages (OCHA, 31/05/2014).

**Returnees**

An estimated 71,000 South Sudanese have returned from Sudan since January 2013, totalling 1.9 million returnees from Sudan since 2007.

**South Sudanese Refugees in Neighbouring Countries**

The number of new South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries since the onset of the conflict stands at 392,000 (OCHA, 26/06/2014).

**Sudan and Abyei: 85,000 new refugees in Sudan (UNHCR, 25/06/2014).** Some 3,000 have arrived in Abyei, to join 3,000 refugees already in the area (OCHA, 30/04/2014). An estimated 165,000 South Sudanese refugees are expected to arrive over the course of 2014 (UNICEF, 04/06/2014).

As of late March, the Sudanese Government refuses to recognise South Sudanese nationals as refugees and instead considers them to be Sudanese citizens (UNHCR,
The Sudanese Government stated that all foreigners in Sudan had to register with the immigration administration by 1 April. UNHCR has declared that constitutes an obstacle to access to humanitarian assistance.

Ethiopia: 150,000 South Sudanese refugees (OCHA, 26/06/2014). At 27 June the daily rate of arrival is estimated at 1,000 (UNHCR), down from 2,000 the previous month (local media, 22/06/2014). Some 320,000 South Sudanese refugees are expected in the Gambella region over the course of 2014 (UNICEF, 04/06/2014).

Uganda: 116,000 refugees (OCHA, 26/06/2014). A total of 300,000 are expected to arrive over the course of 2014 (UNICEF, 04/06/2014).

Kenya: 41,000 refugees and a daily arrival rate of 360 (WFP, 11/06/2014). 100,000 are expected over 2014 (WFP, 18/06/2014).

Food Security

On 4 June, FAO reported that an estimated 3.5 million people continue to face Crisis and Emergency levels (IPC Phases 3 and 4) of food insecurity: two million are in Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile states. The number is expected to increase to 3.9 million by August (WFP, 14/05/2014), almost four times the pre-crisis estimate of one million. On 2 May, OCHA reported 2.4 million people in need had not received food assistance.

Outlook for Food Security

While the current crisis has not affected the main harvest, forecast to be 38% above the recent four-year average, most conflict-affected states show high cereal production deficits against cereal demand.

Placing and cultivation activities have been affected by conflict (FAO, 04/06/2014). Conflict is also affecting major supply routes, displacing traders and leading to a rise in food and fuel prices.

Along with a de facto devaluation of the national currency between 2011 and 2013, the reduction in oil exports and the increase in imports are likely to reduce significantly households’ purchasing power. Agricultural and pastoral activities have low productivity and the country depends on food imports.

Health and Nutrition

Three million of 4.2 million people in need of health assistance have not been reached (Health Cluster, 31/05/2014).

On 26 June OCHA reported that the death rate among children under five in the Bentiu UN base was 2.96 per 10,000 children per day, above the emergency threshold. On 25 June UNICEF reported that the increased under-five mortality at the site was due to preventable diseases and malnutrition.

Cholera

Over 2,300 cases of cholera have been recorded since the outbreak was declared on 15 May. Over 1,800 cases of cholera, 38 of which were fatal, have been recorded in Juba county. Over 400 cases and 22 deaths have been recorded outside Juba, the majority in Torit county (Eastern Equatoria state) and the rest in Central and Western Equatoria, Upper Nile, and Jonglei states. The case fatality rate was reportedly 2.7% (WHO, 27/06/2014). Up to 116,000 people could be affected within the next six months (OCHA, 06/06/2014).

Hepatitis E

As of 15 June, 40 cases of hepatitis E had been reported in Mingkaman since the outbreak began in March. Four cases were fatal (WHO, 15/06/2014).

HIV

The rate of new HIV infections has risen in Northern Bahr El Ghazal state (UNMISS, 19/06/2014).

Malnutrition

The screening of over 500,000 children since January shows MAM rates of 12.6% and SAM rates of 6% (UNICEF, 25/06/2014).

An estimated 223,000 children are expected to suffer from SAM in 2014.

Maternal health

An estimated 200,000 pregnant women will need urgent care in 2014; 30,000 of them are estimated to be at risk of dying of complications (UNFPA, 15/05/2014).

Measles

As of 11 June 1,227 cases of measles, 125 of which were fatal, have been reported nationwide since 15 December 2013 (UNICEF).

WASH

As of 25 June, access to safe water and sanitation remained a critical gap (UNICEF). The average number of latrines per IDP in Lakes state is reportedly 1:350 (OCHA, 06/06/2014). In Malakal PoC site, there were an average of 110 people per latrine; in Melut PoC there were 44 (IOM, 31/05/2014). The average number of people per latrine is 93 in spontaneous settlement sites, and 135 in pre-existing buildings – all far above the SPHERE standard of 20 people per latrine (CCCM, 04/2014).

Water supplies were reportedly insufficient in a quarter of displacement sites. In 40% of sites, IDPs rely on unimproved or surface water sources.

Education

Children are not attending school in 70% of IDP sites (CCCM, 17/04/2014). The inability to pay teachers’ wages has led to school closures in displacement areas (OCHA, 02/05/2014). As of 26 June, 78 schools were occupied and thus obstructing education,
mostly in the eastern half of the country (OCHA).

Updated: 30/06/2014

SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

Latest Developments

20 June: An international NGO reported the abduction of three staff in the area of Kutum, North Darfur.

19 June: Clashes between Maaliya and Rizeigat tribesmen left seven people dead, according to local media. A reconciliation conference adjourned due to lack of progress.

19–23 June: Clashes between the Misseriya and the Salamat tribes in the areas of Salayle, Mukjar and Um Dukhun, Central Darfur left at least 130 people dead between 19 and 21 June, according to local media. The Sudanese army was reportedly deployed to put an end to the fighting.

18 June: An outbreak of dengue fever was reported in Red Sea state (WHO). As of 17 June 2014, 738 cases have been reported in the state, and six fatalities.

18 June: Four people were killed following clashes between armed militia and the police in the town of Kabkabiya, North Darfur, local media said.

18 June: 31,000 out of 85,000 people who have arrived from South Sudan have not received humanitarian aid (UNHCR).

Key Concerns

- Protracted insurgencies by armed groups across Darfur, and South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. The conflict in South Sudan has also raised tensions.

- 6.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 3.5 million people in Darfur and 1.2 million in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states (OCHA, 12/2013). 355,000 people have been affected by conflict in Darfur since January 2014 (OCHA, 05/2014).

- 5 million people face Stressed, Crisis, or Emergency levels of food insecurity, most of whom are in Darfur (GIEWS, 06/2014).

- Renewed fighting between armed opposition groups, militias, and the Sudanese army in Darfur since March.

- 2.4 million IDPs. Two million in Darfur prior to latest clashes (OCHA, 03/2014), and 395,000 since March, 268,000 of whom remain displaced (OCHA, 06/2014).

- Humanitarian access remains a significant problem due to insecurity, mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), logistical constraints, and restrictions placed by the authorities.

Overview

Several regions of Sudan are facing large-scale internal displacement due to violence, widespread food insecurity, malnutrition, lack of access to basic services, and recurrent natural disasters. Humanitarian access to conflict zones is severely restricted.

Numerous, protracted insurgencies are being waged by several armed groups across Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile. Darfur has been the scene of inter-communal clashes and conflict between the Government and armed opposition for over a decade, and fighting intensified in March 2014. Violence in Blue Nile and South Kordofan grew significantly after South Sudan won independent in 2011. Tensions also continue to run high between Sudan and South Sudan.

Political Context

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

On 17 May, the head of the opposition party Umma was arrested for treason after allegedly criticising government abuse of civilians in Darfur.

On 11 March, according to Amnesty International, one person was killed and over 100 students were arrested following peace demonstrations in Khartoum.

Sudan–South Sudan

Tensions between Khartoum and Juba, persistent since South Sudan’s independence in 2011, increased when violence erupted in South Sudan in December 2013. The disruption of oil flow is a key concern for both countries.

On 15 April, according to media reports, the Sudanese Government accused Juba of using Sudanese militia groups. The armed opposition in South Sudan confirmed that Sudanese militia supporting Juba had been killed in Bentiu, Unity state, on 15 April. The week before, the South Sudanese army (SPLA) accused Khartoum of supporting the SPLM-in-Opposition, according to local media. Both the opposition and Khartoum denied this accusation.

On 7 April, the city of Neem, in the north of South Sudan’s Unity state, was bombed by a suspected military aircraft (UNHCR). An aircraft was spotted in the area of Yida two days later. Yida hosts 70,000 Sudanese refugees, while Neem is located on a road used by incoming Sudanese refugees.

There were tensions in the contested Abyei area during February and March. A UN report
indicated the presence of 660 SPLA forces and police, in violation of the 2011 Agreement on Temporary Security and Administrative Arrangements for Abyei. Pro-government Sudanese militias and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) have also been reported in the area.

The two states made progress in bilateral negotiations in March, agreeing to move forward with shared security measures.

Sudan Revolutionary Front

The Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF), formed in 2011, is seeking a comprehensive peace process covering the whole country. The SRF is made up of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), mainly active in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, as well as Darfur’s three largest rebel groups: the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM); the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel Wahid Al Nur (SLM-AW); and the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Arkou Minnawi (SLM-MM).

On 13 May, local media reported that the SRF and the Unionist Movement had signed an agreement aimed at unifying government opposition.

On 25 April, the SRF published a roadmap for a peace settlement, according to local sources. SRF has said it is ready to join the national dialogue with Khartoum and enhance its cooperation with the UN–AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), provided the Government lift the state of emergency and allow unimpeded humanitarian access to war zones.

The Government is only willing to discuss the conflict in Darfur, and the African Union Peace and Security Council has called for everyone to join the 2011 Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD).

The Darfur Peace Process

The Darfur peace process is stalled. The process does not include SRF members the SLM-MM, SLM-AW, or JEM, who have consistently rejected the Doha process. However, UN officials have met with SLM-AW, SLM-MM, and JEM in recent months. In December 2013, the All Inclusive Peace and Security in Darfur Technical Workshop aimed to draw non-signatories to the DDPD to the negotiating table. JEM and SLM-MM restated their demand for a comprehensive, inclusive, just and sustainable, negotiated settlement of the Sudanese conflicts.

On 26 May, the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation Implementation Committee was launched during a peace conference convened by UNAMID in El Fashir.

On 18 June, a group that seceded from the SLM-MM declared it would take part in the Darfur peace process and surrender its arms, local media reported.

Blue Nile and South Kordofan States

While the SPLM began government of the independent South Sudan, the SPLM-North continues an insurgency against Khartoum in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, which have routinely opposed government rule.

On 24 April, Khartoum and the SPLM-N announced the failure of negotiations, according to local sources. Reports indicated that the talks had failed over the SPLM-N’s demand for a comprehensive peace process. Talks had also been held unsuccessfully in February and March, and collapsed in April 2013. The SPLM-N has reportedly demanded humanitarian access to the civilians in opposition-held areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, which Khartoum has rejected.

Instability in the East

Despite being home to the largest gold mine and Port Sudan, where all Sudan’s oil exports transit, east Sudan is one of the poorest regions. In 2006, the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement (ESPA) was signed. But divisions within the Eastern Front (EF), the alliance that signed the agreement, are growing. Some factions of the EF claim they wish to join the SRF because of Khartoum’s alleged failure to implement the core elements of the ESPA. The Government is reportedly allowing local militias to arm, and boosting support to Arab tribes.

Security Context

In mid-November the Defence Ministry announced the beginning of extensive military operations aimed to end rebellion in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile by mid-2014. On 11 April, local media reported that the Sudanese Defence Minister had stated that continued armed opposition would be crushed by a military offensive in 2014.

Armed Conflict and Violence in Darfur

Security in Darfur has reportedly deteriorated significantly since late December, with almost daily air strikes from the Sudanese Air Force. In March, dozens of civilians were reportedly killed by pro-government militias, including the Rapid Support Force (RSF), in attacks targeting IDPs and civilians. IDPs in camps across the Darfur region have requested protection (local sources, 12/03/2014). Tribal conflicts have also contributed to insecurity.

East Jebel Marra

On 15–16 May, aerial bombing of a health centre and a market in East Jebel Marra reportedly killed three people. On 15 April, two people were killed in an RSF attack on a village, according to local sources.

SAF aerial bombings intensified in East Jebel Marra 16–20 March, causing a number of deaths and the displacement of thousands of people, with the RSF attacking locations prior to the bombings, local sources reported. On 27 March, an SAF raid on the area of Khazan Tunjur killed three civilians, according to local sources.

North Darfur

On 8 June, six people were reportedly killed and 100 remain missing after pro-government militia attacks in the area of Kuru, North Darfur, local media said.

On 6 June pro-militia attacks in El Fashir area left 11 people dead. On 20 May, clashes between militia and government forces in El Fashir left at least ten fighters dead, according to international media. On 30 April and 1 May, at least four people were killed in attacks by
pro-government militias and people believed to belong to the Sudanese army in the El Fashir area, according to international observers. Local sources reported three people killed by Sudanese Air Force shelling of a village in El Fashir area on 28 April.

On 29 May, militia attacks in Kutum left two people dead, local sources said. On 30 April, local sources reported pro-government militia attacks in the Kabkabiya and Kutum areas.

On 6 April, local sources reported that the El Fashir–Kutum road had been closed for four weeks.

65,000 people were displaced in the Saraf Omra locality between February and March, due to attacks by Janjaweed militia (OCHA, 03/2014). Although returns were reported in the first half of April, local media reported violence on 22 April.

Inter-communal violence: On 18 June, four people were killed following reported clashes between armed militia and the police in the town of Kabkabiya, local media said. On 24 May, clashes that erupted during mediation between rival tribes facilitated by UNAMID in Kabkabiya left one peacekeeper dead and three injured. On 20 April, 7,000 people were reportedly displaced following an attack by Abbala camel herders on villagers in the Tawila locality. Clashes over the Jebel Amer gold mine have killed 800 people in El Sareif Beni Hussein, according to an October 2013 UN report.

South Darfur

On 11 June, one person was killed by armed men in Nyala, local sources said. On 20 May, in Nyala, one man was killed and several were injured by armed men, some wearing army uniform, according to local media. On 25 April, one IDP was reportedly killed by pro-government militias in Nyala.

On 22 April, according to local sources, UNAMID officials pledged the deployment of an additional 6,000 peacekeepers in Nyala.

Inter-communal violence: The Misseriya and Salamat tribes in South Darfur signed a peace agreement on 15 December 2013, paving the way for the deployment of government forces, the return of IDPs, and disarmament (UN Department of Safety and Security).

As of 16 March, violence between the Beni Halba and Gimir tribes had caused the displacement of an estimated 59,000 people in the area of Um Gunya (OCHA). A reconciliation agreement was signed 17 March.

Central Darfur

On 28 May, two people were killed in an alleged attack by Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), local sources said. On 16 April, three children were reportedly killed in a missile attack.

On 9–10 June, eight people were killed in two separate attacks in Zalingei and Kalilik, according to local media. On 1 May, pro-government militia attacks were reported in a displacement site in Zalingei, according to local sources. On 24 April, an IDP camp representative in Zalingei was killed by RSF militia. On 17 May, two people were reportedly killed by militia in Nierteti South IDP camp.

Inter-communal violence: Starting 19 June, clashes between the Misseriya and the Salamat tribes in the areas of Salayle, Mukjar and Um Dukhun, left at least 130 people dead, according to local media. The Sudanese army was reportedly deployed to Mukjar, Um Dukhun, and Bindisi localities on 23 June to put an end to the fighting.

On 20 May, local media reported one man killed and several injured in an attack by Abbala herders in Zalingei.

East Darfur

On 8 May, two people were killed following a clash between armed men and government forces in Bahr El Arab, local sources said.

Inter-communal violence: On 19 June, according to local media, clashes between Maaliya and Rizeigat tribesmen left seven people dead. A reconciliation conference adjourned on 20 June due to lack of progress. On 22 and 23 May, a number of people were reportedly killed in clashes between Harar and Maaliya near Adilla. The fighting also reportedly caused displacement in neighbouring West Kordofan. West Kordofan and East Darfur authorities deployed military forces to secure borders between the rival tribes, local sources said. On 28–29 May, according to local observers, tribal violence among Misseriya tribesmen reportedly left dozens dead in West Kordofan.

Fighting over land ownership and cattle in Kulaikili Abu Salama in Adila caused the displacement of 144,000 people in 2013.

Armed Violence and Conflict in Kordofan and Blue Nile

Information on Blue Nile state and South Kordofan states is difficult to obtain as government authorities severely restrict access to the fighting zone.

On 18 June, SAF and police detained villagers of Lagori in the Nuba Mountains, local media reported. On 6 June, the Sudanese army said it had captured the SPLM-N stronghold of Al Atmur in South Kordofan. On 1 June, OCHA reported that the SAF had been heavily bombing Kauda (South Kordofan) over the past week. On 29 May, local sources reported that bombings had intensified in the region. On 24 May, a Sudanese commander was killed in an SPLM-N offensive on Daldako, South Kordofan, which government forces had recently recaptured. Aerial bombings in the Nuba Mountains, South Kordofan have reportedly hit a hospital and killed more than 33 people since February. Local sources reported that suspected SPLM-N launched a rocket attack against Kadugli, the capital of South Kordofan on 19 February, a day after peace talks with the Government broke down.

The Sudanese Government announced that it would expand its counter-insurgency operations in Blue Nile state on 23 May. Bombing of Blue Nile state in January killed at least four people and caused population displacement.

According to an SPLM-N spokesperson on 21 April, the SAF launched an offensive in North Kordofan, displacing 45,000–70,000 people over the last week of April, according to observers on 30 April.

Humanitarian Context and Needs
In March, 3.5 million people in Darfur, a third of the region’s population, needed humanitarian assistance (OCHA). This includes two million IDPs, 1.2 million non-displaced severely affected by violence, and 136,000 returnees or refugees from neighbouring countries.

In South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, 1.2 million need assistance in government-controlled areas (OCHA), and 800,000 are estimated displaced or severely affected by conflict in SPLM-N territory. Limited access to non-government areas makes verification impossible.

**Access**

Humanitarian access for international relief organisations is a major problem. Humanitarian operations are heavily hampered by insecurity, the presence of mines and ERW, logistical constraints, and government restrictions.

**Administrative Constraints**

Khartoum has repeatedly accused international organisations of exaggerating the magnitude of internal conflict, disseminating false information, and spying. New rules in August 2013 ban foreign humanitarian groups and UN agencies from working for human rights, and the Government has banned humanitarian access to areas controlled by opposition groups.

On 18 June, 31,000 out of 85,000 people who had arrived from South Sudan to Sudan had not received humanitarian aid (UNHCR).

On 19 May, ICRC activities remained suspended by authorities.

**Targeted Attacks on Peacekeepers and Humanitarian Staff**

On 20 June, an international NGO reported the abduction of three staff in the area of Kutum, North Darfur.

According to the UN, 16 peacekeepers were killed in hostile acts in Darfur in 2013, representing a 50% increase from 2012, and bringing the number of personnel killed to 57 since UNAMID was deployed in 2008.

**Access in Darfur**

On 25 May, OCHA reported that humanitarian agencies had access to 179,000 of 203,000 new IDPs in Darfur. Areas near Kutum (North Darfur) and Adilla and Abu Karinka (East Darfur) were reportedly inaccessible at 26 May (OCHA). On 21 May, local media reported that UNAMID had allegedly been denied access to parts of Kutum area, North Darfur.

The East Jebel Marra region has been virtually inaccessible since 2010: on 15 April, local sources reported that the roads from East Jebel Marra to El Fashir, Tawila, Shangil Tobaya, and Nyala were closed. In April, thousands of IDPs were reported to have no access to aid in El Salam and Saraf Omra localities, North Darfur, and in Kalma IDP camp, South Darfur. As of 31 March there were major accessibility issues for El Tawisha, El Lait, and Kutum, North Darfur.

In Central Darfur, insecurity is hindering the movement of humanitarian supplies by road, especially to the localities of Um Dukhun and Bindasi. In East Darfur, Abu Karinka and Adilla localities have been inaccessible since August 2013.

**Access in Blue Nile and South Kordofan**

On 23 May an INGO said that it was operating in parts of South Kordofan despite a government denial of access. There has been no humanitarian access from Sudan to opposition-held areas in South Kordofan since October 2013.

**Disasters**

On 26 April, according to local sources, heavy rains caused widespread material damage and cattle losses in the area of Mershing, South Darfur.

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

An estimated 2.4 million Sudanese are internally displaced due to conflict, food insecurity, and environmental conditions (OCHA, 02/2014).

As of 31 May, there were nearly two million IDPs in Darfur (OCHA). At 31 May, clashes between armed opposition groups, militias, and the Sudanese Armed Forces in the Darfur region had caused the displacement of 322,000 people since conflict renewed in February, 255,000 of whom remained displaced (OCHA).

North Darfur: At 18 June, 21,000 people who have taken refuge in the UNAMID base of Korma required humanitarian assistance (OCHA). According to OCHA, 9,000 IDPs have been relocated from Mellit to Abassi camps. At 25 May, an estimated 52,000 of 81,000 IDPs in El Tawishahad returned, and tens of thousands of IDPs were thought to have returned in Saraf Omra. (OCHA, 25/05/2014). OCHA figures from March indicated that fighting had led to the displacement of 65,000 people in Saraf Omra.

In March, 40,000 were estimated to have been displaced in Kutum following RSF attacks, according to local sources (interagency assessment, 13/03/2014).

South Darfur: 61,000 were displaced by violence in the Um Gunya area of South Darfur (OCHA, 24/03/2014).

Central Darfur: There is little information available about civilian displacement caused by fighting between Misseriya and Salamat tribes in early November, although local media reported population movements from Central to South Darfur. Sudanese aid officials said 32,000 people had fled Saraf Omra in North Darfur to the Fassi area of Central Darfur in March (17/03/2014).

East Darfur: An estimated 176,000 people have been displaced since April 2013 due to fighting between SAF and the SLM-MM and between Rizeigat and Maaliya tribes. Government restrictions have prevented humanitarian organisations from assessing the
needs of these people or verifying their number.

Blue Nile and South Kordofan: At 19 May, an estimated 800,000 people were either displaced or severely affected by violence in SPLM-N-controlled areas: 700,000 in South Kordofan and 90,000 in Blue Nile, according to local estimates (OCHA). As of 8 June, an additional 100,000 were reported displaced in SPLM-N areas (OCHA). With no presence in SPLM-N controlled areas, the UN is unable to verify these figures. Up to 1.2 million are either displaced or severely affected by violence in government-controlled areas (OCHA, 19/05/2014).

West Kordofan: As of 15 June 67,000 IDPs in the areas of Meiram, El Salam, and Ghubaysh were in urgent need of humanitarian aid (OCHA).

Sudanese Refugees in Other Countries

As of 31 May, OCHA reported that there were 352,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad, 216,000 in South Sudan, 33,000 in Ethiopia, and 5,000 in Central African Republic.

On 2 June, UNHCR reported a deteriorating food situation for the Sudanese refugees in Maban. In late March, humanitarian organisations expressed concern over tensions between Sudanese refugees and host communities in Maban county, Upper Nile state in South Sudan, where 126,000 Sudanese refugees reside in four refugee camps (OCHA, 03/04/2014).

Refugees in Sudan

As of 18 June, 85,000 South Sudanese nationals had arrived in Sudan since 15 December (UNHCR). An estimated 38,000 are in White Nile, 13,000 in South Kordofan, 24,000 in Khartoum, and the rest in West Kordofan and Blue Nile. At 30 April, 3,000 newly displaced South Sudanese had arrived (OCHA) in the disputed area of Abyei, bringing the total of South Sudanese displaced to the area to 6,000.

As of 15 June, 33,000 South Sudanese refugees in Babanusa and Muglad localities, West Kordofan state, were reportedly in urgent need of humanitarian aid (OCHA). UNHCR reported only 3,000 South Sudanese refugees in West Kordofan at 18 June.

On 16 June, Khartoum state officials issued an order to evacuate informal camps hosting South Sudanese refugees, local media said.

Relocation began from Kilo 10 camp, White Nile state, on 8 June. As of 15 June, 25,000 out of an expected total of 30,000 people had been relocated (OCHA). The Government has approved relocation from Kilo 10 and Al Alagaya camps to three sites in the Kosti area of White Nile state (UNHCR, 17/04/2014). The main morbidities reported among camp residents are acute respiratory infections, diarrhoeal disease, and malaria.

At 1 June, Sudan was hosting 157,000 refugees, mainly from Eritrea, with smaller numbers from Chad, Ethiopia, Somalia, and South Sudan, according to February UNHCR figures. An estimated 347,000 people of Southern Sudanese origin are currently hosted in Sudan (OCHA, 30/04/2014). As of late March, the Sudanese Government refuses to recognise South Sudanese nationals as refugees and instead considers them to be Sudanese citizens (UNHCR, 03/04/2014). The Sudanese Government stated that all foreigners in Sudan had to register with the immigration administration by 1 April. UNHCR has declared that constitutes an obstacle to access to humanitarian assistance.

Returnees

1,600 Sudanese refugees have reportedly returned from Maban county, South Sudan, to Blue Nile state, Sudan, due to food shortages (OCHA, 08/06/2014).

Food Security

As of 13 June, an estimated five million people faced Stressed, Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity (GIEWS), up from 4.5 million at 30 April, due to the early onset of the lean season, rising food prices, and the impact of conflict and displacement. IDPs make up 80% of food insecure people (FAO, 10/04/2014).

About 60% or 2.7 million of the food insecure are located in the five Darfur regions, where Crisis levels are expected to last until September (FEWSNET, 05/2014). An October Integrated Food Security Phase Classification already put 2.7 million people in Darfur at Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity: one million in North Darfur, 520,000 in South Darfur, 490,000 in Central Darfur, 460,000 in West Darfur, and 230,000 in East Darfur. On 25 May, OCHA reported that 90,000 had been estimated to be in need of food aid in East Darfur.

Agriculture and Markets

Harvest prospects for the 2013/14 main agricultural season are expected to be 30–35% below the national average, mainly due to late and insufficient rains at critical times in the season. As of late February, retail sorghum harvest outputs were 50% below average in Darfur (FEWSNET).

Insecurity and conflict are expected to reduce harvest prospects, cause continued destruction of assets, and obstruct access to markets and food assistance.

As of 3 March, desert locust development in the Nile valley is compounding the deteriorating food security situation (FAO).

Health and Nutrition

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

There are indications that the health situation in Darfur is deteriorating. The rate of schistosomiasis, also known as bilharzia, has increased by 70% in South Darfur (government sources quoted by local media, 07/05/2014). Local reports indicate that visceral leishmaniasis, scabies, and ringworm have increased since 2012, resulting in a surge of patients in hospitals and health centres.

Acute Watery Diarrhoea
On 27 May, local sources reported that 157 cases of watery diarrhoea, suspected of being cholera, had been recorded in White Nile.

Malnutrition

In mid-June 2013, the Ministry of Health reported 5.3% of under-fives with SAM, an estimated 500,000 children. Malnutrition rates in the east (Red Sea, Kassala and Gedaref states) are reportedly the highest in Sudan, with 28% of children suffering from moderate or severe acute malnutrition in Red Sea state, though it is difficult to obtain consistent data across Sudan.

Measles

Sudan has experienced a resurgence in measles since 2010, mainly due to population growth, with a major outbreak in Kassala in 2012.

Dengue fever

On 18 June WHO said that an outbreak of dengue fever was reported in Red Sea state. As of 17 June 2014, 738 cases have been reported in the state, six of which were fatal (OCHA). Cases of haemorrhagic fever had been reported by local media on 13 June.

WASH

An estimated 10,000 new IDPs reportedly have no access to latrines in South Kordofan (OCHA, 18/05/2014).

Protection

ERW and UXO

On 6 June, local media reported that three children were killed in an ERW explosion in East Jebel Marra. A number of ERW explosions in East Jebel Marra in April and May killed six children.

On 12 February, five people were killed and another 13 wounded in a landmine explosion in South Kordofan, according to local sources. 250 locations covering an estimated 32 km² are contaminated by mines and ERW, with the greatest concentrations in Kassala, Gedaref, Red Sea, Blue Nile, South Kordofan, and Darfur (UNMAS). South Kordofan is the most heavily-mined area of Sudan, according to the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor.

Sexual Violence

Numerous rapes have been reported by local media in South and Central Darfur since March. Three were reported by local media on 25 May. Four rapes were reported near Konjar, North Darfur, on 14 June.

Human Trafficking

On 22 March, local Sudanese officials announced that they would implement measures in border areas to stop human trafficking. Members of the UN Human Rights Council had called on the Governments of Sudan and Egypt to investigate and prosecute cases of abduction, torture and murder of Eritrean refugees by traffickers.

On 30 April, international media reported that ten migrants died after a group of over 300 was abandoned in the Libya–Sudan desert by traffickers. The survivors were rescued by a joint Sudanese and Libyan military operation.

Updated: 24/06/2014

ETHIOPIA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 June: 158,164 South Sudanese refugees are residing in Ethiopia (UNHCR).

26 June: In southern and central Afar, the anticipated below-normal July to September rains are likely to lead to low livestock productivity and higher food prices (FEWSNET)

24 June: As of 1 April, 30,100 Ethiopian refugees are living in Kenya (UNHCR).

23 June: 129,232 South Sudansese refugees have been relocated to camps, with 1,700 people awaiting relocation, mainly in the Pagak and Akobo entry points (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS

- Armed insurgencies continue to affect Ogaden region, with inter-communal tensions contributing to frequent violence.

- Ethiopia is host to over 500,000 refugees, including people from Kenya and South Sudan (UNHCR, 03/2014). Over 158,000 South Sudanese refugees are hosted in Gambella region, 95% of whom are women and children (UNHCR, 06/2014).

- An estimated 2.4 million people need food assistance, a 12% increase compared to the first half of 2013. The most affected regions are Oromia, Somali, Amhara, Tigray, and Afar (FAO, March 2014).

- Measles cases have surged since mid-January 2014, with over 5,000 suspected cases reported to date (OCHA, March 2014).

- The refugee operation’s resource situation is critical. Current food stocks are adequate to cover the needs of the refugees until August. If new contributions are not received shortly, there is a risk of reduced rations and complete pipeline breaks from September (WFP, 06/2014).

Politics and Security

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23 June: 129,232 South Sudansese refugees have been relocated to camps, with 1,700 people awaiting relocation, mainly in the Pagak and Akobo entry points (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS

- Armed insurgencies continue to affect Ogaden region, with inter-communal tensions contributing to frequent violence.

- Ethiopia is host to over 500,000 refugees, including people from Kenya and South Sudan (UNHCR, 03/2014). Over 158,000 South Sudanese refugees are hosted in Gambella region, 95% of whom are women and children (UNHCR, 06/2014).

- An estimated 2.4 million people need food assistance, a 12% increase compared to the first half of 2013. The most affected regions are Oromia, Somali, Amhara, Tigray, and Afar (FAO, March 2014).

- Measles cases have surged since mid-January 2014, with over 5,000 suspected cases reported to date (OCHA, March 2014).

- The refugee operation’s resource situation is critical. Current food stocks are adequate to cover the needs of the refugees until August. If new contributions are not received shortly, there is a risk of reduced rations and complete pipeline breaks from September (WFP, 06/2014).
Ethiopia is considered comparatively stable, but two decades of deadly conflict in the southeastern region of Ogaden have had a severe impact on the Ethiopian Somali population, especially after five years of a relatively successful Government counter-insurgency campaign. Deep clan tensions and intra-communal violence persist against the backdrop of wider regional rivalries involving neighbouring Somalia and Kenya. The Government has successfully suppressed protests and contained armed insurrections in Ogaden and Oromia regions, but has yet to address the root causes of the violence.

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

On 2 May, according to observers, Government sources reported that nine people were killed following clashes with riot police in the city of Ambo, Oromia region. With violence taking place elsewhere the region, local sources reported a death toll of 40. Reports indicate that protests against projects to expand the boundaries of Addis Ababa into lands currently hosting the Oromo community, which has reportedly been marginalised by successive governments, have been ongoing since 25 April.

According to international observers, nine journalists and media workers were arrested on 25–26 April, on suspicion of being part of or associated with a group known for being critical of Government policy.

**Participation in Regional Military Operations**

Ethiopia has historically been a key player in peacekeeping and counter-terrorism military operations in the East African region. On 5 March, Ethiopia announced it was considering sending troops to South Sudan as part of a protection and stabilisation force. Peace talks on the South Sudan conflict, under the mediation of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, are in progress in the capital, Addis Ababa. On 28 April, peace talks between Juba and SPLM-in-Opposition resumed; a previous round of unsuccessful negotiations had been held on 27–31 March. In 2014, Addis also hosted peace talks over conflict in Darfur and South Kordofan and Blue Nile state.

On 7 March Ethiopian troops of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) helped Somali forces capture the Al Shabaab-held city of Hudur, capital of Bakool region in south western Somalia. In January 2014, according to official reports, Addis Ababa pledged that Ethiopian troops will remain in Somalia until durable peace and security is achieved. The Somali militant group Al Shabaab has repeatedly threatened Ethiopia since Ethiopian troops arrived in Somalia. On 13 October 2013, a bomb blast killed two people in Addis Ababa. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. The Government has thwarted plots of attacks blamed on rebel groups based in the south and southeast and on Al Shabaab.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

As of 31 March, Ethiopia has 328,079 IDPs (OCHA, 11/06/2014).

**Refugees in Ethiopia**

The number of South Sudanese refugees crossing to Ethiopia has seen a sharp decline, from an average of 2,000 per day in May to 1,200 in the week of 15–22 June (Sudan Tribune, 22/06/2014). The rainy season might worsen the situation for South Sudanese refugees, as it hampers transport and road movement (IOM, 19/06/2014).

As of 24 June, 158,164 South Sudanese have sought asylum in Gambella, through Pagak, Akobo, Burubie, Matar, Raad, Pugnido and Wanke entry points (UNHCR, 27/06/2014; UNICEF, 15/06/2014). As of 23 June, 129,232 have been relocated to camps by road and river, with 1,700 people awaiting relocation, mainly at the Pagak and Akobo entry points (OCHA, 23/06/2014). 33,000 refugees from Blue Nile (OCHA, 31/05/2014), 300,000 refugees are expected to arrive over 2014, an upward revision from 200,000 in early May (WFP, 11/06/2014).

At the end of May Ethiopia was host to 569,286 refugees from 13 countries: mostly Somali (242,765) South Sudanese (193,389), Eritreans (94,492), and Sudanese (34,331). Over 40,000 new arrivals were registered in May, again mostly South Sudanese (37,572), Eritreans (2,050), Somalis (332) and Sudanese (105).

Women and children continue to make up 95% of refugees (OCHA, 05/05/2014), with a recent breakdown of this number indicating 25% women and 70% girls.

Camp facilities have long been overwhelmed. On 5 May, Leitchuor camp hosted 45,000 people, and its capacity had already been increased to 40,000 (OCHA, 28/04/2014). For this reason transfers from border points to Leitchuor were interrupted (UNHCR, 09/05/2014). People are instead being directed to Kule 1 and 2 camps (UNHCR, 23/05/2014). Kule 2 was opened on 17 May. It is in a less flood-prone site and is expected to house 30,000 refugees (UNHCR, 23/05/2014).

**Ethiopian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries**

As of 1 April, there are 30,100 Ethiopian refugees in Kenya (24/06/2014, UNHCR).

An estimated 6,820 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen in May, slightly fewer than the 6,865 who arrived in April 2014, and a 31% increase on the number who arrived in May 2013. New arrivals travelled predominantly from Oromia, Tigray, Amhara, Harar, and Ogaden regions. Reasons for flight are economic and persecution risk. New arrivals in Yemen have reported cases of arbitrary detention and torture as a result of perceived affiliation to the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), and repression premised on political affiliation in light of the general elections scheduled in 2015 (RMMS, 31/05/2014).
**Returnees**

Between mid-November and late December, Ethiopia saw the return of nearly 150,000 migrants who were deported from Saudi Arabia. The migrants returned following the end of an amnesty period for illegal migrant workers in Saudi Arabia. OCHA has indicated that the number of arrivals is causing congestion in transit centres and, due to poor sanitation in some of them. Urgent needs for the migrants include food, sanitation, and health services.

**Food Security**

At 26 February, an estimated 2.7 million people were food insecure (FEWSNET). This is a 12% increase compared to the first half of 2013. Food insecurity is reportedly due to consecutively below average 2013 *belg* and *sugum* rains (February–May and March–May), low crop production, deterioration of livestock, and asset depletion. The most affected regions are Oromia (897,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance), Somali (690,970), Amhara (548,000), Tigray (321,400), and Afar (152,600).

As of 1 May, most of the eastern half of Ethiopia was expected to remain at Stressed levels in the short term, especially Somali and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples’ (SNNP) regions. Crisis levels were recorded in northern areas (in Afar, Tigray and Amhara regions), and also in the easternmost part of Oromia. Short-term projections in the western half of the country indicated Minimal food insecurity.

Food security was expected to remain unchanged in most areas from April to September, except in SNNP region, where improvement from Stressed to Minimal levels is expected. Some Crisis areas in Amhara are also expected to recover to Stressed levels (FEWSNET, 01/05/2014). **There are acute water shortages in northern and northeastern Afar and in pastoralist areas of southern Ethiopia (OCHA, 23/06/2014).**

**Refugees:** The South Sudanese refugee operation’s resource situation is critical. Current food stocks are adequate to cover the needs of the refugees until August. If new contributions are not received shortly, there is a risk of reduced rations and complete pipeline breaks from September. The ‘most likely’ scenario in the Regional Inter-Agency Refugee Contingency Plan projects that 300,000 new refugees from South Sudan will have arrived by the end of 2014 (WFP, 18/06/2014).

**Agriculture and Markets**

In mid-June, moderate to heavy rains were recorded over western Ethiopia. Below-average rainfall was recorded during the past 30 days over some isolated areas of northwestern and south-central Ethiopia (FEWSNET, 20/06/2014). **In southern and central Afar, the anticipated below-normal July to September rains are likely to lead to low livestock productivity and higher food prices (FEWSNET, 26/06/2014).**

In May 2014, year-to-year general inflation rate increased to 8.7%; food inflation to 6.3% and non-food to 11.43%. The meat price index rose 7.5%, and milk, cheese, and eggs 10.4%. The prices of maize, wheat, teff, and sorghum in the month stood over 50% higher than the long-term average in monitored markets. Market prices of shoeat in monitored markets decreased, as low demand against normal supply further pressured the terms of trade in the Somali region, in the wake of soaring food prices. This has negative implications for the pastoralists who depend on the sale of their livestock to purchase staple food (WFP, 31/05/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

**Malnutrition**

On 16 May, SAM among South Sudanese refugees at the Burubiey entry point was 7%. GAM was over 25%. On 28 April, OCHA reported that GAM among South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia remained above the emergency threshold of 15%.

A survey in the Aldera district of Afar region found GAM and SAM rates of 20% and 3.9%, respectively (OCHA, 19/05/2014).

As of 7 March, malnutrition rates in Pagak camp were reportedly extremely high, with 11% of children under five suffering from SAM.

As of February 2014, according to OCHA’s nutrition hotspot mapping, priority districts in terms of nutrition were located along the Eritrea border in Afar region, in Oromia, and in Tigray. Hotspots were also recorded along the South Sudan border in Gambella.

**Measles**

Close to 600 new measles cases were recorded between 28 April and 4 May in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Somali regions (OCHA, 12/05/2014). As of June 2014, 86,733 children have been vaccinated (UNICEF, 15/06/2014).

On 31 March, OCHA reported over 5,000 suspected cases of measles in Amhara, Gambella, Oromia, SNNP, and Tigray regions since mid-January 2014. In mid-February, over 90% of recorded cases were in SNNP region. A vaccination campaign targeting 6.8 million children under 15 was due to start on 11 January, but continues to be delayed due to lack of resources. As of 31 March, fewer than two million children had reportedly been vaccinated in SNNP region and only 250,000 in Amhara.

**Meningitis**

According to OCHA, 35 suspected cases of meningitis were reported over 3–10 March in the Dilla area, about 250km south of the capital. Another 66 cases were reported across Oromia, SNNP, and Gambella regions, where the seasonal meningitis outbreak requires an estimated two million doses of vaccine.

**Polio**

On 17 March, according to OCHA, a new case of polio was confirmed in Somali region, bringing the caseload in Ethiopia to ten since the outbreak started in May 2013. All cases were reported in *woredas* (districts) that share borders with Somalia, where the regional polio outbreak started. An immunisation campaign targeting over three million children is ongoing. 67,804 children under 15 years have received the oral polio vaccine (UNICEF, 15/06/2014).

**WASH**
There is one latrine for every 264 people in Burubiey. Leitchuor and Kule 1 and 2 camps also fail to meet the emergency standard of 20 people per latrine, with one latrine for 61, 113, and 55 people, respectively (UNHCR, 06/06/2014).

The onset of the gu rains in late March has led to an improvement in water availability in drought-affected regions. However, as of 5 May water trucking deliveries were falling short of the requested amount in Somali, Tigray, Oromia, and Afar according to OCHA. The shortfall of water trucking in Tigray has reportedly been due to the full utilization of allocated funds. As of 17 March, water shortages across Oromia, Afar, Tigray, Amhara, and Somali regions affected an estimated 360,000 people.

Education

On 14 April, according to the Education Cluster, 30,000–40,000 children are in need of emergency education intervention in Gambella region.

Protection

In mid-February, human rights NGOs reported that a government-run land clearance plan has affected an estimated 7,000 indigenous people in the lower Omo Valley in the southwest. This raises concerns over indigenous people’s livelihoods. Forced resettlement of indigenous people in the area has also been reported.

A government land development plan to allow sugar-cane plantations, dam construction, and commercial agriculture is expected to relocate 150,000 indigenous people into permanent sedentary villages.

Updated: 30/06/2014

GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new developments this week. Last update: 13/06/2014.

KEY CONCERNS

- Around 495,700 people are at risk of food insecurity across the Gambia, including 82,000 experiencing Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity. (ECHO, April 2014).

- At least 48,800 children are malnourished, an increase of 19,300 in comparison to July 2013 figures (OCHA, January 2014).

Politics and Security

The Gambia has been stable since independence in 1965. In 2013, President Jammeh, ruling since a 1994 coup, announced the country’s departure from the Commonwealth.

Humanitarian context and needs

Disasters

Heavy rainfall led to devastating floods in the Sahel region in August 2013. A lack of early warning led to over 3,300 people across the Gambia being affected. At least two people were killed, over 200 were displaced, and hundreds were made homeless or left without income or livelihoods. As of 30 January 2014, OCHA said the flood-affected population was still vulnerable and in need of assistance.

Displacement

Refugees in the Gambia

OCHA reported as of late January that 8,300 refugees, mostly Senegalese from the Casamance region, live in the Gambia. Smaller numbers of refugees come from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d’Ivoire, and Togo.

Food Security

On 28 April, ECHO reported that an estimated 495,700 are food insecure, including 82,000 experiencing Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity.

In November, FAO reported that continued food assistance is needed, especially for vulnerable populations. Coping mechanisms have eroded due to the 2011 Sahel crisis and heavy flooding in July–October 2012 and August–September 2013. Access to food continues to be constrained by high food prices and the lingering effects of the Sahel food crisis. Two-thirds of households face food insecurity of which 5.5% suffer from moderate or severe food insecurity, according to WFP.

National food insecurity is further influenced by 20 million people being currently at risk of food insecurity in the Sahel region and 2.5 million need urgent lifesaving food assistance, as reported by OCHA on 3 February. Across the region an estimated five million children under five are expected to suffer from malnutrition in 2014, and 1.5 million will face acute malnutrition. Regional violence and insecurity has forced 1.2 million people to flee their homes, adding to pressure on resources.

Although agricultural production in 2012/2013 was higher than in the previous season, OCHA observed that it remained below the five-year seasonal average as of July 2013. Floods, epidemics, and the recurrence of bovine pleuro-pneumonia among cattle remain risks that could increase existing household vulnerabilities further.

Despite an improved domestic harvest, prices of imported cereals are likely to stay high, in view of the continuing depreciation of the Dalasi, the national currency. Access to food will remain difficult for the population with a significant portion continuing to be food insecure in 2014 as a result of high food prices and of the lingering effects of the 2013 food crisis, according to FAO.
Health and Nutrition

OCHA’s Strategic Plan for 2014–2016, published on 3 February, emphasised the risk of natural disasters and disease outbreaks in the Gambia. The report said that an estimated 65% of the country, mainly along the Senegalese border and on major border crossing routes, is highly prone to cholera outbreaks. The Gambia also lies in the meningitis belt, and sporadic outbreaks occur every year, especially in the eastern regions. As of 3 February, OCHA reported that poor health services, poor sanitation, and limited access to clean water are the leading causes of waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea (among children under five), cholera, and meningitis. WASH-related deaths account for 20% of deaths among under-fives. Access to basic public services, including hospitals, remains a challenge for many families. Although each of the seven regions across the Gambia has a hospital, staffing is poor and equipment limited.

Diarrhoea

As of 3 February, OCHA stated that the incidence of diarrhoea in children is 14% and leaves children vulnerable to malnutrition and other health problems.

Malaria

As of 3 February, OCHA said that according to the National Malaria Sentinel Surveillance System, the Malaria Programmatic Review, and the Health Information Management Service Statistics for 2012, malaria remains endemic in all districts and is likely to affect the entire population. Malaria remains the leading cause of death among Gambian children under five, with a 23% annual fatality rate.

Meningitis

Since the beginning of 2014, 131 cases were reported, and 18 people have died. An alert threshold has been reached in two districts (WHO, 01/06/2014).

Malnutrition

As of end January 2014, 48,800 children were reported to be malnourished, of whom 7,800 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). This represents an increase of 19,300 acutely malnourished, and an increase of 3,800 SAM, compared to July 2013 (OCHA).

FAO reported in November 2013 that child malnutrition remains a cause of concern, with chronic malnutrition rates ranging from 13.9% to 30.7% in the North Bank, and Central River region surpassing the ‘critical’ threshold of 30%.

Reviewed: 25/06/2014

KEY CONCERNS

- Violence in the capital Nairobi, as well as northeastern and coastal areas, where two-thirds of violent attacks have been attributed to the Somali Islamist Al Shabaab movement.

- Inter-communal tensions remain high. In 2013, 491 people were killed and 47,000 displaced as a result of tribal conflicts. Most affected counties are Tana River (coastal area), Mandera (northeast), Marsabit (north), and Moyale (north).

- Kenya currently hosts over 487,000 refugees, including at least 426,000 Somalis (UNHCR, 01/2014; OCHA, 02/2014). An estimated 38,000 South Sudanese refugees have crossed into Kenya (UNHCR, 06/2014); humanitarian agencies are expecting 100,000 new South Sudanese refugees by the end of 2014 (WFP, 28/05/2014).

- 1.3 million people are acutely food insecure (FEWSNET, 04/2014).

Politics and Security

National Context

Kenya is considered relatively stable in the Horn of Africa and held peaceful presidential elections in March 2013. However, the country remains deeply divided, ethnically polarised, and affected by two decades of conflict in neighbouring Somalia.

Kenya’s political stability is facing major challenges, including the implementation of a devolution process, land reform, and national reconciliation. Institutions are perceived to be weak, and minority groups are said to use politically motivated violence to influence the devolution process, which risks polarising the country further while the 47 newly established counties are seeking to tackle socioeconomic inequalities. The political scene is also likely to be dominated by the planned trial of the President and Vice President at the International Criminal Court in the coming year.

On 23 June, Kenyan fighter jets carried out an attack on al-Quaeda linked al-Shabab groups in Somalia, killing at least 80. (23/06/2014, BBC, AFP)
On 23 April, according to international media, four people died in a bomb blast near a police station not far from the Eastleigh district of Nairobi.

Over 17–19 April, 281 refugees were reportedly transported from Nairobi’s Kasarani stadium, where media reported hundreds of refugees to be detained, to Kakuma and Dadaab camps.

On 25 March, the Government ordered 50,000 refugees living in urban areas to relocate to two refugee camps: Dadaab, near the Somali border in the east; and Kakuma, in the northwest. Since early April, refugees have been arrested in targeted operations across Kenya. Police reportedly arrested 3,000 Somalis in Eastleigh, Nairobi on 2–3 April. International press reports indicated that six people were killed during the operation, and 82 deported to Mogadishu for being illegal immigrants. Dozens have been arrested in Trans Nzoia county, the South C district of Nairobi, and Mombasa. The operations were launched shortly after seemingly coordinated bomb blasts in Eastleigh on 31 March killed six people, international media reported.

While the Government is focusing on counterterrorism, observers suggest that the main challenge remains the increasing radicalisation of the ethnic Somali Muslim population, which is allegedly fuelled by systematic ethnic profiling and discrimination. In September 2013, the Society for Threatened People reported that the Westgate attack may have serious consequences for the Muslim population, 11% of Kenya’s 40 million inhabitants, and Somali refugees in Kenya.

On 7 February, three people were stabbed in riots that broke out after Friday prayers in the coastal city of Mombasa. Around 300 men, some armed, blocked the roads in protest at the arrest of 130 Muslim men accused of attending a radicalisation session in a mosque. A few days earlier, local sources reported clashes between authorities and Muslim youths in Mombasa, following a police raid on a mosque in which three people died and over 100 were arrested. The operation was launched after the police received information that an alleged jihadi convention was taking place in the mosque. According to local security forces, mosques have been at the heart of Al Shabaab’s attempts to radicalise Kenyan Muslims, and authorities have been dismantling recruitment networks among Muslim communities.

Over the past year, five Muslim clerics have been killed in Mombasa on allegations that they were terror suspects recruiting in mosques for Al Shabaab. In October, there were riots in Mombasa after the killing of a Muslim preacher. Rising sectarian tensions also affect the city’s Christian community: two separate attacks conducted on 19 October claimed the lives of two Christian clerics.

**Militant Incidents**

On 15 June an attack in Mpeketoni and Poromoko, near the coast, killed at least 49 and 15 people, respectively. Somalia’s Al Shabaab claimed responsibility, but government officials blame local political networks (17/06/2014, Kenya Red Cross, AFP). International media report a second attack being carried out on 23 June, in the village of Witu, near Mpeketoni, which killed at least five (AFP, BBC, 06/24/2014)

The frequency and scale of attacks have increased dramatically since Kenyan troops began operating in Somalia in 2011, as has the nature of the violence, with 40% of events now targeting civilians. The September 2013 attack on Nairobi’s Westgate shopping mall killed 67 people. Unclaimed bombings in Nairobi and Mombasa in 2013 killed at least 14 and injured over a hundred.

Al Shabaab has built a cross-border presence and clandestine support network among the Muslim population in the northeast, Nairobi, and the coast.

**Inter-communal Violence**

On 6 June, attacks by cattle raiders in Baringo county left two people dead in Sirata and caused 8,000 people to flee the area of Mukutani.

On 24 May, one person was killed in inter-clan clashes in Qabobey, Garissa county.

On 18–19 April, tribal clashes over the use of irrigation water supplies in Elgeyo-Marakwet county left two people injured, local media reported.

In 2013, 491 people were killed and another 1,235 injured in inter-communal violence. This number is a small decrease compared to 503 killed and 1,315 injured in 2013. Population displacements due to inter-communal conflicts were significantly lower year-on-year, from 116,000 in 2012 to 47,000 in 2013. The areas most affected by inter-communal violence were the southeastern county of Tana River, the northeastern county of Mandera, and the Moyale area in Marsabit county, which recorded 40,000 displaced in 2013. (12/2013, OCHA)

A growth in the population of both people and livestock has led to more frequent cattle raiding and violence, fed by the availability of small arms. The Ethiopian Oromo Liberation Front rebel group is also said to have made several deadly incursions into Kenya.

**Conflict in Moyale**

On 21–22 February in Nairobi, the Government-organised Marsabit Peace Initiative brought together leaders from communities that have experienced conflict over recent years, namely the Borena, Gabra, Burji, Sakura Garre and ‘Corner communities’, who live in Moyale district and in Marsabit county. The Boma Peace Agreement was unveiled: all leaders pledged to form a multi-ethnic committee to steer joint peace rallies and dialogue, to facilitate reconstruction of houses for the displaced, to facilitate the return of the displaced and ensure their security, to strengthen cross-border dialogue with Ethiopia on the issue, and to ensure that all public resources, under the charge of the national and county governments, be allocated fairly to all communities.

Violence in Moyale began in December 2013. As of February, clashes between the Borena community and a joint force of Burji and Gabra tribes had displaced an estimated 72,000 people both internally and into Ethiopia. The Government had reportedly deployed troops, and the situation stabilised, while authorities established a Directorate for Cohesion and Non-state Coordination to promote peacebuilding and reconciliation.

**Conflict in Turkana, West Pokot, and Samburu**
On 18 June, a cattle raid left at least one dead and three injured in Turkana county (19/06/2014, Kenya Red Cross). On 27 May, a cattle raid in Turkana, presumed to have been conducted from West Pokot county, left six people dead. On 3-4 March, a peace meeting was held between the Turkana and the Pokot to end the conflict in the Turkwel Gorge. Conflict stems from longstanding disputes over land, water, and grazing rights. The Rendille and Garri communities have been drawn into the conflict, amid political antagonism following the March 2013 general election.

On 10 February, local sources reported that two Ethiopians were killed in a clash between raiders from the Ethiopian Daasanach community, also known as Merille, and local herdsmen and Kenyan Police Reservists in Kokuro division, Turkana county. According to local sources, confrontations are traditionally over pasture and water.

**Conflict in Mandera and Wajir**

Clashes between Garre and Degodia communities along the border between Wajir and Mandera counties have caused at least 80 deaths and significant displacement. The Garre and Degodia Somali clans have been feuding over natural resources since March 2012. Fighting broke out on 22 June, killing at least 20 people (AFP, 22/06/2014).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Access**

On 23 April, a UNHCR vehicle was reportedly attacked by gunmen outside Hagadera camp at Dadaab. Operations in the camps were reportedly suspended until 29 April, except for lifesaving activities.

**Displacement**

**Internal Displacement**

As of 31 March the total number of IDPs in Kenya is 309,200 (OCHA, 16/06/2014).

On 20 January, fighting that erupted in December 2013 in the northern area of Moyale had displaced an estimated 72,000 people both internally and into Ethiopia. While over half the displaced have reportedly returned, weeks of sporadic violence have impacted household food security and livelihoods.

As of 11 June, the Kenya Red Cross reported that the inter-communal clashes between the Degodia and the Garre clans along the Mandera–Wajir border since May had displaced 12,000 households (approximately 61,000 people).

As of 6 June, 8,000 people were reportedly displaced by cattle raids in Mukutani, Baringo county.

**Refugees**

As of 21 March, Kenya was hosting more than 487,000 refugees, down from 587,000 on 29 January (OCHA). No information is available as to the reason for this drop.

**From South Sudan:** As of 12 June, more than 41,000 South Sudanese refugees have crossed into Kenya since mid-December (WFP). On 6 June, UNHCR indicated that a restriction on refugee arrivals had been issued by the government in early June, but was subsequently nullified. Most are in Kakuma camp, Turkana county (UNHCR). A previous report indicated a daily arrival rate of 90 (UNHCR, 23/05/2014). Humanitarian agencies are reportedly expecting 100,000 new South Sudanese refugees by the end of 2014 (WFP, 28/05/2014). Latest reports indicate that the most pressing needs include protection for separated children, registration, and health services.

**From Somalia:** As of March, 426,000 Somali refugees were in Kenya, a decrease of 51,000 from previous estimates (OCHA). Most are in the northeastern Dadaab and Alinjugur refugee camp complex, which in early February hosted 353,000 Somali refugees, according to OCHA (a revision of January UNHCR figures recording 391,000 Somali refugees). Other Somali refugee settlements include the northwest camp of Kakuma (54,000) and Nairobi (32,400).

Kakuma camp reportedly hosts 169,500 refugees, and has a capacity of 150,000 (UNHCR, 06/11/2014). On 13 May, local officials said the camp needed to be expanded. Government officials have authorised the construction of a new camp nearby. On 15 May, local sources reported that gunmen attacked Sudanese refugees from Darfur residing in the Kakuma camp, leaving one refugee dead.

Since early April, thousands of people have been arrested in Nairobi, and dozens have been apprehended elsewhere in the country, in security operations targeting Somali refugees. So far, 86 of those arrested have been found to be illegal Somali immigrants. A Kenyan official announced on 7 April that all illegal immigrants who had been arrested would be deported. The arrests came swiftly after the Government ordered 50,000 refugees residing in urban centres to relocate to Dadaab or Kakuma refugee camps. Over 17–19 April, 281 refugees were reportedly deported from Kasarani stadium, Nairobi, to Dadaab and Kakuma.

In 2012, according to a human rights NGO report, a similar encampment order was issued, and led to the arrest of more than 1,000 Somalis and Somali Kenyans in Eastleigh.

On 10 November, a tripartite agreement was signed by UNHCR and the Governments of Kenya and Somalia to establish the legal framework for the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees. The Kenyan Government estimated the number of Somali refugees in Kenya at 600,000 as of late June 2013 and has been pushing to expedite the return of these refugees since the attack on the Westgate Mall in September, citing national security concerns.

**Food Security**

As of 29 April, 1.3 million people are estimated to be acutely food insecure, with most of the country remaining at Stressed level of food insecurity (FEWSNET). Crisis levels of food insecurity were reportedly concentrated in pastoral areas in the northwest, Turkana, and Marsabit counties. Poor households had entered crisis in February, due to below average rains, and to reduced access to livestock sales and markets as a result of inter-clan conflict.
Local media reported on 15 April that drought in Kwale county, south Kenya, has left 10,000 people in urgent need of food assistance.

NGO reports indicated at the end of March that the Turkana region was facing a potential humanitarian crisis due to prolonged drought. Local authorities released a drought report on 27 January indicating that the Turkana region, home to 850,000 people, had reached an emergency. An estimated 440,000 people were affected by hunger and needed urgent food assistance.

Most of Kenya was expected to remain at Stressed levels of food insecurity until September, with food availability declining and price inflation rising between June and September. The long rains (March–May) were below-normal. In Isolo county, water shortages are severe, with drought conditions have worsened compared to previous months.

The influx of South Sudanese refugees is expected to put potential additional pressure on humanitarian resources.

Health and Nutrition

**Malaria**

At 13 June, 586 cases of malaria had been reported among South Sudanese refugees over the course of a week (UNHCR).

**Polio**

One case of polio was reported in January 2014 in Somali region. This is the first WPV1 outbreak in Kenya since 2011, the only case in 2014 in the Horn of Africa according to an international organisation.

During a 2013 vaccination campaign, priority was given to the northeast, where nearly 50% of children had not been vaccinated, compared to less than 5% nationally.

**Malnutrition**

GAM and SAM rates among South Sudanese refugees arriving in Kakuma between 18 and 23 May were above emergency thresholds, at 16.3%, and 10.4%, respectively (UNHCR, 23/05/2014).

On 5 May, in Mandera county, global acute malnutrition rates were above the 15% emergency threshold. UNICEF had highlighted critical nutrition status of the county in 2013.

**Protection**

On 19 May, the international media reported that 5,000 unaccompanied children were among the South Sudanese refugees who had arrived since December.

On 11 April, international human rights NGOs raised concerns regarding the detention conditions of Somalis and Somali Kenyans following mass arrests.

**WASH**

The average number of people per latrine in Kakuma 4 refugee camp was 34 in May, within the emergency standard of one latrine for 50 people (UNHCR, 23/05/2014).

*Updated: 24/06/2014*

**MALAWI FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No new significant developments this week, 23/06/2014. Last Update: 16/06/2014.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- As the lean season peaks in Southern Africa, 1.8 million people are assessed as food insecure in Malawi (WFP, 05/2014)

- Around 180 new HIV infections are occurring every day. HIV prevalence is 10% among people aged 15-49. More than 40% of new infections are among 10–19 year olds (UNAIDS, 03/2014).

- Up to 43% of people have experienced some form of gender-based violence; women represent more than 50% of victims.

**OVERVIEW**

Since 2007, Malawi’s economy has grown significantly, and healthcare, education, and environmental conditions have improved. However, turbulent politics have hampered governance, and more than half the population lives below the poverty line.

**Politics and Security**

Peter Mutharika – brother of the former president Bingu wa Mutharika – was sworn in as the new president of Malawi after much political tension and legal wrangling, during which outgoing President Joyce Banda had alleged ballot fraud. She admitted defeat after the High Court rejected a request for a recount (UN, 31/05/2014).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Displacement**

The total number of refugees in Malawi is 5,757, with 11,620 asylum seekers (UNHCR, 01/03/2014). Refugees mostly reside in the only refugee camp in Malawi, located in Dzaleka in the Dowa District, or with host communities. The camp is managed by the Government of Malawi with the support from UNHCR.
On 4 March, the UN reported that since mid-January an estimated 2,000 people had arrived in Malawi from Mozambique, fleeing clashes between the Government and former insurgents. At the time of their arrival, the Government and UNHCR were in disagreement about their status as asylum seekers and assistance was delayed.

**Disasters**

**Heavy Rainfall and Floods**

In Karonga district, Northern region, 2,187 households have been affected by flooding due to heavy rains in April, and 602 houses have been destroyed. In Nkhata Bay district, 991 households have been affected.

This brings the total number of households so far affected by floods in the current rainy season to 7,190 (35,395 people). An additional 8,160 households (40,780 people) have experienced damage to their crops and houses by heavy rain and wind storms bringing the total number of people affected to 76,180 (UNICEF, 30/04/2014).

**Food Security**

The number of food insecure people remained at 1.8 million, or 12% of the population (WFP, 12/06/2014).

Acute food security currently stands at Minimal (IPC Phase 1). Maize prices dropped 16% between March and April. There were some production shortfalls due to prolonged dry spells and early cessation of rains. In Central Karonga and Middle Shire livelihood zones Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes are expected from May to June, and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes between July and September (FEWSNET, 31/05/2014).

By November, Malawi will face Phase 3: Crisis, as the lean season takes place from November to February (FEWSNET, 29/05/2014).

A joint pre-harvest food security assessment conducted in March 2014 indicated that 10 of the 28 districts may face food shortages in 2014/15 as a result of prolonged dry spells and army worm attacks. Access to food will be further affected by low production of cotton, which is a main cash crop in some of the affected districts (OCHA, 30/04/2014).

In May, a large number of Red Nomadic Locust populations were reported in Lake Chilwa Plains. Left untreated, these swarms will migrate further and threaten crops (OFDA–AELGA, 06/2014)

**Health and Nutrition**

**HIV**

On 8 March, UNAIDS reported that the Government is revitalising its national HIV prevention strategy. In 2012, new HIV infections among children declined to 11,000 compared to 28,000 in 2001. Estimated AIDS-related deaths also decreased, from 86,000 in 2001 to 46,000 in 2012. Despite progress, around 180 new HIV infections are still occurring every day. **12% of the adult population live with the disease.**
OVERVIEW

Displaced and people otherwise affected by violence in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, and neighbouring Bauchi, Taraba, and Gombe states are in urgent need of health services, protection, food, and water. The violence has displaced a large number of people, restricted movement, disrupted food supply, seriously hindered access to basic services, and limited agricultural activities.

A state of emergency was declared in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states in May 2013 and the International Criminal Court qualified the conflict between Boko Haram and the Government as a civil war in November 2013. Economic decline, growing inequality, and failure to contain Boko Haram have all contributed to growing public distrust in the Government.

Political Context

2015 Elections

According to his opposition, President Jonathan’s re-election would violate the unwritten rule that governance should rotate between the Muslim north and the Christian south every two terms. Tensions persist despite a series of resignations and dismissals from the ruling People’s Democratic Party (PDP).

On 17 February, the Governance, Transparency, and Integrity Working Group of the United States–Nigeria Binational Commission met to support the establishment of benchmarks for transparent and inclusive elections.

On 3 February, Nigeria’s former Vice President Abubakar left the PDP to join the All Progressives Congress (APC) opposition party, stating he believed in a two-party political system for Nigeria.

Security Context

Due to the significant increase in violent attacks, the International Criminal Court declared the conflict between government forces and Boko Haram as a civil war in November 2013. Some 2,000 people have already been killed in 2014 (Amnesty International, 03/2014). Half of the victims were civilians.

International and Regional Involvement

On 22 May, the UN Security Council’s Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee approved the addition of BH to its list of individuals and entities subject to targeted financial sanctions and an arms embargo.

On 17 May, President Jonathan and his counterparts from Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger approved an action plan to counter Boko Haram.

The US, UK, France, China, and Israel have sent specialist teams to help in the search for the schoolgirls kidnapped from Chibok in April.

According to UNHCR, the influx of Nigerian refugees and the spillover of violence is creating cross-border tensions with Niger. In November 2013, Niger and Nigeria established a Joint Border Patrol Command.

Boko Haram

So far, Boko Haram has dismissed the possibility of participating in a peace resolution committee to frame potential peace talks. Founded in Maiduguri, Borno state, BH has been leading an insurgency to create an Islamic state in the predominantly Muslim regions of northern Nigeria. The Nigerian authorities have been fighting BH since 2009, and in May 2013 BH took control of part of Borno state.

Counter-insurgency Campaign against Boko Haram

Since April 2013, attempts by military forces to engage with BH militants have resulted in excessive use of force and large-scale destruction in civilian areas. The state of emergency (SoE) declared in mid-May 2013 in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe was extended for an additional six months on 20 May 2014 to facilitate counter-insurgency activities. However, the state of emergency is feared to have strengthened the recruitment base of Boko Haram. Concern persists about the military’s failure to end the insurgency. In January 2013, President Jonathan fired all his military chiefs and appointed an air force officer from the troubled northeast as the top military commander, Air Marshal Alex Badeh.

Civilians have formed vigilante groups or self-defence militias, reportedly with the tacit backing of the Nigerian Government. As a result, BH has expanded its initial military and security targets to include Christians, Muslims, students, politicians, and others opposing BH’s ambition to impose Islamic law.

On 19 March, the National Security Adviser unveiled measures in what is to be a new and broader approach of ‘soft power’: de-radicalisation programmes for suspected and convicted BH fighters, and closer cooperation with communities affected by violence.

On 23 February, it was confirmed that Nigeria had closed its northern border with Cameroon – from northern Borno state, by Lake Chad, to the southern end of Adamawa state – to block the movement of BH.

Boko Haram Incidents

Borno state: On 23 June, suspected BH militants abducted more than 60 women in Kummabza village in the Damboa district. Observers said it could be an attempt to refocus attention on its demands for the release of militant fighters. BH has indicated that it would be willing to release the 219 schoolgirls that it has held hostage since April 14 in exchange for the freedom of all militant prisoners.

On 21 June, ten people were killed in raids by suspected BH gunmen on two villages near the town of Chibok.

At least 15 people were killed when suspected BH gunmen stormed a market in Daku on 15 June.
On 10 June, suspected BH gunmen abducted up to 30 women from nomadic settlements near Chibok, where more than 200 schoolgirls were kidnapped in April.

On 3 June, BH insurgents dressed as soldiers killed at least 200 civilians in Goshe, Attagara, Agapalwa, and Aganjara villages, Gwoza district. In May, attacks on military and police, and clashes between soldiers and BH, led to over 80 deaths. At least 374 people were killed in attacks on several villages and the town of Gamboru Ngala. Eight girls aged between 12 and 15 were kidnapped from Warabe village.

In April, suspected BH attacks on villages, a teacher training college, and a state oil company facility killed some 210 people. In March, around 80 people were killed in attacks in Maga, Maiduguri, and Nguro-Soye.

Yobe state: On 18 June, at least 21 people were killed in an explosion that targeted a sports-screening venue in Damaturu. On 6 April, BH militants reportedly killed 17 people in an attack on a village. Militants attacked a college at Buni Yadi, in February, leaving some 45 children aged 13–17 dead.

Adamawa state: On 1 June, at least 40 people were killed in a bomb blast targeting a football match in the town of Mubi. On 25 May, suspected BH gunmen killed 20 people when storming Waga, a Christian village. In late February, suspected BH gunmen killed at least 37 people in attacks in Shuwa and Kirchinga.

Gombe state: On 9 June, a suicide bomber killed at least one soldier outside an army barracks. On 5 June, four people were killed when a car exploded near the residence of Gombe state governor. No one has claimed responsibility for either incident.

Jigawa state: On 9 April, scores of gunmen attacked a police station, a court, and a bank in Gwaram, killing seven officers and a civilian. Jigawa is not under a state of emergency and therefore has a lighter deployment of security forces.

Kano state: A bomb blast at a public health college in the country's second largest city of Kano killed at least eight people on 23 June. On 18 May, a car bomb exploded in the Christian neighbourhood of Kano, killing at least four and wounding five others. This was the first attack in Kano for several months.

Plateau state: On 11 June, at least eight people, including three security officers, were killed when gunmen raided three villages. On 28 May, gunmen killed four Nigerian soldiers in an ambush on a military patrol. It was not confirmed that this was BH, but BH had been more active in the state, setting off twin car bombs at a crowded bus terminal and market in Jos a week earlier, killing 118 people.

Abuja: On 26 June, an explosion hit a crowded shopping centre, killing at least 22 people and wounding dozens of others. On 1 May, a car bomb attack killed at least 19 people and injured 30 at the Nyanya bus station on the outskirts of Abuja. On 14 April, a morning rush-hour bomb in the same place killed at least 75 people and injured 141. It was the first attack in two years and the deadliest ever on Nigeria’s capital. BH’s leader claimed responsibility.

Inter-communal Violence

On 15 April, Human Rights Watch said inter-communal violence has escalated across five states in central Nigeria (Benue, Kaduna, Plateau, Nasarawa, and Taraba) since December 2013, killing more than 1,000 people. The Middle Belt area is home to a number of minority groups, divided between the Islamic north and the more secular Christian/animist south. Thousands have been killed since the early 1990s in competition mainly for land and water.

Taraba state: On 22 April, at least 17 people were killed in the predominantly Christian Jukun village of Kauyen-Yaku. According to police, the gunmen were suspected Muslim Hausa–Fulani herdsmen.

At least seven people were killed in the town of Wukari on 15–16 April, when Christian Jukun gunmen reportedly attacked their Muslim Hausa–Fulani neighbours following fighting in a nearby village.

Kaduna state: Fulani gunmen were accused of killing more than 110 people in several attacks in March, including on three mostly Christian villages in the south of the.

Katsina state: On 13 March, gunmen killed at least 69 people and torched several homes in Mararrabar, Kura Mota, Unguwar Rimi and Maigora villages. According to the state's police chief, the violence was perpetrated by Fulani herdsmen.

Zamfara state: On 7 April, clashes between suspected Fulani Muslim gunmen and local Hausa youth led to the death of at least 79 people in the village of Yar Galadima.

Niger Delta

In the Niger Delta region, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta has threatened to sabotage and end Nigerian oil production by 2015. It is the largest militant organisation within the Niger Delta region, made up of several armed groups.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

An estimated 15.5 million people living in the six northeastern states of Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Taraba, Gombe, and Bauchi are directly affected by violence (OCHA, 06/2014).

Half of the 12 million people living in the three states under an SoE – Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe – are directly affected by violence (IRIN, 04/2014). Attacks on health facilities, water points and farms have severely affected local communities, particularly in Borno and Yobe (UNICEF, 18/06/2014).

Access

On 25 February, OCHA reported that most international actors have withdrawn from the SoE states. Only a dozen humanitarian agencies are present in the northeast, leaving many of the thousands displaced by Boko Haram violence with little access to assistance.
Displacement

As of 25 February, OCHA reported more than 520,000 people, mainly women, children and the elderly, had moved within Nigeria or sought refuge in neighbouring Niger, Cameroon or Chad.

IDPs

In February, almost 471,000 people were reported internally displaced, half of them children (OCHA).

Northeast: An estimated 646,700 people have been displaced across the six northeastern states of Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Taraba, Gombe, and Bauchi due to the insurgency in the three SoE states. The most affected state is Borno, with some 258,000 IDPs, 100,000 of whom are displaced in the capital, Maiduguri (OCHA, 06/2014).

Female headed households represent the majority of IDP households, most of whom have been widowed during attacks. Most IDPs reside with families in poor host communities, thus overstretching already scarce resources and aggravating poverty levels, including food and nutrition insecurity (OCHA, 06/2014).

Middle Belt: The National Emergency Management Agency said it has established 11 camps for approximately 100,000 IDPs affected by inter-communal conflict between herdsmen and farmers. The camps are reportedly getting overcrowded.

Nigerian Refugees

According to UNHCR, over 57,000 people have sought refuge in neighbouring Cameroon, Niger, and Chad since the declaration of the state of emergency in May 2013. Temporary refugee status has been granted to those Nigerians fleeing the three states under an SoE. UNHCR has advised against forced returns to northern areas.

Niger: Some 54,000 Nigerian refugees and returning migrants are in Niger. There are approximately 1,000 new arrivals every week. 4,400 people entered the country in the first three weeks of May. Concentrated in the Diffa region, most refugees are staying with local communities, and food and water resources are limited (UNHCR, 15/06/2014).

Cameroon: 12,400 Nigerian refugees are registered in the Far North and North regions (Government of Cameroon and UNHCR).

Chad: 1,500 have fled into Chad (OCHA, 05/2014).

Food Security

Niger state faces Stressed food insecurity through September (FEWSNET, 05/2014). It was severely impacted by dry spells during the previous cultivation season, and households are affected by a second year of below-average production. Most poor households have become market dependent two–three months earlier than normal and are having difficulties accessing food due to high market prices

The growing season has begun normally in the south and early in many areas in central and northern Nigeria. Market prices for key staples are relatively stable or even down from previous months (FEWSNET, 05/2014). With the ongoing seasonal increase in agriculture labour opportunities, households will access food through market purchase normally through the rest of the consumption year, ending in September.

State of Emergency States

In the Northeast – where over 90% of residents are engaged in agricultural activities – host communities report that they have exhausted their food stocks and resorted to eating their seeds. Household food stocks are reported to be below average and incomes are declining since the conflict has interrupted off-season livelihood activities and seasonal increase in labour demand. Food access and cross border markets in border communities have been further impacted by the insecurity, particularly the blowing up of access bridges to neighbouring Cameroon (OCHA, 06/2014)

Households in Borno and Yobe states will face Crisis food insecurity until September as they begin to experience food consumption gaps, while households in Adamawa State face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) conditions (FEWSNET, 05/2014)

As the conflict has spread to rural areas, the 2013/14 agricultural season has been severely impeded. Conflict is also limiting off-season livelihood activities and household incomes from seasonal labour are falling. This situation is expected to continue until August.

Markets supply is low because of below-average local production and disruption in trade flows. Staple food prices are at least 10% higher than last year and more than 30% above their five-year average. For households with below-average seasonal incomes and increasing market dependence (as they exhaust their own stocks), atypically high prices sharply hinder food access.

Health and Nutrition

As of March, a multi-sector assessment covering the three SoE states – Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe – indicated that only 37% of health facilities are functioning, leaving residents to seek medical attention across the border. Mortality rates are increasing and vaccination programmes are severely hit. Polio vaccination campaigns are now limited to the Maiduguri metropolis.

Cholera

An outbreak of cholera has been reported in Borno state, with 49 cases and two deaths registered. This caused alarm due to the already fragile humanitarian situation following continued violence and presence of IDPs and refugees in the state. Rapid action is needed in order to contain the epidemic and to prevent its spread to Niger’s Diffa region, to Chad and Cameroon (ECHO, 25/06/2014).

Since the beginning of the year, 21,687 cholera cases and 276 deaths (CFR 1.3%) were reported from 103 local government areas (LGAs) in 17 States (WHO, 06/2014).
Over 19-25 May, 1,040 cholera cases including 18 deaths were reported from 37 LGAs in 6 States (Bauchi, Kaduna, Kano, Plateau, Taraba and Zamfara). Three States (Bauchi, Kaduna and Kano) accounted for about 88% of the reported cholera cases. Only three cholera cases and one death were reported within the same period in 2013.

The lack of WASH infrastructure, the impact of conflict, and the lack of reliable epidemiological data from the SoE states, all give rise to serious concerns about the evolution of the outbreak.

More cholera cases have been recorded in Nigeria in the first quarter of 2014 than throughout 2013. The 2013 figures themselves represent an eightfold increase compared to the same period in 2012 (OCHA, 12/2013).

WASH experts underline that there is a high risk of a large cross-border cholera outbreak in the states bordering Lake Chad (Chad, northern Cameroon, northeast Nigeria, and southeast Niger) given the occurrence of previous outbreaks in this area, the caseload during an inter-epidemic period, and the precarious security situation.

**Lassa Fever**

As of 25 May, 654 suspected Lassa fever cases with 24 deaths were reported in 11 states in 2014 (WHO, 05/06/2014). Lassa fever is an acute viral hemorrhagic fever, endemic in West African countries, with 300,000–500,000 cases and 5,000 deaths reported annually.

**Polio**

Three cases of wild poliovirus (WPV1) have been reported in 2014, two in Kano and one in Yobe (Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 18/06/2014). In 2013, 53 cases were reported, and in 2012, 102 (GPEI, UNICEF). 72% of cases recorded in Borno, Yobe, and Kano states in 2013 where insecurity is slowing the polio immunisation campaign.

The large indigenous type 2 vaccine-derived polio (cVDPV2) outbreak in northern Nigeria, first detected in 2005, infected seven people in 2014 (Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 18/06/2014).

In Nigeria, polio cases have been associated with both indigenous and imported cVDPVs. When children are accessible, cVDPV outbreaks have been stopped by supplementary immunisation. Successive supplementary immunisation rounds of increasing quality appear to have brought incidence down.

**Malnutrition**

As of March, UNICEF and humanitarian partners estimated that some 510,000 children under five will suffer from SAM in 2014. An estimated 80,000 of them reside in the SoE states. As of 30 January, 1.74 million were acutely malnourished in Nigeria (OCHA).

**Meningitis**

As of 1 June, WHO reported 1,042 cases of meningitis, with 79 deaths, reaching a threshold for alert.

**WASH**

According to reports from UNICEF, nearly half the Nigerian population does not have access to safe water, and a third does not have access to sanitation services.

**Protection**

There is a high prevalence of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) across the Northeast even though occurrences are not regularly reported due to stigma. There is an urgent need for emergency protection activities, including psychosocial support for unaccompanied and separated children (OCHA, 06/2014).

Human rights groups have criticised both BH and Nigeria’s military for failing to protect civilians.

Maintaining the civilian nature of places of asylum or displacement is of concern. The Government lacks the capacity to ensure the protection of basic human rights for refugees and IDPs.

Updated: 27/06/2014

**SENEGAL FOOD INSECURITY**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No new significant developments this week, 23/06/2014. Last update: 12/06/2014.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 3.6 million Senegalese are estimated to be food insecure, among whom around 618,000 people (5%) will be severely food insecure (ECHO, 04/2014).

- 340,000 children are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition: 79,000 from severe acute malnutrition, and 261,000 from moderate acute malnutrition (UNICEF, 03/2014).

**Politics and Security**

Although Senegal enjoys a reputation for stability in a largely volatile region, the country has been unable to resolve the conflict in the coastal Casamance area. Separatist movements continue to oppose authorities along Senegal’s southern border with Guinea-Bissau in a 30-year old conflict. In March 2013, attempts to restart talks between the warring parties were undertaken but did not succeed.

On 30 April, the military leader of the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) imposed “a unilateral cease-fire” on his troops as proof of engagement in the
On 25 February 2014, the Community of Sant’Egidio, which is mediating the conflict, announced that progress has been made in discussions between the Senegalese authorities and MFDC rebels with the signature of confidence-building measures. Senegalese authorities agreed to withdraw an international arrest warrant issued in 2001 against the leader of the separatist movement, Salif Sadio. However, MFDC rebels have not yet agreed on demining as part of the peace negotiations.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

In Senegal, flooding affects at least 300,000 people each year, causing significant damage to crops and property. Heavy rains in August and September 2013 led to severe flooding in the centre and the north, affecting 74,000 people and damaging houses and infrastructure. The most affected regions include Louga, Matam, Diourbel, Kafrinne, and Fatick. Crop production has been affected by both the heavy rains and by prolonged dry spells.

Displacement

As of 30 January, OCHA reported that 14,200 refugees are in Senegal, most from Mauritania and Rwanda.

Food Security

According to ECHO on 28 April, 3.6 million people are food insecure, including 618,000 experiencing Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity. Recurrent shocks from drought and flooding, poor infrastructure, and inadequate social safety nets continue to increase the chronic overall vulnerability of the population, while households and community resilience continues to erode due to poor coping strategies.

National Outlook

Market failure of groundnut caused lower average incomes for poor households, who have now sold more of their production than usual informal channels where prices are lower. (FEWSNET, 05/2014). Late April, FEWSNET reported that due to rainfall deficits, 2013/14 cereal production is 20% below average, with the largest production shortfalls observed in the groundnut basin (Kaolack, Fatick, Diourbel, Kafrinne, and Bakel departments), Louga, Saint-Louis, Matam, Casamance, and Kédougou.

Until recent financial assistance was provided to the agricultural sector by the Government, unusually weak industrial demand had been depressing groundnut prices, causing producers to resort to selling atypically large quantities of cereal crops, such as sorghum, maize, and rice. As a result, food stocks are depleting in April this year, compared to May/June in a normal year.

Due to below-average cereal production, cash crop sales, food stock levels, and livestock conditions, food access in the north, the groundnut basin, and Casamance will be worse than usual through the end of the lean season in August. This will result in Stressed food security outcomes in affected areas between April and September.

The Food Security and Nutrition Survey (ENSAN) reported in June 2013 that rural food security levels have generally deteriorated since 2010. Rural households are more at risk (25.1%) with the regions of Casamance showing high levels of food insecurity (Ziguinchor 68%, Sedhou 67%, and Kolda 50%), and the regions of Matam and Kedougou following with food insecurity at 46% and 45.6%, respectively.

In Casamance, reduced harvests have increased food insecurity in an area where a protracted insurgency and underinvestment have stifled agricultural output. According to IRIN on 2 May, the region has the highest levels of hunger of the ten regions in the country considered at risk of food insecurity. An estimated 37% of households, home to 1.8 million people or 14% of the population of 13 million, face food shortages. 10% of households are experiencing severe food insecurity, according to a food security assessment conducted by WFP in February 2014.

Sahel Food Crisis

The Regional System for the Prevention and Management of Food Crises reported on 9 April that almost 4.9 million people need immediate assistance in the Sahel. It warns that this number could reach eight million during the lean season if action is inadequate. It is expected that global acute malnutrition (GAM) will pass critical thresholds and possibly reach emergency levels between June and August 2014 in parts of Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Chad, and Burkina Faso.

On 3 April, FEWSNET reported that regional food availability will decline progressively. On the same day, FAO added that production declines had been recorded in several zones, especially in Chad, Mali, Niger, and Senegal.

On 20 February, FEWSNET reported that erratic rainfall in the north eastern region of Senegal, and other countries across southern Sahel, resulted in regional crop losses of up to 50% and below-average pasture growth. ECHO reported a dramatic increase in people expected to be food insecure in the Sahel on 7 February, from 11.3 million in 2013 to 20 million in 2014. ECHO estimated five million children under five will suffer from malnutrition in 2014, and 1.5 million will face acute malnutrition.

Health and Nutrition

Ebola Fever Outbreak in Guinea

On 6 May, Senegal reopened its land border with Guinea in the southern region of Kolda and the south eastern region of Kedougou. It was closed on 30 March to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus, which authorities say have killed 155 people in Guinea so far. Cases have also been reported in Liberia, causing fear that the highly contagious disease could spread in a region where health systems are ill-equipped to cope.

Hepatitis B

As reported by IRIN on 8 May, more than two million people, or 15% of the population, including 350,000 chronic carriers, have hepatitis B as a result of untimely vaccinations, prohibitive treatment costs, and lack of universal screening to curb transmissions.
**Tsetse Fly**

On 10 January, FAO reported that Senegal had radically reduced numbers of tsetse flies, which transmit sleeping sickness and devastate livestock. The most affected area is Niayes, near the capital. Senegal aims to eradicate the tsetse fly population completely by mid-2014.

**Malnutrition**

According to the 2014 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 340,000 children are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition, including 79,000 from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and 261,000 from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). These figures are an increase compared to 2013, in which 63,323 SAM and 255,675 MAM cases were reported.

Following the national Food Security and Nutrition Survey of June 2013, 17 of 45 departments were found to be in a nutritional crisis. Furthermore, the survey showed a critical prevalence of GAM in all three departments of Matam (Matam 21%, Kanel 18%, and Ranerou 16%) and in the bordering department of Podor (17%). St Louis, Bakel, Goudiry, Medina Yoro Foula, Bounkilin, and Mbour all had a critical prevalence of more than 2% SAM. Twelve more departments are seriously affected with a prevalence of 10–15% GAM.

Eleven of 14 regions, Diourbel, Fatick, Kaffrine, Kedougou, Kolda, Louga, Matam, Saint Louis, Sedhiou, Tamacounda, and Thies needed humanitarian assistance in 2013 due to high GAM and aggravating factors such as diarrhoea and respiratory infections.

In October 2013, Senegalese authorities launched a policy of free healthcare for children under five who now can get free treatment in nutritional facilities and health centres.

**ANGOLA Drought, Food Insecurity, Epidemic**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**18 June:** Water availability for human and livestock consumption has improved significantly as a result of rains in late February to the end of May (FEWSNET).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Angola suffered from outbreaks of cholera, dengue fever, measles, and malaria in 2013. Its population remains highly vulnerable to outbreaks of disease, especially following natural disasters.

**Politics and Security**

President dos Santos has been in power for over 30 years. Fierce rivalry between the governing Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) dates from before independence in 1975. The Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC) and the Government. FLEC signed a ceasefire in 2006, which was rejected by the Paris-based president of FLEC’s armed wing.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Disasters**

At least 400,000 people are affected by drought in Sumbe and Porto Amboim, in the central Cuanza Sul province. Conda, Ebo, Kilenda and Seles municipalities have also been affected (Government of Angola, 26/03/2014).

Almost 23,000 people in the Bocoio municipality, in the central Benguela province, have been affected by the drought that hit their crops in the first 2013/2014 agricultural season (Government of Angola, 16/03/2014).

Angola has a history of drought-related emergencies. The last was in mid-2013.

**Food Security**

From July to September, cattle production and sales in the southern region are expected to drop, since herding of cattle in new places has exposed them to new diseases, and households that usually participate in meat sales will likely obtain less income. The coastal area will face stressed food insecurity, since significantly fewer households are able to plant for the nacas (flood recession) season, impacting household food consumption and access, (FEWSNET, 18/06/2014).

Poor households are projected to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes from April through September due to adverse weather conditions affecting agricultural production. The late onset of rains has enabled very limited recovery in Kunene and Cuando Cubango and the situation remains of concern (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 21/05/2014).

Crop losses are anticipated in coastal areas, particularly in the southwestern province of Namibe, due to dry spells and water deficits dampening crop production. Food security conditions are therefore expected to be difficult in the Namibe area (FAO, 06/06/2014).

This is the fourth consecutive year of abnormally low rainfall in Benguela and Cuanza Sul provinces; river levels have dropped or even dried up completely, negatively impacting cultivation. FEWSNET reported that cropping is no longer viable in much of Benguela and
Cuanza Sul, forcing poor households to migrate to urban areas (FEWSNET, 17/04/2014).

Displacement

There are up to 20,000 IDPs in Cabinda province, Angola (UN, 11/2005).

Around 560 DRC refugees reside in Angola. Some 71,750 former Angolan refugees live in DRC, including 23,940 people registered for voluntary repatriation and 47,810 people who have opted for local integration (UNHCR, 28/02/2014).

At least 10,000 Angolan refugees have been integrated in Zambia after the termination of their refugee status and the period for voluntary return to Angola (Government of Angola, 18/04/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Angola was affected by numerous epidemics during 2013. An estimated 6,655 cholera cases were reported, including 86 deaths, according to WHO. A total of 1,081 cases of dengue fever, including ten deaths, were reported. At the end of 2013, there was a measles outbreak in 60% of municipalities. Some 15,000 malaria cases were registered, including 75 deaths, in the first quarter of 2013.

Updated: 23/06/2014

BURKINA FASO FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 June: Western Burkina Faso received heavy rains. Some areas received over 200% of the monthly average, increasing 30-day rainfall surpluses, and reducing 30-day rainfall deficits in localised areas (FEWSNET).

KEY CONCERNS

- Long-term displacement of 32,700 Malian refugees continues to put pressure on the resources of host communities (UNHCR, 04/2014).

- An estimated 1.3 million people are at risk of food insecurity (OCHA, 05/2014).

- 514,000 children suffer from acute malnutrition, of whom 144,000 are severely malnourished (OCHA, 05/2014).

Political Context

Burkina Faso has been generally politically stable for over two decades, but of late has suffered fallout from the political and military crisis in neighbouring Mali. Instability and unrest in Niger and Côte d’Ivoire further impact the country.

National Context

Political divisions have arisen over concerns that President Compaoré wishes to revise Article 37 of the Constitution so that he can run for a third five-year term in 2015. On 31 May, tens of thousands of people gathered in Ouagadougou to voice their opposition to a referendum on amending the constitution, proposed by the ruling party and supported by the Republican Front, an alliance of over 50 political parties aligned with the ruling party.

A new political party, the Mouvement du Peuple pour le Progrès (People’s Movement for Progress, or MPP), was created by over 80 members who had resigned from the ruling party on 25 January. The President of the MPP is the former head of the National Assembly. The new party held its first congress 5–6 April.

Burkina Faso remains at risk of social unrest stemming from disputes over land, traditional leadership, and increasing inequalities. In 2011, a number of violent protests erupted in various cities due to public distrust in the ruling authorities.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Refugees

As of mid-May, 34,085 refugees reside in Burkina Faso (UNHCR). Of these, 32,660 are Malian refugees. Half of them are children, including some 1,380 separated children (30/05/2014, UNHCR).

Most refugees reside in the four official refugee camps: 11,600 in Mentao, 9,560 in Goudoubou, 1,970 in Sag-Noniogo and 1,190 in Bobo-Dioulasso. The remaining 25% live in villages in Ouadalan and Soum provinces and in Ouagadougou.

UNHCR’s projections suggest there will be around 14,300 Malian refugees by the end of 2015. However, renewed insecurity in northern Mali may prevent refugees from returning home.

Food Security

Late May, FEWSNET reported that poor agropastoral households in northern Burkina Faso will experience Stressed food insecurity through September. A decline in purchasing power due to high staple food prices when seasonal incomes are limited makes it difficult for poor households to meet their needs. Limited grazing and water resources for livestock have made the lean season more difficult than usual.

In the rest of the country, well supplied markets, stable cereal prices, access to wild foods and average to above-average labour revenues should mean poor households will experience a typical lean season between June and September.

Chronic structural vulnerabilities, compounded by recurrent shocks such as drought, flood, epidemics, and locusts have eroded household and community resilience, and caused families across the country to rely on negative coping strategies.

Western Burkina Faso received heavy rains in June. Some areas received over 200%
of the monthly average, increasing 30-day rainfall surpluses, and reducing 30-day rainfall deficits in localised areas (FEWSNET, 26/06/2014).

Health and Nutrition

No measles, meningitis, or cholera cases have been reported in refugee camps so far this year.

Meningitis

From the beginning of 2014 until mid-June, 2,619 cases of meningitis and 283 deaths were reported in all 63 districts of Burkina Faso (WHO, 08/06/2014). This is higher than the same period in 2013, when 2,072 were registered. An alert threshold has been reached in the areas around Bobo-Dioulasso (West) and Bousse (Centre), yet a meningitis outbreak has not been declared so far.

Measles

Between January and April, a total of 1,724 cases of measles and seven deaths were reported in Burkina Faso: 5% of cases were reported in the Sahel (UNICEF).

Malnutrition

The number of children in therapeutic care was slightly higher February–March 2014 (28,662) than during the same period in 2013 (27,193) (26/05/2014, UNICEF).

As of mid-May, 514,000 children suffer from acute malnutrition, including 144,000 with SAM (OCHA). The latest SAM caseload represents a significant increase compared to October 2013, when UNICEF reported 96,000 cases.

A February–March nutrition survey by UNICEF indicated low prevalence of acute malnutrition in Mentao (5.5%) and Sag-Nioniogo (3.4%) refugee camps, compared to Goudebou (10.6%). However, the reduction of acute malnutrition is very significant in Goudebou: from 24.5% in early 2013. The situation in Mentao and Sag-Nioniogo camps has been relatively stable since 2013.

Updated: 30/06/2014

BURUNDI DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 23/06/2014. Last update: 19/06/2014.

KEY CONCERNS

- Below-average rainfall will most likely negatively impact Season B harvests in June. Households in the Plateaux Humides zone already face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity, and will be at risk of severe food insecurity if Season B harvests prove to be poor (FEWSNET, 31/05/2014).

Politics and Security

Burundi is struggling to emerge from a 12-year civil war: between 1993 and 2005, fighting between Tutsis and Hutus claimed around 300,000 lives in inter-ethnic killings. The 2000 Arusha Peace Accord provided mechanisms to ensure a delicate balance of ethnic power through a system of quotas, with 60% Hutu and 40% Tutsi representation in parliament and other public institutions. The quotas serve to protect the Tutsi minority from domination by the Hutus, who make up some 85% of the population.

Since the President’s re-election in 2010, scores of political killings, intimidation of the opposition, and a crackdown on media freedom have all been reported, which has cast a shadow over the post-civil war reconciliation process. Most recently, observers stated concerns on restrictions on civil and political rights, following a series of violent acts by the ruling party’s increasingly militant youth wing, Imbonerakure.

In February 2014, the UN Security Council extended the mandate of the UN Office in Burundi (BNUB) until 31 December 2014.

2015 General Elections: Proposed Constitutional Amendments

On 9 June, the Government of Burundi, the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI), and all political parties and actors signed the General Principles for the conduct of the 2015 elections. The General Principles are a result of the roadmap adopted in May 2014 by all parties, committing to dialogue and respect of the principles in all phases of the electoral process in order to guarantee free, transparent, credible, inclusive, and peaceful elections (UN, 10/06/2014).

On 4 June, Burundi expelled a second UN official, stating he was carrying ammunition when boarding a plane (AFP, 04/06/2014). There is no official comment from the UN office.

Deteriorating relations between the parties within the ruling coalition stem mainly from the desire of President Nkurunziza, elected in 2005 and again in 2010, to run for a third term in the 2015 elections. In February, the UN Secretary General was tasked with establishing an electoral observer mission to monitor the situation ahead of, during, and after the 2015 presidential election.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement

Land scarcity and high population density has resulted in pervasive tensions over land ownership. This is aggravated as a high number of IDPs and refugees are returning to their places of and claiming land where other families, often of a different ethnic background, have since settled.

Returnees

UNHCR reported that as of 28 February, 9,751 Burundian refugees were residing in DRC.
43,000 Burundians living in Tanzania have been forcibly repatriated. Limited information makes it difficult to quantify the exact number of people expelled since the end of July 2013. Many returnees, 65% of whom are women and children, have chosen to return to their province of origin without being registered due to a lack of reception facilities at entry points (IOM, 01/2014).

**IDPs**

As of 31 March, Burundi has 78,948 IDPs (OCHA, 11/06/2014).

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre states that although there has been no new displacement recorded since 2008, since 2011, there are still up to 79,000 IDPs, mostly ethnic Tutsis. They are mainly located in and around 120 sites across northern and central Burundi.

**Refugees**

As of 31 March, Burundi is host to 46,626 refugees (OCHA, 11/06/2014).

Refugees are mainly located in the border regions of Ngozi (north, alongside Rwanda), Ruyigi, Muyinga, and Cankuzo (east, alongside Tanzania) and Bubanza (west, alongside DRC). More than 46,000 refugees are fleeing violence and armed conflict in DRC. Over 6,000 new refugees arrived between January and August 2013, compared to 3,500 over the same period in 2012 (UNHCR, 10/2013).

In November 2013, Burundi’s three refugee camps (Bwagiriza, Musasa and Gasorwe) reached their maximum capacity with a total population of 26,000 refugees. In May 2013, UNHCR opened a new refugee camp in Kavumu, Cankuzo province, to cater for refugees fleeing fighting in eastern DRC (UNHCR, 11/2013).

**Food Security**

Households in most livelihood zones face Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity, except the Plateaux Humides zone, which is in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity until Season B harvests in June. However, food security outcomes are expected to worsen if Season B harvests are poor (FEWSNET, 31/05/2014).

Dry spells since mid-April – only 50–80% of the average seasonal rainfall – have led to a rapid deterioration of ground conditions throughout parts of Burundi. The lack of precipitation during the critical crop growth phases is expected to have a negative impact on Season B harvests in June. As seasonal rainfall is expected to decrease over the next few months, adverse impacts may persist (US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 18/06/2014; FEWSNET, 09/06/2014; FEWSNET, 06/06/2014).

Prices of the main staple commodities stabilised in April compared to March. However, prices remain higher than the five-year average. Bean prices, for example, are 13–38% above the five-year average (FEWSNET, 31/05/2014).

Reviewed: 23/06/2014
The spillover from fighting between the Nigerian army and Boko Haram militants impacts on Cameroon and threatens regional security. On 22 May, WFP, IOM, and UNHCR declared the situation in northern Cameroon was a Level 3 emergency, the highest level of humanitarian crisis. Cameroon is suffering a double refugee crisis: the influx of refugees from CAR and Nigeria is putting pressure on very limited resources.

Security Context

**Boko Haram**

On 17 May, President Biya agreed to step up regional security cooperation and declared war against Boko Haram (BH) at the security summit held in Paris. Biya met with Chadian President Deby to discuss concerted action. As of 25–26 May, 900 troops had been deployed to Far North region.

Boko Haram insurgents, normally concentrating attacks in northeast Nigeria, have been active in Cameroon since the beginning of 2014. On 23 February it was confirmed that Nigeria had closed its northern border with Cameroon to block the movement of BH. The Nigerian military claimed fighters have set up bases in sparsely populated areas of the Far North region.

Amchide, a town on the border, has become a significant base for Boko Haram. It is estimated that BH account for 90% of the population. BH has developed alliances with businesses and is reportedly forcing others to finance their activities (AFP, 24/06/2014).

To prevent BH from attacking villages near the border, local authorities in Garoua Boulai have authorised another site, Gado II.

**CAR Crisis**

The security situation remains unstable in East region, where the majority of refugees are located. Infiltrations of anti-balaka from CAR into Cameroon have been reported, and local authorities have asked UNHCR to expedite the transfer of refugees from the border entry points of Kentzou and Gbiti in order to allow them undertake search operations in the area (UNHCR, 22/05/2014).

The transport union in Cameroon called a strike after an attack on drivers in CAR, blocking the movement of all commercial and humanitarian goods from Garoua Boulai into CAR (WFP, 13/06/2014).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Displacement**

Most refugees are staying with host communities in the northeast and the far north, who are generally already vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition. Access to food is becoming more and more difficult and prices of basic staples are increasing. Malnutrition and malaria are significant health problems among the refugees.

**Refugees from the Central African Republic**

211,043 CAR refugees are in Cameroon, as of 19 June: 103,782, mostly women and children, have arrived since December 2013, through some 30 border points, in Cameroon's East and Adamawa regions (UNHCR). At least another 17,600 third-country nationals and returnees have also crossed into Cameroon.

Refugees arriving are suffering from exhaustion, dehydration and malnutrition (FAO, WFP, 31/05/2014). ECHO carried out a needs assessment at the border, and found that acute needs are shelter, food, health, water and protection. According to IOM, malnutrition is widespread. Almost all refugees (90%) are Muslims fleeing attacks by anti-balaka groups in CAR. In late April, about 53% of refugees were female, and the majority of the newly arrived refugees (57%) were children, of whom about 20% were under five years old (UNICEF).

The flow of arrivals has decreased since the peak of more than 10,000 in the last week of March. In early April anti-balaka blocked the main roads leading to Cameroon. Newly arriving refugees reported that many of their family members remain trapped across the border and that children have been kidnapped against ransom. As of early June, more than 2,000 refugees are crossing into Cameroon weekly.

35,571 are living with host families or at border entry points, and 59,347 have already been transferred to six refugee sites: Gado, Lolo, Mbilé, Timangolo, Yokadouma in East region and Borgop in Adamawa region (OCHA, 16/06/2014).

Given the critical security situation at the entry points of Kentzou and Gbiti, UNHCR is increasing efforts to relocate refugees. As the Gado site has now reached full capacity, local authorities in Garoua Boulai have authorised another site, Gado II.

Efforts to relocate refugees are also aimed at helping improve assistance. In most locations, the number of refugees and third-country nationals exceeds the local population, and living conditions have become very difficult for host communities as well. In some sites, the rains have created conditions for disease outbreaks.

**Refugees from Nigeria**

Cameroon also hosts approximately 15,000 Nigerians seeking refuge in the country's Far North region (ECHO, 05/2014). Only about half have agreed to settle in a camp as requested by Cameroon. Of that number, 2,500 have been relocated to Minawao camp. Those living outside the camp do not receive humanitarian assistance and their lack of identification poses concerns. The needs among the refugees are largely WASH, health, and nutrition-related.

Since June 2013, Mayo Sava, Logone-et-Chari, and Mayo Sanaga have accommodated most of the Nigerian refugees.
Food Security

The impact of the 2011–2012 drought is still being felt, with chronic food insecurity in the Sahelian North and Far North regions. Since May 2013, the North and Far North regions have received several waves of Nigerian refugees, increasing pressure on resources. National food insecurity is further influenced by 20 million people at risk of food insecurity across the Sahel region and 2.5 million in need of urgent lifesaving food assistance, as reported by OCHA on 3 February. Across the region, roughly 1.5 million children under five face acute malnutrition in 2014.

On 14 February, local media reported that food prices in Cameroon have climbed by over 20% since December. The growing food shortages are compounded by prolonged water scarcity following limited rainfall.

GIEWS and FAO reported on 16 January that cereal production improved in 2013. In the absence of official forecasts, the 2013 aggregate cereal production is tentatively put at about 3.1 million tonnes, 5% up on last year’s output, and 10% above the average of the previous five years. In mid-October, FAO reported that harvesting of the 2013 main season and the planting of the second season maize crops were under way in several bi-modal rainfall areas of the Centre and South. Abundant precipitation from March to July, the main season’s planting and growing period, benefitted crops.

A September 2013 IMF report stated that economic growth is projected to increase gradually over the medium term under current policies (i.e. GDP growth predicted to increase from 4.4% in 2012 to 5.5% in 2018), despite policy inertia due to multiple elections. Following years of volatility, economic recovery improved in 2012. Inflation rates rose to 3% in 2011 and remained at that same rate in 2012 and 2013. Risks for medium-term macroeconomic stability could include, among others, the protracted global slump, rising fuel subsidies, widespread unemployment, delays in the implementation of the public investment programme, and slow progress in raising non-oil revenues.

Health and Nutrition

As of mid-February, OCHA stated that medical facilities in the Far North Region of Nigeria were becoming increasingly overwhelmed and weakened as a result of the ongoing conflict between Boko Haram and the Government. As a result, increasing numbers of refugees are crossing into Cameroon to seek refuge and assistance.

An ECHO needs assessment carried out on the Cameroonian–CAR border found that malnutrition, malaria and respiratory infections are the most common health problems among refugees coming from CAR. A number of measles cases were also reported among recently arrived child refugees.

On 18 February, the US media NPR made an assessment of the health challenges Cameroon is facing. Quoting WHO, NPR said the public healthcare system was unable to address increasing infant mortality rates, which are among the highest in the world, along with high rates of HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis. Due to the high cost or the unavailability of care, families often use unauthorised clinics. The Ministry of Public Health has started a campaign to ensure the creation of legally registered clinics that meet national standards with regard to staff, equipment, and hygiene. The Ministry said it would close down unregistered clinics.

Malaria

A malaria outbreak in the Far North region was declared in early December 2013. Prior to this, 182,400 cases of malaria had been reported in the region between January and September 2013, representing a 10% increase in cases compared to the same period in 2012.

The death toll from malaria in Cameroon jumped from less than 2,000 in 2011 and 2012 to over 3,200 in 2013, according to INGO Malaria No More. Authorities blamed the recent surge on low bed net use, heavy rains, weak medical services, and widespread poverty.

Malnutrition

Late May, UNHCR reported GAM among people arriving from CAR of up to 40% in certain areas, far surpassing international emergency thresholds of 15%. Over 14–18 May, at least 29 children died of the consequences of malnutrition. According to ECHO, an estimated 186,000 children, including refugee children, are expected to require life-saving care in 2014.

In June 2013, an estimated 83,300 children under five were suffering from SAM and 134,700 from MAM. UNICEF reported that the nutrition situation for 2013 was similar to that in 2012 due to the structural vulnerability of populations in northern Cameroon, which has increased with each consecutive crisis. In remote areas in the north and east of the country, both coverage and quality of health services are inadequate, which limits the efforts to integrate nutrition care into the basic health package.

Wild Poliovirus

According to WHO on 17 March, three additional wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases have been reported from three regions (North West, Adamawa, and Centre) since January 2014, confirming continued WPV1 transmission and geographic expansion of infected areas following detection of four cases in October 2013. In total, seven WPV1 cases have been reported from West, North West, Centre and Adamawa Regions.

On 21 November 2013, WHO reported that the wild poliovirus type 1 was confirmed in Cameroon, the first wild poliovirus case since 2009, causing alarm among health officials who link the virus’s spread to weak vaccine campaign coverage and displacement following violence in neighbouring north eastern Nigeria and the CAR. Cameroon has put in place emergency measures to contain the virus, but weak or non-existent monitoring in cross-border areas with Nigeria and CAR is hampering national efforts, according to health officials.

WASH

In mid-February, OCHA reported concerns about the high risk of a large cross-border cholera outbreak in the states bordering Lake Chad: Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Niger. Previous outbreaks in this area, the existence of cases in inter-epidemic periods, and the precarious security situation in northeast Nigeria could exacerbate the risk of the disease spreading.
Government statistics reveal that only about 30% of Cameroon’s inhabitants have access to piped drinking water. According to the state water company, current needs surpass Yaoundé’s available capacity by three times.

Protection

On 3 April, Cameroonian police authorities reported that an estimated 200 young people (aged 15–19) from Kolofata area in the Far North region, bordering Nigeria, have been recruited by Boko Haram militias since February and reportedly transferred to training camps in Nigerian bush.

Updated: 25/06/2014

DJIBOUTI DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 23/06/2014. Last update: 19/06/2014.

KEY CONCERNS

- 250,000 people in Djibouti are in need (UN, 12/06/2014) There is a general lack of water, and the affected population is suffering from malnutrition, food insecurity, acute diarrhoea, and other diseases. Shortages are causing increased competition over natural resources, as well as movement from rural areas towards peri-urban areas (UN).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

On 12 June, the UN and partners launched a two-year humanitarian Strategic Response Plan targeted at 250,000 people. Of the targeted population, 162,500 are Djibouti nationals, 27,500 are refugees, and 60,000 are migrants, mainly from Somalia and Ethiopia.

Persistent and recurring droughts have resulted in a general lack of water for the affected people. In addition, the population is suffering from malnutrition, acute diarrhoea and other diseases.

Shortages in rural areas and increased competition over natural resources between host communities, refugees, and migrants, particularly along the migration corridor that runs across the country. Stress on rural livelihoods has triggered movements from rural areas towards peri-urban area of the capital, putting additional pressure on the delivery of basic services (UN, 12/06/2014).

Displacement

In May, an estimated 4,847 people left Djibouti for Yemen. The migrants/refugees continue to report lack of access to food and water during their transit through Obock, Djibouti, while they wait to cross to Yemen. Lack of water due to persistent drought is likely to affect refugees and migrants in the coming months. During transit, migrants/refugees are exposed to theft by criminal gangs, and detention by authorities (Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat, 31/05/2014).

Food Security

Poor pastoralists in the south (Southeast Pastoral Borderside livelihood zone), in northern Obock region, and in the northwest (Northwest Pastoral livelihood zone) are likely to remain in Crisis acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) through August (FEWSNET, 31/05/2014). A further reduction in humanitarian assistance during May, below-average March to May Dirac/Sugum rains, and constrained labour opportunities have all accelerated the decline in household food security (FEWSNET, 31/05/2014). Cumulative rainfall was below 50% of the average in April, following mediocre October to February Xays/Dadaa rains. Extensive degradation of pasture, browse, and water has reduced crop and livestock productivity (FEWSNET, 31/05/2014).

Contingent upon an improved food supply in September are increased labour opportunities after the July–August lean period, and increased crop and livestock production following near-normal rains forecast during the July–September Karan/Karma season.

It is not anticipated that acute food insecurity levels for poor households in these areas will move to the Emergency level (IPC Phase 4). Enhanced food transfers and remittances during Ramadan in July and August are likely to mitigate further deterioration.

Reviewed: 23/06/2014

MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

21 June: President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz was elected for another five-year term, winning 82% of the vote. Anti-slavery campaigner Biram Ould Dah Ould Abeid, who came second, filed a complaint to the Constitutional Council, claiming fraud and irregularities.

Mid-June: With 52,850 Malian refugees, Mauritania is the largest recipient of refugees fleeing conflict in Mali (UNHCR).

KEY CONCERNS

- 800,000 people are estimated to be food insecure, of whom 190,000 are severely food insecure (OCHA, 02/2014).

- Mauritania's acute malnutrition level has already surpassed the estimated 2014 caseload (SMART survey), with a reported 31,000 SAM and 95,000 MAM children (UNICEF, 03/2014).

- Security challenges continue to be a problem in Mbera refugee camp on the border
with Mali. The camp currently hosts most of the 57,400 Malian refugees in Mauritania. Mauritania is the largest recipient of refugees fleeing the conflict in Mali (UNHCR and OCHA, 04/2014).

Politics and Security

National Political Context

On 21 June, President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz was elected for another five-year term, winning 82% of the vote, according to the election commission. Anti-slavery campaigner Biram Ould Dah Ould Abeid, who came second, filed a complaint to the Constitutional Council, arguing that fraud and irregularities marred the voting. Most opposition parties boycotted the poll, citing a lack of electoral reform.

The National Forum for Democracy and Unity (FNDU) demonstrated against the election process in Nouakchott on 4 June. The coalition combines the Islamist National Rally for Reform and Development (Tawassoul) and the parties of the Co-ordination of Democratic Opposition, which plan to boycott the election, as they did last year’s legislative election.

The 2013 elections were the first parliamentary polls since 2006, and the country’s ruling Union for the Republic and its allies won 76 of 147 seats. The National Electoral Commission announced a record turnout of 75% of 1.2 million registered voters. However, the vote was boycotted by most parties in the 11-member Coordination of Democratic Opposition. The credibility of the Government continues to be questioned by much of the northern population, who claim they are being marginalised concerning the provision of basic services.

Regional Political Context

In a bid to strengthen bilateral relations, Malian President Keita visited Nouakchott in January, discussing security issues and the voluntary return of the refugees who have fled to Mauritania since the violence erupted in Mali almost two years ago. Also on the agenda was military cooperation regarding the increased threat of militant terror groups in the Sahel region.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

An estimated 531,000 people will require assistance in 2014, including 315,200 children (2014–2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview). Mauritania continues to suffer from a multidimensional crisis related to food insecurity, high prevalence of malnutrition, the presence of Malian refugees, and significant flooding that hit the country in 2013.

Disasters

Floods

At the end of March, 140,000 people affected by floods in 2013 need humanitarian assistance in 2014 (UNICEF).

Displacement

Malian Refugees

With 52,850 Malian refugees, Mauritania is the largest recipient of refugees fleeing conflict in Mali (UNHCR, 06/2014). Almost all refugees live in Mbera camp, a remote desert location on the border with Mali that has significant security challenges. According to UNICEF, 60% of camp residents are women and children, and many have been in the camp for almost two years, resulting in overlapping emergency and medium-term needs. Mbera camp is located in a poor region, where food insecurity and malnutrition are high and government services are few. Security problems and the inaccessibility of areas of northern Mali make it difficult to obtain return figures. At the moment, a tripartite agreement is being prepared between UNHCR, Mali, and Mauritania to facilitate the safe return of refugees.

Food Security

Nearly 800,000 people, a fifth of the total population, are currently food insecure, including 190,000 severely food insecure (OCHA, 02/2014). The number has increased dramatically since the last estimate of 470,000 in January. Half of the country records malnutrition rates above the emergency threshold, and humanitarian partners indicate that a third of the country’s population require humanitarian assistance. Chronic poverty and limited access to basic services have created high levels of vulnerability.

Food security had improved in Mbera camp, according to a joint assessment conducted by WFP and UNHCR in October 2013. SAM reduced from 13.6% in March 2013 to 2.3% in October 2013, and global acute malnutrition is stagnating, at 21.6% in March 2013 and 22.2% in October 2013. Increasingly, households are transitioning from severe to moderate food insecurity.

A normal rainy season is forecast, which should lead to generally Minimal food insecurity between July and September. Mauritania’s domestic cereal production only covers a third of the national consumption need for a normal year. The country is highly dependent on imports of coarse grains, millet and sorghum from neighbouring Senegal and Mali, as well as wheat purchased on the international market. International wheat prices are decreasing, but relatively tight coarse grain markets are anticipated in both Senegal and Mali due to reduced cereal harvests in these countries.

Food Security in the Sahel Region

Harvesting of the 2013 cereal crops was completed in December and an above-average harvest was recorded for the second year in a row, at 23% above the previous five-year average, according to FAO.

Some southern rainfed cultivation areas will remain Stressed until the harvests beginning in September. Poor households in southern regions will have to turn to loans and market purchase for food needs three months earlier than normal, due to insufficient rains, notably in Brakna, Gorgol, and Guidimaka. Northern Guidimaka is anticipated to face Crisis levels of acute food insecurity between April and June.

FEWSNET reported that erratic rainfall resulted in crop losses of up to 50% and below-average pasture growth in areas of the southern Sahel during the 2013/14 season. These
Poor harvests have led to below-average food stock levels. Transhumant pastoralists in parts of the region have started their southern migration several months earlier than normal.

National food insecurity is further influenced by twenty million people currently at risk of food insecurity in the Sahel region and 2.5 million of them need urgent lifesaving food assistance, as reported by OCHA on 3 February. Across the region, an estimated five million children under five are expected to suffer from malnutrition in 2014, and some 1.5 million of them will face acute malnutrition.

**Senegal River Valley**

Infestation of pests on flood recession agriculture in the Senegal River Valley and agropastoral zone has significantly reduced household grain production in these areas. Following the poor distribution of rainfall in 2013, poor households in rain-fed areas and agropastoral cultures will be in a situation of Stressed food insecurity until July, as they continue to depend on food purchases and face difficulties meeting essential non-food needs as seasonal income is insufficient.

**Health and Nutrition**

**Malnutrition**

Late March, UNICEF reported that 125,300 children will be affected by acute malnutrition in 2014, including 30,740 children with severe acute malnutrition; an increase of almost 30% compared to the 2013 caseload. An estimated 90% of expected SAM cases live in the seven most vulnerable regions.

According to the post-harvest Nutrition Survey of December 2013, 6% of under-fives are affected by acute malnutrition, and 0.7% by SAM. However, these malnutrition rates are likely to rise with the approach of the summer lean season. According to ECHO, over 114,000 Mauritanian children needed therapeutic feeding in 2013.

Updated: 27/06/2014

**NAMIBIA FOOD INSECURITY**

**LATEST DEVELOPSMENTS**

No new developments this week, 23/06/2014. Last update: 26/05/2014.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Namibia is in the grip of a serious food security crisis due to recurrent drought. Approximately 780,000 people are food insecure as a result of the 2013 drought, and 463,581 need food assistance (FAO, 19/05/2014).

- An estimated 109,000 rural children under five are at risk of malnutrition because of lack of food and poor sanitation (Namibian Red Cross, 07/2013).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Disasters**

**Floods**

Heavy and above-average rains over resulted in flooding across the Omusati region along the Angola-Namibian border in March and April. The inundation led to the closure of several schools in the area (OCHA, 07/04/2014). Local villages in the Caprivi Strip also reported flooding.

Conversely, since the beginning of the year, the northwest has received less than 80% of average rainfall.

**Drought**

While the December rains have started to relieve the drought conditions in the north, grave concerns remain regarding water shortages. The inflow is insignificant despite the rain, underground water levels have not improved, and water levels in the three major dams supplying Windhoek and the central areas are deteriorating. The total water storage in the three dams has plummeted to around 36%, compared to 91% in February 2012 and 63% in February 2013. The Windhoek municipality urged residents to be conservative in their water use, as well as to adhere to water restrictions imposed in 2013. Fears are that, without further rain, Windhoek could run dry by August 2014.

**Food Security**

Namibia is in the grip of a serious food security crisis. Approximately 780,000 people were estimated to be food insecure following the impact of the 2013 drought, of whom 463,580 need assistance (FAO, 19/05/2014). The northern regions have been worst affected, and assessments found the largest number of food insecure in Kavango and Ohangwena. Households have employed negative coping strategies, including reducing the numbers of meals and increasing consumption of wild foods.

National cereal production is provisionally forecasted at 122,390 metric tons, reflecting an increase of 50% from last season’s harvest but still 2% below average (OCHA, 19/05/2014). Harvesting of the 2014 coarse grains is about to start. Maize production is expected to increase by nearly 70%. The millet harvest is expected to increase by 48%. Pasture and livestock conditions have also improved in most parts of the country this year. However, water deficits have continued to negatively impact pasture development in the northwestern region of Kuene (FAO, 19/05/2014).

OCHA has indicated that water levels have been decreasing, and 40–50% of water points no longer function. Many farmers have been forced to sell cattle due to lack of pasture. Cattle from drought-affected Angola are reportedly crossing the border in search of food, fuelling tribal tensions.

**Health and Nutrition**
**Cholera**

No new cholera cases have been reported since 23 April, and the number of cholera cases reported in Khomas region (which covers Windhoek) remains at 70, with two deaths. The last cholera patient was discharged on 26 April (OCHA, 30/04/2014). The cholera outbreak began in November 2013.

Overcrowding and lack of sanitation in Windhoek’s informal settlements help facilitate the transmission of cholera. In Katutura, where the first cholera death was recorded, an estimated 200,000 people live in a settlement designed for fewer than 45,000. Water runs down roads and pools in dips in roads and shallow drains.

**HIV**

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is estimated to affect around 550,000 Namibians, or 25% of the population. The President has made the fight against the disease a national priority in the National Strategic Framework for 2010-2016.

**Malnutrition**

In mid-December, WHO reported that acute malnutrition rates remain high in Omusati region due to food shortages and poor childcare practices. In July, the Namibia Red Cross Society reported that 109,000 rural children under five were at risk of malnutrition because of lack of food and poor sanitation.

**WASH**

An assessment in the four regions of Kunene, Oshikoto, Ohangwena, and Kavango found that the risk of waterborne diseases is high. High food insecurity and malnutrition and a lack of household water treatment are all contributing factors in these regions.

Reviewed: 24/06/2014

**UGANDA DISPLACEMENT**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

20 June: Poor rainfall distribution during March–May affected agricultural and pastoral activities throughout northeastern Uganda, and dry spells have led to rapid deterioration of ground conditions in portions of southern Uganda. Seasonal rainfall is expected to decrease over the next few months (FEWSNET).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

As of 31 March, Uganda hosts 30,136 IDPs (OCHA, 11/06/2014).

**Refugees**

As of 31 March, Uganda hosts 347,514 refugees, 87% of whom are women and children (OCHA, 11/06/2014; UNHCR, 27/05/2014). The number of South Sudanese refugees assisted since 16 December 2013 is now 110,657 in Adjumani, Arua and Kiyandongo districts of Uganda. Together with those registered in Kampala (3,636), the total number assisted is now 114,293 (UNHCR, 10/06/2014).

There are currently 260 Congolese DRC refugees in Nyakabande transit centre in the southwest. The transit centre in Bubukwanga is empty. There are 53,532 refugees in Rwamwanja refugee settlement. In Kobobo, there are 4,441 refugees (UNHCR, 10/06/2014).

**Food Security**

Households receiving humanitarian assistance are in Stressed acute food insecurity conditions (IPC Phase 2) and likely to remain that way through October. Most areas will remain Minimal (IPC Phase 1) through at least September (FEWSNET, 31/05/2014).

**Karamoja**

Food security in Karamoja in May 2014 is serious, worse than last year, while not an emergency. Approximately 252,000 of the 1.37 million people in Karamoja, 18%, are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). A further 58% are in Phase 2 (Stressed). Assessments found that household food stocks to be exhausted by March. The most affected districts are Napak, Kaabong, Moroto, and Kotido.

Food consumption has deteriorated when compared to consumption patterns in December 2013. For households with livestock to sell, livestock to sorghum terms of trade remain favourable. Other income-earning opportunities, such as casual, agricultural labour are not as available as usual.

**Agricultural Outlook**

Poor rainfall distribution during the March-May rainy season affected agricultural and pastoral activities throughout northeastern Uganda. In portions of southern Uganda, dry spells have led to rapid deterioration of ground conditions. Negative effects may persist, as seasonal rainfall is expected to decrease over the next few months (FEWSNET, 20/06/2014).

Low rainfall in April/May has delayed crop development in Karamoja. With a well below average green harvest in July, the lean season may be prolonged.

March through May rainfall was below average in the Southwest and some central regions, likely resulting in local, below-average harvests in June/July. Overall, national production is likely to be closer to average (FEWSNET, 31/05/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

**Cholera**

A cholera outbreak in Mulwanda, a fishing village on the shore of Lake Victoria in the
Namayingo District of Uganda, has killed two people and at least 110 have been reported sick (Water Missions International, 18/06/2014).

Updated: 23/06/2014

ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 23/06/2014. Last update: 19/06/2014.

No accurate or verified data relating to the food security situation or food price levels in Eritrea is available, therefore Eritrea is not included in the Global Overview prioritisation.

KEY CONCERNS

- Torture, arbitrary detention, and severe restrictions on freedom of expression, association, and religion (UN, HRW).

- Ongoing human rights abuses prompt thousands of Eritreans to flee the country every year. In December 2013, Ethiopia was hosting an estimated 84,200 Eritrean refugees (UNHCR).

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

Politics and Security

Human rights abuses, including torture, arbitrary detention, and severe restrictions on freedom of expression, association, and religion are common in Eritrea, according to Human Rights Watch. Conscription to national service can last for an indefinite period of time, and is reportedly poorly paid. Interviews with Eritrean asylum seekers revealed that the main reason for fleeing the country was to avoid conscription. Harassment of citizens by authorities, on the grounds of their plotting to leave Eritrea, is reportedly widespread (UN Human Rights Council, 31/03/2014).

Human rights abuses remain widespread in Eritrea. Between 5,000 and 10,000 political prisoners are being held in a country of just over six million people. The UN human rights chief has accused the Government of torture and summary executions (UN Human Rights Council, 05/02/2014).

Eritrea and Djibouti engaged in border wars in 1996 and 2008. During the latter, according to Ethiopian officials in 2014, a number of Eritrean soldiers deserted and became refugees in Djibouti.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

There is a lack of updated and reliable data on the humanitarian situation due to limited humanitarian access.

In 2011 the Government of Eritrea issued a directive to all non-state development partners operating in Eritrea to cease operating by the end of 2012. In November-December 2013, several projects began in partnership with the UN commenced (IFRC, 30/05/2104).

As reported in ECHO’s Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) released in October 2013, providing direct humanitarian assistance remains a challenge due to limited access, absence of assessments and humanitarian space.

On 24 April, according to media sources, the UAE Red Cross had access to a million children across six provinces to distribute clothing.

Displacement

IDPs

As of 30 April, 64 stateless persons and IDPs reside in Eritrea (UNHCR).

Refugees

As of 30 April, 3,136 refugees reside in Eritrea, including 3,029 Somali refugees (UNHCR).

Eritrean Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

According to 2012 UNHCR figures, there are 300,000 Eritrean refugees in neighbouring countries as well as in Europe and Israel.

Ethiopia: The number of refugees crossing into Ethiopia is on the rise compared to 2012. In December 2013, OCHA said that Ethiopia had registered the arrival of 3,043 new refugees from Eritrea. As of 31 December, Ethiopia was hosting an estimated 84,200 Eritrean refugees, who are mainly settled in four camps in the northern Tigray region and two others in Afar region (OCHA). As indicated in ECHO’s HIP, the high proportion of unaccompanied minors who cross from Eritrea to Ethiopia is a priority problem (UNHCR).

Sudan: Eastern Sudan received an average 500 Eritrean refugees per month in 2013, down from 2,000 a month in 2012. Sudan reportedly hosts at least 114,500 Eritrean refugees. Djibouti also receives an estimated 110 Eritreans each month (UNHCR).

Yemen: Hundreds of Eritrean refugees are currently in Yemen. Several NGOs have called upon the Yemeni authorities to stop deportation of Eritrean political refugees (UNHCR).

Food Security

At 3 March, FAO reported that desert locust development was ongoing south of Massawa, along the central portion of the Eritrean coast. The northern coast was also affected.

As reported by FAO on 11 February, erratic rainfall affected the 2013 cropping season.
Although available information remains limited, erratic rainfall is likely to have resulted in fewer fields being cultivated in 2013 as well as having negatively impacted the crucial grain-filling phase of crop development. FAO indicated that livestock with poor pasture conditions had also probably been affected.

As indicated in ECHO’s October HIP, as a result of access restrictions imposed by the authorities, no data on food security in Eritrea is available. However, it is estimated that Eritrea produces only 60% of the food it needs, and markets do not seem to be functioning properly. These two factors suggest that a significant part of the population may be in need of food assistance. In addition, local food and fuel prices are likely to remain high, putting severe pressure on household coping mechanisms. The Government officially denies any food shortages within its borders and refuses food aid.

Health and Nutrition

Malnutrition remains a widespread problem. As reported by UNDP, quoting the Food Security Strategy (2004) report, 38% of Eritrean children experience stunting; 44% are underweight, and 50% suffer from anaemia. About 59% of the Eritrean population consumes less than the daily calorie requirement.

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

Protection

On 13 May, the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea was released. It focuses on the indefinite national service and arbitrary arrest and detention, including incommunicado detention and inhumane prison conditions. Rampant human rights violations cause hundreds of thousands to leave the country (UN Human Rights Council).

Reviewed: 23/06/2014

LIBERIA EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

30 June: Ebola is thought to have infected 90 people and killed 49 in Lofa, Montserrado, Margibi, and Nimba counties (UNICEF and Ministry of Health).

25 June: Urging an inter-country response, WHO initiated a meeting with the Ministers of Health of 11 countries and partners involved in the outbreak response in Accra, Ghana, over 2–3 July (WHO).

KEY CONCERNS

- Since March 2014, more than 600 cases of Ebola and over 390 deaths have been reported in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (WHO, 23/06/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Ebola

An Ebola virus disease outbreak, which started in Guinea in early 2014, has now spread to Liberia and Sierra Leone. As of 30 June, 90 cases, including 49 deaths, had been reported in in Lofa, Montserrado, Margibi, and Nimba counties of Liberia (UNICEF and Ministry of Health, 30/06/2014).

As of 23 June, the total cumulative number of cases reported in the three countries was 635, including 399 deaths, a case fatality rate (CFR) of 62.8% (WHO, 25/06/2014). Ebola patients have been identified in more than 60 separate locations across the three countries, complicating efforts to treat patients and curb the outbreak (MSF, 25/06/2014).

Urging an inter-country response, WHO initiated a meeting with the Ministers of Health of 11 countries and partners involved in the outbreak response in Accra, Ghana, over 2–3 July (WHO, 25/06/2014). There are difficulties, notably in the forest areas, identifying cases, tracing contacts, and raising public awareness about the infection and how to reduce the risk of transmission (WHO/UN Department of Public Information, 27/06/2014).

On 11 June, Sierra Leone closed its borders with Guinea and Liberia, and closed schools, cinemas, and nightclubs in border areas.

Updated: 01/07/2014

SIERRA LEONE EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

27 June: 176 cases of Ebola, including 78 deaths, have been reported in Sierra Leone, mostly in Kailahun, Kambia, Port Loko, Kenema, and Western urban and rural districts (WHO).

25 June: Urging an inter-country response, WHO initiated a meeting with the Ministers of Health of 11 countries and partners involved in the outbreak response in Accra, Ghana, over 2–3 July (WHO).

KEY CONCERNS

- Since March 2014, more than 600 cases of Ebola and over 390 deaths have been reported in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (WHO, 23/06/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Ebola

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the three countries was 635 out of which 399 died, a case fatality rate (CFR) of 62.8% (WHO, 25/06/2014). Ebola patients have been identified in more than 60 separate locations across the three countries, complicating efforts to treat patients and curb the outbreak (MSF, 25/06/2014).

As of 27 June, 176 cases, including 78 deaths, had been reported in Sierra Leone, mostly in Kailahun, Kambia, Port Loko, Kenema, and Western urban and rural districts (WHO, 27/06/2014). An outbreak was declared in late May. On 11 June, Sierra Leone closed its borders with Guinea and Liberia, closed schools, cinemas, and nightclubs in border areas; and the next day declared a state of emergency in Kailahun.

Urging an inter-country response, WHO initiated a meeting with the Ministers of Health of eleven countries and partners involved in the outbreak response in Accra, Ghana, over 2–3 July (WHO, 25/06/2014).

There are difficulties, notably in the forest areas of the countries affected, in identifying cases, tracing contacts and raising public awareness about the infection and how to reduce the risk of transmission (WHO/UN Department of Public Information, 27/06/2014).

Updated: 01/07/2014.
Several attempts have been made by Kabul and the US to re-launch peace talks with the Afghan Taliban, which have been stalled since mid-2013. Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif promised, in November 2013, he would help arrange further meetings between Afghan officials and Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a former Taliban second-in-command and reported friend of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar.

Although various official and informal sources have evoked renewed preliminary contacts, no substantial talks have yet been launched.

Security Context

Insurgents continue to control remote parts of southern and southeastern Afghanistan, near the border with Pakistan. Their numbers have increased by 15% since the beginning of 2013.

The east and the southeast are most affected by violence, although an increasing number of attacks are being carried out in the northwest and Kabul. 2,959 civilians were killed and 5,656 injured in 2013, up 7% and 17% on 2012, respectively (UNAMA, 02/2014). The figures indicate a slight increase in the number of killed and injured during the second part 2013.

There is widespread concern regarding the capacity of the 352,000-strong Afghan security forces. Afghan troop casualties climbed by 79% during key fighting months in 2013, as the Taliban has intensified attacks during NATO’s withdrawal, according to a US report. Afghan security forces and civilian casualties are close to the record levels registered during the peak of the insurgency in 2011. Police deaths have nearly since: an estimated 1,792 Afghan policemen died, and over 2,700 were wounded, between April and September.

International Military Presence

On 18 June, NATO will officially hand over authority in the remaining 95 districts in the south and east of the country to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

On 10 May, British troops pulled out of their last outpost in Helmand. The last remaining British troops are in Camp Bastion, and are expected to leave later this year.

Afghanistan–US Bilateral Security Agreement

The Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) will determine the scope and strength of the US military presence in Afghanistan. According to official sources, the US had planned to leave more than 10,000 troops in Afghanistan for counterterrorism and training. President Karzai has been reluctant to sign the agreement, but the two candidates in the second round of the presidential election have both affirmed their intention to sign the BSA.

Taliban Activity

The Taliban is intensifying activities in Afghanistan as the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) withdraws. Since May, insurgents have targeted foreign military, humanitarian personnel, and civilians seen to cooperate with the Government.
In the first three months of 2014, the UN recorded 187 civilian deaths and 357 injured from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), a casualty number up 13% compared to the same period in 2013. IEDs were the biggest killer of civilians in 2013, but rising numbers of Afghan civilians are being killed and injured.

**Militant Incidents**

A coordinated assault by 800 Taliban fighters on police checkpoints and military posts began on 19 June, and the Taliban established a foothold in southern Afghanistan. Armed clashes between the Taliban and Afghan forces have been taking place in Sangin, Musa Qala, Naw Zad and Kajaki districts of Helmand province (UNAMA, 26/06/2014). Sangin, a strategically important district at the centre of Afghanistan’s opium trade, has frequently been the scene of fierce fighting between the Taliban and US-led NATO forces (AFP, 29/06/2014). Fighting is ongoing.

An attack in Kabul, on the government minister and Head of the Secretariat of the country’s High Peace Council, Masoom Stanekzai, killed one civilian and injured several others. The Stanekzai was unharmed (UNAMA, 21/06/2014).

At least 150 attacks killed 46 people across the country during the presidential run-off poll on 14 June. Two employees of the Independent Election Commission were killed in Helmand. In early June, presidential front-runner Abdullah escaped an assassination attempt when two blasts hit his campaign motorcade in Kabul, killing six people and injuring 22 (AFP, 06/06/2014).

Shortly after the prisoner swap between the US and the Taliban – five Taliban detainees were released in exchange for a US soldier – a suicide bomber killed three Turkish engineers and wounded another in Behsud district, Nangarhar province, eastern Afghanistan. No responsibility has been claimed for the attack (AFP, 02/06/2014).

On 1 June, 12 civilians were killed in Giro district, Ghazni province, when their vehicles hit two IEDs (UNAMA, 01/06/2014).

In May, two US citizens were injured in an attack by unidentified gunmen on a US consulate vehicle in Herat, western Afghanistan (AFP, 28/05/2014); the Indian consulate in Herat was attacked by four gunmen just days earlier, and two policemen were wounded (UNAMA, 23/05/2014; AFP, 23/05/2014). The Indian consulate in Jalalabad was bombed in August 2013. Attacks in Jalalabad and Kabul, as well as Kandahar, Herat, and Panjshir provinces killed at least 45 people. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in Panjshir province.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Access**

The fluctuating security situation continuously changes the operating environment and access (WFP, 22/05/2014). Active hostilities and threats of violence are most problematic in contested areas. Movement restrictions are increasingly being applied to aid workers. Security and access constraints are challenging response and relief efforts in flood-affected areas.

**Insecurity and Attacks against Aid Workers**

Security incidents involving aid workers are increasing. There were 57 incidents of violence against humanitarian aid workers in the first quarter of 2014, with the number increasing month on month (OCHA, 17/04/2014). Some 266 incidents against humanitarian personnel, facilities, and assets were recorded in 2013, including 37 deaths, 28 arrests and detentions, 47 injuries, and the abduction of 80 personnel. Over 55% of incidents are attributed to insurgent elements, but incidents attributed to pro-government forces have risen significantly, especially in contested areas (OCHA, 10/2013). In 2012, 175 incidents, including 11 deaths, were recorded (OCHA, 30/11/2013).

On 10 June, an unknown armed group detonated an explosive device at the Aynak Copper Mine in Logar province. In the ensuing gunfire between the Afghan National Police and the armed group, eight Mine Detection Center deminers were killed and three others injured (Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan, 11/06/2014).

On 1 June, two staff members of the Aga Khan Foundation were killed by an IED between Wardooj and Baharak in Badakhshan Province (Aga Khan Development Network, 05/06/2014).

In April 2014, 25 incidents against humanitarian workers were registered across Kabul, Faryab, Kunar, and Ghor provinces.

**IDPs**

As of 31 March, 659,960 people were displaced due to conflict. This figure represents an increase of 5,300 (UNHCR).

In 2013, conflict-induced displacement led to acute humanitarian needs, with a marked increase in previously stable provinces in the north, particularly Faryab and Badakhshan (OCHA).

**Returnees**

In March 2014, 1,351 Afghan refugees voluntarily repatriated to Afghanistan (UNHCR). Of the returnees, 821 came from Iran, 524 from Pakistan.

From January to March, 2,346 Afghan refugees voluntarily repatriated to Afghanistan. This figure represents a sharp decrease (56%) compared to the same period last year, primarily due to the extension of Proof of Registration cards in Pakistan until 31 December 2015, and the uncertain situation leading up to the elections in Afghanistan.

**Afghan Refugees in Other Countries**

As of 31 December, an estimated 2.4 million Afghan refugees and illegal migrants are in Iran, including one million undocumented Afghans (UNHCR and IOM). Roughly 2.9 million Afghan refugees and illegal migrants, including one million undocumented Afghans, are in
Pakistan. An estimated 200,000 Afghan refugees are registered in other countries. The protracted Afghan refugee crisis is placing an increased humanitarian burden on neighbouring countries and triggering tensions as Iran and Pakistan push for their repatriation. Afghan refugees in Iran face persecution, arbitrary arrest, detention, beatings and harassment by authorities (Human Rights Watch, 11/2013). Some 60% of Afghan refugees in Pakistan are in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which is causing tensions. Kabul and Islamabad agreed at a UN-backed meeting to continue efforts to solve the protracted refugee situation.

Refugees

Thousands have fled to Paktika and Khost provinces following military operations in Pakistan’s North Waziristan. As of 29 June, 95,411 people – or 14,615 families – are indicated to have registered (OCHA, 29/06/2014).

Disasters

More Afghans have been killed through natural disasters since May than in all of 2013 (UN Humanitarian Coordinator). As the flood season comes to an end, about 150,000 people have been affected (compared to 65,000 in the same period last year), 175 killed and over 16,000 homes destroyed in 2014. This figure excludes the people killed in the landslide in Argo, Badakhshan province, where investigations are ongoing (OCHA, 12/06/2014). The threat of additional flash floods is expected to decrease as seasonal dryness begins by the end of June (FEWSNET, 20/06/2014).

Severe flash floods occurred on 6 June in Guzargah-e-Nur district, Baghlan province, killing about 81 people and destroying an estimated 400 houses. Vehicle access is not yet possible. Assessments are ongoing (OCHA, 11/06/2014).

On 2 May, massive landslides buried Aab Bareek village in Argo district of Badakhshan province. Around 300 houses were destroyed, 7,000 people affected, and 5,000 displaced. Investigations are ongoing, and the exact death toll remains unclear (IOM, 22/05/2014).

Food Security

An estimated 2.5 million people were classified as severely food insecure as of 31 March (OCHA). A further eight million are considered food insecure. IDPs, low-income and disaster-affected households across the country, and households in the extreme northeast, especially Badakhshan province, are especially vulnerable to food insecurity.

Food security outcomes are expected to be Stressed until September and needs will be highest for those displaced and those affected by the spring floods (FEWSNET, 29/05/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

Regular rainfall in March and April supported mostly normal wheat growth, and the harvest is likely to be above average for the third year in a row. The harvest should provide both food and income to households in wheat-growing areas, as well as agricultural labour opportunities (FEWSNET, 27/06/2014).

The current average wheat price in Afghanistan’s main cities is 16.8% higher than in May 2013 and 36.3% higher than the last five-year average price, i.e. May 2009–2013 (WFP 13/06/2014).

Remotely-sensed information indicates a satisfactory growing season. Despite a bumper harvest in 2012, 2013 and 2014, wheat and wheat flour prices in some provinces have been increasing since June 2012 (FEWSNET, 03/06/2014). Compared to last year, bread and cereal prices increased 7%, while vegetable prices increased most, by over 21% (FEWSNET, 03/06/2014).

An estimated 30,000 hectares of agriculture land (both irrigated and rain-fed) and perennial crops have been affected by flooding (OCHA, 15/05/2014).

Health and Nutrition

The number of people in need of access to health services has increased from 3.3 to 5.4 million (OCHA).

2013 saw a 60% increase in the number of people being treated for weapon wounds, stretching trauma care needs beyond the existing response capacity. The conflict is causing widespread disruption to health services. In Helmand province, there was an almost 80% increase in hospitalised injuries caused by conflict in 2013.

NGO-managed health clinics and hospitals suffered 13 incidents, the highest number so far this year (OCHA, 15/05/2014). The Health Cluster reported a 40% increase in security incidents in health facilities from January to April 2013 compared to 2012.

Acute Diarrhoeal Disease

Uruzgan, Samangan, Zabul, Katika, Laghman, Nuristan and Kunar provinces are most affected by acute diarrhoeal diseases, with 111–116 cases reported per 1,000 consultations in the period from March 2013 to March 2014(OCHA, 16/06/2014).

Malnutrition

At end March, around 1.45 million children under five and pregnant and lactating women were in need of nutrition assistance. As of 31 March, there have been 53,000 avoidable deaths from causes attributable to acute malnutrition, and 45% of 420,000 deaths among under-fives were attributable to undernutrition (OCHA).

Polio

The Ministry of Health, supported by WHO, is immunising 3.5 million children in 13 provinces in south, east, southeast, and western regions. Two new polio cases were detected in June in Uruzgan and Nangarhar provinces. Currently, there are six polio cases, mostly in conflict-affected areas: five from the east and one from the south (WHO, 24/06/2014).

Kunar, Nangarhar, Laghman, and Nuristan, eastern Afghanistan, remain the four high-risk provinces for polio, as four cases of the Pakistan poliovirus were reported 1 January–30
April 2014. Nevertheless, Afghanistan is on track to stop endemic transmission before the end of 2014 (Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 11/06/2014).

Protection

UNAMA expressed deep concern about the rising number of civilian deaths and injuries in ongoing military operations in Helmand province. Since 21 June, the deaths of at least 30 civilians and injuries of another 35 people have been reported in Sangin (UNAMA, 26/06/2014).

For the Pakistani refugees and Afghan returnees in Khost Province, numerous protection concerns are rising, including the presence of land mines. Hot weather is causing heat exhaustion and dehydration among women and children (UNHCR, 27/06/2014).

At end May, around 1.7 million people were in need of protection assistance, mainly IDPs and people otherwise affected by conflict. IDPs need durable solutions for their protracted displacement (OCHA).

The Afghan National and Local Police and three armed groups (Taliban, Haqqani Network, and Hezb-e-Islami) have been listed for recruitment and use of children. The Taliban has been listed for attacks on schools and hospitals (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 02/06/2014).

Updated: 30/06/2014

SYRIA CIVIL WAR

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

30 June: The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) declared an Islamic caliphate across a stretch of land straddling Iraq and Syria, defining the group’s territory as running from northern Syria to the Iraqi governorate of Diyala, northeast of Baghdad. The group also declared it had changed its name to Islamic State.

24 June: Opposition mortar fire on a government-held district of Damascus killed five people; in an Alawite area of Homs, a car bomb killed one person and injured 14.

23 June: The last of the remaining chemicals identified for removal from Syria left Lattakia port. The work of the Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) will continue in Syria with the destruction of buildings that were used as chemical weapons production facilities.

22 June: Israel carried out air raids on Syrian army positions in the Golan Heights, targeting nine positions, in response to an earlier attack from Syria that killed an Israeli teenager and injured two other Israeli civilians. The attacks marked the most serious escalation along the ceasefire line with Syria since the 1973 war. There were no reports of Syrian casualties.

KEY CONCERNS

- As of the end of May, the death toll in Syria since March 2011 has reached approximately 162,400, including nearly 54,000 civilians (Syrian Observatory for Human Rights). 1,963 civilians, including 567 children and 283 women, were killed between the beginning of January and 29 May, in the air offensive on opposition-held areas of Aleppo governorate (Syrian Observatory for Human Rights). At least 200–300 people are dying in Syria every day.

- The number of Syrians in urgent need of humanitarian aid has reached 10.8 million – nearly half of Syria’s population of 22 million. Of the people in need of aid, about 6.4 million are internally displaced.

- Half the country’s population of 22 million has been displaced.

- As of 30 June, the total number of Syrians registered or waiting to register as refugees outside Syria stands at 2,891,094. Over 1,115,000 are in Lebanon (government estimates: 1.3 million Syrians in total), nearly 790,000 in Turkey, nearly 599,500 in Jordan (government estimates: 600,000 in total), nearly 225,500 in Iraq, and over 138,000 in Egypt (government estimates: up to 300,000). Children make up 51.3% of the refugee population.

- 4.7 million Syrians are in areas that are difficult or impossible for humanitarian workers to reach. Approximately 241,000 people are living under siege – 196,000 in areas besieged by government forces, and 45,000 in areas besieged by opposition forces. At least 325,000 children under five live in areas not currently accessible to humanitarian aid (UNICEF). Humanitarian conditions in inaccessible locations are reported to be deteriorating. Only 2,467 people living in besieged areas have received food assistance in the latest round of humanitarian assistance deliveries (OCHA).

- As of 3 June, 271 individuals believed to be civilians have died in Yarmouk Palestinian camp since July 2013 as a direct result of the siege. Twenty-six deaths were said to have occurred between 10 April and 3 June: one was attributed to starvation and 25 to the lack of adequate medical care (Amnesty International, 06/2014)

- The total area planted with wheat in Syria is estimated to have declined by about 15% compared with the average of recent years (FAO). Expected wheat production for 2014 is 1.97 million metric tons, 52% below the average for 2001–2011.

Political Context
The Syrian Government warned the UN Security Council that it would consider any enforced cross-border delivery of humanitarian aid without prior agreement from Damascus as an attack on the state. The address was made in an 18 June letter sent by the Syrian mission to the UN.

Political Developments

Bashar al Assad is due to be sworn in for a new presidential term on 17 July. He won Syria’s presidential election of 4 June with 88.7% of the vote. The election was held only in the roughly 40% of Syrian territory controlled by government forces, and among Syrians outside the country. An official said turnout was 73.4%, or 11.6 million people of the 15.8 million called on to vote.

Regional Dynamics

ISIL continues to overrun swathes of Iraq after capturing Mosul, the country’s second-largest city, on 10 June. The group has pillaged Iraqi military bases and transferred some of the weapons to Syria. On 30 June, the group declared an Islamic caliphate across a stretch of land straddling Iraq and Syria, defining the group’s territory as running from northern Syria to the Iraqi province of Diyala, northeast of Baghdad. The group also declared it had changed its name to Islamic State.

Israel carried out air raids on Syrian army positions in the Golan Heights on 22 June, targeting nine Syrian army positions in response to an earlier attack that originated in Syria killing an Israeli teenager and injuring two other Israeli civilians. The attacks marked the most serious escalation along the ceasefire line with Syria since the 1973 war. There were no reports of Syrian casualties.

Attacks Involving Civilians

On 24 June, opposition mortar fire on a government-held district of Damascus killed five people, while in Homs, a car bomb killed one person and injured 14 in an Alawite area the city.

Chemical Weapons

On 23 June, the remaining 7.2% of chemical weapons material was removed from Syria. Syria has also destroyed all declared production, mixing, and filling equipment and munitions, as well as many buildings associated with its declared chemical weapons programme. With the exception of 12 production facilities, which are awaiting a decision by the OPCW Executive Council, all of the declared Syrian chemical weapons programme has been eliminated.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

The total number of people in need in Syria has increased to 10.8 million, up from December 2013 estimates of 9.3 million (OCHA).

More than half the population (54.3%) were living in extreme poverty at the end of 2013, unable to secure the most basic food and non-food items required for survival (Syrian Centre for Policy Research). Some 20% of the population were living in abject poverty, unable to meet their basic food and non-food items required for survival (Syrian Centre for Policy Research). Some 20% of the population were living in abject poverty, unable to secure the most basic food and non-food items required for survival (Syrian Centre for Policy Research). Some 20% of the population were living in abject poverty, unable to secure the most basic food and non-food items required for survival (Syrian Centre for Policy Research). Some 20% of the population were living in abject poverty, unable to secure the most basic food and non-food items required for survival (Syrian Centre for Policy Research). Some 20% of the population were living in abject poverty, unable to secure the most basic food and non-food items required for survival (Syrian Centre for Policy Research).

Access

OCHA increased its estimates 4.7 million Syrians in areas that are difficult or impossible for humanitarian workers to reach. Approximately 241,000 people remain besieged: Daraya last received humanitarian assistance in October 2012 (UN Security Council 28/05/2014).

Security Constraints

Attacks on aid convoys and warehouses have taken place in government-held areas, such as in Douma on 24 May, and OHCHR has reported deliberate targeting of hospitals, medical personnel and transport across the country.

As of 28 June, WFP had achieved 69% of its dispatch plan, a 10% increase compared to May levels. Accordingly, as the cycle nears conclusion, final June dispatches are expected to be higher than those achieved in May, when only 77% of the plan was fulfilled. (WFP 29/06/2014)
Administrative Constraints

Since Assad’s re-election on 4 June, UN chief aid coordinator Valerie Amos has stated that all aid must be centralised through Damascus. Beforehand, international aid organisations were able to negotiate access directly with provincial governors.

The Kurdish protection forces in Al Hasakeh governorate (PYD) closed the border crossing at Peshkapor into the Kurdish region of Iraq on 10 April, preventing the transit of refugees. While Iraqi Kurdish authorities had already imposed significant restrictions on the crossing, the closure will now also affect the cross-border movement of humanitarian assistance and other commodities.

Security for Humanitarian Staff

NGOs have been expelled from areas held by armed groups, and 25 UNRWA staff have been detained or are missing.

Physicians for Human Rights reported that 29 medical personnel were killed during May, the highest number in a month since the start of the conflict, bringing their total number of recorded deaths of medical personnel to 502. Of the 29 medical personnel, 27 were killed by actions of Government forces and 2 by opposition armed groups: 16 were killed by shelling and bombing, 8 by torture and 4 from shooting; and 1 was executed by ISIL.

Physicians for Human Rights has also corroborated 153 attacks on 127 different medical facilities since the start of the war, including 3 hospitals in April 2014. All three hospitals attacked in April were hit by barrel bombs — two in Aleppo city and one in Dar’a.

Al Hasakeh: Intense fighting within and outside the governorate is leading to severe access restrictions, including continued closure of borders and widespread firing in neighbouring governorates that is blocking access routes. These obstacles have prevented the humanitarian community from providing sustained and adequate assistance to the governorate for the past year. None of the allocated WFP assistance reached the governorate in June, leaving a targeted 227,000 people without much-needed food (WFP 29/06/2014).

Deir-ez-Zor: During the April and May cycles, less than 10% of WFP’s planned assistance reached the governorate. Humanitarian conditions are rapidly deteriorating and access constraints are hindering assistance (WFP, 29/06/2014).

Ar-Raqqa: A spike in deliveries to the hard-to-reach governorate of Ar-Raqqa was registered during the June cycle. Successful negotiations between partners, local authorities and armed groups controlling access routes resulted in sufficient food assistance delivered to over 131,000 vulnerable individuals in the governorate. WFP fulfilled 46% of its monthly plan in the governorate by 12 June, a result which had not been achieved since October 2013 (WFP 29/06/2014).

Idleb: Active conflict continues to hinder humanitarian access to the 500,000 IDPs and 500,000 people in need in the governorate. The only mechanism to deliver aid to the governorate is unaccompanied cross-line missions (UNICEF 27/05/2014).

Yarmouk: No more than 25% of the minimum food needs of civilians in Yarmouk Palestinian camp in Damascus were met between January and mid-May (UNRWA). Following reports of a 21 June agreement between Syrian authorities and armed opposition groups inside Yarmouk, it was hoped that access to the camp would improve. As of 24 June, there were no UNRWA operations inside the camp.

As of 3 June, 271 individuals believed to be civilians have died since July 2013 as a direct result of the continuing siege. Twenty-six deaths were said to have occurred between 10 April and 3 June: one was attributed to starvation and 25 to lack of adequate medical care (Amnesty International 06/2014).

Daraya: 10km southwest of Damascus, Daraya has been under government siege since November 2012. Its population has reportedly shrunk from 250,000 pre-crisis to 7,000 or fewer. Of these, around 1,500 are opposition fighters. Government forces continue to attack Daraya with wide-impact explosive weapons, including indiscriminate weapons. Government forces do not permit any food or medical aid to enter Daraya. Inhabitants seem to be surviving on supplies, and food that grown within Daraya. No deaths from starvation have been reported (Amnesty International 06/2014).

Moadamiya: An estimated 20,000 civilians live in Moadamiya, 16km southwest of Damascus. Government forces imposed the siege in April 2012. Despite a “local truce” from 25 December 2013, government forces continue to subject the besieged area to attacks from the air, and permitted only a minimal amount of food and no medical supplies in between 10 April and 5 June 2014, according to local sources. The besieged are reported to be suffering dire shortages of baby milk, rice, and bulghur, and government forces are reportedly not allowing any medicine to enter Moadamiya. An informant who fled Moadamiya said that government snipers continue to target residents foraging for plants to eat. Government forces closed the last road via which people had been allowed in and out of Moadamiya on 17 or 18 May. Local sources also report that government forces have hit water supply infrastructure (Amnesty International 06/2014).

Eastern Ghouta: An estimated 150,000 people, overwhelmingly civilians, are under government siege, most since November 2012. Government forces have blocked the entry of food supplies. There is a severe shortage of medicine and medical equipment, particularly painkillers, antibiotics, general anaesthetic, bandages, blood bags, syringes, and medicines for chronic illnesses (Amnesty International 06/2014).

Aleppo: Some 40,000–45,000 people are reportedly under at least partial siege in Zahra and Nobol, northwest of Aleppo, by fighters belonging to Ahrar al Sham, Al Nusra Front and other non-state armed groups.

Displacement

IDPs

Between 6.5 million and 7.6 million people are estimated to be internally displaced, with the highest concentration of IDPs in the governorates of Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Homs, Idlib, Tartous, Hama, and Deir-ez-Zor (OCHA). Save the Children report that over half of the displaced are children and some 4.3 million children are in desperate need of food, shelter, medicine, and psychosocial support.
In the last 18 months, the six largest governorates have seen a population increase of 25%. Aleppo’s population has doubled to 2.5 million people (UNICEF 06/06/2014). The number of collective shelters has nearly doubled to 977. More than 143,000 IDPs reside in 90 camps across northern Syria, representing a 10% increase in the number of IDPs living in these camps since March, according to humanitarian agencies.

Rural Damascus: The villages of Khan Danoun, Khiaarah, Al Thawra, Ein Al Baid, Mqalilba, Al Tayba and Zakia have witnessed increased fighting in the past four weeks, displacing over 15,000 people. The majority of the newly displaced are staying in shelters or host communities in Kisweh, while some families have relocated to nearby villages of Al Baradah, Qatanah, Jdaydet Artoz and Damascus city. In Kisweh, the influx is putting additional pressure on already overstretched resources, as public shelters are completely full and IDP families resort to overcrowded makeshift and unfinished structures. Humanitarian conditions are rapidly deteriorating. Elsewhere, fighting resumed in Qalamoun, compelling civilians to flee towards safer Wadi Barada and Damascus city, while heavy military operations continue in western Ghouta, mainly targeting Miha, Jobar and Douma (WFP 29/06/2014).

Idleb: Intensified conflict in the northern villages of Janodiyyah, Yakobia, and Badama led to 15,000 additional rations being allocated to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent local branch to respond to reportedly heightened humanitarian needs.

Hama: Clashes in the eastern rural areas of the province pushed an estimated 20,000 people to seek safety in Hama city as well as Msiaf and Sqilbie villages between 27 May and 10 June (WFP 14/06/2014).

Deir-ez-Zor: Intense fighting between armed opposition groups in rural eastern Deir-ez-Zor, has been ongoing since late April and forced an estimated 150,000 people to flee their homes. Entire villages are empty, including Al Dahlia, Al Sowar, Al Sabha and Khesham, with safer areas such as Al Mayadeen and surrounding villages struggling to absorb a growing number of arrivals. WFP is unable to provide sufficient assistance, as widespread insecurity along the access routes is preventing deliveries.

Al Hasakeh: Large numbers of IDPs are now concentrated in the main urban centres of the governorate, fleeing violence in rural areas as well as in nearby Deir-ez-Zor and Aleppo governorates. Numbers are expected to rise in the coming weeks, as daily airstrikes in the rural villages of Tal Hamis, Tal Brak and Al Hol in the south of the governorate result in forced evacuations. Further aggravating the internal situation, Al Hasakeh is witnessing spillovers from the ongoing crisis in neighbouring Iraq. During the first two weeks of June, hundreds of Iraqis sought refuge on the Syrian side of the border, as ISIL took over Mosul and Tikrit. Over 400 Iraqis have been identified close to the Ya’rubiyeh and in Twaimeen, in southern Al Hasakeh (WFP 29/06/2014).

Homs: Some 2,750 people were forced to flee the villages of Jabborin and Om Sharshouh, following attacks by armed groups (WFP 29/06/2014).

Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 30 June, the total number of Syrians registered or waiting to register as refugees outside Syria stands at 2,691,094. Over 1,115,000 are in Lebanon (government estimates: 1.3 million Syrians in total), nearly 790,000 in Turkey, nearly 599,500 in Jordan (government estimates: 600,000 in total), nearly 225,500 in Iraq, and over 138,000 in Egypt (government estimates: up to 300,000). Children make up 51.3% of the refugee population.

The total number of refugees registered by UNHCR is expected to exceed four million by the end of 2014.

Health and Nutrition

Since the start of the conflict, some 200,000 Syrians have died from chronic illnesses due to lack of access to treatment and medicines, more than the estimated 162,000 people who have died as a direct result of warfare. In addition, an estimated 650,000 people have been wounded in the conflict and many of these injuries have resulted in long-term disabilities (European Commission Humanitarian Aid department).

A report by Physicians for Human Rights states that by the last quarter of 2013, 93% of Syria’s ambulances had been damaged, stolen, or destroyed. The report stated that as of 30 April, 468 medical personnel had reportedly been killed since the beginning of the conflict, including 157 doctors, 94 Nurses, 84 medics, and 45 pharmacists, among others. As of December 2013, an estimated 15,000 doctors had fled the country.

Prevention of delivery of essential medical supplies and equipment, particularly to opposition-controlled areas, continues to lead to loss of life. All injectable medicines, antiseptics, serums, psychotropic medicines, and any item that may be used for surgical procedures (including bandages and gloves) are routinely denied inclusion in convoys. Between 22 April and 15 May, over 89,500 people were deprived of medical assistance as a result of lack of approval or removal of medical items from inter-agency convoys to hard-to-reach locations (UN Security Council, 28/05/2014). Insulin, oxygen, and anaesthetics are no longer available in many parts of Syria. Before the crisis, Syria produced 90% of its needed medicines. The conflict has led to a 70% decline in production. Taking currency depreciation into account, the price of medicines has increased by 25-50%. Medicines are primarily imported from Lebanon. Lengthy administrative procedures surrounding the supply of clinics have caused delays in distributing medical equipment and medicines to some areas.

A report by Physicians for Human Rights states that between 22 March and 21 April 2014, delivery was prevented of medical supplies that would have assisted over 216,000 people in hard-to-reach and besieged areas, and only 34 of 262 (13%) hard-to-reach locations received humanitarian assistance.

Rural Damascus: A WHO mission in May reached the besieged town of Douma for the first time since the siege of the area began in November 2012. The Eastern Ghouta area has just seven functioning hospitals for a population of one million, with three hospitals only partly operational and another three destroyed (WHO 28/05/2014).
Damascus governorate: as of April 2014, only two of 18 medical facilities in Qaboon were functioning, and were only providing basic services, such as first aid. In Jobar, there are no functioning medical facilities to serve the 1,900 people in need of health assistance. In Yarmouk Palestinian camp, there were between 100 and 120 pharmacies, but now the Palestine Hospital hosts the only pharmacy still in operation, and it has been attacked by shelling and rockets on at least two occasions.

Aleppo city: the only hospitals still functioning are four primary healthcare centres and five trauma clinics. Of the city’s 17 pre-war ambulances, only seven remain functioning. As of March 2014, in the opposition-controlled areas of Aleppo city, there were an estimated 10–12 general surgeons, three–five orthopaedic surgeons, and fewer than ten internal medicine specialists.

Hama governorate: an average of 30 to 35 malnutrition cases are reported every day by Charity for Social Care, a local NGO running a clinic.

Dar’a governorate: almost half the population is in need of healthcare; 12% are in need of lifesaving health assistance, and another 36% are in need of moderate health assistance.

Maternal Health and Sexual and Gender-based Violence

An estimated 200,000 pregnant women are in need of care in Syria, and every day, some 1,480 women give birth in dire conditions (United Nations Population Fund). The proportion of deliveries by caesarean section increased from 19% in 2011 to 45% in 2013. Aleppo University hospital has reported a reduction in the number of births not requiring vacuum, forceps, or caesarean delivery from 5,251 in 2011 to only 937 in 2013. Caesarean-section deliveries increased from 42.9% in 2011 to 55.7% in 2013, due to the growing number of complicated cases admitted to the hospital. The findings also revealed an increasing number of sexually transmitted infection cases and a shortage of family planning and maternal health medicines and supplies.

According to UNFPA, healthcare providers in Aleppo have observed an increase in cases of gender-based violence, including sexual violence. An average of one to two SGBV cases per month were reported by different clinics in Aleppo, though formal protocols for case management are not in place. UNFPA’s implementing partners reported that families are relying on females for money, with reports of sex being exchanged for commodities.

Living conditions, such as overcrowding and lack of regular electricity supply, in addition to a scarcity of female staff in IDP shelters, have contributed to the observed increase in SGBV cases. An increase in cases of sexually transmitted infections has also been associated with an increase in the exchange of sex for money among internally displaced women, although UNFPA was unable to verify these findings due to limited access and lack of agreed protocols. UNFPA partners in the field have reported early pregnancy and domestic violence as being relatively common.

Damascus and Rural Damascus reported an increased attendance at SGBV services from 382 in January to 1,047 in February and 2,026 in March 2014. There is increased demand for pre-marital counselling, treatment of vaginal haemorrhage, and of sexually transmitted infections.

Measles

From the end of March to 3 May, 965 cases of suspected measles were reported through the Early Warning and Response System, including 378 in Ar-Raqqa, and 341 in Deir-ez-Zor. In response, the Ministry of Health will implement a measles vaccination campaign in June (UNICEF 27/05/2014).

A measles vaccination programme, targeting 1.3 million people in opposition-held areas of northern Syria, has been delayed by disagreement over who should coordinate the programme (Reuters, 19/06/2014). The interim government of the Syrian National Coalition has been pushing to run immunisation campaigns. But some international aid organisations and donors fear they will appear partisan by working too closely with it, and prefer to stick with the Assistance and Coordination Unit (ACU), already leading a polio vaccination drive in the area.

Polio

According to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 36 polio cases have been reported in Syria. The majority of cases have been in Deir-ez-Zor (25), and additional cases in Aleppo (5), Idleb (3), Al Hasakeh (2), and Hama (1).

The May polio immunisation round reached over 2.8 million children under five across all governorates, 97.4% of the target population. The lowest reported coverage was in Rural Damascus (86.4%) and Deir ez-Zor (75.4%), according to the UN Security Council (24/06/2014).

Food Security

An estimated 6.3 million people in Syria are highly vulnerable to food insecurity and in critical need of food and agriculture support. The crisis has severely limited food production, marketing, and imports. The most vulnerable groups will be unable to produce or access adequate food to meet basic needs this year, necessitating the continued and expanded provision of multiple forms of emergency food and agricultural assistance.

Acute shortages of yeast have impeded bread production in Al Hasakeh; large bakeries in Al Hasakeh city and Ras El-Ein have shut down. Deliveries from elsewhere within Syria are near impossible due to the conflict.

UN assessments conducted during the last two weeks of May in opposition-held areas of Al Hasakeh that had not been visited for more than six months – Yaroubiyeh, Derbassiyeh and Amouda – found high levels of food insecurity. Most of the families interviewed, and particularly those in Yaroubiyeh, had “borderline” food consumption scores, with many claiming to have eaten little or no meat, vegetables, or fruit for several months. Spending on essentials such as health and education were reduced in order to meet food needs, respondents said. Heavy fighting had evidently disrupted agricultural activity to a considerable degree.

Volatility of commodity prices continues in rural Aleppo and northern rural Ar-Raqqa, where markets have been severely disrupted by insecurity and heavy fighting along key supply routes (WFP). Bread prices, in particular, registered steep rises; the provision of
government subsidies is weak in these areas. The central and southern governorates recorded stable but highly inflated prices for all basic goods, with the most elevated prices observed in Dar’a (WFP 20/05/2014).

According to the Syrian Centre for Policy Research, consumer prices have risen by 178% since the start of the conflict, with the cost of basic commodities such as yoghurt, cheese, and eggs up by 380%, general food items up by 275%, while heating and cooking costs were up by 300%.

FAO reports that the total area planted with wheat in Syria is estimated to have declined by about 15%. Rainfall deficits of 55–85% in some areas from October 2013 to the end of April 2014, have kept cumulative rainfall well below seasonal average, weighing heavily on crop yield projections and conditions. FAO has put wheat production at an expected 1.97 million metric tons for 2014, 52% below the 2001–2011 average.

FAO’s yield projections are significantly lower than government estimates, but both sets of figures expect a sharp decline in output. FAO’s calculations indicate a yield level at 1.5 metric tons/hectare, much lower than the normal average of 2.4 metric tons/hectare.

The situation in Quneitra, Al Ghab, Tartous, Lattakia, and Idleb remains at the drought “warning” phase, with cumulative rains below 50% of the seasonal average. The poor weather conditions are exacerbating an already precarious food security situation brought on by conflict. Agricultural production has suffered due to declining availability and higher prices of inputs, damage and destruction of irrigation infrastructure and other farm equipment, including storage facilities, the disruption of markets, the abandonment of agricultural lands, power shortages, and the lack of other services and resources.

An estimated three-quarters of Syrians were living in poverty at the end of 2013, according to a Syrian Centre for Policy Research study.

**WASH**

The availability of safe water inside Syria is now one-third of pre-crisis levels. Maintaining a regular supply of water is challenging, with some areas only receiving water once every three weeks. So far in 2014 most parts of the country have received only half the average rainfall for this time of the year, causing significant stress on the water table/aquifers even before the peak summer season. In addition, the conflict has caused severe damage to sewage systems, pumping stations and other water infrastructure. The situation is worsened by frequent power cuts, fuel shortages, and limited maintenance work, especially in areas of severe conflict like Rural Damascus, Idleb, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, Aleppo, and Ar-Raqqa (UNICEF 06/06/2014).

Temperature increases in summer are expected to lead to even more scarce water resources. This will likely lead to an increase in mosquitoes, flies, and other insects; worsening sanitary conditions; risk of disease outbreak; deterioration of the nutrition situation; and a new wave of displacement as well as loss of life (UNICEF 27/05/2014).

Activists in the opposition-held Al Hajar Al Aswad neighbourhood in southern Damascus reported on 19 June that water supplies have been cut off for more than two weeks. Forced to drink dirty water, infections and digestive system diseases are rising among the estimated population of 20,000, mostly women and children.

People in Yarmouk are reported to be generally unable to access adequate and safe water. Water is available at most taps for less than an hour a day, as shelling damaged Yarmouk’s water pipes in December 2013. Some areas have water wells, but these require expensive diesel fuel to pump the water and its quality is poor. Around 50 new cases of urinary infections are being found each week. As people are obliged to cut back on washing they are contracting skin ailments (Amnesty International 06/2014)

Water supplies in Aleppo city were cut between May 5 and 13, leaving at least 2.5 million people without access to water. Residents are already resorting to using water from unregulated and unprotected groundwater sources.

A main power supply station in Deir-ez-Zor was reportedly damaged in May, causing power to be cut across the entire governorate for four days, leading to severe water shortages. According to a report published by Physicians for Human Rights, water pumping in Deir-ez-Zor has dropped by up to 90%.

Parts of Al Hasakah and Ar-Raqqa continue to face irregular water supply or shortages due to fuel and power shortages (UNICEF 27/05/2014).

According to OCHA, a third of the nation’s water treatment plants are no longer functioning. Problems have been reported at water plants in Damascus, Idleb, and Deir-ez-Zor due to depletion of the water table and lack of fuel, which is needed to pump water. Homs, Idleb, and Hama have high water needs.

**Education**

More than half of all school-age children in Syria (51.8%) no longer attend school. This figure reaches above 90% in Ar-Raqqa and Aleppo and 68% in Rural Damascus. By the end of 2013, 4,000 schools were out of service because they were destroyed, damaged or housing IDPs. Across the region, more than 60% of the 735,000 school-aged refugee children are not enrolled in school.

Field monitoring shows an increase in IDP children dropping out of school in the Lattakia area, especially those residing in the IDP shelter as the nearest school to the shelter is overcrowded.

**Protection**

Human Rights Watch reported on 23 June that non-state armed groups in Syria have used children as young as 15 to fight in battles, and as young as 14 in support roles. Extremist groups have specifically recruited children through free schooling campaigns that include weapons training. The number of children fighting with armed groups is not known but as of June 2014, the Violations Documenting Center, a Syrian monitoring group, had documented 194 deaths of “non-civilian” male children in Syria since September 2011. While all those interviewed by Human Rights
Watch were boys, the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) police force and its armed wing, the People’s Protection Units, enlisted girls to guard checkpoints and conduct armed patrols.

Between 22 May and 2 June, 11 detainees died as a result of torture in several Government-run detention facilities in Hama, including at the Air Force Intelligence Branch and Deir Shmayel Detention Centre, according to information received by OHCHR (UN Security Council 24/06/2014).

On 30 May, over 200 civilians, the majority of them high school students, were allegedly abducted by ISIL combatants on the road to Ain al Arab, Aleppo. The same day, ISIL released approximately 125 female students. As at 9 June, more than 100 male students were reportedly still held.

Updated: 30/06/2014

YEMEN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

OVERVIEW

Nearly 15 million people, over half the population, are in need of some form of humanitarian assistance (UN, 15/05/2014). This figure includes nearly all two million people in Sa’ada and Al Jawf governorates in the north (2014 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2014 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan). In the central governorates, an estimated six million people need assistance, including food aid, improved water, adequate sanitation, and primary healthcare. More than half the population in Al Hudaydah, Raymah, and Mahwit, 3.8 million people, need humanitarian assistance. A large number of returnees in the southern governorates have limited livelihood and income opportunities. Public services have collapsed.

Yemen is undergoing a political transition process aimed at opening the way for fully democratic elections in 2014, but continues to face three concurrent security challenges: the presence of Huthi insurgents in the north; southern secessionists; and the increasing presence of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) throughout the country. Urban centres in western and central governorates have also seen civil unrest.

Political Context

Following a violent uprising in 2011, and the forced resignation of long-serving President Saleh, President Hadi is overseeing reforms in a US-supported political transition. Hadi’s interim period will expire in January 2015. Reforms include a cabinet reshuffle and restructuring of the legislature to guarantee sufficient representation of both northern and southern insurgents.

Under the new system, the country will consist of six regions: four in the north and two in the formerly independent south. Huthi insurgents from the far north, who would be in a region with has no significant natural resources or access to the sea, have rejected this division, claiming it is unequal in terms of wealth distribution. A large portion of southern leaders are still aiming for the full independence of a unified south, according to local sources.

On 28 February, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2140 banning travel and freezing assets of people who obstruct or undermine the country’s political transition and those who commit human rights violations.

Security Context
Islamist militants were largely driven out of their strongholds in a US-backed military offensive in 2012. Since then, they have regrouped and continue fighting. AQAP remains extremely active, retaining strongholds in the east and south. Security has been stepped up around government buildings and possible foreign targets.

In the north, intermittent fighting has been taking place between Zaidi Shi’ite Huthi insurgents and tribesmen from the Sunni Hashid confederation and their allies since October 2013. The Huthis, also referred to as Ansarullah, have been advancing from their mountain stronghold in Sa’ada governorate towards other majority Shi’ite areas near Sana’a. By December fighting had spread to Al Jawf, Amran, and Hajjah governorates.

Violence has erupted in the south as leaders of the southern movement fear that the new regions will limit their authority by depriving them of control over important areas such as Hadramout, where oil reserves are found. A number of leaders and a large portion of the population continue to seek transition back to full independence.

Attacks on oil pipelines are used to put pressure on the Government. Observers have warned that the economy will continue to decline if the Government cannot protect pipelines: a report found that oil revenues declined almost 30% between January 2013 and January 2014 (Yemen Central Bank, 02/2014). The main oil pipeline in central Ma’rib province was bombed on 6 and 7 May, halting crude flows, according to international media. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

**International Military Involvement**

Yemen is of strategic importance as it flanks top oil producer Saudi Arabia and major shipping lanes, and the Government is receiving US support in its operations against AQAP. The US has intensified drone strikes against militants despite criticism of the many civilians killed; 70 people have been killed since July 2013.

**Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)**

Since the start of the military campaign against them in 2012, AQAP has targeted army and security forces. AQAP has also abducted foreigners, and regularly attacked oil pipelines. In the beginning of 2014, Yemeni security officials linked an increase in AQAP attacks with dozens of Saudi Islamist militants who have come to Yemen from the battlefields in Iraq and Syria.

On 5 May, suspected AQAP gunmen attacked a checkpoint and killed 14 soldiers and a civilian in Bayhan village, Shabwah governorate. The attack came after a drone strike killed three suspected AQAP members in Wadi Abida area, east of Sana’a (AFP, 05/06/2014).

Al Qaeda carried out several retaliation attacks after a US-backed military crackdown and the Government’s declaration of ‘open war’ in mid-May (ICG, 01/06/2014). On 24 May, AQAP attacked army bases and public buildings in Seiyun, Hadramout province, killing at least 15 people (AFP). Two weeks earlier, a suspected AQAP suicide bomber killed 12 soldiers and a civilian at a military base in Mukalla, Hadramout, according to international media. Hours earlier, three gunmen and five soldiers were killed in an attack on a checkpoint close to the presidential palace in Sana’a. Al Qaeda gunmen killed a French employee of the European Union mission and a Yemeni security officer. Gunmen forced the closure of the Ma’rib gas-fired power plant on 7 May.

Some 260 people were killed between 20 April and 6 May, during the US-backed government offensive in Abyan, Shabwah, and Ma’rib governorates. With the help of allied tribal militias, government forces captured Al Mahfad, Abyan governorate, which had been the main stronghold of Al Qaeda since 2012 (AFP, 06/05/2014). Chechen national and senior Al Qaeda operative Abu Islam al Shaishani died during fighting in Abyan.

During April, 24 people were killed in separate incidents in Al Hudaydah, Tawahi in Aden, and Yafea in Lahj.

**Conflict in Northern Yemen**

Huthi fighters and military forces clashed in Amran, breaking the 4 June ceasefire (Yemen Times, 16/06/2014). The Yemeni airforce supported troops as fighting intensified (AFP, 20/06/2014). On 22 June, another ceasefire was agreed. The ceasefire covers a reshuffle of military and civilian leaders in areas affected by fighting, compensation for Huthi supporters, and an investigation into the violence (Al Jazeera, 22/06/2014).

The 4 June ceasefire followed intense fighting in which over 120 Huthi fighters were killed. Fighting was mostly concentrated in rural areas in the south of Amran governorate: in Jabal Iyl Yazzid, Iyl Surayh, and Amran districts (OCHA, 05/06/2014). The fighting brought an end to a short-lived ceasefire in March. Both sides have traded blame over its collapse. Officials acknowledged that the fighting had affected residential areas (Yemen Times, 25/05/2014).

In Ma’rib governorate, Al Maheliah district, the director of the Civil Status Division was killed by gunmen. Three others were wounded in the tribally motivated attack (Yemen Times, 29/05/2014).

Local media reported that following a week of fighting that left five dead and five injured, residents of Samh and Wazzie villages in the Dhoran district of Dhamar governorate agreed to a truce on 5 April.

**Conflict in Southern Yemen**

Two soldiers and a civilian were killed in a bomb blast targeting security patrols in Sanah district, Al Dhale’e governorate. In a separate incident, earlier that day, clashes broke out between government forces and gunmen in Al Dhale’e, injuring seven civilians (Yemen Times, 28/05/2014).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Access**

Humanitarian access is impeded across Yemen. Both verification and response remain slow as the volatile security situation constrains humanitarian assistance (Protection Cluster, 28/04/2014). The inability to provide adequate assistance to IDPs and their host
communities, spread over several governorates, is of growing concern.

Humanitarian partners suspended operations outside of Amran city in early June due to insecurity. Aid deliveries from Sana'a have been interrupted due to road closures (AFP, 05/06/2014). Affected people are most in need of food, water and healthcare. In Amran and Al Dhale’e governorates, tribal conflict, civil unrest, natural hazards, and obstacles imposed by non-state actors have all prevented humanitarian workers from reaching those in urgent need.

In Al Jawf, Al Dhale’e, Al Mahwit, Raymah, and Al Maharah governorates, Médecins Sans Frontières, ICRC, and OCHA have reported that parties to conflict continue to cut off humanitarian assistance to vulnerable IDPs.

Fuel shortages have been reported in Sana’a, and in Dammaj and Kitaf people are running out of food, water, and medical supplies.

Kidnappings and Attacks on Aid Workers

The general manager of the Mine Action Center in Mukkala City, Hadramout governorate, was shot dead by unknown gunmen (Yemen Times, 16/06/2014).

In January, the UN Security Council responded to the alarming spike in kidnappings with a resolution warning that the jump in ransom pay-outs, and political concessions to secure the release of hostages, were benefiting terrorist organisations. The last cases reported took place in Sana’a in April.

Displacement

Population movements affect over 1.5 million people, and include people displaced by conflict, people returning home after conflict, and hundreds of thousands of returning Yemeni migrant workers, as well as migrants and refugees (OCHA, 11/05/2014).

IDPs

321,280 IDPs reside in Yemen (OCHA, 30/05/2014). This figure has been stable since May 2013. As of February 2014, OCHA reported that 95% of IDPs are hosted in five governorates: Sa’ada (103,010 people); Hajjah (81,940 people); Amran (54,270 people); Sana’a (42,760 people); and Al Jawf (24,700).

Identification of new IDPs is hindered by tribal conflict, the fluidity of displacement, tribal traditions, and a lack of access to affected populations.

Amran and the North: as of mid-April, most IDPs reside in the Amran (10,057), Huth, (1,213), Bani Suraim (5,657) and Khamir (4,776) districts in Amran governorate (OCHA, 12/05/2014).

Al Dhale’e and the South: Military operations in May displaced 18,760 people in Shabwah and 3,500 people in Abyan. By the end of the month, however, an estimated 60% and 80%, respectively, had returned home (UNICEF, 31/05/2014). Most displaced people have returned in Al Dhale’e as conflict subsided (OCHA, 12/05/2014).

Refugees

Around 800,000 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants need lifesaving assistance.

As of 30 April, 243,220 refugees from the Horn of Africa are in Yemen (OCHA), 16,504 new arrivals so far in 2014 indicate a significant decline from 103,154 arrivals in 2011, 107,532 in 2012 and 65,319 in 2013 (UNHCR; OCHA, 30/04/2014).

In May 2014, 8,706 refugees crossed into Yemen, from Djibouti via the Red Sea, and from Somalia via the Arabian Sea, a 4% increase from April and a 39% from May the previous year (Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat, 31/05/2014). There has been a significant rise in the Red Sea death toll, with 121 people dying while trying to reach Yemen since January 2014 (Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat, 31/05/2014).

Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia’s measures to control trafficking have contributed to the lower number of African migrants and refugees. However, unaccompanied minors are still being identified in immigration centres in Yemen (Protection Cluster, 28/04/2014).

A boat carrying refugees from Somalia and Ethiopia sank when trying to cross the Red Sea from the Horn of Africa in early June (UNHCR). At least 62 people died, making it the deadliest sinking this year (06/06/2014).

Returnees

As of May, there are 225,910 returnees, in Abyan (152,950), Sa’ada (64,800), Al Bayda and Dhamar (8,160) (OCHA, 30/05/2014). As of March, 550,000 Yemenis have returned from Saudi Arabia. Around 1,000 Yemenis pass through Al Tuwal crossing point every day (OCHA, 11/05/2014). Most have acute humanitarian needs. The returns place a burden on Yemen’s fragile political transition.

The number of returnees fluctuates monthly, but an estimated 400,000 Yemeni nationals may return in 2014. The Saudi Government restricted the activities of foreign workers in March 2013.

Food Security

More than 10 million Yemeni’s are severely food insecure (AFP citing WFP, 30/05/2014). Around 2.5 million inhabitants are in IPC Phase 2; and another 2.5 million are in IPC Phase 3 or higher. Similar to last year, Yemen will have external needs in November, when it will face Phase 3: Crisis (FEWSNET, 29/05/2014).

The number of severely food insecure has doubled since 2009 (FAO, 03/06/2014). In Abyan, Lahj, Hajjah and Al Dhale’e, 50–75% of the population is food insecure. These governorates have a high number of recently returned in need of assistance.

Yemen is particularly vulnerable to international hikes in food prices, since it imports up to 90% of its main staple foods, like wheat and sugar. Food availability and access have become a major concern since 96% of households are net food purchasers, and several markets, especially Sa’ada market, are located in conflict areas (FEWSNET, 18/04/2014). About 58% of households do not have enough food or money to buy food to sustain their minimum consumption requirements. Price volatility, conflict, the loss of remittances, and
the proposed lifting of fuel subsidies will all cause shocks to household incomes.

Agricultural Outlook

Insecurity is hampering agricultural activity. Crop production levels will be lower due to drought and locust infestation in the northwest. However, 2013 national cereal production is estimated to have been slightly above the five-year average. Harvesting of the 2014 grain crop will start in July–August (FAO, 03/06/2014).

Health and Nutrition

An estimated 8.6 million people have limited access to health services (OCHA, 28/02/2014). Qualified medical staff are in short supply, as is medical equipment.

Malnutrition

1,060,000 children under five are estimated to be suffering from acute malnutrition, of whom 279,150 have SAM (UNICEF). An estimated 1.9 million people need nutrition assistance.

At 11 April, 12 of 21 governorates faced critical levels of acute malnutrition: Al Hudaydah and Raymah governorates have the worst levels of acute malnutrition among children under five (OCHA).

MERS-Coronavirus

On 13 April, the first case of the deadly Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) coronavirus was reported in Sana’a. MERS, which has a more than 40% death rate, emerged in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and is from the same family as the SARS virus.

Polio

Fear over the polio virus has increased amid a regional breakout, with concerns that Syrian refugees fleeing to Yemen could reintroduce the virus (Yemen Times, 17/06/2014).

WHO reported on 21 March that outbreaks due to type 2 vaccine-derived polio (cVDPV2) in Yemen appeared to have been interrupted. However, new outbreaks of cVDPV3 were detected. Between April 2012 and July 2013 cVDPV3 was isolated in five patients and two contacts in governorates of Sa’ada, Hajjah, and Al Hudaydah. A cVDPV2 outbreak (11 reported cases, two independent contacts) took place April 2011 – February 2012.

WASH

As of 28 February, an estimated 13.1 million people do not have access to safe water, 12.1 million are without access to improved sanitation, and 4.4 million lack access to adequate sanitation (OCHA).

In Amran, 1,300 displaced families, including 5,000 children, lack access to safe water. On 6 March, OCHA reported that thousands of people in Al Jawf governorate are in urgent need of water, sanitation, and health services.

Education

Schools are closed and exams suspended in Amran governorate as of 31 May, due to fighting between the army and the Huthi (Yemen Times, 29/05/2014).

Children in Al Dhale’e are missing out on school due to insecurity and schools damaged by shelling (Protection Cluster, 28/04/2014). Emergency schools cannot accommodate all students.

Nationwide, an estimated 2.5 million children are not in school (OCHA, 04/2014). The dropout rate is more than 20% in the 37 most affected districts. Over 350 damaged schools require rehabilitation or reconstruction.

Shelter

Registration of IDPs in large town settings and with host communities is progressing slowly and vulnerable IDPs such as women, children, and older people in Amran are in need of emergency shelter (OCHA).

Protection

Since January, 285 cases of gender-based violence have been reported in Aden; many more remain unreported (OCHA, 05/06/2014).

In a survey, around 72% of Yemenis returning from Saudi Arabia said their protection was violated by deprivation of food or water, detention, or physical and psychosocial abuse (OCHA, 12/05/2014).

The Protection Cluster noted that women and children in Al Dhale’e face harassment from soldiers (28/04/2014).

Landmines and explosive remnants of war are a major concern in the northern governorates.

Child Recruitment

The Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict has reported that Huthi, Ansar al Sharia, and state-armed forces are all recruiting children (02/06/2014).

Updated: 23/06/2014

IRAQ CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

30 June: Nearly 2,000 people, including 1,393 civilians, were killed in Iraq in June, the highest figure since May 2007. A further 2,610 people were wounded, including 1,745 civilians (AFP).

29 June: ISIL declared the establishment of a Sunni caliphate, straddling Syria and Iraq, spreading from Aleppo in northern Syria to Diyala in eastern Iraq. Its chief Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi was declared the caliph and leader for Muslims everywhere (AFP).
28 June: Iraqi forces fought to retake militant-held Tikrit, clashing with Sunni fighters and carrying out air strikes in the biggest counter-offensive so far (AFP).

27 June: 69 prisoners were killed during their move to a prison in southern Baghdad. The official account stated that militants attacked the convoy, killing 10 prisoners and a policeman in crossfire. Other sources state the prisoners were executed by police (Reuters).

26 June: A suicide bomber killed at least 19 people at Baghdad’s Bab al Dawarza market in the predominantly Shi’ite Muslim neighbourhood of Kadhimiya (AFP).

25 June: A suicide bombing and shelling killed 12 people and wounded at least 23 at a market in Mahmudiyah, south of Baghdad (AFP).

25 June: A car bomb in a Kurdish-majority neighbourhood of Kirkuk killed five people, including two Kurdish security force members. Twenty more were wounded by the blast (AFP).

24 June: Gunmen killed the city council chief of Kirkuk (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS
- 1.5 million people, including IDPs, host communities and communities under siege, are in need of humanitarian assistance. This is a 300% increase from February 2014 (OCHA, 06/2014).

- 1.2 million newly displaced in 2014; between 1.13 and 1.3 million IDPs displaced before 2014 (UN, IOM, 12/2013).

- Harvesting of major cereal crops is in jeopardy. Loss of assets and income opportunities, and disruptions of marketing activities and transport networks have exposed large number of people to severe food insecurity (FAO/ FEWSNET, 25/06/2014).


- Only one of three official border crossings with Syria is still in the hands of the central government. Another is controlled by Kurdish forces. ISIL took the third, Al Qa’im (AFP, 21/06/2014).

OVERVIEW

Priority humanitarian needs are food, water, and fuel. Protection and the risk of disease outbreak are also concerns, primarily for the hundreds of thousands displaced during ISIL’s June offensive. Host communities are being increasingly stretched, as the conflict in neighbouring Syria has also led to a large influx of refugees, mostly into the Kurdistan region.

Already in 2013, violence had surged to its worst level in five years. The violence is linked to religious and ethnic groups’ opposition to the allegedly sectarian policies of Prime Minister Nuri Al Maliki’s Shia-led Government.

Political Context

National Political Context

Prime Minister Maliki’s style of government, and exclusion of leading rivals, both Sunni and Shia, have led to increasing tensions. Multiple bombings during the recent elections indicate further violence as Maliki’s State of Law alliance seeks to form a coalition. The alliance’s margin of victory was greater than many had forecast, and had led many to assume Maliki would secure a third term as prime minister (ICG 01/06/2014).

Prime Minister Maliki’s Shia-dominated State of Law alliance won the largest number of seats during April’s parliamentary elections, putting Maliki in a strong position to secure a third term. Maliki’s margin of victory was greater than most analysts and politicians had forecast.

A member of Iraq’s election commission said that 30 complaints had been received from candidates and parties alleging irregularities at the polling stations, as well as problems with the transport of ballot boxes and vote counting. No ruling has yet been made on the complaints.

The Iraqi electoral commission reported a turnout of 60% despite violence. Turnout was significantly lower in conflict-affected Anbar governorate. Sunni neighbourhoods in Baghdad reported obstacles to voting, including closed polling stations. This is the first vote in Iraq since the US army’s withdrawal in 2011.

Kurdistan Region of Iraq

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of regional President Barzani came first in September 2013’s elections in the autonomous Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), followed by Gorran, an offshoot of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). KDP and PUK have ruled through a coalition Government since 2005. Barzani’s term has been extended to 2015, which the opposition has denounced as illegal.

KR-I’s relations with Baghdad are tense. Baghdad insists it has the sole right to export Iraqi resources, including those from KR-I.

Wider regional politics are also an issue: the KDP is keen to retain influence over the Syria’s Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD), which also has links to the Iraqi PUK and the Turkish Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK).

Security Context
Nearly 2,000 people, including 1,393 civilians, were killed in Iraq in June, the highest figure since May 2007. A further 2,610 people were wounded, including 1,745 civilians (AFP, 30/06/2014).

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), an outgrowth of Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) has taken over large swathes of territory in northern and eastern Syria. Since starting its offensive on 9 June, it has overrun non-Kurdish-controlled areas of Ninevah governorate and significant areas of the neighbouring governorates of Salah al Din and Kirkuk, as well as part of northern Diyala in Iraq.

ISIL in Iraq is mostly Iraqi in composition and numbered at least 10,000 in early June. Since taking Mosul, ISIL has been gathering strength by requisitioning US military equipment, recruiting prisoners, and looting Mosul’s Central Bank.

On 29 June, ISIL declared the establishment of a Sunni caliphate, straddling Syria and Iraq, spreading from Aleppo in northern Syria to Diyala in eastern Iraq. Its chief Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi was declared caliph and leader for Muslims everywhere (AFP, 29/06/2014, 30/06/2014; Washington Post, 11/06/2014; ISW, 11/06/2014).

KR-I Forces

Kurdish forces, the Peshmerga, are filling the security vacuum created by withdrawing federal forces, and taking control of territory long claimed by KR-I (AFP, 12/06/2014).

Iraqi Security Forces

Iraqi forces are fighting to retake militant-held Tikrit, clashing with Sunni fighters and carrying out air strikes in the biggest counter-offensive so far (AFP, 28/06/2014).

Prime Minister Maliki fired several top security commanders in a major shake-up as fighting approached Baghdad (AFP, 17/06/2014).

10,000 ISF were deployed in and around Mosul before fleeing. The Prime Minister has announced the formation of reserves to fight ISIL, in line with Iraqi Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani’s general appeal for Shia to defend the country.

International Involvement

Jordan is mobilising its troops in the border regions, as ISIL has threatened to extend its operations to Jordan (AFP, 23/06/2014). King Abdullah II appealed for international support to deal with challenges in the region (AFP, 30/06/2014).

The US has deployed military advisors to Iraq and supported the recent military operation to retake Tikrit with drones. Drones were also used over Baghdad to safeguard Americans. They will not be used for offensive action (AFP, 28/06/2014).

On 23 June, US Secretary of State John Kerry met with Prime Minister Maliki to urge acceleration of the formation of a unity government (AFP 23/06/2014). The US Government has deployed an aircraft carrier group to the Gulf, as well as 275 military personnel to provide security for the US embassy and other US personnel based in Baghdad (AFP, 15/06/2014; BBC 17/06/2014).

Anbar Governorate

ISIL has been in open confrontation with government forces in Anbar governorate since December 2013. ISIL continues to target government security facilities, checkpoints, and public places such as cafés and markets.

On 6 June, UNHCR reported that violence in Anbar governorate has displaced 480,000 civilians so far this year. The Iraqi Government puts the number of displaced since January at 434,000. The exact scale of displacement is unknown, as the Iraqi authorities have had to suspend registration over the past month because of insecurity.

Other Security Incidents

69 prisoners were killed during their move to a jail in southern Baghdad. The official account stated that militants attacked the convoy and killed 10 prisoners and a policeman in crossfire. Other sources state the prisoners were executed by police. The deaths came less than a week after the killing of 52 prisoners in Baquba, north of Baghdad (Reuters, 27/06/2014).

A suicide bomber killed at least 19 people at the Baghdad’s Bab al Dawarza market in the predominantly Shi’ite neighbourhood of Kadhimiyah (AFP, 26/06/2014).

A suicide bombing and shelling killed 12 people and wounded at least 23 at a market in Mahmudiyyah, south of Baghdad (AFP, 25/06/2014).

A car bomb in a Kurdish-majority neighbourhood of Kirkuk killed five people, including two Kurdish security force members. Twenty more people were wounded (AFP, 25/06/2014). Gunmen killed the city council chief of Kirkuk (AFP, 24/06/2014).

Gunmen attacked the home of an Iraqi Sunni family in Tarmiyah, north of Baghdad, killing a man, two women and three children (AFP, 23/06/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

1.5 million people, including IDPs, host communities and communities under siege, are in need of humanitarian assistance. This is a 300% increase from February 2014. Around 17 million people reside in affected areas (OCHA, 29/06/2014).

Access

The security situation in Anbar, Ninevah, Salah al Din, and Diyala remains volatile and unpredictable (WFP, 19/06/2014). In the absence of security guarantees, humanitarian agencies are adopting caution, which will delay assistance to communities in need.

A number of roads connecting affected major cities, such as Mosul–Kirkuk and Baghdad–Khanageen, are reported closed. Assistance to Khanageen must pass through KR-I (UNAMI 15/06/2014). Cellphones still function in Mosul, but internet has been cut off,
Anbar Governorate: Fighting makes main roads impassable, and several bridges, including one linking Fallujah with Baghdad, have been destroyed. Insecurity is preventing access to health services, and some facilities have been damaged. Communications coverage has been disrupted. Several humanitarian partners have reported that administrative constraints are also hindering access. Access to Al Qa’im refugee camp is reportedly difficult, though activities can be carried out by helicopter.

Thousands of people are reportedly trapped in what are described as siege-like conditions in Fallujah and Ramadi. In Ramadi, armed groups have reportedly placed booby traps in homes and along roads. In January, the UN system declared Anbar to pose extreme security risks, meaning that UN staff are not permitted to travel to or within the governorate.

Displacement

IDPs

Since the crisis in Anbar and the ISIL June offensive, over 1.2 million people have been displaced: 558,650 from Anbar, 500,000 from Mosul, 84,000 from Tal Afar, 24,000 from Diyala, and 40,000 from Tikrit and Samarra (UN, 18/06/2014).

As of 25 June, 426,000 IDPs reside in Anbar, 232,370 in Dohuk, over 140,000 in Ninevah, over 135,000 in Erbil, and over 46,000 in Baghdad. Another 82,000 IDPs are in Salah al Din, Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk, Babil, Najaf, DIYALA, and Quadissiya. The destination of 151,000 IDPs is unknown (OCHA, 25/06/2014).

The most pressing needs are food, water, shelter, and NFIs. The influx of IDPs imposes a significant burden on host communities in several areas – 80% of the recently displaced are housed among host communities in KR-I – and IDPs face discrimination from local communities. (IFRC, 13/06/2014; WHO 18/06/2014).

Mosul City: An estimated 500,000 Iraqis have fled their homes in Mosul: most took flight on 10 June. A number of stateless Palestinian families have been subjected to secondary displacement from Mosul (PI 12/06/2014). Three main patterns of displacement have been observed: from the west bank to the east bank of the city; to other parts of Ninevah governorate; and to KR-I. Almost 25,000 are seeking shelter in schools and mosques, many with no access to drinking water, as the main water station was destroyed by bombing. Food shortages are being reported (WHO, 15/06/2014). Some (Sunni) IDPs have reportedly returned to Mosul. All checkpoints and barriers within the city – maintained by ISF – have now been removed (WFP, 14/06/2014; Daily Beast 16/06/2014).

KR-I: According to Kurdish authorities, 300,000 people have entered KR-I: 100,000 in Erbil and 200,000 in Dohuk (WFP, 14/06/2014). The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) appears unwilling to allow large numbers of Iraqi refugees into its territory: it will only permit entry to people with family already residing in KR-I, or a sponsor. Camps are being prepared in Shekhan district, and there are calls to accommodate as many people as possible in these Kurdish-controlled part of Ninevah (IRIN, 12/06/2014). The facilities provided to refugees by the Kurdish region are already overstretched by the presence of more than 200,000 Syrian refugees (WHO, 13/06/2014).

Anbar crisis: Following the Anbar crisis, thousands moved to Salah al Din, Kerbala, Baghdad, and Najaf governorates.

Refugees Fleeing Iraq

Some Iraqis from Anbar have attempted to escape to Jordan but have reportedly been blocked from entering by Jordanian authorities. Others have been able to enter by flying into Amman airport.

Syrian Refugees in Iraq

As of 1 June, Iraq hosts 226,174 Syrian refugees, most of them in Dohuk (101,174), Erbil (84,680), Sulaymaniyah (23,318), and Anbar governorates (4,534) (UNHCR 01/06/2014; 15/06/2014).KR-I currently hosts an estimated 97% of the registered Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR, 15/05/2014). The remaining 3% reside in a camp near Al Qa’im, Anbar, and in non-camp settings elsewhere across the country. Around 7,600 are awaiting registration.

An estimated 800–1,000 Syrians have been awaiting entry into KR-I since the border was closed in April (WFP 28/05/2014), reportedly with little or no access to humanitarian assistance.

The three governorates of the Iraqi Kurdistan (Dohuk, Erbil, and Sulaymaniyah) have different policies towards Syrian refugees, leading to challenges in coordinating the humanitarian response. Erbil authorities do not allow the provision of NFI or shelter assistance in non-camp areas.

A livelihood assessment across all refugee camps in KR-I found that 47% of respondents had no source of income in the 30 days preceding the assessment, and only 20% reported that they were fully able to meet their household basic needs. Some 81% of households found food by far the most significant share of expenditure, and 58% had contracted debts since arriving (UNHCR and REACH, 06/2014).

Dohuk: Domiz camp is overcrowded. However, up to one-third of refugees receiving assistance in the camp reported that they are living outside the camp.

Sulaymaniyah: the Directorate of Residency has suspended issuing residency permits to the Syrian refugees due to a server breakdown; a significant number of residency permits remain pending (UNHCR, 31/05/2014).

Anbar: As of 31 May, 1,535 Syrian refugees are in Al Obaidy camp near Al Qa’im, and 2,970 are settled in Al Qa’im itself.
Non-Syrian Refugees

During the first quarter of 2014, the number of registered protracted (non-Syrian) refugees and asylum seekers was 39,480.

Returnees

As of 31 March, 45,840 Iraqi refugees from Syria have registered with the MoDM since July 2012.

Returnees to Syria

A total of 28,199 Syrians registered as refugees in Iraq have voluntarily returned to Syria since 2011. Some 6,770 Syrians have returned to Syria from Al Qa'im because of improved security and basic services, family reunification, the lack of freedom of movement in Iraq, or insufficient assistance, lack of income, and lack of healthcare.

Food Security

The escalation of conflict and civil insecurity is having a serious impact on food security. The harvesting of major cereal crops, currently underway, is in jeopardy. Ninevah and Salah al Din governorates are at the centre of conflict and normally produce nearly one-third, and over one-third, of total national wheat and barley production, respectively. Loss of assets and income opportunities, and disruption of marketing activities and transport networks have exposed large number of people to severe food insecurity (FAO/FEWSNET, 25/06/2014).

Animal diseases are already a threat to the livestock population in Iraq, and with potential transmission to humans, a risk to public health, especially of refugees and IDPs (FAO, 25/06/2014).

IDPs in Erbil reported eating only once a day or once every other day due to lack of funds. Others have indicated their preference to return to Mosul should they run out of means (PI 16/06/2014).

Host families are running low on food supplies (IOM 11/06/2014). Longstanding instability has resulted in the deterioration of the accessibility and quality of essential services (WFP, 2014). The influx of Syrian refugees into KR-I is already straining resources, and the current wave of IDPs will add an extra burden.

Health and Nutrition

Two hospitals in and around Mosul have been damaged by shelling, located in areas where violence is ongoing and people need urgent access to health services (WHO 21/06/2014). The MSF clinic in Tikrit has been severely damaged (WHO, 21/06/2014).

UNICEF and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) are rolling out a mass vaccination campaign for polio and other diseases, which will be expanded from IDPs to include host populations, displacement camps and border crossings (UNICEF 19/06/2014).

The KR-I Ministry of Health has reported critical shortages in medicines and medical supplies: the Department of Health in Dohuk, has reported shortages in trauma kits, dialysis supplies, desferal infusion pumps, IV fluids, and diarrhoea treatment kits; the Department of Health in Erbil reported overcrowding at the dialysis centre and at chemotherapy centres, and a lack of chemotherapy drugs. Both governorates reported overcrowded emergency/trauma rooms as well as a spike in burns patients (PI 17/06/2014).

Civilians are facing significant obstacles accessing the main hospital in Ramadi, while staff at the Anbar Department of Health in Ramadi are also unable to reach work (UNAMI). Government mortars and shells have hit the main Fallujah public hospital at least once (UN); Human Rights Watch said that the attacks injured health staff and patients.

Cholera

There is an increasing risk of a cholera outbreak among the displaced. Cholera is endemic in northern Iraq, with large-scale outbreaks reported in the Kurdistan region in 2007, 2008, and 2012 (WHO, 27/06/2014).

Measles

WHO warns of immediate and critical health risks in Ninevah, Salah al Din and Diyala, including an outbreak of measles, which is endemic in Mosul and could spread in overcrowded areas (WHO, 16/06/2014).

Polio

Following the notification of a second confirmed polio case from Al Hamza district, Diwaniya governorate – with the child originally from Mada’in district, Baghdad-Resafa Governorate – a mop-up polio vaccination will be conducted by WHO and the Iraqi Ministry of Health (WHO, 12/06/2014). Surveys of Mada’in and Al Hamza districts show that inaccessibility due to insecurity, as well as lack of access to formal healthcare, are problematic in assuring full immunisation coverage.

Spread of polio is a high risk as people are displaced by the recent insecurity. New cases were reported in Iraq earlier this year (WHO, 15/06/2014). One wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) case was reported end May from Mada’in district in Baghdad-Resafa. The first case was confirmed on 24 March in Baghdad. Polio is believed to have spread due to the conflict and displacement in Anbar governorate, which borders Syria’s Deir-ez-Zor governorate, where polio was first found in October 2013. Iraq had been declared polio-free in 2000.

Monitoring showed the May immunisation campaign reached 95% of the targeted population, although immunisation coverage was under 80% in six governorates.

WASH

A shortage of chlorine remains a challenge for water projects in Anbar (UNICEF 19/06/2014).

Disruptions in water and sanitation facilities increase the risk of waterborne diseases including acute watery diarrhoea, particularly in the hotter months (WHO 16/06/2014).
Neighbourhoods in western Mosul lack drinking water as the main water station serving the area has been destroyed by bombing (IOM 11/06/2014; UNAMI 15/06/2014).

As temperatures have risen, water consumption has increased, and refugees in camps are reporting shortages and unequitable access (UNHCR, 04/2014).

**Shelter**

A shortage of shelter is a key challenge for the 500,000 who fled to KR-I in June. Many are residing in hastily set-up transit camps (UNHCR, 13/06/2014).

99% of people surveyed in Erbil city reported not having the resources to support themselves in their current accommodation arrangements for more than a week. Others are unable to move out of hotels for lack of KR-I residency permits. People with short-term permits do not know how to renew them. Without any alternative, people who have exhausted their resources are liable to return to Mosul or other cities of origin (UNAMI 15/06/2014; UNHCR, PI 16/06/2014).

Within Mosul, some 25,000 people are seeking shelter in schools and mosques (WHO 16/06/2014).

**Protection**

Of the 500,000 people fleeing their homes since the onset of violence on 5 June in Mosul, half are children (UNICEF, 11/06/2014).

Since the fall of Mosul, executions, human rights violations, sectarian abuses and civilian casualties have been reported, but the full extent remains unknown (OHCHR, 13/06/2014; HRW, 12/06/2014). ISIL has a local history of civilian abuse, including forced taxation, attacks on journalists, abductions, executions, and, throughout Iraq, suicide bomb attacks (HRW, 12/06/2014). According to the UN human rights chief, reports suggest that the number of summary executions by ISIL in the second week of June may have been in the hundreds (OHCHR, 13/06/14).

The ISF is reported to have indiscriminately accused some IDPs arriving in Baghdad of affiliation with ISIL (PI, 12/06/2014).

Concerns have been raised about violence directed at minors, including the potential recruitment of children, sexual violence, abductions and extrajudicial killings. At present it remains unclear to what extent these concerns have materialised (Save the Children International, 15/06/2014).

Some children and women, especially those living in parks or unfinished buildings, have resorted to begging (PI, 12/06/2014).

**Education**

Access to education in refugee camp schools is high, but the schools lack teachers with appropriate training to deal with the emotional needs of often traumatised students.

Updated: 01/07/2014

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**MYANMAR**

**INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No new developments this week. Last update: 20/06/2014.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Rakhine state remains tense after repeated bloodshed between Buddhists and Muslims since 2012. Human rights abuses against the Muslim minority have been reported (UN).

- Over 640,000 people are internally displaced as a result of years of internal ethnic conflict. An estimated 146,000 people, mainly Rohingya Muslims, are displaced in Rakhine state because of violence between Rakhine Buddhists and the Muslim minority in June and October 2012 (OCHA, 04/2014).

- Myanmar authorities are currently engaged in peace negotiations with all the country’s ethnic and regional insurgency groups, aiming to reach a nationwide ceasefire.

**Political Context**

The military-led authoritarian regime in Myanmar (Burma) has made moves to improve its record on human rights over the last years, with the release of the opposition activist Aung San Suu Kyi in November 2010 being a turning point. Since 2013, several amnesties have been granted to political prisoners.

In early January, another presidential amnesty was granted to political prisoners convicted of offences under seven specific laws, including unlawful association, treason, and sedition. The pardon, the first in 2014 and the sixth since the beginning of 2013, reportedly extends to over 200 political prisoners and other categories of detainees.

This recent pardon represents another goodwill gesture against a backdrop of reform and peace talks with several armed insurgent movements. In July 2013, President Thein Sein promised to free all prisoners of conscience by end 2013, a promise that may be kept in 2014. In September, several amnesties led to the release of members of ethnic minority armed groups with whom the Government is seeking peace deals. Amnesties granted on 11 December and 15 November, included the release of prominent Karen human rights activist Naw Ohn Hla.

While recent efforts by the authorities to improve the country’s human rights record have been welcomed, local activists report that the prosecution of dissidents is continuing.

**Peace Negotiations**

Since independence in 1948, internal conflicts have been endemic in Myanmar. Ethnic and political groups have conducted protracted insurgencies mainly in remote and
economically marginalised areas such as Kachin, Kayin (Karen ethnic group), Kayah (Karen), Rakhine, and Shan states. In 2013, authorities signed several separate peace deals with the various insurgent movements, with the exception of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the armed wing of the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO), and the ethnic Ta’ang army. The Government says it hopes to consolidate these agreements into a nationwide ceasefire deal. However, local sources reported that the Myanmar military were weakly involved in the current peace process, which is mainly handled by the civilian authorities through the Myanmar Peace Center.

On 13 May, the Government and KIO leaders met for bilateral talks following April clashes. The representatives of other ethnic groups, the UN, and China attended as observers. An agreement was reached on establishing a joint conflict resolution committee.

In early April, senior government officials, military commanders and ethnic leaders held the first discussions on jointly drafting a nationwide ceasefire text, which would draw on both a ceasefire proposal by ethnic groups and a Government proposal. However, Army demands for the incorporation of its own six-point statement are reportedly complicating the merger of the two proposals. The statement says that all ethnic groups should come under the central command of the military, and that all parties should respect the 2008 Constitution, which was drafted by the military and put the ethnic regions under the centralised authority of the Government.

Local sources reported on 10 March that the umbrella group Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT), a coalition bringing together 16 ethnic groups, agreed to partner with the government’s Internal Peace Making Working Committee in the finalisation of the draft national ceasefire agreement. A meeting between the two parties resulted in a statement pledging the formation of a bipartisan committee, composed of nine representatives from each side, with government representatives from the President’s office, parliament, and the army.

In a separate development in early March, local sources reported that a senior leader from the United Nationalities Federal Council, the other coalition gathering 11 ethnic armed groups involved in peace talks with the Government, warned that the recent increase in violence between the military and ethnic armed groups in the north could derail the ongoing negotiation process.

Security Context

Despite peace negotiations between the authorities and various insurgent groups, the security situation remains tense in parts of Myanmar. Massive human rights infringements against the Rohingya Muslim minority in Rakhine state continue to be reported. In recent months, Buddhist Rakhine activists and politicians have campaigned to restrict healthcare and other aid for many of the estimated one million Rohingya living in the state.

On 8 April, local authorities completed a 12-day nationwide census, the first since 1983. There had been fears that the process could inflame tensions in forcing the population to answer questions on ethnicity, religion, citizenship, and status. According to local observers, several minorities have expressed misgivings about the use of a list of 135 official ethnicities, fearing it could be used for political purposes. Minority groups make up some 30% of the estimated 55–60 million population.

Regional Context

Mid-June, Myanmar and Bangladeshi authorities vowed to strengthen border security and combat “illegal armed groups and criminals” following clashes on their shared frontier that Dhaka said left one of its soldiers dead.

Insecurity in Rakhine State

On 6 February, ECHO reported an escalation of tensions in Rakhine state, as between 500 and 2,000 people, including Buddhist monks, participated in demonstrations in northern Buthedaung. The demonstrations, which reportedly remained peaceful, started after clashes in Du Chee Yar Tan village in south Maungdaw on 13–14 January displaced an estimated 2,000 Muslims.

According to local sources and several human rights organisations, at least 40 people, including women and children, were killed in retaliatory government attacks on Rohinyaga Muslims in Rakhine state on 13–14 January. Médecins Sans Frontières reported that it treated 22 people who had apparently been wounded around the same time as the reported massacre of Muslims, an incident the Government denies, though it acknowledges that clashes took place. The UN is calling for an investigation into the incident. Tensions remain high, with authorities imposing restrictions on the displaced Muslim minority.

Multiple violent incidents were reported between Buddhists and Muslims near Yangon in early October, and in Thandwe, a coastal township in western Rakhine state, in late September, which led to casualties.

In June and October 2012, sectarian confrontations between Rakhine Buddhists and the Muslim minority shook western Rakhine state, displacing tens of thousands of people.

Military Operations

Conflict between the Myanmar Army and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) erupted on 10 April in the vicinity of Man Win Gyi Township, southern Kachin State, affecting several villages and IDP camps. The fighting continued for approximately one week, affecting several villages in the area, which is located on the borders between Kachin State, northern Shan State and China. Over 2,700 people were displaced and are being hosted in four camps around Man Win Gyi and Nam Kham. While no new fighting was reported in the second half of April, the situation in the area remains tense, with landmine explosions and security incidents reported. Tensions increased significantly over recent weeks as the Government deployed large numbers of troops in the area, ostensibly to assist implementation of the UN-funded national census, which the KIO has boycotted.

Although peace negotiations are ongoing, various local reports indicate that small-scale military operations continue in Kachin state. On 12 February, a KIA outpost was reportedly seized by Government troops in Kachin state. Government troops had launched a renewed offensive against the KIA in the north on 26 December 2013. Local media reported artillery at a frontline outpost near Nam Lim Pa village in Mansi township, in southern Kachin state. Accurate information regarding these clashes remains scarce and the impact of this spike in violence on peace negotiations is unclear.
On 4 March, local sources citing Shan ethnic rebels reported that Myanmar military forces captured two strategic outposts of the Shan State Army-North (SSA-N), at the junction connecting northern and southern Shan state. Insurgents were reportedly forced to withdraw from two of their camps as they suffered two consecutive days of bombardments and attacks in late February. Fighting between the regular army and the SSA-N has continued despite agreeing a ceasefire in January 2012, with the rebels claiming it has lost five camps to Government troops and engaged in over 100 clashes since the deal was signed.

On 18 November, Kachin campaign groups called for an immediate end to clashes between Government troops and the KIA, ongoing since October despite a ceasefire having been agreed in the middle of the month. Violence has reportedly effectively trapped an estimated 2,300 people, including children and IDPs, with limited food and shelter in the remote Bhamo-Mansi area of Kachin state, near the border with China.

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

Reports indicate that though the army is still deployed in Karen state, almost no fighting has occurred in the area since a ceasefire was signed in January 2012. Little information is available on the situation in other areas as of early 2014.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Concern is growing over the humanitarian impact of upcoming rains on access to 5,000 IDPs in southern Kachin state. Over 50% of them are in areas beyond government control, where access is already difficult.

However, access has reportedly improved in Kachin state as major highways, closed since the outbreak of hostilities between the Government and the KIA in 2011, were reopened on 17 March following the renewal of talks. OCHA noted that six cross-line missions in January successfully accessed locations beyond Government control in Kachin state where approximately 30,000 IDPs currently live.

According to OCHA in late May, humanitarian organisations continued to scale up operations following severe disruptions due to attacks on UN and INGOs premises in Sittwe, Rakhine State, at the end of March. However, only 60% of the staff who left Sittwe following the March attacks had returned by the end of May.

Humanitarian organisations in Rakhine report that there are still difficulties with the transfer of severely malnourished children who have medical complications from IDP camps to Sittwe Hospital, due to continued limitations on medical services.

Thousands of vulnerable people in Rakhine have been severely affected by the disruption in humanitarian assistance since late March. Over 300 aid workers had to be temporarily relocated, and more than 1,000 humanitarian staff were forced to stop work following an outbreak of violence on 26 and 27 March. Overall, 33 premises belonging to UN agencies and seven international NGOs were ransacked. In early February, ECHO reported that some demonstrators were demanding the departure of the UN and INGOs from Buthedaung, northern Rakhine state.

Humanitarian activities have been heavily constrained in a region where many displaced people, mostly Rohingya Muslims, are completely reliant on humanitarian assistance. ECHO reported in late May that there has been an increase in security threats and attacks against humanitarian organisations as many Buddhist people in Rakhine feel that humanitarian aid is unevenly distributed, benefiting only the Rohingya. As a consequence, many aid organisations have been suspending activities and evacuating staff since March.

As of late January, OCHA indicated that inter-communal tensions and restrictions on movement continued to isolate many communities in Rakhine state. According to reports, the situation is particularly bad in Myeboon township, southeast of the state capital Sittwe.

OCHA reported increased community resistance to international organisations working in Rakhine state in the second half of 2013. According to monitoring reports, the number of incidents affecting humanitarian operations across Rakhine state has risen.

Displacement

IDPs

As reported by UNHCR in late March, over 640,000 people are internally displaced because of violence.

Rakhine: 146,000 people, mainly Rohingya Muslims, have been displaced since inter-communal violence between Rakhine Buddhists and the Muslim minority occurred in June and October 2012. An estimated 100,000 people live in Sittwe township and 70,000 are said to be food insecure. According to reports from human rights groups, Rohingya Muslims continue to face abuse and movement restrictions; most are considered crisis-affected and needing humanitarian assistance. According to the UN, the Muslim minority in Myanmar is subject to many forms of persecution, discrimination, and exploitation. As reported by UNHCR, over 800,000 people, mostly Muslims, are estimated to be without citizenship in the northern part of Rakhine State.

On 21 November, authorities rejected a UN resolution urging them to grant citizenship to the Rohingya Muslims, accusing the UN of encroaching on its sovereignty. Myanmar continues officially to state that the estimated 1.1 million Rohingya Muslims are migrants from neighbouring Bangladesh, thus excluded from citizenship under the 1982 Citizenship Law.

In April, fresh fighting displaced another 3,000 people, some for the second and third time, from more than 14 villages and four camps in rebel-controlled areas; 96,000 are displaced as of May 2014, with more than half of them living in KIA-controlled areas, making humanitarian access a challenge.

Kachin: 96,000 people have been displaced by armed conflict since June 2011 and over 50% of them are staying in KIA-controlled areas, making humanitarian access a challenge.
An estimated 20,000 live with host communities. Many have been displaced for up to two years, triggering renewed and additional needs for provision of basic services, livelihoods, and protection. In April, fresh fighting displaced another 3,000 people, some for the second and third time, from more than 14 villages and four camps in rebel-controlled areas. In February, OCHA reported that, in addition to shelter renovation and WASH assistance, the most urgent needs in displaced communities are education, health care, and non-food items.

On 10 April, fighting broke out between government forces and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in southern Kachin state. According to OCHA, over 2,700 people were displaced and are being hosted in four camps around Man Win Gyi and Nam Kham. An unconfirmed number of people have fled across the border to China.

**Shan:** Clashes erupted in the area of Muse Township, in northern Shan State, on 30 April and caused the displacement of more than 700 people. Many of the new IDPs include people who had already been displaced by fighting in southern Kachin state in November 2013. According to local sources, these IDPs are now facing severe shortage of basic aid and clean water. Local aid workers reported that IDPs are also in urgent need of shelter assistance ahead of this year’s mid-May to mid-September monsoon.

In Meikhtila city, Mandalay region, more than 5,000 people were displaced following inter-communal violence in March 2013.

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

**Refugees from Myanmar**

According to UNHCR as of late March, over 415,000 refugees originate from Myanmar.

Rohingya Muslims, many of whom have been in Myanmar for generations, are rejected by neighbouring Bangladesh and are therefore stateless. To date, most Rohingyas are also denied refugee status by the Bangladeshi authorities. An estimated 30,000 Rohingya Muslims live in official camps where they are assisted by aid agencies, another 200,000 refugees reside in unofficial camps or Bangladeshi villages where they get little to no humanitarian assistance and almost no protection from human rights abuse.

According to reports by international human rights organisations in early December, Rohingya Muslims are also subject to human trafficking in neighbouring Thailand. To date, following the clashes and persecutions over the last years, notably in Rakhine state, several thousand Rohingya Muslims are hosted in Thailand, which is pushing for their repatriation to Myanmar. As of December 2013, according to UNHCR, an estimated 28,000 refugees, including Rohingyas, and another estimated 90,000 people from various ethnic minorities, lived in temporary sites along the Thai–Myanmar border.

In early November, UNHCR reported that an increasing number of mainly Muslims from Rakhine state, at least 1,500, are setting out to sea on smuggling boats from the Bay of Bengal. Although numbers remain difficult to ascertain, such forced departures often result in disaster as boats capsize.

In June, UNHCR reported that 28,000 Rakhine Muslims were registered as refugees in Malaysia. However, according to groups representing them, the real number of Myanmar Muslim immigrants is much higher and has surged in 2013 because of the violence.

**Food Security**

Household affected by flooding in 2013, particularly in Kayin state and Bago region, have raised the levels of food insecurity. Furthermore, nearly half a million IDPs are at risk of food insecurity in Rakhine (southwest), Kachin (north), Shan (east) and southeast Myanmar. Generally, the food situation is generally improving (FAO, 14/05/2014).

A February 2014 joint survey by humanitarian partners and local authorities indicated that 18.5% of households in Myanmar’s central “dry zone” are facing food insecurity. The central regions of Mandalay, Magway and Lower Sagaing, which cover 13% of the country and account for a quarter of the population, have experienced very low rainfall. Latest reports indicate that one-third of households in this area experience at least a month – usually June and/or July – when they do not meet their food needs.

**Health and Nutrition**

As noted by OCHA in mid-July, a vulnerability mapping exercise showed that 36,000 Rohingya Muslims in 113 isolated villages in Rakhine state have no or limited access to basic services, including markets, education, and healthcare. Access to services is impeded by tension and restrictions on freedom of movement.

**Dengue**

Even though the numbers of dengue cases and related deaths were lower than expected for the 2013 rainy season, health authorities still recorded 16,000 cases and 75 deaths in September 2013.

**Malnutrition**

A February 2014 joint survey by humanitarian partners and local authorities indicated that 12.3% of children under five in Myanmar’s central “dry zone” are acutely malnourished. Main causes include food insecurity, poverty, poor water and sanitation, disease, and poor feeding practices.

**WASH**

In Rakhine state, a general deterioration in the WASH situation in camps is aggravating health problems and increasing the risk of waterborne disease. There are concerns for more than 23,000 people who do not have access to safe water and who are dependent on daily humanitarian intervention, as humanitarian staff report that the one-month suspension of activities has led to low levels of supervision and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities.

According to local sources in late March, an estimated 200 villages in central Myanmar are suffering from acute water shortages, due to an ongoing long dry season. Latest reports indicated that the problem is mainly affecting the supply of safe drinking water.

**Protection**
As reported by OCHA in February, adolescent girls in camps in Kachin and Rakhine states face increasing violence and abuse, including SGBV.

Reviewed: 25/06/2014

**OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**

**COMPLEX, CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY**

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**22 June:** Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinians, bringing the number of fatalities to four in Operation Brother’s Keeper, the mission to find the people who abducted three Israeli teenagers on 12 June. More than over 400 Palestinians have been arrested, around two-thirds of them Hamas members (AFP). Movement restrictions are disrupting access to services, markets and workplaces, particularly in Hebron (OCHA, 16/06/2014).

**20 June:** The OHCHR voiced concern regarding the worsening health of the Palestinian hunger strikers protesting administrative detention (UN).

### KEY CONCERNS

- The ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip limits access and movement of both people and goods.

- Fuel shortages are worsening, with most of Gaza’s fuel stations now closed, affecting critical hospital functions.

- 1.81 million people need humanitarian assistance (OCHA).

- 1.6 million people, or 61% of the population, is estimated to be food insecure (OCHA, 30/04/2014).

- About 2,100 attacks have been launched by Israeli security forces since 2006, and annual totals are up from 115 in 2006 to 399 in 2013.

- An estimated 315,000 Palestinians are vulnerable to violence, including 130,000 people considered at high risk (OCHA).

### OVERVIEW

Protection of the civilian population, improvement of food insecurity, provision of access to basic services, and prevention of forced displacement are the highest priorities among Palestinians in need. Longstanding protection threats include severe movement and access restrictions. The number of attacks on Palestinians by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank has increased every year for the past eight years, and attacks by Israeli security forces have also increased.

### Political Context

In response to the formation of the Palestinian unity government, Israel unveiled plans for 3,200 settler homes (AFP, 05/06/2014).

Following the 23 April reconciliation deal between Fatah and Hamas, the new Palestinian Unity Government was sworn in before President Abbas on 2 June, ending seven years of division (AFP, UN, 02/06/2014).

### Israeli–Palestinian Peace Talks

On 25 April, after the deal between Hamas and Fatah, Israel withdrew from the US-sponsored peace talks, stating that Abbas has to choose between peace with Israel and a pact with Hamas. President Obama acknowledged the need for a pause in the talks, while vowing not to give up.

Talks had begun in July after three years of deadlock. The US is trying to broker a framework of guidelines addressing core issues such as borders, security, the future of Palestinian refugees, and the status of Jerusalem. Palestinians want to create a state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and are seeking a written framework agreement. Israel is reportedly looking for a less rigid deal, expressing concerns that any formal agreement could stoke opposition from hardline members of the Israeli Government. Far-right members of Israel’s governing coalition have repeatedly threatened to topple the Government if Prime Minister Netanyahu accepts Palestinian territorial demands.

### Security Context

Israeli military operations in OPT and settler-related violence in the West Bank continue to undermine the physical security and livelihoods of Palestinians. OCHA estimated that 110 Palestinian communities, with a combined population of over 315,000 people, are vulnerable to violence from conflict; almost 60 of these communities, over 130,000 people, are at high risk (05/2014).

Following the abduction of three Israeli youths on 12 June, four Palestinians have been killed, over 70 injured and over 400 arrested during Israeli security operations (OCHA, 16/06/2014).

### West Bank

In the West Bank, 12 Palestinians have been killed and 1,128 people injured by Israeli forces in 2014, as of 16 June. There have been 156 incidents of settler-related violence, of which 34 resulted in Israeli casualties or property damage. The demolition of 296 structures, including 37 in East Jerusalem, has displaced 528 people this year, including 101 in East Jerusalem. Around 167 search and arrest operations had been carried out in the previous week. (OCHA, 16/06/2014).
Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinians in the West Bank, as part of Israeli security forces’ operations following the abduction of three Israeli teenagers (AFP, 22/06/2014).

The number of attacks on Palestinians by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank has increased every year for the past eight years, from 115 in 2006 to 399 in 2013 (OCHA). In 2013, over 7,000 Palestinians, 342 settlers, and 37 soldiers were injured, and 10 Palestinians and 29 settlers were killed.

About 2,100 attacks have been launched by Israelis between 2006 and end 2013.

Palestinian Bedouin families are at risk of forcible transfer, as Israeli authorities continue to make eviction and demolition orders. The families reportedly reside in an area designated as a ‘closed military zone’. Israeli authorities intend to relocate most Bedouin communities across Area C of the West Bank to a limited number of sites, affecting around 2,800 people divided over 18 communities.

Gaza Strip

As of 16 June, 14 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces, and 162 others injured in 2014 (OCHA).

On 12 June, an Israeli airstrike killed a Palestinian man, and two others were wounded in an evening raid (AFP, 12/06/2014). A civilian died of wounds sustained when he was shot by Israeli forces while off-shore fishing near the fence in Gaza at the end of May (OCHA, 09/06/2014). On 2 June, reportedly in response to rocket fire by armed groups, two Israeli air strikes targeted military training sites in Khan Younis and Az Zaitoun, Gaza City.

After a year of relative calm, the number of violent incidents in and around Gaza has grown. An estimated 33 rockets have been fired from Gaza towards southern Israel since early January. In early February, Hamas reportedly deployed a 600-strong special security force tasked with preventing cross-border fire by Palestinian factions. An increase in Israeli raids, Palestinian rocket attacks, and border incidents built up tensions between Israel and Hamas, leading to a significant escalation of violent incidents in the Gaza Strip between 11 and 14 March.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Movement restrictions as Israeli security forces carry out military operations are disrupting access to services, markets and workplaces, particularly in Hebron (OCHA, 16/06/2014).

Heavy Egyptian military deployment along the border, combined with severe access restrictions on people and vehicles into the border area, has reportedly resulted in a dramatic decline in the transfer of goods and fuel through the tunnels between Egypt and Gaza. Egypt intends to destroy the network of smuggling tunnels on the grounds that Palestinians have been using the passages to help Sinai militants.

The UN estimated that in November, fewer than 20,000 litres of fuel per week entered Gaza via the tunnels, compared to nearly one million litres per day until June 2013. The Gaza Power Plant continues to operate at half-capacity due to lack of funding and lack of fuel, causing longer power cuts throughout Gaza (OCHA, 06/06/2014).

Rafah Crossing

Egyptian authorities re-opened Rafah crossing between 1-3 June, after closing it for two weeks. Over 2,500 pilgrims were allowed to cross in both directions. Another 10,000 people are registered and waiting to cross into Egypt, including medical patients (OCHA, 06/06/2014).

On 5 May, OCHA reported that the Rafah Crossing reopened for two days for people entering or exiting on humanitarian grounds. Around 350 people entered Gaza, and 1,600 left for Egypt and other countries. The crossing was open to pilgrims between 4 and 6 May, and 20 to 23 April. In the beginning of April, a total of around 4,500 pilgrims crossed in both directions – compared to 56,000 in June 2013.

The Rafah Crossing is the primary exit and entry point to the Gaza Strip for Palestinians, and restrictions were increased in July 2013. Movement across the other crossing points, Erez and Kerem Shalom in northern Gaza Strip, has been restricted since September 2000.

Kerem Shalom Crossing

The Kerem Shalom (KS) crossing was closed on 5-6 May, due to Israeli holidays. It was closed 15-28 April in response to Palestinian rocket fire. The Gaza population has been more dependent on this crossing since July 2013 and the end of tunnel smuggling, and the recent closure had a highly disruptive impact, exacerbating shortages of cooking gas, and food items.

Displacement

Over 100 people were displaced 19-26 May following demolitions or military training in the Jordan Valley (OCHA, 26/05/2014).

In April, 179 Palestinian civilians were displaced in the West Bank (OCHA, 23/05/2014).

In January 2014, aid agencies in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem reported an increase in Israeli demolition of Palestinian property, using information made available by OCHA’s Protection of Civilian Database. Between July and December 2013, the number of demolitions increased by 43%, and the number of displaced Palestinians increased by nearly 75% compared to the same period in 2012.

Food Security

1.6 million – or a third of households – are food insecure. Food insecurity in Gaza stands at 57%, unchanged from 2012, while in the West Bank food insecurity remains at 19%. Food insecurity is driven by high rates of poverty resulting from unemployment, partly due to ongoing Israeli access and movement restrictions, as well as high food prices and economic shocks (UNRWA, FAO, WFP, Government, 03/06/2014).
Food insecurity in Gaza surged from 44% in 2011 to 57% in 2012. The halt in the smuggling of food via the tunnel has increased food prices.

Livelihoods

Gaza’s economic situation continues to deteriorate, with livelihoods eroded and prices increasing. In November 2013, the EU reported that over 250,000 workers had lost their jobs, with construction and tunnel-trade employment stagnating. Unemployment hit a three-year high of 41.5% in the last quarter of 2013 (OCHA, 03/2014). Shortages of electricity and building materials are undermining livelihoods. Shortages of fuel, attributed to the closures of the Kerem Shalom crossing and coordination issues between Palestinian authorities in Gaza and Ramallah, have gradually worsened, with most of Gaza’s 180 fuel stations forced to close or severely limit operations (OCHA, 12/05/2014).

Health and Nutrition

The healthcare system in Gaza has limited capacity to meet the needs of its 1.7 million population, due to underlying factors such as closed borders, economic sanctions, and periodic outbreaks of violence. Shortage of essential medicines is a chronic problem – at 26 March, there were zero stocks of 30% of essential drugs and 52% of medical disposables – as well as the low number of specialised staff (WHO, 10/06/2014).

WHO reported an increased need for access through Erez crossing (30/04/2014). The number of patients’ applications submitted in the first quarter of 2014 was 87% higher than in the same period last year, and the highest since WHO began monitoring access in 2005. This reflects the continuing problems of access through Rafah crossing to Egypt and the lack of drugs, especially chemotherapy and lack of medical disposables. Only 40 patients were able to travel through Rafah crossing in March; three referral patients died when waiting for approval. More than 4,000 took the crossing in March 2013.

Shortages of affordable fuel to operate generators have severely disrupted critical hospital functions, such as emergency rooms, operating theatres, and neonatal care, OCHA reports. All health facilities, including 30 hospitals and over 135 clinics, are affected.

WASH

An estimated 600,000 people in the Gaza Strip may not have access to adequate and safe water and sanitation services as a result of power outages and lack of fuel (OCHA, 05/2014).

As of late March, Palestinians in East Jerusalem have reportedly petitioned the Israeli Supreme Court over alleged negligence, which has cut water supplies to tens of thousands of people. There was a water shortage in Palestinian areas throughout March, and people in Shuafat refugee camp either had no water at all, or the water pressure was so weak that it stopped periodically. The water infrastructure in those Palestinian areas can support 15,000 people, but the population is estimated at between 60,000 and 80,000.

There is an acute shortage of fuel to power standby generators at 291 facilities across Gaza, including water wells, ground tank pumps, booster stations, desalination plants, sewage pump stations, and wastewater treatment plants. OCHA stated that this has resulted in reduced water supply to households, with only 15% of the population supplied every day, 25% once every four days, 40% once every three days, and 20% every two days, with supply cycles lasting 5–6 hours (05/2014).

Many families are forced to purchase unsafe water from unregulated water vendors and distributors. Initial reports indicate that people, mostly children, are filling jerry cans from desalination units during night hours (when the electricity is on), raising protection concerns.

Protection

The OHCHR voiced concern regarding the worsening health of the Palestinian hunger strikers protesting administrative detention (UN, 20/06/2014).

Human rights organisations have called upon the Israeli government to refrain from collective punishment of Palestinians. The organisations expressed concern that current operations are not serving the aim of locating and returning the abducted Israelis, and severely and unnecessarily violate basic human rights (Amnesty, Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, Physicians for Human Rights, Gisha, Association for Civil Rights in Israel, 22/06/2014).

Updated : 23/06/2014

PAKISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT, EARTHQUAKE

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

30 June: Some 468,000 IDPs have been registered by the FATA Disaster Management Authority. Over 95,000 people have fled to Khost province, Afghanistan. Unverified reports indicate that some 10,000 are in Afghanistan’s Paktika province (OCHA). 74% of IDPs are women and children. Most fled to Bannu district, with others moving to Hangu, Lakki Marwat, Karak, Dera Ismail Khan, Charsadda, Tank, and Kohat districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province (OCHA).

30 June: Trucks carrying supplies for the newly displaced in North Waziristan face delays due to stringent security checks. There is a general need to improve access to the IDPs in affected districts (OCHA).

29 June: Authorities relaxed the curfew on North Waziristan to allow people to leave before they launched another ground operation on 30 June (OCHA).

25 June: Gunmen opened fire on a passenger jet as it landed in Peshawar. A passenger was killed and two crew were wounded (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- Nearly 6,000 people were killed and 5,500 injured in militant, sectarian, terrorist,
and politically motivated attacks in 2013, making it one of the deadliest years in the last decade (Center for Research and Security Studies).

- Over 468,000 IDPs following military operations in North Waziristan. Priority needs include protection, food, shelter, health, and WASH.

- One million IDPs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA as of mid-December 2013; 2.9 million documented and undocumented Afghan refugees (UNHCR). Numbers are difficult to confirm.

- 1.21 million people are in need of health and food assistance; 1.59 million need nutrition assistance (OCHA, 02/2014).

OVERVIEW

Priority humanitarian needs are for health, nutrition, and food assistance. An estimated 4.2 million people were in need of humanitarian support in November 2013 (OCHA).

The security situation remains volatile due to militant attacks in urban centres and military operations against the Taliban in the tribal areas. Peace talks with an increasingly fragmented Taliban are stop-start. Pakistan's relations with neighbouring countries, and with the US, remain tense.

Political Context

Regional Context

Afghanistan

Most of the Afghan Taliban leadership live in Pakistan, and Pakistan's relationship with the Afghan Taliban has strained bilateral relations, although Islamabad is likely to play a crucial role in any renewed peace initiative in Afghanistan. Prime Minister Sharif has promised to help arrange further meetings between Afghan officials and Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, former Afghan Taliban second-in-command. Pakistan's release of Afghan Taliban prisoners since September 2013 is also seen by the Afghan authorities as instrumental in bringing the Taliban to the negotiating table.

Despite complex US–Pakistan relations, a complete US withdrawal from Afghanistan by the end of 2014 is not in Pakistan's interest due to the risk of a security vacuum along Pakistan's border.

India

Talks between Islamabad and Delhi in October 2013 aimed to calm bilateral relations and move towards reconciliation. But India's military continues to accuse Pakistan of helping insurgents push into Indian-administered Kashmir as foreign forces withdraw from Afghanistan, which Pakistan denies.

Several sources from the Pakistan-based Islamist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba said in mid-August 2013 that the group is preparing to reignite the fight over Kashmir as soon as NATO troops withdraw in 2014. The Indian consulate in the Afghan city of Jalalabad was bombed in August 2013, and the Indian consulate in Herat was attacked by gunmen in May 2014.

National Context

Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP)

The Pakistan Taliban, or TTP, is an umbrella group of several factions set up in 2007. Its actions, and the military response, have the biggest impact on security in Pakistan.

The Mehsud faction split from the TTP at the end of May, after months of infighting, claiming ideological differences regarding 'un-Islamic' tactics (CNN, 02/06/2014). The breakaway faction is reportedly made up around 2,600 men and controls a large arsenal of modern weapons. It will be led by South Waziristan-based commander Khalid Mehsud, also known as Khan Syed Sajna. The split will likely lead to further fragmentation within the TTP.

Meanwhile, no tangible progress in peace talks between the TTP and Government can be reported. On 23 April, a ceasefire expired, and in May, attacks from both sides continued. Militants and security sources indicated that Taliban motivation for the ceasefire was to preserve militant bases used to stage cross-border attacks, as the Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan have secretly agreed to focus on operations in Afghanistan.

The negotiating committee had agreed to the release of non-combatant Taliban prisoners, and both sides discussed a prisoner swap in the beginning of April. The Government released a group of 16 prisoners on 3 April. 650 prisoners have been marked for release.

On 5 May, the tribal jirga called for a revival of the ceasefire and the restoration of peace in accordance with resolutions adopted by parliament and the all-party conference. Local media report that the jirga supports the peace talks, but has complained of being left out of the process.

In February, the Government indicated that Pakistani military will retaliate for every act of terrorism by attacking the headquarters of militants along the Afghan border.

Security Context

US Drone Strikes

International observers state that drone strikes seem to be winding down as a result of stricter rules, diplomatic sensitivities, and the changing nature of the Al Qaeda threat. US officials declined to comment (Tribune, 30/05/2014).

Officials stated in February that US drone strikes had reduced sharply following peace talks with the Taliban. Prime Minister Sharif has repeatedly called for an end to the strikes, though the Obama Administration has indicated that it would continue to carry out strikes if immediate threats to the US were identified. Around 340 drone attacks have taken place since 2004, killing an estimated 2,200 people in FATA (Reuters citing Pakistani government, 10/2013).

OVERVIEW

Priority humanitarian needs are for health, nutrition, and food assistance. An estimated 4.2 million people were in need of humanitarian support in November 2013 (OCHA).

The security situation remains volatile due to militant attacks in urban centres and military operations against the Taliban in the tribal areas. Peace talks with an increasingly fragmented Taliban are stop-start. Pakistan's relations with neighbouring countries, and with the US, remain tense.

Political Context

Regional Context

Afghanistan

Most of the Afghan Taliban leadership live in Pakistan, and Pakistan's relationship with the Afghan Taliban has strained bilateral relations, although Islamabad is likely to play a crucial role in any renewed peace initiative in Afghanistan. Prime Minister Sharif has promised to help arrange further meetings between Afghan officials and Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, former Afghan Taliban second-in-command. Pakistan's release of Afghan Taliban prisoners since September 2013 is also seen by the Afghan authorities as instrumental in bringing the Taliban to the negotiating table.

Despite complex US–Pakistan relations, a complete US withdrawal from Afghanistan by the end of 2014 is not in Pakistan's interest due to the risk of a security vacuum along Pakistan's border.

India

Talks between Islamabad and Delhi in October 2013 aimed to calm bilateral relations and move towards reconciliation. But India's military continues to accuse Pakistan of helping insurgents push into Indian-administered Kashmir as foreign forces withdraw from Afghanistan, which Pakistan denies.

Several sources from the Pakistan-based Islamist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba said in mid-August 2013 that the group is preparing to reignite the fight over Kashmir as soon as NATO troops withdraw in 2014. The Indian consulate in the Afghan city of Jalalabad was bombed in August 2013, and the Indian consulate in Herat was attacked by gunmen in May 2014.

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Attacks by TTP and Splinter Factions

Since talks began between the Government and TTP intermediaries in February, local authorities have reported more than 160 people killed in TTP-related violence. Over 1,400 people were killed in more than 850 incidents of violence perpetrated by the TTP and its factions between June 2013 and January 2014, according to the Pakistan-based Center for Research and Security Studies.

Forty attacks with improvised explosive devices were recorded in the first three months of 2014, mostly in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA, and at least 700 people were killed or injured in these incidents (Action on Armed Violence).

Gunmen opened fire on a passenger plane as it landed in Peshawar. A passenger was killed and two crew were wounded (AFP, 25/06/2014).

Six people died in separate incidents in Karachi in the past week (DAWN, 25/06/2014).

On 8 June, the Taliban began attacking Jinnah International Airport, Karachi. After an all-night siege, 37 militants were left dead. On 10 June, gunmen attacked the Airport Security Force (ASF) camp (AFP, 10/06/2014). In response, the Government launched airstrikes against militants in the tribal areas. A Taliban spokesperson confirmed the Taliban vowed to start all-out war from 10 June (CNN, 10/06/2014).

In June, more than 40 people were injured following a bomb attack on a Sufi shrine on the outskirts of Islamabad. A suicide bombing outside Fateh Jang, Punjab, killed five, including two senior army officers. Eight people were killed in Lahore when riot police clashed with followers of Tahir ul Qadri, a prominent preacher and anti-government critic. In Balochistan, at least 24 Shi’ite pilgrims were killed near Taftan, close to Quetta. Responsibility has not yet been claimed. In Bajaur Agency, gunmen killed a pro-government tribal elder and his son in Kitkoot. Militants killed four soldiers and wounded four others in a cross-border attack on checkpoints. At least seven people were killed and three wounded by a roadside bomb in Parachinar, Kurram Agency. In Karachi, three people were killed in separate incidents, as well as five killed in Baldia Town. East of Karachi, a security guard was shot and injured by unidentified armed men.

In May, a Pakistani-American cardiologist was shot dead in what seemed a targeted attack on the Ahmadi minority (Reuters, 26/05/2014). Bomb attacks and remote-controlled IED blasts in Islamabad and in Mohmand Agency killed over 80 soldiers, civilians and militants (AFP, 24/05/2014; DAWN, 18/05/2014). Three primary schools and a health unit were blown up inCharsadda district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Mohmand Agency, FATA. In Sindh, unidentified gunmen killed a doctor and his driver in the Delhi Colony of Karachi (DAWN, 13/05/2014). Seven people were killed and over 30 injured following attacks in Rawalpindi district, Punjab, in Bannu and Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and in Khyber Agency, FATA.

In April, over 63 people were killed, including at least 16 militants, and 174 were injured in attacks, which mostly took place in the cities of Karachi and Islamabad, and in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Military Operations

Since late February 2014, the Pakistan armed forces have intensified their military offensive against armed groups with strongholds in the North Waziristan region of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

On 15 June, the Pakistani Government launched operation Zarb-e-Azb, with the aim of removing the TTP and foreign and local militants from North Waziristan. Involving over 30,000 soldiers, the operation was launched a week after the attack on Karachi airport, and as stop-and-start negotiations between the government and the TTP proved to have little room for compromise. The army began ground assaults on 26 June.

Around 360 militants have been reported killed, though the toll and identity of victims is impossible to verify. Resistance from insurgents has been relatively light, leading to fears that many of them may have escaped into Afghanistan.

At least 466,000 people have fled. On 29 June, the authorities relaxed its curfew to allow people to leave North Waziristan before a ground operations began again on 30 June (OCHA, 30/06/2014).

Retaliatory Pakistani air force strikes on Taliban hideouts in North Waziristan in May killed at least 60 people, including insurgent commanders. At least 11 militants and four security officials died in fighting near Mir Ali town, North Waziristan (AFP, 21/05/2014). Air strikes in Shawai Valley and Dattakhel areas of North Waziristan between 20 February and early March left over 100 militant fighters dead. Helicopters also attacked Hangu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Another major military operation in North Waziristan took place in January.

Separatist Insurgency in Balochistan

A low-level separatist insurgency has been running against the alleged annexation of Balochistan since 1948. 2004 saw a sharp rise in acts of violence. The Baloch National Front (BNF) political alliance campaigns for independence and seeks to address exploitation of local natural resources and neglect by authorities. Militant sources claim human rights abuses, stating many people with suspected links to separatist groups have disappeared at the hands of intelligence agencies.

In May, over 25 people were killed following a blast at a checkpoint and a targeted attack against a teacher and his family (AFP, 21/05/2014).

In April, four people were killed in separate incidents in Quetta, and 13 people died and 40 were injured when a bomb exploded on a train. The United Baloch Army (UBA) claimed responsibility for the bombing, stating more attacks would follow in retaliation for a major offensive by Pakistan Army’s Frontier Corps in Kalat district in the beginning of April.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

In 2013, 91 attacks against aid workers were recorded, with 29 killed, 41 injured, and 21
kidnapped. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was the most affected, recording 37 attacks, including 20 people killed; followed by FATA with 21 attacks; and Sindh with 20 attacks (OCHA, 28/04/2014).

Trucks carrying supplies for the newly displaced in North Waziristan face delays due to stringent security checks. There is a general need to improve access to IDPs in affected districts of North Waziristan (OCHA, 30/06/2014).

Access to northern Balochistan has improved considerably (OCHA, 19/06/2014).

Between January and May 2014, 54 polio vaccination workers were attacked, 29 of whom were killed, ten injured, and 15 kidnapped (OCHA, 31/05/2014).

Disasters

All of Sindh province except Karachi is facing an acute food and livelihood crisis, due to prolonged water scarcity and drought. Umerkot and Tharparkar in the south, and Garmar Shahdadkot, Jacobabad, and Kashmere in the north are facing a humanitarian emergency. Over 306,000 families were affected between 1 December 2013 and 18 April 2014, and 248 people have died due to drought-related causes and a lack of access to health services (Government of Pakistan; Humanitarian partners, 22/04/2014). Drought has been an annual phenomenon for the past three years.

Displacement

Since 2008, almost five million people have been displaced by conflict, mostly in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province (OCHA, 03/06/2014).

IDPs

As of 30 June, some 468,000 IDPs have been registered by the FATA Disaster Management Authority – 74% are women and children. Most fled ahead of or during the Zarb-e-Azb operation, and are residing in Bannu district, with others moving to Hangu, Lakki Marwat, Karak, Dera Ismail Khan, Charsadda, Tank, and Kohat districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (OCHA, 30/06/2014).

Air strikes in February had resulted in displacement to Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, Lakki Marwat, and Kohat but since then most families had returned (UNHCR, 27/06/2014).

These newly displaced add to the already one million people that remain displaced and in need of assistance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA due to insecurity. Most (96%) reside outside camps in Peshawar, Dera Ismail Khan and Kohat, while 4% resides in IDP camps in Tough Sorai, Jalozai, and New Durrani (UNHCR, 09/06/2014).

A relief camp has been set up in Baka Khel, Bannu district. The Sindh government decided mid-June it will not allow IDPs to enter the province for budget reasons (DAWN, 17/06/2014). The Balochistan Government has deployed troops to the border with South Waziristan to check the influx of displaced (DAWN, 19/06/2014).

In Khyber Agency, military operations against the Taliban and clashes between militant groups in the Tirah Valley since mid-March have led to large-scale population movement, mainly to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (OCHA, 22/04/2014).

IDP Returnees

Around 50,500 people have returned to FATA in 2014, and a total of 270,000 people are expected to return to FATA over the year, despite recent violence provoking new displacement (OCHA, 18/06/2014).

The FATA Disaster Management Authority extended the second phase of the return of IDPs to Tirah Valley, Khyber Agency, until 27 June, stating it will facilitate the repatriation of over 18,000 unregistered families (DAWN, 31/05/2014). Most are returning to damaged houses and disrupted livelihoods. Restoration of basic social services and livelihood support are vital to ensure sustainable returns (OCHA, 20/05/2014).

Between 2 and 14 April, more than 20,000 Alisherzai, who fled sectarian violence in central Kurram Agency in 2011, had returned (OCHA, 22/04/2014). While the authorities have reportedly facilitated the move, local sources indicated high levels of vulnerability among the newly returned.

Refugees

There are an estimated 2.9 million Afghan refugees and undocumented migrants in Pakistan, although the exact number is difficult to ascertain (OCHA, 22/04/2014). Most are in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and most require humanitarian assistance (UNHCR/IOM, 31/12/2013). At least 1.6 million Afghan refugees are in need. National media report that the presence of Afghan refugees is triggering tensions with host communities.

Pakistani Refugees in Afghanistan

As of 30 June, over 95,000 people are in Khost province, Afghanistan. Unverified reports indicate that another approximately 10,000 are in Paktika province (OCHA, 30/06/2014).

Food Security

Food shortages and distribution delays have caused anger among new IDPs in Bannu, Kyber Pakhtunkhwa. Their protest was broken up by the police firing warning shots (AFP, 24/06/2014).

Tharparkar district, in southeast Sindh province, is facing extreme food insecurity and malnutrition. Drought has affected the livelihood of agriculture- and livestock-dependent households. A sheep pox epidemic is also killing flocks (Humanitarian partners, 16/04/2014).

Livelihoods have been badly disrupted in areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA affected by complex emergency. Most IDPs rely on negative coping strategies or income support (Detailed Food Security Assessment, Food Security Cluster). Increasing demand for food and NFIs has also resulted in massive inflation, which further aggravates the food security situation. Food prices have gone up 8.8% (FAO, 30/04/2014).
An estimated 1.21 million people, almost exclusively IDPs and returnees, were in critical need of food assistance in February (OCHA, 20/02/2014). An estimated 58% of Pakistan’s population was considered food insecure in November 2013 (National Nutrition Survey). Seven districts face IPC Phases 3 (Crisis) and 4 (Emergency).

Agriculture and Markets

Rice prices increased by 6.3% due to lower production and increasing demand. The Government has directed potato traders to release their stock onto the market and/or cut prices by half, in order to contain an unexpected spike in potato prices. The Government is also considering removing the 56% duty on potato imports (FAO, 31/05/2014).

Most areas of Balochistan, Sindh, and southern Punjab are relying on the monsoon (from end June) to alleviate a drought-like situation and prevent worsening food insecurity and malnutrition (OCHA, 20/05/2014). The preliminary outlook for the 2014 monsoon season (July–September) indicates that most parts of the country will receive normal or below-normal rainfall (OCHA, 20/05/2014).

The lack of rain has affected wheat crops even in irrigated areas, as water levels have fallen in rivers and reservoirs. About one million metric tons of wheat may be lost this year, and there could be significant losses to cattle and sheep breeders.

More than 90% of Cholistan’s ponds and underground storage tanks have gone dry, causing over 170,000 people in Cholistan – close to Bahawalpur, Punjab province – to leave their home and affecting almost 190,000 people (FAO, 30/04/2014).

The agricultural sector, which makes up 21% of GDP, is facing serious threats from escalating water shortages (World Bank, 18/04/2014). Half of Punjab’s share of water for agriculture is getting lost in canals and watercourses.

Health and Nutrition

An estimated 1.21 million people are in need of health assistance: basic health services and quality maternal and child health services.

Dengue

Between 1 January and 10 May, 186 lab-confirmed cases of dengue fever were reported, of which 179 cases were in Sindh province, and seven in Punjab province (WHO, 14/05/2014). The number of cases in the first quarter of 2014 was nearly three times the same period in 2013, and more than four times 2012. Authorities have warned that the predicted May–July rainy spell could be conducive for dengue mosquito breeding (OCHA, 22/04/2014).

Dengue has begun affecting areas that do not usually fall into the traditional endemic belt: in 2013, a huge outbreak in Swat district recorded 9,000 confirmed cases and 35 deaths.

Malnutrition

An estimated 17,000 children have SAM and 55,000 MAM (04/2014). Over 46,000 pregnant and lactating women are priorities for malnutrition assistance. Many are in Tharparkar district, Sindh province, which is experiencing a malnutrition crisis. More than 200 people have died from malnutrition-related causes so far in 2014 (OCHA, 09/05/2014). In the remote Neelum Valley, an estimated 21% of children are acutely malnourished, well above the national average of 15%, which is already at the emergency threshold (WFP, 12/2013).

Measles

More than 25,000 cases of measles were reported in 2013, with 321 deaths. In 2012 only 15,000 cases were reported and in 2011 4,380. WHO stated this steady increase in fatalities is alarming (IRIN, 15/04/2014). OCHA reported in May 2013 that 54% of 8,844 children in Punjab and Sindh provinces were not vaccinated against the disease.

Polio

The huge number of people displaced by the Zarb-e-Azb offensive is triggering fears of polio spreading (AFP, 26/06/2014). More than 50 cases have been detected in North Waziristan in 2014, where the Taliban ban vaccination.

The Punjab provincial government has started registration of displaced families for the purposes of vaccination (DAWN, 19/06/2014). Polio vaccination campaign began in Peshawar and Dera Ismail Khan, aiming to reach almost 700,000 children. Security measures have been taken in both cities (15/06/2014). After five years, polio vaccinators have returned to Bara sub-division of Khyber Agency, FATA, to conduct a comprehensive campaign (Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 13/06/2014). However, lack of sufficient staff and coordination is hamppering vaccination of children arriving from North Waziristan. Delayed security measures also affect polio drives in Karachi city (DAWN, 23/06/2014).

The total reported cases in 2014 is 88 (DAWN, 27/06/2014). Pakistan had almost as many polio cases in the first four months of 2014 as in the whole of 2012 – and nine times as many as in the same period last year. In Peshawar, Karachi, and Quetta, there is a significant risk of the outbreaks becoming prolonged. Environmental surveillance has picked up the virus elsewhere, including in Rawalpindi and Lahore. Almost 88% of cases reported concern children under two years of age (WHO, 04/2014). Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) rates are on the decline (Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 31/05/2014).

The total number of circulating vaccine-developed (cVDPV2) cases in 2013 was 45; there have been ten so far in 2014 (WHO, 14/05/2014).

The polio virus has been detected in a sewage line by Western Bypass, Quetta. Samples have been tested (DAWN, 16/06/2014). Sewage samples drawn in Rawalpindi, Punjab, in May were confirmed positive for polio (DAWN, 10/06/2014). As of early April, the health authorities declared eight districts of Punjab highly sensitive to polio: Lahore, Rawalpindi, Khanewal, Sahiwal, Mianwali, Multan, Jhang and Toba Tek Singh.

In Balochistan, 47 polio vaccination points have been set up to ensure children entering or leaving the province are immunised (DAWN, 01/06/2014).

Government officials warned that security problems mean that nearly 370,000 children are likely to miss out on the polio vaccination drive in North Waziristan, South Waziristan,
Mohmand, and Khyber (AFP, 26/05/2014). According to authorities, over 260,000 children in North and South Waziristan are at risk, with a Taliban ban on vaccination exacerbating the outbreak. On 17 April, for the first time, Prime Minister Sharif asked the military to help protect polio vaccination workers in Waziristan and adjoining tribal areas.

The densely populated Peshawar Valley is considered to be the main 'engine' of polio transmission, due to large-scale population movements through Peshawar.

Protection

An estimated 1.08 million people are in need of protection. This group largely consists of IDPs and returnees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA. Women, children, the disabled and the elderly need referral assistance and specialised protection in displacement and returnee areas (OCHA, 20/02/2014).

In areas where the Taliban is active, over 500 girls’ schools have been bombed. In the south and southwest of the country, ethnic violence continues to curtail women’s freedom of movement.

WASH

Hygiene conditions among the newly displaced are very poor, and the probability of WASH-related disease outbreaks is rising (OCHA, 30/06/2014).

An estimated 690,000 people – largely IDPs and returnees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and FATA – needed assistance in accessing safe drinking water. There is a need to improve knowledge of household water treatment among non-camp IDPs and returnees (OCHA, 20/02/2014).

Updated: 30/06/2014

JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 June: 599,400 Syrian refugees are registered with UNHCR in Jordan.

18 June: UNHCR announced that the re-verification process for non-camp refugees will continue, despite reports that Jordanian authorities forcibly returned refugees from Za’atari camp to Syria in the course of re-verification. UNHCR will not have a permanent presence during the re-verification in non-camp areas and will have limited capacity to monitor reported refoulements.

KEY CONCERNS

- Jordan remains affected by the crisis in neighbouring Syria, with the regular flow of Syrian refugees swelling Jordan’s population by almost 10%: 599,400 Syrian refugees are registered with UNHCR in Jordan.

- Operational and protection concerns are growing as the Government of Jordan is increasingly restricting the approval process for humanitarian projects, and infringing the basic protection of refugees, including their right to seek asylum.

- The influx of refugees has placed enormous pressure on scarce water resources and public services, which has increased tensions between host communities and refugees.

- Humanitarian operations and resources are disproportionately focused on the Syrian refugee camps, which house fewer than 20% of Syrian refugees in Jordan. Refugees arriving to the newest refugee camp, Azraq, have demonstrated a strong desire to leave. It is estimated that about 30% of Syrians registered in Azraq camp have left since its opening in late April.

Politics and Security

Jordan has remained politically stable, and the economy appears to be recovering from the negative consequences resulting from the Arab Spring. However, this balance remains fragile as the influx of Syrian refugees has overwhelmed public services, particularly health and education, and placed major stress on scarce water supplies. Tension between refugees and host communities have manifested in localised protests, particularly in the northern Ma’afraq governorate, and negative media portrayals of Syrians, as well as regular reports of discrimination and harassment of refugees.

The Jordanian military has tightly controlled cross-border movements of refugees, commodities, fighters, and weapons to limit spillover of the conflict. However, hundreds of Jordanians are reportedly fighting for opposition groups with links to Al Qaeda, particularly Jabhat al Nusra.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has threatened to take its jihad to Jordan. Islamists demonstrated in Ma’an, southern Jordan, praising ISIL victories in Iraq. Mainly, however, the jihadist movement in Jordan is dominated by anti-ISIL groups who support Al Qaeda and its Syrian ally Al Nusra Front (AFP, 23/06/2014).

On 18 May, a firefight erupted at an undisclosed location on the Jordanian–Syrian border between Jordanian Armed Forces and 12 non-Syrians trying to enter Jordan. It was believed that the group was made up of Jordanian and foreign fighters linked with Jabhat Al Nusra who sought to leave Syria due to intense fighting. Dozens of Jordanians have been killed in Syria since the beginning of the conflict.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Since mid-2013, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation has required aid agencies to include Jordanians as 30% of the beneficiary list of all aid programmes targeting Syrian refugees. In recent months, aid agency projects have faced an increased rate of rejection and pressure to increase the proportion of Jordanians targeted for
assistance to 50%. The requirements is viewed as an attempt to pressure international donors to channel more resources through government systems and institutions.

Displacement

Due to its relative stability and central location in a turbulent region, Jordan has historically been a reluctant host to the largest number of refugees in the world, both in terms of absolute numbers and the proportion of refugees to its resident population. Throughout most of its history, Jordan has been inundated by refugees, beginning with the 1948 influx of Palestinian refugees and again in 1967. In 2008, Jordan hosted up to 500,000 Iraqis fleeing sectarian violence and most recently has provided refuge to nearly 600,000 Syrian refugees.

Syrian Refugees

Jordan hosts the third largest number of Syrian refugees, after Lebanon and Turkey. As of 8 June 2014, about 599,400 Syrian refugees – including 108,116 children under five – were registered with UNHCR in Jordan. Some 56,198 refugees crossed into Jordan January–May 2014. Arrival trends in early June varied greatly, from five to 655 refugees arriving per day (UNICEF, 20/06/2014).

Over 80% of Syrian refugees live in local communities, with the remainder in camps. The influx of refugees peaked in early 2013, with an average of 1,700 daily arrivals between January and April, but has since drastically reduced. While the Government has stated that the decrease in arrivals is due to obstacles for those trying to reach the border, human rights groups have documented incidents where Syrians were denied entry by Jordanian authorities.

Refugees in Host Communities

Over 80% of Syrian refugees living outside of the camps are located in Amman, Irbid, Mafraq and Zarqa. Assessments by aid agencies consistently find that the priority need among refugees in host communities is for cash to pay rent. Work permits are cost-prohibitive for refugees, although many Syrians, including children, work in agriculture and construction, despite the protection risks, including arrest and detention. In the northern governorates, about 20% of Syrians live in substandard accommodation, including garages, basements, chicken houses, and tents. Housing has become increasingly overcrowded as resources are depleted. Rental costs have quadrupled in Mafraq, one of the poorest governorates, where refugees now outnumber local residents.

Camps

Originally slated to open in mid-2013, Azraq camp in Zarqa governorate opened on 30 April for new arrivals from Syria. As of 14 May, 4,600 refugees were registered by UNHCR in Azraq camp, however, less than 70% of the population had accessed food assistance, indicating a high likelihood that a significant proportion has left the camp to live in urban areas.

At full capacity, Azraq camp will be able to accommodate 130,000 refugees. However, many aid workers are concerned about the harsh, hot, and windy climate, the large distances to reach services and the camp’s isolation from livelihood opportunities.

Za’atari is the second largest refugee camp in the world, and the equivalent of a new city in Jordan. The lack of security in certain parts of Za’atari camp impedes access to services, particularly for women and girls. Security incidents and protests are frequent. Thousands of refugees have left for other urban centres through both official and unofficial channels. However, authorities have cracked down on unofficial departures in 2014.

About 4,000 Syrians live in the Emirates Jordan Camp (EJC). Known as the “five-star” camp due to its high living standards and extensive support, primarily from the UAE Red Crescent. The camp provides three hot meals each day and caravans for all residents. Despite the improved living standards, a significant number of refugees have also left EJC camp for urban areas or to return to Syria.

Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)

About 13,800 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) have been recorded by UNRWA, which provides cash assistance for vulnerable PRS, who make up the vast majority of the PRS population. About 190 PRS are in the Cyber City facility and are subject to heavy restrictions on movement. Since late 2012, the Government has explicitly stated that it would not allow PRS to enter Jordan. Those who do enter are subject to a number of protection issues, including refoulement, the confiscation of documents and, for those with Jordanian citizenship, de-nationalisation. There has been a significant increase in the number of forced returns of PRS in early 2014; over 100 PRS have been deported since 2013.

Non-Syrian Refugees

Due to the conflict in Anbar province in Iraq, the number of Iraqis seeking asylum through UNHCR increased fivefold from early 2013 to 1,300 in December 2013, with demand persisting into 2014. The number of Sudanese asylum seekers increased throughout 2013. Over 2,000 refugees and asylum seekers from Sudan, Somalia and other countries currently live in Jordan.

Health

In Al Za’atari refugee camp, hosting 104,494 refugees mainly from the Dar’a region of Syria, only 41.1% were found to have visited health centres to give their children routine vaccinations, with highest levels among new arrivals (UNICEF/REACH, 31/05/2014).

WASH

The 2013/14 rains were only 77% of the long-term annual average, leading to an alarming reduction in underground water reserves and a marked increase in underground water salinity in some well fields (UNICEF/REACH, 31/04/2014).

Protection

The re-verification process, which aims to ensure that complete biometric data is recorded for all registered refugees, has led to cases of refoulements of refugees by the Jordanian
For all registered refugees, has led to cases of refoulements of refugees by the Jordanian authorities. The joint Government–UNHCR re-verification process began in Za'atari in late 2013 and is expected to be completed in June. Re-verification of non-camp refugees will then be rolled out to police stations, with Jordanian authorities leading the process and very limited UNHCR presence. There are strong indications that a re-verification in urban areas will result in a significant increase in refoulements.

Only a small proportion of refugees live in informal tented settlements, but they are still believed to number in the thousands. The vast majority of people residing in the settlements originate from outside Dar'a governorate and left Za'atari camp due to conflicts with powerholders from Dar'a. In December 2013, authorities in Mafraq evicted without notice several hundred households living on public land and told the refugees that they had to enter Za'atari camp immediately. The evictions have since stopped, but a directive from the Ministry of Interior to dismantle informal settlements remains in place and there are concerns that crackdowns will resume in the summer months and refugees will be pressured to move to Azraq camp.

An estimated 3,800 defectors from the Syrian armed forces are being held at military premises in Mafraq with no freedom of movement. The Government has not permitted UNHCR to conduct status determination for these people, although the ICRC has had access to this group.

Shelter

The most recent household census found that increasing numbers of displaced Syrians have formed informal tented settlements in rural and peri-urban settings, having been priced out of host communities and unable to reside in official camps. Across five governorates, 87 informal settlements hosting a total of 7,028 individuals have been identified (UNICEF/REACH, 16/07/2014).

Updated: 27/06/2014

LEBANON CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

23 June: A suicide bomber killed a security officer and wounded 25 people near a Lebanese army checkpoint in Beirut. The Al Qaeda-affiliated Abdullah Azzam Brigades announced that the attacks will continue until Hezbollah withdraws from the conflict in Syria.

20 June: A suicide bomber killed a police officer and wounded 32 people at a police checkpoint on the Beirut–Damascus highway in east Lebanon. The attack came shortly after security forces detained 17 terror suspects.

KEY CONCERNS

- As of 25 June, over 1,061,000 Syrians are registered as refugees with UNHCR in Lebanon and nearly 49,000 are awaiting registration. 78% of refugees are women and children. Over 53,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) have been recorded by UNRWA. The number of Syrians in Lebanon who are not registered with UNHCR is unknown. Lebanon has the highest per capita concentration of refugees worldwide.

- Shelter is a critical problem for refugees: around 15% of the refugee population is residing in over 1,000 informal tented settlements.

- Tensions between host and refugee population have been reported, as pressure on health and education systems, housing, employment, and food prices increases.

- Vulnerability has increased since late 2013: UN mapping indicates 242 most vulnerable localities, where 68% of Lebanese reside on less than USD 4 per day with 86% of registered Syrian refugees.

- The crisis in Syria and the national security situation have caused a decline in trade, tourism, and investment, and an increase in public expenditure. The World Bank estimates that the Syria crisis cost Lebanon USD 2.5 billion in lost economic activity during 2013 and threatens to push 170,000 Lebanese into poverty by the end of 2014.

Political Context

International Context

On 9 February, the Hezbollah leadership publicly renewed its vow to continue fighting alongside President Assad's forces in Syria. Hezbollah's involvement in the offensive against the opposition-held stronghold Qusayr had prompted the Free Syrian Army and Al Nusra Front to warn that their members could start fighting Hezbollah inside Lebanon. On 10 July 2013, the UN Security Council called on Hezbollah to end all involvement in the Syrian conflict.

The first major clashes between Lebanese Hezbollah fighters and Syrian opposition fighters inside Lebanese territory were reported in June 2013. Shelling of Lebanese territory, including the eastern town of Hermel, a reported Hezbollah stronghold, from an area in Syria allegedly controlled by opposition forces, resulted in deaths. Shelling from Syria on the border regions frequently results in casualties.

National Political Context

Former president Michel Sleiman's term expired on 25 May, leaving Lebanon without a head of state. A legislative session was held on 21 May to discuss a letter from President Sleiman urging lawmakers to elect a new president. Hezbollah lawmakers boycotted the session. March 8 bloc lawmakers, which include Hezbollah, have boycotted the last four rounds of voting, arguing that the sessions are futile until rival groups agree on a consensus candidate.
A new Government was formed on 15 February after ten months of political stalemate amid exacerbated sectarian tensions. The new Government brings together the Hezbollah movement and its allies and the Future Movement bloc, who back opposing sides in the Syria war. The agreed compromise ensures neither side has veto power over the other.

Security Context

Two suicide bombings, occurring on 20 and 23 June, marked a return of insecurity after months of relative calm. Fears of a spillover of violence from Syria and Iraq were heightened when the Al Qaeda-affiliated Abdullah Azzam Brigades announced that the attacks will continue until Hezbollah withdraws from the conflict in Syria.

Between 16 April and 31 May, over 45 rockets and shells, most allegedly fired from Syrian territory, landed in Bekaa and some in Akkar. One injury and some material damage were reported. Clashes in Aarsal were also reported between the Lebanese Armed Forces and alleged Syrian armed men.

There were nine bombings in southern Beirut between July 2013 and mid-June 2014, killing more than 70 people, almost all civilians, according to the Ministry of Health. On 25 January, a statement by an unknown Lebanon-based jihadist figure announced the creation of a Lebanese branch of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Tensions are rising between host communities and refugees over strained resources, particularly with regard to overwhelmed health facilities and employment. Health and education systems, housing, employment opportunities, and food prices are all affected. According to a 2013 World Bank study, an estimated USD 1.6 billion will be needed to restore quality and access to health, education, and social safety nets to pre-crisis levels.

The IMF has recently forecast an improvement in the economic situation: 2% growth in 2014 and 4% over the medium term. Lebanon's economic growth dropped to about 1.5% in 2013 from an annual average of 8% from 2007 to 2010.

Access

Insecurity in some areas is hindering assistance. In April and May military operations in border areas at times prevented humanitarian partners from travelling to areas such as Aarsal and Tfail. Access to parts of Akkar and Palestinian refugee camps has at times been limited.

Displacement

As of 25 June, over 1,061,000 Syrians are registered as refugees with UNHCR in Lebanon and nearly 49,000 are awaiting registration. 78% of refugees are women and children. The number of Syrians in Lebanon who are not registered with UNHCR is unknown. Refugees reside in over 1,700 locations, of which some 1,000 are informal settlements.

Lebanon has the highest per capita concentration of refugees worldwide.

Some 20 Lebanese families abandoned the village of Tfail over 12–19 June, amid heavy shelling by the Syrian Government and reports that government forces were nearing the village. Tfail is surrounded on three sides by Syrian territory, and the displaced, including Syrian refugees and local Lebanese, are leaving via smuggling routes through Syria.

Only Syrians with valid and undamaged identification cards or passports can enter Lebanon. While most Syrians are granted access, there is a reported increase in arrests and detentions of Syrians for illegal entry and stay (UNHCR). On 31 May, Lebanon's Interior Minister announced that displaced Syrians registered with UNHCR must refrain from entering Syria from 1 June 2014, or they will lose their status as refugees in Lebanon.

The percentage of refugees internally displaced in Syria before arriving in Lebanon increased from 45% in January to 52% in April. The percentage of refugees internally displaced many times in Syria before arriving in Lebanon went up sharply from 11% in January to 54% in April. (UNHCR 06/2014)

Palestinian Refugees from Syria

Over 53,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) have been recorded by UNRWA. There has been a decrease in registered arrivals due to entry restrictions.

Since 8 May, Palestinian refugees from Syria wishing to enter Lebanon must possess either an entry permit approved by the General Directorate of General Security, a residency permit of one to three years, or an exit and return permit. The entry permit must be obtained through the Lebanese embassy in Damascus. HRW has stated that the process to apply for the permits is unclear and makes it almost impossible for Palestinian refugees to enter Lebanon.

Food Security

Over 70% of Syrian refugee households need food assistance (Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees, 05/2013). The number of people requiring food assistance continues to increase, straining existing resources.

Food is the largest expense for Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria. For Syrian refugees, it ranges from USD 151 to USD 275 per household per month. Monitoring reports found that the value of the commodity basket differed between regions, with higher prices in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon. Diet diversity improves according to how long refugees have been registered: 86% of households registered for longer than six months consumed more than six food groups, compared to 74% of those awaiting registration. Tripoli had the highest proportion of Syrian refugees who eat just one or two meals per day, when compared to Akkar and the Bekaa, according to an Inter-agency Multi-sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) in May 2014.

Livelihoods

Only 22% of households reported having any income in a UNHCR survey of refugee
households. Among those completely reliant on others for support, over 90% cited lack of work as the main problem. Medical conditions or permanent disability were also reasons for some refugee household members not working (MSNA 05/2014).

An ILO assessment found that most working Syrians endure harsh conditions, and the average monthly income for a Syrian refugee in Lebanon is almost 40% less than the national minimum wage. UNHCR reports that newcomers arriving in 2014 are in general more vulnerable than those who arrived in the past, because they spent their savings and assets while in Syria and find it more difficult to find employment or accommodation upon arrival. Between 70% and 91% of Syrian refugee households are in debt; with amounts owed ranging from USD 201 to USD 600. Debt is generally higher among those in larger households or who have been in Lebanon longer. Loan sources are usually friends or relatives (MSNA 05/2014).

Lebanese population: As of May, unemployment rates among Lebanese ranged from 58% in Wadi Khaled, to 44% in Sahel Akkar, and 23% in Bekaa (Save the Children 27/05/2014). The World Bank estimated in September 2013 that the unemployment rate in Lebanon could double, exceeding 29% and affecting 320,000 people.

According to a September 2013 World Bank study, the continuing refugee inflow will increase national vulnerability. Should the current rate continue, more than 170,000 additional Lebanese could fall into poverty by 2014.

Health and Nutrition

Four key issues that may affect the future development and operation of the health sector have been highlighted: budget constraints could prompt a shift towards more targeted assistance; a sudden refugee influx could exceed response capacity; the onset of summer will increase the potential for disease outbreaks; and medical needs may grow among refugees in informal settlements where WASH and nutrition conditions are deteriorating.

Referral for secondary or tertiary healthcare is extremely expensive in Lebanon and the health budget required for 1.5 million refugees remains extremely underfunded. (UNHCR 20/06/2014). Obstetrics procedures account for the majority of referral admissions and costs for refugees. The second highest referral costs have been for neonatal and congenital conditions. Other main reasons for referral are respiratory infections, and trauma and other injuries (UNHCR, Government of Lebanon 2014/06/16).

Between January and April 2014, 70% of refugee referrals for secondary and tertiary healthcare were female and 25% were children under five. 34% came from Bekaa, 26% North Lebanon, 23% Beirut and Mt Lebanon, and 17% South Lebanon (UNHCR, Government of Lebanon 16/06/2014).

Physical access to health centres is a challenge for some refugees who live in remote locations. Access is further limited by short working hours and the lack of trained health personnel. Despite contributions by UNHCR and humanitarian health partners, many refugees still find it difficult to cover the costs of medical treatment. Among the refugee population to have sought medical attention, over 70% of patients are women and nearly a quarter are children under five (UNHCR 03/2014).

The current supply of medicines for acute and chronic diseases is insufficient to cover rising demand.

Child Malnutrition

2,000 children under the age of five are at risk of dying from malnutrition due to food shortages, with over half of these children suffering from severe acute malnutrition: between 5% and 10% of children under five in Bekaa and north Lebanon suffer from acute malnutrition (Amnesty, 20/05/2014).

Only 6% of 618 Syrian refugee children aged between six and 23 months were found to consume the minimum acceptable diet, according to WHO infant and young child feeding indicators. Almost 75% of the children surveyed did not meet the minimum acceptable meal frequency set by WHO guidelines. Another assessment found that more than 85% of Syrian refugees aged 0–23 months were breastfed, including more than 25% exclusively breastfed. More than 60% of mothers initiated breastfeeding within 23 hours of birth (MSNA 05/2014).

MERS

On 8 May, the first case of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in Lebanon was detected.

Polio

Lebanon is now considered one of the top 13 countries with high polio vulnerability (Global Polio Eradication Initiative). Lebanon launched a fourth round of polio immunisation on 11 April, targeting around 600,000 Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian children aged up to five: 94% were reached. Lebanon has been polio-free for 12 years.

WASH

Sufficient safe drinking water is a critical need. According to local authorities and humanitarian partners in December 2013, 909,000 Syrian refugees and 1.5 million Lebanese are in need of WASH support.

The scattered distribution of people across multiple sites and government restrictions on response makes it difficult to meet needs. 48% of refugee households in Beirut and Mount Lebanon have WASH facilities that are inadequate or absent (ACTED, 04/2014).

Ongoing mapping suggests that WASH coverage (representing varying levels of WASH services) for informal tented settlements population is only at 40% for more than 1,000 settlements (UNICEF 04/06/2014).

In Zahle, where nearly 400,000 refugees are hosted, groundwater levels have dropped by 11m. Reduced flows in water springs and increased salinity near the coast means that pumping will need to be deeper. Several highly strategic water reservoirs that were emptied for dredging maintenance in 2013 remain empty.
2014 is likely to be the driest year in 100 years. Precipitation and surface flow is around 50% of an average year while available groundwater resources are around 80%. Consequently, water costs will increase and higher salinity levels on groundwater near coastal areas can be expected. The water shortages are expected to impact agricultural production and related livelihoods.

Waste management: The increasing number of refugees in informal settlements with limited or no sanitation facilities increases the risk of the spread of disease. Waste management remains poor in most places where refugees live, and poor practices are deteriorating the quality of ground and surface water in heavily populated areas. The rise in population has also led to an increase in demand on public waste services, and municipalities have raised their fees.

In Beirut and Mount Lebanon 40% of water sources were found to be contaminated (ACTED, 04/2014). Some 98% of respondents were aware of best hand-washing practices, but limited access to adequate facilities meant only 15% occasionally washed their hands. As refugees arrive with few possessions, many lack basic items for personal and household hygiene.

Shelter

Shelter remains a priority need for refugees. The high cost of living and housing in Lebanon has forced many households to adopt negative coping strategies or to move into substandard accommodation. As of March, most refugees (81%) were renting accommodation: 57% of the 81% were in apartments that are often shared with other displaced families, and 40% in insecure dwellings such as unfinished buildings, garages, warehouses, animal sheds, and informal settlements. Refugees living in substandard shelters are subject to limited access to water and hygiene facilities, and often face overcrowding and harsh weather conditions. More than 80% of registered refugees pay on average USD 200 per month for accommodation, including substandard shelters.

Shelter is the primary reason for widespread secondary displacement among Syrian refugees; between September 2013 and January 2014, WFP found that 55% of households had moved at least once: 36% indicated that they had moved to better shelter and 29% to cheaper shelter, while 9% had been evicted.

Security of tenure is an additional concern: only 10% of registered Syrian refugees possess a written rent agreement. An increase in evictions has been reported, especially in the Bekaa and in the North. Evictions are often caused by the inability of destitute families to pay the rent. They are sometimes carried out without proper notification and often without a required court order. In addition, eviction threats are increasingly triggered by a growing impatience felt within hosting communities with the ongoing and increasing refugee presence. Between the beginning of 2014 and 31 May, protection and shelter actors recorded some 50 refugee families evicted and another 220 under threat of eviction in the Tripoli area. For the same period, there are records of 133 families evicted and another 470 under threat of eviction in the Bekaa.

The number of informal settlements has increased by 154% between July 2013 and May 2014. However, refugee families living in unfinished buildings, garages and on worksites are often in more deplorable living conditions, their situation is less visible and their access to services can be more challenging. Finding suitable sites for formal settlements and collective shelters remains a key issue.

The Beirut and Mount Lebanon refugee population (close to 148,000 as of the end of March) is the fastest growing in Lebanon, with 5,000 new registrations each week, and is the second largest in the country after the Bekaa valley. This large influx of refugees is having a significant impact, particularly in impoverished pockets of greater Beirut.

The cost of living is significantly higher in Beirut and Mount Lebanon than in the rest of the country, and unemployment, which was already higher than average, has resulted in heavy reliance on assistance or negative coping mechanisms such as debt to meet basic needs: 80% of assessed households are in debt. Findings illustrate a clear correlation between debt, and increased protection, health and hygiene risks. Over one-third of households require shelter upgrading or rehabilitation, and 36% of assessed households were found to have less than 3.5m2 of shelter space per person. The average number of individuals per shelter was 7.4 (ACTED 14/05/2014).

Education

Based on May’s registration data there are 420,000 Syrian, 21,000 Palestinian, 7,000 Lebanese returnees and 40,000 vulnerable Lebanese children in need of education services. Approximately 281,500 children between the ages of 3 and 18 have not accessed learning opportunities. The biggest barrier to schooling is the lack of space in public schools, other common barriers include costs of transportation and tuition fees. Language barriers and safety concerns of Syrian parents contribute to a high drop-out rate. Transportation is another need, as are educational activities beyond formal schooling, including preparation for enrolment in the Lebanese system and for return to Syria. Access to education differs between geographical areas, primarily depending on proximity to schools.

Protection

Refugee Status

On 31 May, Lebanon’s Interior Minister announced that anyone returning to Syria after 1 June would be stripped of his or her refugee status on return to Lebanon. This was approved by committee on 9 June. On 4 June the Social Affairs Minister suggested that only Syrians fleeing from areas close to the border with Lebanon would be allowed to enter.

Since 3 May there have been increasing reports of refugees experiencing difficulties in maintaining residency in Lebanon, and entry for Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) seeking safety and protection in Lebanon has all but ceased. On 8 May, severe restrictions were placed on PRS wanting to enter Lebanon and for PRS in Lebanon renewing their visas. Palestinians fleeing Syria will not be provided visas at the border, and the 53,000 Palestinians from Syria already in Lebanon will not have their visas renewed: within three months they will not have the necessary documentation to reside in Lebanon. A circular issued by the General Security Office on 22 May requires PRS to regularise their legal status within a month.

Some refugees arrive in Lebanon with unconfirmed nationality, or without documents
proving their nationality, including Syrian Kurds, who were denaturalised in Syria in 1962. Some 15,000 Syrian refugees have been born in Lebanon, but birth registration levels are extremely low. According to a UNHCR survey earlier this year, 75% of 1,882 refugee newborns did not possess official birth certificates.

The renewal of legal stay documentation for refugees remains unaffordable for many families, while the lack of clarity over their status is raising fear and inhibiting refugees’ ability to access services. Many living unofficially in Lebanon are already unable to move freely, too afraid to access legal protection or aid, and at risk of exploitation.

Protection issues also include unemployment and wage discrimination in Mount Lebanon, eviction threats used to extort extra rental payments or assistance in the North and continued arrival of injured individuals into Chebaa in the south.

**Mines and ERW**

Experts report the presence of nearly 1,400 confirmed minefields and 520 cluster munitions strike areas, including in areas hosting refugees. There is limited data on incidents though there are reports of an increase between 2012 and 2013. The assumed reasons for this are linked to lack of awareness and proper demarcation of contaminated areas.

In March, refugees were living within 10–20m of known minefields in West Bekka and Rashaya (Mine Action Group).

**Sexual and Gender-based Violence**

A weak legal framework, limited resources and social barriers prevent refugees at risk of SGBV, or victims of violence and abuse from seeking and receiving adequate protection. Other challenges include lack of documentation, overcrowding, and growing tension between refugees and host communities. Scarce economic opportunities coupled with high costs of living lead some families to negative coping mechanisms including early marriage, child labour, survival sex.

**Refugee Children**

Many refugee children are in need of psychosocial support. Needs include prevention of and response to physical violence, verbal harassment, and pressure to return to Syria to fight, particularly among adolescent boys. Refugee children subject to sexual violence, child labour, and early marriage also require correct identification and referral for appropriate assistance. Separated or unaccompanied children need safe living arrangements and assistance to help locate and reunite them with their families, whenever possible.

Growing incidents of child labour and violence against children are being reported by child protection actors. Children are reported to be working long hours in high-risk jobs. Child protection actors are also noticing an increase in child marriages, including ‘temporary’ marriages.

Humanitarian actors in all regions are reporting increasing incidents of violence, physical abuse and discrimination directed towards refugee children in schools. This is reportedly resulting in parents stopping their children from attending classes or in children dropping out from school.

**Social Tensions**

Refugee women, children, and youth continue to report instances of physical violence, aggression and harassment by local community members, especially in Mount Lebanon and the north. The Lebanese population and refugees perceive each other as an economic threat, and a threat to their security, according to a social cohesion study by Save the Children and the American University of Beirut that focused on Akkar and the Bekaa (UNHCR 20/06/2014).

Wages and work opportunities have been reduced for many Lebanese as Syrians are often willing to work for lower wages. Many social services cannot cope with the increasing demand. A perception that Syrian refugees get preferential treatment, perhaps due to humanitarian assistance directly targeting them, is adding to the friction. Host communities also fear infectious disease outbreaks as the number of insanitary informal refugee settlements grows.

Syrian refugees are mainly residing among the poorest communities of Lebanon, sharing scarce resources. Water shortages, the upcoming elections, a change in the situation in Syria and mobilisation along sectarian lines, and large-scale cash programming could all worsen the situation.

Vulnerability has increased since late 2013, as UN mapping in May indicates 242 most vulnerable localities, where 68% of Lebanese in these localities reside on less than USD4 per day with 86% of registered Syrian refugees.

Updated: 25/06/2014

**PHILIPPINES** **CONFLICT, TYPHOON**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**23 June:** Floods and landslides caused by heavy rains have affected 72,500 people in Maguindanao. Authorities have declared a state of emergency in Maguindanao and some areas of North Cotabato (OCHA).

**19 June:** In ten of the municipalities in Eastern Samar and Samar worst affected by typhoon Haiyan, only 8% of pre-Haiyan evacuation centres would be usable if a typhoon hit today (IOM).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Mindanao region area remains the scene of attacks from various armed groups.
The Philippines is one of the most hazard-prone countries in the world, experiencing several large-scale natural hazards a year.

In November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan affected over 14.1 million people (OCHA).


OVERVIEW

A series of natural disasters, most significantly Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013, has caused widespread damage across the Philippines, affected millions. The overall political situation is relatively stable, and the Philippine authorities are finalising a peace deal with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the biggest Muslim insurgent movement in Mindanao. However, various breakaway armed groups continue the insurgency.

Political Context

Since October 2012, the Government has been engaged in finalising a lengthy peace process with the MILF, which has been jeopardised by a continuing insurgency waged by breakaway armed groups.

Peace Talks in Mindanao

On 27 March, the Government of the Philippines and MILF, the country’s largest Muslim separatist group, signed an historic peace deal to end four decades of fighting that has claimed over 150,000 lives. The Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) provides for the creation of a new autonomous region to replace the current Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARRM). Under this deal, MILF will cease as an armed opposition force and reform into a political group that will rule the newly established region by 2016.

The peace deal excludes important stakeholders: the hardline Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) split from MILF in 2009; the Al Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf and Khalifa Islmiyah Mindanao are also opposed to the deal.

Security Context

Splinter groups on Mindanao and smaller neighbouring islands continue violent opposition to the Government. In May, the Government and MILF announced the creation of regulatory bodies to oversee the peace process.

Insurgents and Counterinsurgency Operations

Abu Sayyaf

On 10 February, government forces reportedly killed six Abu Sayyaf fighters near Talipao town on Jolo Island, adjacent to Mindanao. According to local reports, Abu Sayyaf is holding a dozen hostages, including two Europeans, in Sulu province. According to authorities, there are still an estimated 300 Abu Sayyaf fighters.

BIFF

Over 28–29 January, at least 53 people were killed after a military offensive was launched against BIFF in Maguindanao province. Some 11,000 people were displaced in five days of fighting (OCHA).

MNLF-Nur Misuari

In September and October 2013, an MNLF faction led by Nur Misuari assaulted the southern city of Zamboanga in western Mindanao Island, igniting three weeks of fighting. Zamboanga has a mixed Christian and Muslim population and the attacks were largely seen as an attempt to sabotage the peace talks between authorities and MILF. Officials estimated 202 killed in the fighting, including over 160 militants, with 324 injured. 140,000 were displaced (UNHCR).

New People’s Army

In May, 39 miners were taken hostage by the armed wing of the Communist Party, the New People’s Army, during confrontation with government forces in Compostela Valley.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Insecurity in parts of Mindanao and nearby areas is limiting humanitarian access. Concurrent natural disasters have hampered aid delivery to affected populations.

Disasters

Prolonged dry spells and stronger storms are expected to impact the country in 2014, as it braces for what could be its worst El Niño in 17 years. The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration has also warned of stronger tropical cyclones when the rainy season begins in June, with the peak of El Niño’s impact expected in the last quarter of 2014 or early 2015 (OCHA, 31/05/2014).

Floods in Mindanao

Floods and landslides caused by heavy rains that started on 13 June have affected 72,500 people in Maguindanao province. Authorities have declared a state of emergency in Maguindanao and in some areas of North Cotabato province (OCHA, 23/06/2014).

Tropical Storm Kajiki

Tropical storm Kajiki, locally known as Basyang, struck the Philippines on 31 January. As of 14 February it had affected at least 47,000 people, including over 5,600 displaced, across Eastern Visayas, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, and Caraga. WASH and
shelter needs were reported among the affected population.

**Tropical Depression Lingling**

In mid-January, tropical depression Lingling, locally known as Agaton, caused floods and landslides across the south of the archipelago, affecting 16 provinces in Northern Mindanao, Davao, Soccsksargen, and Caraga regions, and ARMM. At least 70 people were killed, with 86 injured. Authorities reported that 1.14 million people had been affected, including over 49,000 IDPs. Over 3,400 houses were damaged.

**Typhoon Haiyan**

Category 5 Typhoon Haiyan, locally known as Yolanda, made landfall on the east of the Philippines on 8 November. Haiyan was reportedly one of the strongest storms in recorded history. As of February 6, 2014, 201 people were killed and over 28,600 injured. 14.1 million people, including five million children, were affected (OCHA).

5.9 million people were affected in Central Visayas, 3.9 million in Eastern Visayas region, 466,000 affected in Mimaropa, and 70,000 affected in Caraga. Authorities reported that over 1.14 million houses were damaged by the typhoon, including 550,000 houses that were completely destroyed. According to initial government estimates, the cost of rebuilding houses, schools, roads and bridges could reach USD 5.8 billion.

**Bohol Earthquake**

On 15 October 2013, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake near the town of Carmen in Bohol province killed 223 people and injured 975. 1.25 million people were affected across six provinces of Central and Western Visayas regions. The earthquake destroyed or damaged 76,000 houses, 41 bridges, and 18 roads.

As of late February, an estimated 364,000 people remained displaced, mostly in makeshift tents or with host communities, with only 1,900 people in official evacuation centres scheduled to close by the end of March. Typhoon Haiyan did not cause significant damage in Bohol, but directly impacted the response capacity of partners.

**Displacement**

**Zamboanga**

At 10 June, six months after the Zamboanga crisis, 17,800 people were still in evacuation centres (OCHA). Some 7,800 people had been moved to transitional sites.

In late May, 64,000 IDPs were still registered as living with host families, government evacuation centres and transit locations, following the September security crisis in Zamboanga city. The most pressing needs of the affected populations were for WASH and shelter (OCHA).

Prolonged displacement in overcrowded conditions poses health and protection risks, particularly in the two largest evacuation centres, hosting some 20,000 people. Water and electricity have been rationed in the evacuation centres, as dry weather has resulted in falling water levels in the city reservoir. There are tensions over food, water, and electricity in communities that host IDPs (Protection Cluster).

**Typhoon Haiyan**

There is concern for the 26,500 people still living in temporary shelters (evacuation centres, tent cities, spontaneous settlements and bunkhouses) as the June–November tropical storm season approaches (OCHA, 19/06/2014). As people are exposed to the elements, the risk of the situation translating into deteriorating public health or a new humanitarian crisis is heightened. In the ten worst affected municipalities of Eastern Samar and Samar, only 8% of pre-Haiyan evacuation centres would be usable if a typhoon hit today. Two-thirds are unusable due to substantial damage, and the others were destroyed (IOM, 04/2014).

In late May, more than two million people were still without adequate shelter or durable housing. Many face prolonged uncertainty about whether they will be allowed to settle back in their former homes, most of which are located in designated “no-safe” zones.

**Food Security**

Losses to stored crops caused by the disasters are likely to be high. FAO reported that heavy losses of the staple food crop rice, other high value crops such as sugarcane, coconut, fruits and vegetables, as well as livestock, poultry and fisheries were expected across the affected areas.

**Livelihoods**

Of the 14 million affected by Haiyan, 5.9 million workers lost their sources of income and livelihoods. More than 2.6 million of those affected were already living below the poverty line or were in vulnerable forms of employment before the typhoon, including the agriculture, fishing and forestry sectors, or a combination of all three (Early Recovery and Livelihoods Cluster, 14/05/2014).

**Protection**

BIFF continues to actively recruit and train child soldiers, according to the UN and Philippines authorities.

As reported by Human Rights Watch, Philippines’ security forces and Muslim rebels have committed serious human rights abuses during fighting in Zamboanga.

**Updated: 24/06/2014**

**SRI LANKA** INTERNAL UNREST, DROUGHT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No new developments this week. Last update: 18/06/2014.
KEY CONCERNS
- Inter-communal tensions between the Buddhist majority and the Muslim minority are rising again.
- An estimated 770,000 people are food insecure due to consecutive droughts and floods.

Political Context
Tensions are rising again between the majority Buddhist population and the Muslim minority, who make up 10% of the population. In May, Muslim legislators asked President Rajapakse to protect their minority community from what they described as Buddhist extremist elements.

Security Context
On 15 June, at least three Muslims were killed and 80 people seriously injured in clashes in Aluthgama and Beruwela, two Muslim-majority towns on the Sinhalese-dominated southern coast, during a protest march led by the hardline Buddhist group Bodu Bala Sena (BBS), or Buddhist Power Force. The Sri Lankan Government has imposed an indefinite curfew in the popular tourist region. This outbreak of sectarian violence is Sri Lanka's worst in years.

Humanitarian Context and Needs
Disasters
Floods
Following flash floods and landslides caused by above average monsoon rains in the southwest at the beginning of June, the National Disaster Management Centre reported that about 104,000 people had been affected in eleven districts. Another 27 people died and nine were injured.

Urgent priorities include WASH and health in order to prevent waterborne diseases (OCHA and Government, 16/06/2014).

Drought
An estimated 770,000 people are in need of food and water due to drought, according to a multi-sector rapid assessment conducted by the UN, INGOs, and Government. It is not expected that the recent heavy rains will ease the drought (OCHA and WFP, 05/2014).

The northeast monsoon, which supplies water for agriculture across the key rice-producing areas of the country, received below average rainfall every month between September 2013 and March 2014, leading to prolonged drought across most of the country.

Sri Lanka has two monsoons a year – the “northeast monsoon”, or Maha, from December to February and the “southwest monsoon”, or Yala, from mid-May to September – and relies heavily on the rainfall for agriculture and hydropower.

Food Insecurity
Food insecurity has increased dramatically to an estimated 768,000. The rural population’s resistance has eroded due to consecutive droughts and floods. Prolonged dry weather has particularly affected the northern and eastern producing areas in 2014.

The proportion of households with an inadequate diet is estimated to have tripled: in normal conditions, the proportion of households with poor or borderline food consumption in the northern provinces is estimated to be around 6%; by comparison, 18% of the population in the affected areas now have limited meal diversity and/or quantities.

The most affected areas are the rainfed paddy-growing areas of Ampara and Moneragala in the east. The mixed paddy and Palmyra region in the north of the country (Vavuniya, Jaffna, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi) were also largely affected, with at least 20% of households exhibiting inadequate food consumption (WFP, 04/2014 and FAO, 05/2014).

Agriculture
Harvesting of the 2014 main season Maha rice and maize crops was completed by mid-April. The 2014 Maha rice output, accounting for over 60% of all rice production over the year, is officially estimated at 2.4 million metric tons, 17% below last year’s record level. Early prospects for the 2014 Yala rice crop, currently being planted, are also unfavourable.

The 2014 aggregate rice production (including the 2014 Maha and the ongoing 2014 Yala seasons) is forecast at 3.9 million metric tons, 16% lower than the 2013 record output and 4% below the average level of the previous five years (FAO).

Reviewed: 27/06/2014.

TAJIKISTAN FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, LANDSLIDES

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
30 May: The wheat harvest is likely to be above average. It should provide both food and income to households in wheat-growing areas, as well as agricultural labour opportunities (FEWSNET).

KEY CONCERNS
- Almost half of Tajikistan’s 7.5 million population lives on less than USD 1.33 a day; remittances are the main source of income for 55% of all households.
- Access to food is a major challenge (WFP).
- The mountainous territory poses climatic challenges, with natural disasters often causing energy and food shortages.
Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

Heavy rainfall caused flooding and flash floods on 10 and 11 May in southern Khatlon province, Vahdat district, and in Rudaki and Gonchi districts of Sughd province in the north. At least 5,360 people – or 1,072 families – were severely affected. Around 425 people were displaced. Nine bridges were destroyed, and infrastructure and water pipes were heavily damaged (IFRC, 17/05/2014).

On 25 April, ECHO reported that rainfall had caused flooding in the area of Gissar Valley, on the northern border of Khatlon province. Almost 1,900 people were affected. Additional heavy rains on 24–25 April hampered debris removal (UN, 30/04/2014).

On 16 April, a mudflow – caused by heavy rains and hailstorms – hit Kizil-Kala village in Khuroson district of Khatlon. Around 1,500 people were affected. Two children were killed, and local infrastructure was destroyed.

Over 3,100 people were affected by heavy rain on 11–13 April that caused floods and landslides. Sixteen people were killed, and 37 injured. Vose, Shuroobod, and Hamadoni districts were most affected. Affected populations of Shuroobod district were relocated to tent camps. Shelter, WASH, health, food security, livelihoods, and education were all negatively impacted.

Food Security

In the coming months, most households will satisfy their basic food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical coping strategies, including any reliance on humanitarian assistance. Therefore, households are classified with Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food security outcomes (FEWSNET, 29/05/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

Regular rainfall in March and April supported mostly normal growth of wheat in Tajikistan. The wheat harvest is likely to be above average for the third year in a row. It should provide both food and income to households in wheat-growing areas, as well as agricultural labour opportunities (FEWSNET, 30/05/2014).

Migratory locusts are thought to have continued developing in Tajikistan. Control operations are expected to have begun or continued in areas of recent infestation (USAID, 09/06/2014).

The average price of potatoes, a staple food, has increased by 70% compared to April 2013 due to a lag in imports from Afghanistan. Prices are highest in Dushanbe, the main market for the Rasht Valley (FEWSNET, 29/05/2014).

Updated: 30/06/2014

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA FLOODS, FOOD
have only lately begun to improve.

DPRK–South Korea Dialogue

On 29 April, Pyongyang conducted a scheduled military exercise near its sea border with South Korea, international observers reported. On 25 April, South Korean officials said that DPRK had completed all steps required prior to a potential nuclear test. Pyongyang has conducted three nuclear tests in the past.

On 12 February, Seoul and Pyongyang held talks at their fortified border in the Panmunjom truce village. The first high-level talks in seven years, the two sides explored ways to mend ties. According to reports, although no pre-arranged agenda was set, the parties discussed a range of issues including reunions of families separated during the 1950–1953 Korean War.

On 5 September 2013, DPRK agreed to restore a cross-border military hotline with South Korea, a sign of easing tensions. The line had been shut down six months earlier. Also in September, DPRK and South Korea reopened the joint industrial park in Kaesong. Pyongyang pulled its 53,000 workers out of the park in April, at the height of tensions with Seoul and Washington over its nuclear military programme.

National Political Context

On 10 March, DPRK’s leader Kim Jong-un reportedly won every ballot cast by voters in his district, where he ran uncontested during the first elections to the Supreme People’s Assembly legislature under his rule. This vote grants Kim the title of Member of Parliament, on top of being Supreme Commander of the armed forces and chairman of the powerful National Defence Commission.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Humanitarian access is extremely limited. In June 2013, WFP approved a new two-year operation starting on 1 July and targeting 2.4 million people, mainly children and pregnant and nursing women, with 207,000 metric tons of food assistance.

On 1 May, the UN Human Rights Council’s recommendations to the Government as part of the Universal Periodic Review included unrestricted access to prisons and prison camps for humanitarian organisations, and close collaboration with humanitarian organisations to ensure the transparent distribution of aid.

Disasters

On 2 May, the state news agency reported that severe drought across the country had caused damage to crops during the February–April growing season. On 23 June, drought persisted, according to international media. The drought is reportedly most severe in North and South Hwanghae provinces.

OCHA reported on 23 August 2013 that floods had affected 800,000 people, and left almost 49,000 homeless. At least 10,000 hectares of farmland were affected and 1,000 hectares of crops destroyed. An estimated 678,000 people needed basic healthcare, essential drugs, and hospital supplies for lifesaving interventions. Flooding and a typhoon in July and August 2012 affected 700,000 people, damaging health facilities and reducing access to primary and secondary healthcare.

Food Security

Information on food security remains limited. An estimated 16 million people, of a total population of 24.6 million, are chronically food insecure and an estimated 2.4 million people need food assistance (OCHA, 08/2014). OCHA reports that although the humanitarian situation has improved slightly since 2013, the structural causes of vulnerability persist and external assistance is needed, notably in the northeastern provinces.

WFP said that food assistance delivered in May was the highest monthly amount on record in 2014, but still only represented a quarter of the amount planned due to insufficient funding (international media, 03/06/2014).

Food production for 2013/2014 is estimated to increase by 5% compared to 2012/2013, according to WFP/FAO, resulting in the smallest cereal deficit since the early 2000s. However, the food system is highly vulnerable to shocks, and key gaps exist particularly in the production of protein-rich foods. According to OCHA, the lack of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertiliser, and plastic sheets) remains the main challenge for food production.

In late February, authorities reported an outbreak of foot-and-mouth, a highly contagious livestock disease. The disease was first reported from a pig farm in a suburb of Pyongyang and has reportedly spread to other areas in the capital and to an adjacent county, leading to the culling of thousands of pigs. The outbreak may further heighten food insecurity. In 2011, the entire Korean peninsula was hit by an outbreak foot-and-mouth that led to the culling of more than three million livestock in the Republic of Korea alone.

FAO reported in March that DPRK could, in the right conditions, become self-sufficient in cereals by end 2014. However, in November 2013, the results from a FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission indicated that, despite a slight increase in cereal production, most households have borderline or poor food consumption, limited in terms of quantity and quality. Specifically, WFP reports that 25% of households have acceptable food consumption, while 45% and 30% have borderline and poor food consumption respectively.

Health and Nutrition

Rates of child undernutrition have declined over the past decade. However, the rate of chronic malnutrition among children under five was almost 28%, alarming by international standards, according to WFP/FAO in late November 2013. The prevalence of wasting (4%) is now within the normal range, according to international thresholds.

Reviewed: 30/06/2014
**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No new developments this week. Last update: 20/06/2014.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Haiti remains highly vulnerable to natural disasters and extreme weather events. The resilience of the population and its capacity to cope with new crises is generally weak.

- Four years after the 2010 earthquake, an estimated 137,500 IDPs are still living in 243 camps scattered throughout metropolitan Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas (IOM, March 2014).

- Half the world’s suspected cholera cases are in Haiti; 58,608 suspected cases and 601 deaths were reported in 2013 and a further 45,000 are predicted for 2014. Some 5,500 cholera cases, including 36 deaths were recorded between January and May 2014 (OCHA and WHO, June 2014).

- Three million Haitians are food insecure. 600,000 face severe food insecurity and an additional 2.4 million were moderately food insecure at the end of 2013 (Haitian National Coordination for Food Security, October 2013). Nearly a quarter of Haitian children under five suffer chronic malnutrition (UNICEF 2013).

**OVERVIEW**

An estimated three million Haitians have both chronic and acute humanitarian needs, and are facing displacement, food insecurity, and malnutrition. Haiti’s political and economic situation is extremely fragile, and the country is vulnerable to natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and droughts. The resilience of the population is extremely low.

On 10 June, the Haitian Government announced that legislative elections will be held in October, three years behind schedule. The delay has fuelled anti-government protests.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Disasters**

**Drought**

On 3 April, WFP and MINUSTAH confirmed that arid conditions in Nord-Ouest department are worsening chronic food insecurity. A state of emergency has been declared across the department. Local media reported in January that a drought was damaging crops and leading to food shortages.

**Floods**

An estimated 3,000 people (700 households) have been affected by heavy rains and flooding since the rainy season started in late May, mainly in Nord, Artibonite, and Ouest departments (OCHA).

**Hurricanes**

In October 2012, torrential rains caused by Hurricane Sandy led to severe flooding that affected 1.5 million people. Ouest, Sud-Est, Nippes, Grand’Anse, and Sud departments were the most severely impacted. In early April 2013, 72,000 people affected by Hurricane Sandy still needed humanitarian assistance, according to OCHA. 119 of Haiti’s 140 municipalities were severely affected by drought, tropical storm Isaac or hurricane Sandy in 2012, displacing at least 58,000 people.

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

At end March 2014, IOM estimated that over 137,500 IDPs are still living in 243 camps, a decrease of almost 9,400 (6%) since December 2013. Rental support programmes accounted for the relocation of 4,800 IDPs, and the closure of 27 sites, while spontaneous departures to three other IDP sites accounted for the relocation of 400 IDPs. No camps were closed as a result of evictions. The number of IDPs has decreased 91% since the July 2010 peak of 1.5 million IDPs in 1,555 camps.

While 27 camps closed in the first quarter of 2014, an estimated 78 camps have recorded an increase in population – a phenomenon that is becoming more noticeable. IDPs reasons for moving into camps are reported as inability to pay rent (78%), joining family members (9%), and moving from another camp (6%).

In April 2014, the majority of IDPs (68%) were living in the three communes of Delmas, Port-au-Prince, and Carrefour. Delmas hosted almost 53,400 IDPs, or 39% of the total. Port-au-Prince and Carrefour hosted approximately 27,100 and 12,900, respectively. An estimated 80,000 people in 67 camps were considered at particularly high risk of flooding in December 2013 (OCHA).
Most people who have been relocated from camps continue to live in temporary housing and dire conditions, at risk of diseases such as cholera.

Forced evictions are reportedly a reason for falling numbers in camps (Amnesty International). In February, about a third of all IDPs (58,000 people) were at risk of forcible eviction from 102 camps, including 25,600 people at high risk (IOM).

**Refugees/Migrants**

On 23 May, the Dominican Senate unanimously approved a bill which will set up a system to grant citizenship to Dominican-born children of Haitian illegal immigrants. Critics say this new law discriminates against those who do not possess birth certificates. A UN survey of 2013 found 244,000 people in the Dominican Republic whose parents were undocumented foreigners, mainly Haitians.

**Food Security**

Haiti’s huge structural challenges heighten exposure to recurrent food insecurity. Poverty, the high degradation of the environment, and limited government capacity to monitor, prevent, and respond to crises all contribute to national vulnerability.

Assuming that normal weather conditions continue, preliminary FAO forecasts point to a 2014 aggregate cereal production of 556,000 metric tons, 3% up from last year and near the country’s five-year average.

Three million Haitians were food insecure as of October 2013 (National Coordination for Food Security). Of these, 2.4 million were moderately food insecure and 600,000 severely food insecure. These figures indicate a significant improvement: 1.5 million were considered severely food insecure earlier in 2013.

**Northern Haiti**: As of early April, drought was directly affecting 143,000 people in Nord-Ouest department, prompting a major emergency operation (National Coordination for Food Security). Government statistics showed that about 43% of households in Nord-Ouest were suffering from food insecurity, compared to a national average of about 30%.

Poor households in the mountains and plains of the dry areas in upper Artibonite, which are considered severely food insecure earlier in 2013.

**Health and Nutrition**

**Chikungunya**

Early May, Haiti’s Health Ministry confirmed the presence of Chikungunya, with over 6,000 cases recorded so far. All ten departments are affected, although 60% of cases have been recorded in Ouest department (OCHA).

**Cholera**

The first months of 2014 registered the lowest number of cholera cases and related deaths since the beginning of the epidemic. Between January and late May, 5,500 suspected cases and 36 deaths were recorded, 74% fewer cases than in the same period in 2013 (OCHA). Nord, Artibonite, Centre, Ouest, and Gonave Island reported most cases. The overall incidence of the disease has reduced by 50% since 2013, and fatality rates are below the 1% target set by WHO. However, an increase in cases was observed as Haiti entered the rainy season in late May (ECHO).

Despite a significant decrease in the number of cholera-related deaths, half the world’s suspected cholera cases are found in Haiti, where the epidemic remains a humanitarian crisis. At 31 May, the 703,000 people have been affected since the outbreak began in October 2010, with 8,560 reported deaths (Health Ministry).

Cholera is a waterborne disease, and 42% of the population does not have access to clean water.

**Malnutrition**

Rural children are especially affected by malnutrition. In Haiti, nearly a quarter of children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition, according to UNICEF. According to OCHA in December 2013, the prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) among children under five increased from 5.1% in 2012 to 6.5% in 2013.

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Poor households in the mountains and plains of the dry areas in upper Artibonite, which are almost exclusively dependent on market purchase for food at a time when their purchasing power is diminishing, are considered to be in Stressed or Crisis conditions (FEWSNET, 05/2014).

Increasing numbers of poor families in drought-affected areas are using negative coping mechanisms, including the reduction of meals per day, selling immature livestock, and cutting down trees for the sale of charcoal, which affects Haiti’s fragile environment. Well below average rainfall from November to March has resulted in crop losses of mainly sorghum, beans, and maize in high-altitude areas, and prevented farmers from planting in low-lying parts, extending the lean season.

Poor and very poor households in the north will likely be at Crisis level of food insecurity and require emergency assistance in November, due to the strong probability of below-average rainfall associated with El Niño and a late start to sowing activities negatively impacting crop production.

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

2 June: By the end of July, poor households’ use of negative coping mechanisms will likely result in the accelerated depletion of their livelihood assets. Some 615,000 people in eastern and western municipalities will experience Crisis levels of food insecurity between July and November (FEWSNET, 02/06/2014).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- An estimated 615,000 people in eastern and western municipalities will experience Crisis levels of food insecurity between July and November (FEWSNET, 02/06/2014).
Some 1,883 people suffer from acute malnutrition, of whom 42% are children under one year of age (Government, 03/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

As of 9 June, rains from Tropical Storm Boris, the second storm of the Pacific hurricane season, had affected 145,000 people in 14 of the country’s 22 departments. At least 500 people had been evacuated. A landslide killed five and injured three in the mountainous farming region of San Pedro Necta, Huehuetenango, on 30 May. The rains also damaged infrastructure (OCHA and Government).

On 6 June, Guatemala’s Disaster Relief Agency (CONRED) declared an Alert. Rainfall during Guatemala’s May–November rainy season can reach up to 400mm, often causing severe flooding and deadly mudslides.

Food Security

Food security conditions in municipalities dependent on coffee cultivation in eastern and highland areas will remain Stressed until the end of June (FEWSNET, 05/2014). By the end of July, poor households’ use of negative coping mechanisms will likely result in the accelerated depletion of their livelihood assets. Some 615,000 people in eastern and western municipalities will experience Crisis levels of food insecurity between July and November (FEWSNET, 02/06/2014).

A state of emergency was declared in February 2013 for food insecurity caused by coffee rust and drought. The coffee leaf rust epidemic, which is affecting the entire Central America region, is one of the worst ever (International Coffee Organization). Some 70% of the total Guatemalan plantation has been affected, corresponding to a loss of USD 101 million and 75,000 jobs during the 2012/2013 harvest cycle. Erratic rainfall and a prolonged dry spell over previous years have made the food security situation even more worrying.

According to the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in September 2013, the most affected departments were Chiquimula, San Marcos, Alta Verapaz, Jalapa, Jutiapa, El Quiché, Huehuetenango, Zacapa, Baja Verapaz, and Sololá. The national Secretariat for Food and Nutritional Security (SESAN) recorded 800,000 people (160,000 households) impacted by coffee leaf rust, with effects including unemployment and harvest losses of staple grains.

The present emergency is happening in a context with an extremely worrying nutritional situation since half of children under five years of age suffer from chronic malnutrition in Guatemala, the highest rate in the region and the fourth in the world.

Agricultural Outlook

El Niño conditions are expected to cause moderate losses of Primera crops, harvested in August/September, and Postrera crops, harvested in November/December. This means that these harvests will not cover the food consumption deficits of households suffering crop failures for the last two years and reduced incomes due to coffee rust (FEWSNET, 05/2014).

Health

Malnutrition

At 1 March, Guatemalan Health authorities reported 1,883 cases of acute malnutrition, of which 42% were children under one year of age. The five most affected departments are Escuintla, Guatemala, Petén, Quiché, and Huehuetenango, reporting 887 cases.

Updated: 27/06/2014

SOUTH AMERICA

BOLIVIA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new developments this week. Last update: 20/06/2014.

KEY CONCERNS

- An estimated 325,000 people were affected by heavy rainfall and flooding across most of Bolivia during the last rainy season (Government, WFP and OCHA, 06/2014).

- Bolivia is prone to natural disasters including earthquakes, floods, and droughts. The impact of the 2013 drought and severe frost are still being felt in many areas, having affected over 340,000 people and damaged around 87,000 hectares of crops (Government).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Late May, heavy rains continue to fall in the department of Beni, making it difficult to use the main roads (WFP, 23/05/2014).
Disasters

A series of natural disasters have affected Bolivia since the beginning of the rainy season in October and have had a severe impact on livelihoods and food security.

Heavy Rainfall and Floods

As of 2 June, an estimated 325,000 people were affected by flooding in Bolivia’s Amazon valleys, lowlands, and plains during the rainy season, which started last October (OCHA). Over 145 municipalities have been affected across all nine departments. At least 64 people have died. Bolivian authorities reported that floods have caused the collapse of around 1,600 homes, the destruction of 63,000 hectares of arable land, and the death of 110,000 livestock. Officials estimate that agriculture is the primary income-generating activity of 40% of affected families.

As of 20 March, the most affected populations were in Cochabamba (88,300 people), Beni (75,430), Chuquisaca (55,540), La Paz (39,200), Santa Cruz (28,900), Potosí (16,250), and to a lesser extent Pando, Tarija and Oruro. More than 14,600 people had been affected by 7 April along the Mamore River, Beni department, local media reported. A 400-tent camp had been set up in Guayaramerín.

Approximately 1,000 schools have been damaged, affecting an estimated 250,000 students. As many as 450 schools are being used as temporary shelters. In Beni, 230 schools, 60,000 students, and over 800 teachers have been affected (Ministry of Education, OCHA, 05/06/2014).

Local media reported that river overflows in Pando and Beni departments were affecting the neighbouring Brazilian states of Acre and Rondonia. An emergency has been declared in the entire Amazon zone, shared by both countries.

The Government declared a state of emergency on 28 January. The situation worsened, and on 10 February the departments of Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Beni, La Paz, Potosí, and Pando were placed on red alert.

Bolivian President Evo Morales said an in-depth investigation is needed to assess whether the Brazilian hydropower plants have played a role in the floods. Environmental organisations are discussing the possibility of filing an international legal complaint against the Jirau and Santo Antônio hydroelectric dams built by Brazil, which they blame for the disaster.

The most affected regions during the rainy season are typically north of La Paz and in the south Andean plateau of Lake Titicaca.

Frost

A cold wave that hit the country in late May caused the death of seven people. In Potosí, over 5,000 people reported the destruction of their houses as a result of strong winds. In Beni, at least 60,000 head of livestock have died.

Food Security

According to FAO on 27 February, a detailed assessment of the agriculture losses from heavy rain and flooding is still not available, but livestock is expected to be the most affected sector. Estimates indicate that close to 63,000 hectares of crops, including rice, maize, and cassava, have been negatively impacted. At the time of the flooding, the 2014 main de verano season maize crop was in an advanced state and rice harvesting had just begun. Despite losses in the department of Beni, prospects for 2014’s de verano season are favourable, since the main cereal-producing departments, namely Santa Cruz, La Paz, and Cochabamba, were less severely affected and the abundant rains may have benefited the developing crops in some places.

In mid-December, FAO reported that the aggregate maize production (main and secondary seasons) for 2013 was estimated at 875,000 metric tons, 13% below 2012’s figure. This decline was attributed to prolonged dry weather in the first quarter of 2013 and frosts in July and August. The impact was particularly felt in the departments of Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, La Paz, Tarija, and Chuquisaca. The cold wave during July and August damaged potato crops and affected a large number of rural households.

As of 15 October 2013, an estimated 87,000 hectares of crops had sustained damage during the drought of the first quarter of the year. Tarija department is worst hit, with 44,000 hectares of crops estimated to have been lost. Santa Cruz recorded the highest number of affected cattle, with approximately 29,400 dead.

Health

Dengue

Over 1,800 confirmed cases of dengue were reported as of 15 April in the departments of Santa Cruz (60% of cases), Beni, and northern La Paz, as a result of the rainy season (Health Ministry). National authorities issued an alert for dengue and malaria in flood-affected regions at the beginning of 2014.

Reviewed: 25/06/2014

PARAGUAY FLOODS

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 June: An estimated 201,800 have been affected by heavy rainfall and flooding. 98% of the 70,000 displaced are in Asunción. Most affected areas include Alto Paraguay, Presidente Hayes (Bajo Chaco), Asunción and Neembucú (ECHO).

KEY CONCERNS

- Over 201,800 people have been affected by heavy rainfall and flooding across Paraguay (ECHO, National Secretary for Emergency, 06/2014).
- Paraguay is prone to a variety of natural disasters, particularly seasonal floods and
Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

Floods

As of 26 June, an estimated 201,800 (40,465 households) have been affected by rivers overflowing and causing serious flooding. Rainfall over Paraguay has been heavy since May, and heavy rain in south-eastern Brazil since the beginning of June has also had an impact.

Of the affected, 70,000 (14,000 households) are displaced, 98% in Asunción. The National Emergency Secretariat (SEN) has opened 26 temporary shelters.

Most affected areas are Alto Paraguay, Presidente Hayes (Bajo Chaco), Asunción and Ñeembucú (ECHO, 26/06/2014). As of 19 June, five departments (Alto Paraguay, Presidente Hayes, Ñeembucú, Misiones, Alto Paraná) and three districts (Asunción, Concepción, and San Pedro de Ycuamandi) were affected (SEN). Highways are damaged and many communities are can only be reached by air or water, especially in Alto Paraguay and Presidente Hayes (OCHA, 06/2014).

Outlook: The number of affected families in Asunción is expected to increase further to 15,000 (ECHO, 26/06/2014), as the level of the Paraguay River is likely to rise to 7m (1.5m being the average level) during the first week of July. The level of the Parana River is slowly decreasing.

Low temperatures, wind and rain are expected to continue in south and southeastern areas (ECHO, National Secretary for Emergency, WFP).

Updated: 27/06/2014.
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 Tuesday before midday (Central European Time/Central European Summer Time). In case of major new humanitarian events or an escalation of an ongoing crisis which triggers a change of prioritisation, the Global Overview will be updated on an ad-hoc basis.

Disclaimer

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