**Severe humanitarian crisis**
- Afghanistan
- oPt
- CAR
- Somalia
- DRC
- South Sudan
- Djibouti
- Sudan
- Mali
- Syria
- Niger
- Yemen
- Nigeria

**Humanitarian crisis**
- Chad
- Lesotho
- Ethiopia
- Malawi
- Gambia
- Myanmar
- Haiti
- Pakistan
- Iraq
- Senegal
- Kenya

**Situation of concern**
- Angola
- Jordan
- Bangladesh
- Lebanon
- Bolivia
- Mauritania
- Burundi
- Namibia
- Cameroon
- Paraguay
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Philippines
- Dominican Republic
- Sri Lanka
- Guatemala
- Uganda
- Honduras

**Watch list**
- DPRK
- Liberia
- Eritrea
- Sierra Leone
- Guinea

**Snapshot 6 August – 12 August**

**Central African Republic**: The CAR President Catherine Samba-Panza named a Muslim as the new Prime Minister. Renewed clashes have displaced 20,000 people in Batafango (Ouham) since July and 17,000 people in Bambari (Ouaka) since June. A total of 890 security incidents were recorded in 2014, hampering humanitarian access.

**South Sudan**: Government and opposition failed to reach a peace agreement and to set up a transitional government by 10 August, the deadline established in earlier agreements. Following the killing of at least six aid workers in Maban County Upper Nile State, the UN announced it was evacuating 220 staff and aid workers. The Bentiu PoC site was reportedly affected by flooding, with most of its area submerged, causing further concern over the spread of waterborne diseases.

**Iraq**: 200,000 people have been displaced from Sinjar District as areas were taken over by IS. New waves of violence in Kirkuk displaced up to 40,000 people. At least 45,000 Iraqis have fled into the Kurdish region of Iraq (KR-I) since 3 August, where an increase in measles cases is reported.

*Updated: 12/08/2014. Next update: 19/08/2014*
AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

10 August: The CAR President Catherine Samba-Panza named a Muslim as the new Prime Minister. She had requested and obtained the resignation of the previous Prime Minister and government on 5 August, in a declared attempt to enable the implementation of the Brazzaville peace agreement of 23 July.

8 August: A humanitarian mission to Bria (Haute Kotto) in late July revealed that access to the town was very limited (UNHCR, 08/08/2014).

6 August: Renewed clashes in Batafango reportedly opposed Sangaris soldiers and ex-Séléka fighters (international media). An estimated 20,000 people are estimated to have been displaced in the town since clashes erupted in late July (OCHA, 06/08/2014).

5 August: There are 27,000 IDPs in Bambari and another 15,000 people displaced across the Ouaka province (OCHA, 05/08/2014). Renewed violence in the town since June has caused the suspension of all education activities (Education Cluster, 07/2014).

KEY CONCERNS

- Communal violence has surged across the country in 2014, with attacks reported in nearly all prefectures.
- 2.5 million people require immediate humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 08/2014). The entire CAR population of 4.6 million people, half of whom are children, are affected by the conflict (UNICEF, 04/2014).
- 1.7 million people are in Crisis and Emergency phases of food insecurity (FAO, 06/2014).

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 Séléka 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 Séléka 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 10 August, the CAR president named a Muslim as the new Prime Minister. She had requested and obtained the resignation of the previous Prime Minister and government on 5 August, in a declared attempt to enable the implementation of the Brazzaville peace agreement of 23 July. A cessation of hostilities agreement was signed in Brazzaville on 23 July (UN, 24/07/2014), reportedly between ex-Séléka, anti-balaka, the National Transitional Council, and political, religious, and civil society groups (US State Department, 24/07/2014). International media had reported that some groups had announced they would boycott the talks, and fighting has reportedly continued in parts of the country (BBC, 25/07/2014).

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 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, she appointed Andre Nzapayeke, as Prime Minister. Nzapayeke’s government reportedly included both supporters of Christian militias and supporters of Seleka.

Security Context

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

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. Seleka reinstated Michael Djotodia as its leader following its general assembly in Birao on 8–10 July 2013. Djotodia was forced to step down as president in January amid escalating violence.

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, 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

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 were massively targeting Muslim populations and committing various abuses.

In late March, observers noted an increase in both Seleka and anti-balaka activism, and the increased targeting of international peacekeepers. In mid-March, fighters belonging to Darfuri militias, including Janjaweed, Misseriya and Rizeigat, were reportedly arriving in Vakaga prefecture 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. Sangaris was reportedly deployed in Grimari, Ouaka. Further clashes occurred in Sangan, Nana-Mambere, and Bamata and Botokon, Nana-Grebizi. Muslim convoys were attacked in Dissikou, Nana-Grebizi, and Boguila and Paoua, Ouham-Pende.

In May, clashes between militias in and around Kaga Bandoro, Nana-Grebizi, killed at least 55 people; many were civilians. Clashes in May in the area of Bouar, Nana-Mambere, left 12 Seleka and anti-balaka fighters dead.

In Ouham in 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 10 May, international media reported that Seleka had established a new command. As
of late May, the headquarters were in Bambari, Ouaka. Violence between anti-balaka and ex-seleka fighters, and violence targeted against civilians by these armed groups, surged in June and July in Bambari, causing renewed displacement. The presence of Sangaris soldiers failed to put an end to the clashes.

In Carnot, Mambere-Kadei, clashes between MISCA and anti-balaka on 23 May left three civilians dead (UNHCR, 29/05/2014).

**Incidents**

**Ouaka:** 70 unarmed Central African police personnel were deployed to Bambari in early July, where Sangaris are guarding a strategic bridge (UNHCR, 04/07/2014). The town has seen intense fighting since May (UNHCR, 25/06/2014). Clashes erupted on 23 June following a suspected anti-balaka attack on a Peul Muslim community and subsequent retaliation. At least 60 people had been killed by July (UNICEF 09/07/2014). Violent clashes occurred between Sangaris and Seleka in Bambari over 22–23 May (OCHA and international organisations).

**Ouham:** In late July, clashes between anti-balaka and Seleka in Batafango left 26 civilians dead (AFP, 01/08/2014), and led to renewed displacement (UN, OCHA, 06/08/2014). Renewed clashes reportedly opposed Sangaris soldiers and ex-Seleka fighters on 6 August (international media). According to OCHA on 1 July, a recent attack in a nearby village displaced over 11,000 people. The security situation in Kouki had also reportedly deteriorated.

**Ouham-Pende:** On 4 July, a grenade attack against a mosque in Paoua left 34 people dead (OCHA, 10/07/2014). 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.

**Mbomou:** On 2 July, an INGO reported that clashes between Ugandan troops and Seleka had left over a dozen of people dead.

**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 deteriorated in May. Dozens were killed in clashes, including an attack on a displacement site (UNHCR and international media, 28/05/2014; 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 Mbomou). As of 30 July, 14 LRA attacks, four deaths, and 86 abductions have been reported since the beginning of 2014. Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou were the most affected prefectures (OCHA).

**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 August, 2.5 million people (half of whom are children), of an estimated population of 4.6 million, need immediate assistance (OCHA, 06/08/2014).

**Access**

Insecurity and difficulties arising from poor road conditions and the rainy season, which began in May, continue to hamper humanitarian access and the delivery of food aid and increase logistical costs (OCHA, 30/07/2014). A total of 890 security incidents were recorded in 2014 (OCHA, 06/08/2014).

In the countryside, the security of humanitarian workers remains dependent on the willingness of local strongmen, while insecurity affects roads.

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.

**Bamingui-Bangoran:** The delivery of aid has reportedly been impeded by local authorities in Ndele (OCHA, 16/07/2014).

**Ouham:** On 18 July, a convoy transporting humanitarian supplies was attacked on the road between Bangui and Bossangoa (OCHA, 21/07/2014). On 30 July, OCHA reported that insecurity continued to impede humanitarian access to Batafango, Markounda, and Kouki. On 17 June, Markounda was entirely inaccessible to humanitarian aid (OCHA).

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

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 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.
Haute Kotto: A humanitarian mission to Bria in late July revealed that access to the town and its environs was very limited (UNHCR, 08/08/2014).

Trapped Communities

On 9 June, an estimated 21,000 people, mostly Muslim, were trapped in 12 locations, some of whom have been trapped for several months (Boda, Lobaya and PK12 district of Bangui). The number is unchanged since 9 May. Very high risk locations comprised Boda (Lobaya prefecture), Yaloke (Ombella Mpoko), Berberati (Mambere-Kadei), Bozoum (Ouham-Pende), Boganangone (Lobaye), and the PK5 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.

Security Incidents Affecting Aid Workers

On 9 July, a group of eight humanitarian aid workers was temporarily held by anti-balaka outside Boali (WFP, 17/07/2014). 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 Mbaki in Lobaye (OCHA). Most Muslim inhabitants of Boali, and of Bossemptele, Ouham-Pende, had also left.

IDPs

512,000 IDPs, including 87,000 in Bangui (OCHA 06/08/2014). Displacement surged from late March, having 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 Multi-Sectoral Rapid Assessment (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 has brought the number of IDPs from 9,000 to 25,000 from 24 June to 1 July (UNHCR, 04/07/2014). According to OCHA, as of 5 August, there were 27,000 IDPs in Bambari and another 15,000 people displaced across the province (OCHA, 05/08/2014). IDPs are facing urgent needs in terms of shelter, latrines, and food, according to an assessment carried out between 28 and 30 June by an NGO in the MISCA, Sangaris, and Saint-Joseph displacement sites in Bambari.

Ombella Mpoko: An estimated 20,000 IDPs are in Bimbo (OCHA, 30/07/2014).

Bangui: 87,000 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).

Ouham: An estimated 20,000 people are estimated to have been displaced in Batafango following renewed violence in late July (OCHA, 06/08/2014). An estimated 8,000 IDPs are living in the bush in Kouki (OCHA, 01/07/2014).

Refugees in CAR

8,047 refugees and asylum seekers from other countries in CAR (UNHCR 08/08/2014), an estimated 1,700 South Sudanese refugees were in CAR as of 31 March (UNHCR).

Darfuri refugees in CAR’s Bembere camp (Ouham) face a serious security situation. Aid organisations have withdrawn, leaving people without access to food aid (local media 11/07/2014). 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.

Returnees

A protection mission conducted between 30 July and 2 August reported the return of Muslim IDPs to Bocaranga and Kouï (Ouham Pende) (UNHCR, 08/08/2014).

On 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, 06/08/2014).

CAR Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

402,000 CAR refugees are registered in neighbouring countries, 167,000 having arrived since December 2013. 228,000 CAR refugees are registered in Cameroon, 93,000 in Chad (100,000 on 15 May), 63,000 in DRC, and 18,000 in Congo (UNHCR 08/08/2014).

On 4 July, following reports that refugees had been denied entry into Chad at the border point of Sido, UNHCR said that Chad authorities had confirmed the border point would remain closed. On 16 July, 58 Chadian returnees had been allowed into Chad by Chadian authorities, although the border remains officially closed (OCHA, 21/07/2014). OCHA reported on 17 June that 110,000 people had crossed from CAR to Chad since 2013.

Third-country Nationals Fleeing CAR

By 1 August, 130,000 people had been evacuated from CAR, both Muslim CAR nationals...
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. On 21 July, OCHA reported that food insecurity was expected to remain at Crisis level until December.

Ouham and Ouham-Pende are the most affected areas. All other prefectures are at Crisis level, except Mambere-Kadei (Stressed). Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute Kotto, Vakaga and Sangha Mbaere could not be classified due to insufficient data. Earlier assessments had found that most IDPs were facing at least Crisis food insecurity.

In June, 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.

Reduced access to fields due to conflict will result in below-average crop production during the 2014/2015 season (FEWSNET 06/2014).

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.

On 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 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, 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, malaria was the cause of 40% of medical consultations for children under five in Bangui.

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 (WFP, 17/07/2014).

Measles

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

Meningitis

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

Mental Health

According to aid workers’ 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 on 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-Grebizi (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.
According to the Education Cluster, renewed violence in Bambari since June has caused the suspension of all education activities (Education Cluster, 07/2014).

Protection

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.

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.

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 armed fighters. Armed groups have been re-recruiting children who had been recently demobilised.

Updated: 11/08/2014

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

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

30 July: A joint FARDC-MONUSCO military offensive took back 20 villages from ADF-NALU and Mayi Mayi Sheka insurgents in Beni, Walikale, and Lubero territories (AFP).

Late June: The Ugandan Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) remains active in Haut and Bas Uele districts of Orientale province. Since January, 81 attacks, three deaths, and 176 abductions have been reported. 92% of the 113,000 IDPs in Bas Uele and Haut Uele are displaced due to LRA activities (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS

- Internal conflict in the eastern provinces.
- 6.3 million people need humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 01/2014).

- 2.5 million IDPs (Commission on Population Movements, 06/2014). Katanga is of particular concern, with 543,000 people displaced across the province. (OCHA, 07/2014).
- 117,900 refugees, mainly from CAR and Rwanda (UNHCR, 06/2014).
- At least 4.1 million people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity (IPC 30/06/2014).

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 violence and inter-communal strife have persisted for decades, influenced by longstanding tensions with DRC’s eastern neighbours. Counterinsurgency operations and infighting between armed groups disrupt security and stability.

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...
Regional Security Context

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).

On 2 July, several nations from the region, including Angola, Burundi, CAR, Republic of Congo, DRC, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia, agreed to suspend military operations against Rwandan FDLR insurgents for six months in order to give them more time to lay down their arms.

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

M23 was dissolved as an armed group as a peace deal was signed in December 2013. 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

A joint FARDC-MONUSCO military offensive, which started in July, has taken back 20 villages from ADF-NALU and Mayi Mayi Sheka insurgents in Beni, Walikale, and Lubero territories (AFP, 30/07/2014).

The Mpofu-Bunyampuli area of North Kivu is considered to be free of insurgents (MONUSCO 11/07/2014).

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

APCLs: Clashes between the Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCL) 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 APCL bases at Matembé, Mirengen, 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.

Raiya Mutomboki: Clashes between FARDC and Raiya Mutomboki in Mulungu and Kolola areas caused the displacement of 31,550 people to Shabunda territory since March 2014 (OCHA and Commission on Population Movements, 06/2014).

Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba: On 1 July, 12 people were killed following clashes between Mayi Mayi and FARDC along Lake Tanganyika, in Fizi territory (Radio Okapi). On 8 April, 18,000 people were displaced along the Lulimba–Kalemie route in Uvira territory.

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.

**Oriental**

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 Tshopo (local media, 17/03/2014).

**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. During the second quarter of 2014, 40 attacks, one death, and 128 abductions were reported, with Haut Uele district registering almost 80% of attacks. The number of abduction incidents was two-thirds higher than in the previous quarter. Since January, 81 LRA attacks, three deaths and 176 abductions have been reported. 92% of the 113,000 IDPs in Bas Uele and Haut Uele are displaced due to LRA activities (OCHA, 30/07/2014).

**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. 85 incidents involving humanitarian workers have been recorded so far in 2014 (OCHA, 06/2014). Over 250 incidents were registered in 2013.

**Katanga**: Insecurity and logistical constraints continue to challenge humanitarian access to civilians, especially in the region covering Pweto, Manono, and Mitwaba territories.

2.5 million people were estimated internally displaced at end June, a decrease of 3% compared to March 2014 (DRC Commission on Population Movements, 06/2014). Numbers have fallen in North Kivu and Maniema and increased in South Kivu and Katanga.

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

**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 2.5 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**

2.5 million people were estimated internally displaced at end June, a decrease of 3% compared to March 2014 (DRC Commission on Population Movements, 06/2014). Numbers have fallen in North Kivu and Maniema and increased in South Kivu and Katanga.

**North Kivu**: At 908,600, North Kivu has the most IDPs in the country. This is a decrease of 13% since May, mainly due to returns in Walikale, Beni, Lubero, Masisi, Rutshuru, and around Goma. 33,650 people were newly displaced in Walikale, Beni, and Lubero. Masisi and Walikale territories host more than 476,300 people while an estimated 432,300 IDPs live in Beni, Rutshuru, Lubero, and Goma. 62% of IDPs live with host families and the rest
are in public buildings and camps (DRC Commission on Population Movements and UNHCR, 25/06/2014).

Masisi territory hosts 321,400 IDPs. In late March, residents were gradually returning to locations taken by the FARDC on the Mbau–Katangalo route, although the security situation remains fragile (OCHA).

In the first week of July, some 14,000 people moved from Walikale territory following FARDC operations against Nduuma Defence of Congo (NDC) in Kibua area (OCHA, 16/07/2014).

High incidences of malaria, diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, and sexual violence are reported among IDPs in Beni territory (OCHA 09/07/2014). Since May, almost 8,000 IDPs in Kayama, Beni territory have fled clashes between the FARDC and ADF in Kpele, Bango, Kpolou, Malundu, Vudaki, Misongo, Kamuvuyu and Mangusele. Suspected ADF-NALU activity displaced 80,000 people in Beni territory, mainly Kamango and Nobili, between July 2013 and February 2014 (OCHA).

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

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

South Kivu: Almost 555,000 IDPs are in South Kivu, an increase of 31,550 since March 2014. 70% of the new displacements occurred in Shabunda territory, following clashes between FARDC and Raiya Mutomboki in Mulungu and Kolula areas (OCHA and Commission on Population Movements, 06/2014).

As of May an estimated 49,000 new IDPs and 51,000 returnees needed assistance following Raiya Mutomboki violence in Shabunda, Kalehe, and Kabare territories (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 543,000 in June 2014. Between April and June, more than 43,000 new IDPs were registered, including 32,000 fleeing clashes between pygmys and Luba.

Manono territory has registered the highest increase, with 25,200 newly displaced people by Mayi Mayi activities in Kabongo, Kishele, Mplana, and Shamwana. Mitwaba came second with 11,500 new IDPs. Pweto territory still has the most IDPs in the province with 35% of the total (DRC Commission on Population Movements, 06/2014).

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.

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 Ituri territory (Bwanasura, Gety, Kagaba, Komanda, Lagabo, Soke, and Tchekele) 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 Tsilo district for two months following the burning of their houses by militias in the area of Opiege in Bafwasende territory (OCHA).

Haut Uele and Bas Uele have seen a substantial decrease in IDPs, 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: Between January and June 2014, an estimated 85,000 people returned to their homes after FARDC took control of Kabambare and Puria territories (Commission on Population Movements, 06/2014).

Over 37,000 people remain displaced in Maniema 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 117,900 refugees, mainly from CAR and Rwanda (UNHCR, 06/2014).

From CAR: 20,000 CAR refugees have been registered since December 2013, despite the closure of the border in December, bringing the overall number to 63,000 (UNHCR, 01/08/2014). By the end of June, 31,500 CAR refugees relocated to the four camps in Equateur and Orientale provinces (31,028 in Equateur and 478 in Orientale) (UNHCR, 30/06/2014). 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. Repatriation is scheduled for 28 August (Radio Okapi, 01/08/2014).
Returnees

Between January 2012 and May 2014, an estimated 161,300 DRC refugees returned to their homes (UNHCR, 30/06/2014).

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. 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 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.

Returnees from Angola: An estimated 13,000 DRC nationals have been expelled so far (UNHCR, 06/2014).

DRC Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

An estimated 432,960 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, 31/06/2014).

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.

Food Security

4.1 million people in 22 territories are in food and livelihood crisis and are likely to remain food insecure until December 2014 (IPC, 07/2014). The most acutely affected areas (IPC Phase 4) are Punia (Maniema Babira and Bakwame sectors) in Maniema province, and Manono, Mitwaba, and Pweto in Katanga. Other areas facing Crisis conditions (IPC Phase 3) are in South Kivu, the Punia border areas in Maniema province, and Katanga (IPC 30/06/2014)

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 July, 10,170 cholera cases including 205 deaths have been recorded (WHO). 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). Over 5,350 cases including 177 deaths have been recorded in Katanga in 2014, a significant decrease compared to 13,726 cases and 348 deaths in 2013 (OCHA, 30/06/2014). The south of Bukavu, South Kivu, has recorded significant drop in cholera, from 80 cases in June to four in the first week of July (Local media 09/07/2014). 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).

Malnutrition

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

In July, 21,520 cases of measles including 252 deaths had been reported in 13% of all health districts, in ten provinces, since the beginning of 2014 (WHO, 07/2014). 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, Damba) and Bandundu (Kimpitu, Mushie) are affected by epidemics. A significant decrease in suspected measles cases was registered in Orientale, Equateur, and North Kivu during the first quarter of 2014 in comparison with 2013.

WASH

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

Access to water is below the emergency standard of 15L/person/day for most CAR refugees in Equateur and Orientale provinces. It currently stands at 13L/person/day in Boyabu camp, 12L/person/day in Mole camp, 12L/person/day in Inke camp, and far below these numbers in the host communities (UNHCR, 07/2014).

As of 11 July, tap water had not been available in several districts of the city of Mbuji-Mayi, Kasai Oriental, for almost two weeks (local media 11/07/2014).

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.

The Government counted 26,340 incidents of rape and other gender-based violence in seven provinces during 2011 and 2012—and another 15,350 cases in 2013. The actual numbers may be higher (UNHCR cited by Pulitzer Centre on 10/07/2014).

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, Mitiwaba, and Pweto between January and May (UNHCR). At March, the territory of Mitiwaba 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, Mitiwaba, 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: 05/08/2014

**DJIBOUTI** DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

1 August: 125,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance (ECHO), a decrease on 200,000 reported in mid-June (UN). Food insecurity has improved, but persists, in all rural pastoral areas (ECHO).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- The estimated total of persons in need of humanitarian assistance in the country is around 125,000 people including more than 22,000 refugees (ECHO, 01/08/2014).

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 has led to increased competition for natural resources, 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

**Migrants**

In May, an estimated 4,847 people left Djibouti for Yemen.

Lack of water is likely to affect refugees and migrants in the coming months. The migrants/refugees continue to report lack of access to food and water during their transit through Obock, while they wait to cross to Yemen. During transit, migrants/refugees are also exposed to theft by criminal gangs, and detention by authorities (Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat, 31/05/2014).

**Refugees in Djibouti**

22,234 refugees, the majority of Somali origin, are currently registered in Djibouti (ECHO, 01/08/2014).

Food Security

As of 23 June, 120,000 people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity (OCHA, 23/06/2014). Food insecurity has improved but persists in all rural pastoral areas (ECHO, 01/08/2014).

A further reduction in humanitarian assistance during May, below-average March to May diraacsugum rains, constrained labour opportunities, reduced livestock productivity, and an extended lean season have all accelerated the decline in household food security (FEWSNET, 30/06/2014). Pasture and water availability has been affected in Obock, central and southeastern pastoral areas due to poor rains (GIEWS, 01/07/2014).

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.

Updated: 05/08/2014

**MALI** CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

7 August: Continued violence in Northern Mali has put peace talks set for August on
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 insurgents out of major cities. The conflict was further complicated by a military coup in March 2012 and, later, fighting between Tuareg and Islamist fighters. 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. Unexploded ordnance and landmines are a significant threat.

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

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 25 June, the UN Security Council extended MINUSMA’s mandate for one year, until 30 June 2015.

By the end of July, French troops will reduce their presence in Mali and redeploy a 3,000-strong counterterrorism operation across the Sahel region. Based in Chad, operation Barkhane will be active in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger (RFI, 22/07/2014).

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

On 30 June, an improvised explosive device near Timbuktu killed a UN peacekeeper and
injured six others.

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Insecurity impedes state authorities and humanitarian aid workers from working in northern
regions. 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

As of June 2014, 128,866 people remain internally displaced as a consequence of the 2012
conflict, a significant decrease on 200,000 in February, and 283,700 in October 2013.
About 40,000 IDPs are in the capital Bamako, more than 25,000 in Kidal, and more than 15,
000 in Timbuktu (IOM, 24/07/2014).

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). Between 20 and 26 July,
310 individuals fled from violence in the north (IOM, 05/08/2014).

Over 350,000 individuals have returned to their places of origin in the country’s northern
regions, which increased significantly by June 2014, compared to about 284,000
returnees in April. Most returnees in the north are located in Timbuktu (over 180,000)
followed by Gao (over 135,000), Mopti (about 30,000) and Kidal (405). The arrival of
returnees in the north has exacerbated the already existing needs in the host communities,
especially the lack of financial resources and access to basic social services (IOM,
24/07/2014).

A national survey revealed that 75% of displaced households want to return to their places
of origin, while 21% would like to stay in the place of displacement (IOM, 04/2014).

Refugees in Mali

Mali hosts 14,500 refugees from countries including Mauritania (12,900) and Côte
d’Ivoire (1,110) (UNHCR, 06/2014).

Returnees

As of 10 July, around 1,800 Malians had been evacuated from CAR to Mali (OCHA,
10/07/2014).

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.

Malian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

Almost 4,900 people from Mali arrived in Niger (North Tahoua) in June fleeing conflict and
insecurity. Over 1,060 have already relocated to the refugee hosting area of Intikane and
3,830 are located at Agando (UNHCR 14/07/2014).

As of late May, reported that an estimated 137,600 Malians have taken refuge in
neighbouring countries, including 52,900 in Mauritania, 50,000 in Niger, and 32,660 in
Burkina Faso (UNHCR, CMP, IOM, 06/2014). This is a decrease of 26,000 compared to
August 2013.

The majority of Malian refugees say they are willing to return only when security
improves considerably.

Food Security

1.9 million people (11% of the population) need food assistance in northern Mali from June
to August, due to the lean season (UN 14/07/2014). Among them, 945,284 people are
currently food insecure (UN 14/07/2014).

The Dogon Plateau is the major area of concern. Poor households are currently facing
Stressed acute food insecurity and cases of severe malnutrition are expected. These
households have already resorted to coping strategies earlier than usual, affecting
children’s nutrition. (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014).

The 2013/14 Crop production in the Dogon Plateau is 50% lower than average. Above-
average rainfall has over-saturated ground conditions. Irregular rains, the onset of the lean
season and ongoing conflict and insecurity are expected to deteriorate the food security
situation come the September-October harvest period (OCHA, 07/2014).

Acute food insecurity should not worsen further between July and September in the areas
of Timbuktu, Gao, Kidal, Bandiagara Plateau and western Sahel, which will all be at IPC
Phase 1 from October to December.

Livelihoods

Livestock are in a poor physical condition due to the lack of pasture, resulting in a drastic
drop in market prices for small animals. Consequently, movements of livestock from northern Mali to grazing areas in the centre and south of the country are observed (OCHA, 07/2014).

Sahel Food Crisis: Regional overview

In March 2014, more than 25 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, Senegal, and Chad), were suffering from food insecurity (FAO, 03/04/2014). Food insecurity in 2014 has risen dramatically compared to 2013, when food consumption was inadequate for 11.3 million people (OCHA, 03/02/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Child Malnutrition

496,000 children under five suffered from severe malnutrition as of 31 July. 361,000 children under five suffer from MAM. 126,000 children under four and 105,000 women are at risk of malnutrition in northern Mali (OCHA, 12/08/2014).

Ebola Virus

Preparedness activities are taking place in Mali given the high risk that Ebola will spread to more countries bordering Guinea. Bamako, Kayes, Koulkoro and Sikasso are at greatest risk in case of an outbreak (IFRC, 17/07/2014).

Protection

Explosive remnants of war have caused 101 casualties since early 2012 (OCHA, 30/06/2014).

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: 11/08/2014

**Niger**  FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

31 July: 1.6 million children are acutely malnourished, 356,320 of whom are severely malnourished. GAM among children 6-59 months is at 13.3% nationwide, and exceeds the emergency threshold of 15% in Maradi region (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

31 July: An estimated 4.3 million people are chronically food insecure, compared to 2.9 million in 2013, (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Acute food insecurity in large parts of the country: certain poor households will reach Crisis (IPC Phase 3), particularly in Oualam, between July and September (FEWSNET, 07/2014). An estimated 4.3 million people are chronically food-insecure, compared to 2.9 million in 2013.

- 1.6 million children are acutely malnourished, 356,320 of whom are severely malnourished. GAM among children 6-59 months is at 13.3% nationwide (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

- 120,000 people have fled to Niger: 50,000 from Mali (UNHCR, 19/06/2014) and 70,000 from Nigeria (OCHA, 18/07/2014), with 50,000 Nigerians in the Diffa region alone (OCHA, 17/07/2014).

- Niger is affected by a cholera epidemic, reportedly linked to the one in neighbouring Nigeria. Since January, 166 cases and three deaths have been recorded (UNICEF, 05/2014).

**Political Context**

**Regional Context**

Niger is affected by instability in neighbouring Mali and Nigeria. Spillover from Nigeria’s Islamist uprising 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 created the G5-Sahel, an initiative to coordinate 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.

France announced mid-July that some 3,000 French troops will operate counterterrorist operations in the Sahel region in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad across the Sahel region (Reuters, 18/07/2014). Based in Chad, the new counterterrorism operation, Barkhane, will replace the current Serval operation (RFI, 18/07/2014).

**National Political Context**

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 protesters 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 in 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 all of 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.

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

As of mid-July, an estimated 120,000 people have sought refuge in Niger following crises in Mali and Nigeria (OCHA, 17/07/2014).

Mali Crisis

4,893 people arrived in North Tahoua in June, fleeing armed groups and insecurity in Mali. 1,062 have already relocated to the Intikane area and 3,831 are currently in Agando, 15km from the border (UNHCR 14/07/2014).

50,000 Malian refugees are in Niger (UNHCR, 19/06/2014). 80% were women and children according to March 2014 figures. Most live in three camps established in Tillabery 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.

Returnees from Mali constitute 14% (around 5,700 people) of the 40,800 returnees in Niger (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

Nigeria Crisis

70,000 refugees and returnees have fled violence in Nigeria’s Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states: 78% of those are returnees and 22% are refugees (OCHA, 21/07/2014). An estimated 22,400 people crossed into Diffa region between January and late May (UNHCR and IRC). The numbers have grown significantly from 37,000 in September 2013, and 6,400 in July 2013.

335 new arrivals were registered in the Diffa region 21-27 July, compared to 175 the previous week, raising the number of refugees and returnees from Nigeria in Diffa to 71,282 people. Internal displacement within the region is also increasing, driven by people’s search for means of subsistence and pastureland (OCHA, 26/07/2014).

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 in the Diffa region 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.

Returnees from Nigeria constitute 86% (around 35,000 people) of the returnees in Niger (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

CAR Crisis: Returnees

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

Food Security

Acute food insecurity will reach Crisis level (IPC Phase 3) for certain poor households, particularly in Ouallam, between July and September, due to below-average harvest stocks, poor pastoral conditions, and unusually high market prices for staple foods (FEWSNET, 07/2014).

Almost 90,000 people in the Diffa region, including around 50,000 Nigerian refugees, will suffer from acute food insecurity during between June and September 2014 (OCHA, 21/07/2014). The Diffa region is vulnerable to flooding and drought.

4.3 million people are estimated to be chronically food insecure, compared to 2.9 million in 2013 (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview

In March 2014, more than 25 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon,
Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal), suffered from food insecurity (FAO, 03/04/2014). Food insecurity in 2014 has risen dramatically compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2014).

**Agriculture and Markets**

The agricultural season this year has developed earlier compared to last season and average years (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014). Disruptions in rainfall has destroyed seedlings in some areas, and farmers face serious challenges accessing seed. The lean season has begun for the majority of rural households in the Sahel (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

In N’Guigmi department, Diffa region, not a single village was able to sow seeds. Only 41% of villages in Diffa (250 of 606) had sown seeds by the end of July (OCHA, 26/07/2014).

In the north, livestock are in a poor physical condition due to the lack of pasture, resulting in a drastic drop in market prices for small animals (OCHA, 31/07/2014). Boko Haram-related market disruptions have restrained trade flows towards Diffa and increased marketing costs. Trade flows from Nigeria toward Maradi and Konni are at normal levels (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

**Child Mortality**

Niger has made remarkable progress in cutting under-five mortality over the past decade (UN, 02/2014). However, high maternal mortality, skyrocketing population growth, and low government capacity are still impeding progress. Just 18% of births are accompanied by a skilled attendant, and 590 women per 100,000 live births die of pregnancy-related causes.

**Cholera**

As of early June, 166 cholera cases have been registered in 2014, including three deaths, representing a fatality rate of 1.8%, significantly lower than during same period of 2013, when 326 cases and seven deaths were reported (UNICEF 06/2014). More than 8,200 cases of cholera were recorded between 2011 and 2013 (WASH Cluster, 05/2013).

**HIV**

HIV rates in the Lake Chad basin (Diffa region) stand at 10%.

**Malnutrition**

Around 1.6 million children are acutely malnourished in Niger; 356,320 of them are severely malnourished. GAM among children 6–59 months is at 13.3% nationwide, and exceeds the 15% emergency threshold in Maradi region (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

In mid-July, malnutrition had increased in Maine and Nguigmi in Diffa region (OCHA, 21/07/2014). In April, GAM was at critical levels in the regions of Agadez (14.0%), Tahoua (13.1%), Tillabery (13.3%), and Diffa (12.3%), according to OCHA.

**WASH**

48% of the population do not have access to safe drinking water (OCHA, 17/07/2014).

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

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**4 August:** Nigeria recorded its second Ebola case, a doctor in Lagos who had treated the man from Liberia who died from the virus. The health minister said another eight people who came into contact with him have been placed in quarantine (BBC).

**31 July:** Four new poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) cases were reported over 24–31 July. More cases due to vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 have been reported (18 cases) in 2014 than those due to wild poliovirus type 1 (five) (Global Polio Eradication Initiative).

**30 July:** A suicide bomber killed six people at a college campus in Kano city, Kano state. This is the fourth time Boko Haram (BH) insurgents have been suspected of using a female attacker (AFP).

**29 July:** Suspected BH suicide bombers attacked two mosques in Yobe state, killing at least six people and injuring several others (AFP).

**Late July:** Crisis levels of food insecurity are expected post-harvest in conflict-prone areas of the northeast until December. Households in southern Borno and Yobe states, northeastern Adamawa state, and the Lake Chad region are most affected (FEWSNET).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 15.5 million people directly affected by violence in the northeast (OCHA, 06/2014).
- 4.2 million food insecure and Crisis levels of food insecurity expected in the SoE states (UNICEF, 06/2014).
- 705,000 IDPs country-wide due to the insurgency in the three state of emergency (SoE) states (OCHA, 06/2014).
- 1.74 million acutely malnourished (UNICEF and OCHA, 03/2014).
- Nearly half the population does not have access to safe water (UNICEF).
- 23,320 cholera cases reported so far in 2014: lack of WASH and the consequences of violence in the northeast are increasing concern about the outbreak (WHO, 06/2014).
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 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.

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.

Security Context

The frequency and fatality of attacks are currently at their highest levels since the state of
emergency (SoE) was imposed. Common targets remain the vast rural communities,
schools, and highways that connect the northeastern towns to each other.

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.
By March, some 2,000 people had already been killed in 2014 (Amnesty International,
03/2014). Half of the victims were civilians. The insurgency is being fuelled by the high
proliferation of small arms, and support from international terror groups (OCHA, 05/2014).

In May, the UN identified 15 states as potential hot spots for political-related violence for
2015 elections, with likely humanitarian implications (OCHA, 05/2014).

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.

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

The Boko Haram insurgency has killed at least 2,053 civilians in an estimated 95 attacks
during the first half of 2014 (HRW, 15/07/2014). At least 6,000 people were killed in
insurgent attacks between 2013 and June 2014 (ACLED and OCHA, 01/07/2014).

Borno state: Heavy fighting is ongoing with insurgents reportedly making advances
across the state (OCHA, 16/07/2014).

Over 17–20 July, BH gunmen carried out a series of attacks in the town of Damboa,
throwing explosives into residential homes. The exact number of casualties remains
unknown. An estimated 15,200 people were displaced. Local residents claimed that the security forces had pulled out of the area following a militant attack two weeks before (AFP, 18/07/2014).

On 14 July, insurgents attacked Dille village, killing 45 people. Several houses and shops were torched and over 500 people forced to flee into nearby hills (OCHA, 18/07/2014).

Suspected BH gunmen killed seven people in an attack on a police station and military camp in Krenuwa village, Marte district in early July (AFP, 07/07/2014).

On 1 July, at least 18 people were killed in an explosion at a market in Maiduguri. No group claimed responsibility but Maiduguri is at the centre of BH’s violent campaign (Al Jazeera).

In June, at least 265 people were killed: suspected BH stormed church services and raided villages near Chibok and villages in Gwoza district, and stormed a market in Daku. Suspected BH abducted up to 30 women from nomadic settlements near Chibok.

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 29 July, suspected BH suicide bombers attacked two mosques, killing at least six people and injuring several others. The first explosion hit a Shi’ite in the town of Potiskum and the second blast hit the town of Anguwar Bolawa (AFP, 29/07/2014).

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.

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.

Bauchi state: An explosion in Bauchi on 28 June killed 10 people and injured 14 others (AFP).

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.

Kaduna state: On 23 July, two bombings in Kaduna targeting a prominent cleric and a former head of state killed at least 82 people (Reuters, 23/07/2014).

Kano state: On 30 July, a suicide bomber killed six people at a college campus in Kano city. It is the fourth time that BH has been suspected of using a female attacker. The attack came as the Government announced the arrest of a 10-year-old girl with explosives strapped to her chest in a neighbouring area (AFP, 30/07/2014).

On 28 July, two female suicide bombers killed three people and injured 13 in Kano city (AFP, 28/07/2014). A day earlier, at least five people were killed and eight injured in a bomb attack on a Catholic church in a mainly Christian area of the city. Celebrations to mark the end of Ramadan were cancelled after the attacks were blamed on BH (AFP, 27/07/2014). On 24 July, at least one person was killed and eight injured by an explosion at a bus station in the predominantly Christian Sabon Gari neighbourhood of Kano, which has previously been targeted by Boko Haram militants (AFP, 24/07/2014).

A bomb blast at a public health college in Kano killed at least eight people on 23 June. On 18 May, a car bomb in a Christian neighbourhood killed at least four and wounding five others. This was the first attack in Kano for several months.

On 6 July, suspected BH insurgents disguised in army uniforms burned down a police station and a military camp in Krenuwa village, Marte district, killing seven people (AFP, 07/07/2014).

Plateau state: On 11 June, at least eight people, including three security officers, were killed when gunmen raided three villages. On 26 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 24 people and wounding dozens more. 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.

Lagos: On 25 June, two explosions at a fuel depot in Lagos killed two people. These were the first recorded Boko Haram attacks in the city (Reuters, 13/07/2014).

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.

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, 02/06/2014).

Attacks on health facilities, water points, and farms have severely affected local communities, particularly in Borno and Yobe (UNICEF, 18/06/2014). Populations are in urgent need of protection, food, and basic medical and WASH services in a context of limited humanitarian presence (OCHA, 01/07/2014).

**Access**

Humanitarian access in the northeast is impeded by three main factors: insecurity, poor infrastructure, and limited openings for dialogue with both security forces and non-state actors (OCHA, 05/2014).

BH insurgents are suspected to have blown up a major bridge in Gamboru Ngala district, Borno state, disrupting transport links with Cameroon (BBC, 27/07/2014).

All roads leading to and from state capital Maiduguri are subject to attack. All commercial flights to Maiduguri remain suspended. There are no government restrictions on travel to Borno state, however, there are protocols to ensure safety (OCHA, 07/2014).

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 (OCHA, 25/02/2014).

**Disasters**

Over 28–29 June, heavy rains in Oyo state killed at least 15 people (ECHO).

**Displacement**

As of 11 July, 650,000 people were reported displaced from Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states (UNHCR). Refugees have fled within Nigeria or sought refuge in neighbouring Niger, Cameroon or Chad.

**IDPs**

Over 17–20 July, 15,200 people were displaced by a BH assault in Damboa, Borno state. 10,200 fled to Biu, 3,000 to Maiduguri, and 2,000 to Goniri (NEMA cited by AFP, 21/07/2014).

In July, 705,000 people were reported internally displaced, including 436,600 in the three SoE states. The most affected state is Borno, with some 257,700 IDPs, 100,000 of whom are displaced in the capital, Maiduguri. Adamawa and Yobe states respectively host 102,560 and 76,360 IDPs (UNHCR and OCHA, 01/07/2014).

268,200 are displaced in surrounded states including Taraba (108,500), Bauchi (88,570), Benue (37,000), Kaduna (15,000), Gombe (13,000), and Nasarawa (6,340). There are about 200 host communities in the country (UNHCR and OCHA, 01/07/2014). Most IDP households are headed by women who have been widowed during attacks. Most IDPs reside with families in poor host communities, 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 herdsman 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**

Around 24,200 Nigerian refugees are in northern Cameroon, with about 3,000 Nigerian refugees in Minawao refugee camp, 130km east of the border. Many Nigerian refugees refuse to stay near the border in order to better monitor the situation in Nigeria (UNICEF, 30/06/2014). Aid and infrastructure projects in the Far North region have been suspended due to high levels of insecurity (AlertNet, 08/07/2014).

**Chad**

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

**Food Security**

About 4.2 million Nigerians are food insecure and Crisis levels of food insecurity are expected in the SoE states (UNICEF, 06/2014).

Niger state, in the northwest, faces Stressed food insecurity through September. It was severely impacted by dry spells during the previous cultivation season, and households are affected by a second year of below-average production. Their relatively high dependency on market purchase is tempered by atypically stable prices compared to previous months, and early green harvests. However, this will not completely offset increased needs for purchase (FEWSNET, 06/2014).

Monthly coarse grain prices remained stable or declined slightly in wholesale markets due to good production and supply. In May, there was a slowdown in maize exports to markets in Niger.

The main harvest, which will begin in October for much of the country, is expected to be at least average for most (FEWSNET, 08/2014).

**State of Emergency States**

Crisis levels of food insecurity continue in Borno and Yobe states as conflict impacts...
household food access. Access to households whose livelihoods and markets are significantly impacted by the conflict remains limited for the Government and humanitarian organisations (FEWSNET, 08/2014). Food access and cross-border markets in border communities have been further impacted by insecurity, particularly the destruction of bridges to neighbouring Cameroon (OCHA, 06/2014). The 2013/14 agricultural season has been severely impeded, and conflict is limiting off-season livelihood activities and household incomes from seasonal labour.

Households in southern Borno and Yobe states, northeastern Adamawa state, and the Lake Chad region are most affected by the conflict. Production prospects are poor and the area is expected to continue to be in Crisis even in the postharvest period, until December (FEWSNET, 08/2014).

Households in northern Borno and Yobe states are expected to face fewer impacts to their cropping season, but harvests will still be significantly below average. The harvest in October is expected to improve household food access and food insecurity will be Stressed until December (FEWSNET, 08/2014).

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.

Health authorities in Bauchi state have expressed concern over a nationwide strike by government-employed resident doctors, which is likely to compound an already concerning health situation (OCHA, 07/2014).

**Cholera**

Since the beginning of the year, 23,765 cholera cases and 288 deaths (1.3% case fatality rate) have been reported from 113 local government areas (LGAs) in 36 states (WHO, 22/06/2014). Bauchi, Kaduna, Kano, and Zamfara states account for about 92% of reported cases. Only 11 cases and one death were reported within the same period in 2013. In 2013, 6,600 cases and 229 deaths were reported (WHO).

According to Médecins Sans Frontières, the outbreak that began in January in Bauchi state is now over. More than 15,500 cases were reported (MSF, 16/07/2014).

There is growing concern that the cholera situation in Kebbi, Kano and Zamfara states, which account for most of the new outbreaks, could overwhelm existing healthcare capacities (OCHA, 07/2014). Cholera in Kano state has killed six people out of 46 cases recorded, according to the state health commissioner, although a local charity said that at least 16 people had died (AFP, 20/07/2014).

Borno state has registered 49 cases and two deaths. This has caused alarm due to the already fragile humanitarian situation. 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.

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

**Ebola**

On 4 August, Nigeria recorded its second Ebola case, a doctor in Lagos who treated a man from Liberia who died from the virus. The health minister said another eight people who came into contact with the first patient have been placed in quarantine (BBC, 04/08/2014).

On 25 July, the country confirmed that Ebola caused the death of a Liberian national who died in quarantine in Lagos. Border officials have been put on red alert. Lagos is the largest city in sub-Saharan Africa. It has poor sanitation and a poor health system. Public hospitals are under-funded, ill-equipped and regularly do not have electricity. Exacerbating the difficulty of containing the virus, Nigerian doctors are on strike over conditions and pay (AFP, 25/07/2014 and Reuters, 28/07/2014).

**Lassa Fever**

As of 15 June, 763 suspected Lassa fever cases, including 24 deaths, have been reported in 11 states in 2014 (WHO, 15/06/2014). Lassa fever is an acute viral haemorrhagic fever, endemic in West African countries, with 300,000–500,000 cases and 5,000 deaths reported annually.

**Malnutrition**

A February–May SMART survey has revealed poorer nutritional status among the population of the SoE states (UNICEF, 06/2014).

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).

The proportion of children under six months who are predominantly breastfed is 85% in the northeast, compared with 70% nationally (UNICEF, 06/2014).

**Severe acute malnutrition is responsible for more than a third of all child deaths in Nigeria, which amount to 350,000 deaths from malnutrition every year (ECHO, 08/2014).**

**Meningitis**

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

**Polio**
Four new poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) cases were reported over 24–31 July. In 2014, more cases due to vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) have been reported (18 cases) than those due to wild poliovirus type 1 (five cases) (Global Polio Eradication Initiative).

In 2013, 53 cases were reported, and in 2012, 102 (GPEI, UNICEF). 72% of cases in 2013 were recorded in Borno, Yobe, and Kano states, where insecurity is slowing the polio immunisation campaign.

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

More than 60 women and girls abducted last month have escaped their captors (AFP, 07/07/2014). Nonetheless, kidnappings of groups of women and girls by BH continue, and more than 200 schoolgirls are still being held captive. The kidnappings underline the need for protection, notably for women and children (OCHA, 01/07/2014).

There is a high prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) across the northeast, even though occurrences are not regularly reported. There is an urgent need for emergency protection, 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.

Education

Education has been severely affected by the BH insurgency. One in every three primary school children and one in every four secondary school children are out of school in the Northeast. 10.5 million children are out of school in Nigeria, 60% in the northern part of the country (UNICEF cited by OCHA, 07/2014).

The Government has noted that the abduction of the girls from Chibok, Borno state has impacted negatively on its efforts and strategies to promote education of girls. According to the Borno State Ministry of Education, over 250,000 school-aged children are out of school due to the insurgency. The majority are girls from poor households (UNICEF cited by OCHA, 07/2014).

Borno state authorities announced that 900 schools have been destroyed and 176 teachers killed by Boko Haram in Borno state since 2011 (UNICEF cited by OCHA, 07/2014).

Updated: 05/08/2014
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 Abdiweil 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

Over 1,500 conflict incidents with humanitarian impact were reported in the first six months of the year, including military operations, active hostilities, and other forms of violence against civilians (OCHA, 30/06/2014). 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). 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. 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.

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. 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. According to the AU on 9 May 2013, an estimated 3,000 AU peacekeepers had been killed in Somalia since 2007.

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).

On 22 March, 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, Somali forces captured Hudur, capital of Bakool region, with the help of Ethiopian AMISOM troops. However, when Ethiopian troops withdrew, Al Shabaab reoccupied the town.

Al Shabaab

Al Shabaab, a militant Islamist group linked to Al Qaeda and based in Somalia, took over most of southern Somalia in 2006, seeking to establish an Islamic state. Defeated by Ethiopian and Somali forces in 2007, Al Shabaab was forced out of Mogadishu in 2011 and Kismayo in 2012. The group remains a potent threat, with 7,000 to 9,000 militants, and its attacks typically target Somali government officials, AMISOM forces, and perceived government allies. Attacks in urban centres and along transport axes are common.

Al Shabaab is reportedly fleeing south and northeast as the SNAF-AMISOM offensive advances. 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 19 July, six people were killed, and seven more were injured in Kismayo after a suicide bomber targeted the house of a prominent militia leader opposed to Al Shabaab, Iftin Hassan Basto (AFP, 19/07/2014).

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).

Mogadishu: A member of parliament was shot on 1 August as he left a mosque in Mogadishu. He is the fifth parliamentarian to be killed this year (BBC, UN 1/08/2014). On 8 July, Al Shabaab detonated suicide vests and tried to force their way inside the Somali presidential palace (VOA 09/07/2014). Nine militants' deaths were reported in this incident (AFP 08/07/2014). On 5 July, a suicide car bomb exploded near the federal parliament, killing at least four people (AFP, BBC 05/07/2014). On 30 June, a bomb exploded at the busy Karan market, killing two and injuring seven (The Guardian, 01/07/2014). On 21 June, radio journalist Yusuf Keynan was killed in Hamarqeyne district. An explosive device had been attached to his vehicle (UN 21/06/2014). 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 been claimed (ICRC, 18/06/2014).

Several attacks took place in Mogadishu in May. Eight people were injured when the parliament was attacked, one bomb explosion killed seven, and another injured two, including a politician.

Puntland: Following increased tensions with Puntland over Sool and Sanaag border regions, the Somaliland President created a new region, Haysimo. Talks with the Somali Federal Government are announced for August (Crisis Watch, 01/08/2014). 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 have been set up in various locations, including Hudur in Bakool region (OCHA, 21/03/2014). Humanitarian access in the south-central region has also reportedly been hampered by bureaucratic impediments to the recruitment of staff and implementation of assistance operations.

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).

Rates of acute malnutrition and mortality levels have passed emergency thresholds among displaced populations in Mogadishu (FAO 07/07/2014). Authorities plan to relocate IDPs to allow for urban development. 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. 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.

Somali Refugees in Neighbouring Countries
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: In March, the Kenyan government ordered all city-based refugees to relocate to Dadaab and Kakuma camps, and asked Kenyans to report refugees not in camps to the police. Thousands of Somalis were rounded up, some were forcibly relocated, and hundreds were deported back to Somalia (Human Rights Watch, 11/04/2014). Over 200 children were separated from their families (Amnesty International 11/07/2014). Kenyan officials plan to deport all undocumented Somali nationals (Human Rights Watch, 11/04/2014).

The Tripartite Agreement between the Kenyan and Somali governments and UNHCR, signed in November 2013, establishes the legal framework for those Somali refugees wishing to return home. Three areas have been designated to receive the returnees: Luuq, Baidowa and Kismayo. The first phase of the voluntary repatriation started this month, but only 3,000 refugees registered for the ‘pilot project’, compared to the original target of 10,000. Refugees cite insecurity and lack of opportunities to earn a living as their main uncertainties to return to Somalia. UNHCR has promised material and financial support for those deciding to return (UNHCR, EastAfrican, 02/08/2014) (UNHCR, 11/08/2014).

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 Jawhar district (OCHA). Water had contaminated wells, disrupted markets, destroyed crops, and delayed crucial planting for the next crop season.

Food Security
As of 18 July, the Somali Government has declared a drought in six regions. On 21 July, the Government established a Ministerial Emergency Response Committee to lead the development of a drought and emergency response plan (OCHA, 24/07/2014).

Several humanitarian actors have warned of the worsening food crisis, due to a combination of delayed gu rains, disrupted planting, rising food prices, and persistent conflict. 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.

Restricted trade has led to rapidly rising food prices in several towns in southern Somalia. The restrictions stem from intensified and inter-clan conflicts. Humanitarian actors believe many towns will have very low food availability in coming months. Humanitarian access to these towns is nearly non-existent as few agencies are still operational (FEWSNET, 07/17/2014).

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
Somalieland: 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 Galguduud, Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Bari, Mudug, Nugaal, Middle Juba, Lower Juba, and Sanaag (OCHA, 21/05/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

Food security is expected to deteriorate considerably in the coming months, particularly among the agro-pastoral and the conflict-affected urban populations in Bakool; agro-pastoral populations in Gedo and Middle Juba regions; agro-pastoral, riverine, and conflict-affected urban populations in Hiraan and parts of lower Shabelle and the cowpea belt of central Somalia. Severe water scarcity is likely to hit the livestock sector (FAO 07/07/2014).

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% compared to last year, and 50% compared to the five-year average in Bakool region. Commodities such as fuel have recorded price increases of between 60% and 300% in some areas in less than one month (OCHA, 07/07/2014).

Price rises recorded in Shabelle, Hiraan, central and northern regions are due to the effect of insecurity on trade flows, low stocks, and a less than optimistic outlook for the next gu season (FAO, 17/06/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) and Cholera

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

Flash flooding has led to increased cases of AWD and cholera in Gedo, Middle Shabelle, and Lower Juba (UNICEF, 31/05/2014). Three children have tested positive for cholera (OCHA, 07/07/2014).

Malnutrition

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.

IDP populations: GAM among displaced communities in Mogadishu was reported at 18.9% and SAM at 5.5% (OCHA 24/07/2014). 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, Dholbey (in the south), Dhusamareb (central), and Galkayo (northeast) IDP settlements have critical acute malnutrition levels. (FSNAU, 27/06/2014).

Host communities in Mogadishu have been affected by malnutrition, with an increase in GAM to 10.1% (OCHA, 24/07/2014).

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). In March and April, the number of cases quadrupled, with over 1,350 children affected compared to about 330 in 2013 (WHO, 07/2014).

Polio

The total number of confirmed polio cases in 2014 stands at 198 (WHO, UNICEF 22/07/2014). The first confirmed case of wild poliovirus since 2007 was reported in Mogadishu on 9 May 2013. 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.

Protection

The prevalence of gender based violence in Somalia, including rape, is reported to be one of the highest in the world, with IDPs and migrants being the most vulnerable (IOM, 08/08/2014).

WASH

2.75 million people are in need of safe water (OCHA, 03/06/2014). The population of south-central Somalia has little to no access to clean drinking water. According to an INGO report, Gedo region has been affected by a severe water crisis, with four out of five water sources reportedly dry (29/04/2014).

Updated: 11/08/2014

SOUTH SUDAN  CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

10 August: Government and opposition failed to reach a peace agreement and to set up
a transitional government by 10 August, which was the deadline established by the May ceasefire agreement. The peace talks had resumed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 4 August.

**6 August:** Following the killing of at least six aid workers, the UN announced it was evacuating 220 staff and aid workers from Bunj town, Maban county, Upper Nile state (UN, 06/08/2014). On 5 August, five aid workers were killed and one was missing, presumed dead, in two attacks in and near Bunj town (UNMISS, 05/08/2014). One aid worker had already been killed in the county a day before (UN 04/08/2014). The attack were blamed on a local militia, the ‘Mabanese Defense Force’, who reportedly targeted the workers based on their ethnicity (UN, 06/08/2014).

**5 August:** The Bentiu PoC site was reportedly affected by flooding, with most of its area submerged (UNICEF, 05/08/2014). The flooding caused the overflowing of the sewage drain, causing further concern over the spread of waterborne diseases, and disrupted market activities (OCHA, 07/08/2014).

**29 July:** 675,000 children are estimated to be affected by MAM and 235,000 by SAM (OCHA, 29/07/2014).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- The onset of the peak rainy season has complicated the delivery of humanitarian aid to many areas in Jonglei and Unity states (IOM 16/07/2014)

- Ongoing conflict and clashes are taking place, particularly in Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile states.

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

- 3.9 million people are facing Crisis and Emergency levels (IPC Phases 3 and 4) of food insecurity; 2.2 million are in Upper Nile, Unity, and Jonglei states (OCHA, 08/2014).

- 4 out of 5.8 million people in need of health assistance have not been reached (WHO, 07/2014).

- 1.1 million IDPs and over 436,000 South Sudanese refugees moved across borders since December 2013. 95,000 civilians were sheltering in 10 PoC sites at UNMISS bases on 5 August (UNMISS, 08/2014).

- The high number of refugees in South Sudan (mainly from Sudan, DRC, Ethiopia and CAR) is cause for concern in the current context.

**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 the 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 Soudan People’s Liberation Movement (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 the 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**
Peace talks between government and opposition resumed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 4 August, but the two rival parties failed to reach a peace agreement and to set up a transitional government by 10 August, which was the deadline established by the May ceasefire agreement.

Talks, mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an East African regional bloc, have been repeatedly suspended and delayed. On 1 July, government officials announced that Juba was ready to conclude a peace agreement with the opposition within two weeks. Peace talks had been adjourned on 23 June without progress, though a peace deal had been signed by the government and SPLM-in-Opposition on 10 June, international media reported.

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 Alliance (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. An initial cessation of hostilities had been signed on 23 January.

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 significantly decreased 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 SPLA was deployed to protect the site the next day, according to official sources.

**Unity**

Heavy fighting between opposition and government forces on 15 July sparked widespread panic among civilians in Unity state, according to local media. As of 3 July, clashes were being reported in and around Bentiu (OCHA). The South Sudanese army had re-captured Bentiu on 4 May, 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 also been held by the opposition between December and January.

**Upper Nile**

On 20–21 July, opposition fighters reportedly launched an offensive against government forces in Nasir, Upper Nile state (international media). This constituted the most serious breach reported to date of the ceasefire signed on 23 January and reaffirmed on 9 May (UNHCR, 25/07/2014). Both warring parties indicated that government forces had captured Nasir on 4 May, causing massive displacement.

On 22 May, an attack by opposition fighters left 10 dead in Barlied county, according to international media.

**Western Bahr el Ghazal**

At least 60 people were killed in clashes between army defectors and government forces in July (local media 17/07/2014). Clashes had erupted between pro- and anti-government forces on 14 July (local media, 16/07/2014).

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 Nuer had been killed by pro-government forces since December.

Eastern Equatoria

Armed cattle keeping communities displaced by violence are threatening the security and disrupting farming activities in Central, Eastern and Western Equatoria states according to local media reports in July.

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.

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. On 18 July, local media reported that 18 had died in cattle raids in Pigi county, next to Malakal county in Upper Nile state. 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. They threatened to attack government forces in order to prevent a rumoured disarmament campaign. On 18 June, clashes between Ayiil 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.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

The Bentiu PoC site was reportedly affected by flooding, with most of its area submerged (UNICEF, 05/08/2014). The flooding caused the overflowing of the sewage drain, causing further concern over the spread of waterborne diseases, and disrupted market activities (OCHA, 07/08/2014).

Access

As of 7 August, 2.4 out of four million people in need of humanitarian assistance had been reached (OCHA). The delivery of aid has been restricted due to heavy fighting, logistical constraints, and administrative impediments.

Administrative Constraints

On 2 July, international media reported that authorities prevented four UN staff from taking a plane, and confiscated their passports.

Delivery of aid by barge has been long delayed due to administrative restrictions between Juba, Bor, and Malakal: the first convoy from Juba to Melut and Malakal departed on 29 June (OCHA, 02/05/2014, 03/07/2014).

In March, the South Sudan Government announced it would implement routine searches of UN and relief organisation convoys, claiming it had intercepted arms and ammunition in UNMISS-contracted vehicles in Rumbek, Lakes state (UNHCR, 21/03/2014). Reports in January indicated that government authorities had hampered UN flights.

Logistical Constraints

As of 4 June, WFP was resorting to airlifts, as the rainy season made roads impassable. As of 1 August, road access was impossible between a number of locations. The roads between Bentiu (Unity) and Rumbek (Lakes), between Maiwut (near Pagak) and Guel Guk, between Wau (Western Bahr el Ghazal) and Tambura (Western Equatoria), and linking Malakal (Upper Nile state), Bor (Jonglei state), Pibor (Jonglei), Akobo (Jonglei), and Kapoeta (Western Equatoria) were closed.

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 6 August, following the killing of at least six aid workers, the UN announced it was evacuating 220 staff and aid workers from Bunj town, Maban county, Upper Nile state (UN, 06/08/2014). On 5 August, five aid workers were killed and one was missing, presumed dead, in two attacks in and near Bunj town (UNMISS, 05/08/2014). One aid worker had already been killed in the county a day before (UN 04/08/2014). The attack were blamed on a local militia, the ‘Mabanese Defense Force’, who reportedly targeted the workers based on their ethnicity (UN, 06/08/2014).
Clashes in Guit and Nhialdu, near Bentiu, Unity state, have reportedly hampered the delivery of humanitarian aid to 37,000 people (OCHA, 17/07/2014).

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

On 6 June, a truck carrying humanitarian supplies hit a landmine on the road from Bentiu to Rubkona, Unity state.

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

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

**Displacement**

By 7 August, over 1.1 million South Sudanese had been displaced internally and over 436,060 South Sudanese refugees moved across borders since December 2013 (OCHA). Fluid displacement patterns and limited access to rural areas make numbers difficult to verify (UNHCR 11/07/2014). In mid-February, UNHCR released a non-return advisory for South Sudanese fleeing conflict.

**IDPs**

As of 7 August, 1.1 million IDPs were in South Sudan: 471,000 in Jonglei, 263,000 in Unity, 177,000 in Upper Nile, and 132,000 in Lakes, according to OCHA. An estimated 588,000 IDPs are under 18 (UNICEF, 05/08/2014).

95,000 are sheltering in ten Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites on UNMISS bases: 40,000 in Bentiu, 31,000 in Juba (Tomping and UN House), 17,000 in Malakal, and 4,000 in Bor (UNMISS 05/08/2014). As of early July, 100–200 people were arriving at the Bentiu site every day (UNHCR, 04/07/2014).

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.

As of 14 July, 9,700 people had been relocated from the old Malakal PoC within the UNMISS compound to the new PoC site. 4,454 individuals have voluntarily relocated from the UNMISS Tomping PoC to the UN House PoC 3 site since December 2013 (IOM 15/07/2014).

**Refugees in South Sudan**

242,000 refugees are in South Sudan: 222,000 from Sudan, 14,000 from DRC, 2,000 from Ethiopia and 1,800 from CAR. Over 128,000 refugees are based in Upper Nile and around 83,000 in Unity (UNHCR, 01/08/2014).

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.

**Returnees**

As of 31 July, 227,000 displaced people are estimated to have returned since the beginning of the crisis (OCHA, 29/07/2014).

Earlier reports indicated a total of 1.9 million returnees from Sudan since 2007.

**South Sudan Refugees in Other Countries**

Over 436,000 South Sudanese have sought refuge in neighbouring countries since the onset of the conflict (UNHCR, 07/08/2014).

Sudan: 90,000 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since 15 December (UNHCR, 07/08/2014). An estimated 165,000 South Sudanese refugees are expected to arrive over the course of 2014 (WFP, 16/07/2014).

As of late March, the Sudanese Government has refused 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 immigration administration by 1 April. UNHCR has declared that constitutes an obstacle to access to humanitarian assistance.

Ethiopia: 183,000 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 07/08/2014). As of 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 300,000 South Sudanese refugees are expected in the Gambella region over the course of 2014 (WFP, 16/07/2014).

Uganda: 121,000 refugees (UNHCR, 07/08/2014). A total of 150,000 are expected to arrive over the course of 2014, a downward revision from 300,000 (WFP, 16/07/2014).

Kenya: 41,000 refugees (UNHCR, 07/08/2014). 100,000 are expected over 2014 (WFP, 16/07/2014).

**Food Security**

According to earlier IPC projections for August, 3.9 million people are facing Emergency and Crisis levels of food insecurity: more than 1.2 million in Phase 4 and 2.6 million in Phase 3 (IPC, April 2014), with a risk of famine reportedly developing (OCHA, 24/07/2014). 2.2 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. 1.3 million people have been reached with food assistance since the beginning of the crisis (OCHA, 24/07/2014).

**Outlook for Food Security**

Most conflict-affected states show high cereal production deficits against demand, although the main harvest is forecast to be 38% above the recent four-year average.
Conflict is affecting planting and cultivation, as well as major supply routes, displacing traders and leading to a rise in food and fuel prices (FAO, 04/06/2014).

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

5.8 million people need health assistance, 1.8 million of whom have been reached since January. Waterborne diseases, including cholera and hepatitis E, are the most pressing health concerns (WHO, 25/07/2014).

**Cholera**

Over 5,500 cholera cases including 1,218 deaths (case fatality rate 2.2%) were reported on 2 August: 2,138 cases and 39 deaths in Juba, and 3,398 cases and 82 deaths outside Juba (WHO 02/08/2014). Up to 116,000 people could be affected within the next six months (OCHA, 06/06/2014).

**Hepatitis E**

55 cases of hepatitis E were reported in the Lakes estate in June, a sharp increase from two cases in April (Local media citing MSF 15/06/2014). 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 600,000 children in 2014 has found an SAM rate of 6.7% and an MAM rate of 12.6% (UNICEF, 05/08/2014). In total, 675,000 are estimated to be affected by MAM and 235,000 by SAM (OCHA, 29/07/2014). Twice as many will need treatment for SAM this year than in 2013 (UNICEF 15/07/2014).

According to MSF, malnutrition rates have skyrocketed in parts of Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei states since conflict erupted in South Sudan in December. MSF has admitted more people for malnutrition in Leer in May and June (2,810 cases) than in all of 2013. In Lankien and Yuai (Jonglei state), there was a 60% increase in admissions in the first six months of the year compared to the same period last year. High death rates have been reported in areas north of Malakal (MSF 14/07/2014).

As of 15 July, under-five mortality in Bentiu has decreased to 1.47/10,000/day (from 2.6 the previous week), below emergency threshold (UNICEF 15/07/2014). 4.9% of children at Bentiu UN base are severely malnourished and 15.9% moderately malnourished. An earlier report cited preventable diseases and malnutrition as the main causes of death.

**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 countrywide since 15 December 2013 (UNICEF).

**WASH**

As of 25 June, access to safe water and sanitation remained a critical gap (UNICEF). There were 71 people per latrine in Bentiu UN base. As of 5 August, flooding at the site over the previous week had caused the collapse of 25 latrines. IDPs in the Bentiu PoC site had access to 19 litres of water per day per person (UNICEF, 05/08/2014).

The ratio of persons per latrines is 41 in Malakal PoC site and 32 in Melout PoC site (IOM 15/07/2014).

Water supplies were reportedly insufficient in a quarter of displacement sites. In 40% of sites, IDPs rely on unimproved or surface water sources. 9.2 litres of water are available per person per day in Bentiu (IOM 15/07/2014).

**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).

**Protection**

9,000 children have reportedly been recruited by armed groups in 2014 (OCHA, 11/07/2014).

**Updated:** 12/08/2014

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

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

2 August: 22 districts in eight states have been affected by heavy rains and flooding. 6,100 households were affected, half in Nile and North Kordofan states. The floods left over 50 dead and over 180 injured. More than 3,000 homes were reported destroyed (official sources quoted by AFP, 2/08/2014).
1 August: Militia attacks left one person dead in El Fashir locality, North Darfur, and several women were reportedly raped (local media, 1/08/2014).

1 August: Aerial bombing by the SAF reportedly left two children dead in Dolma, East Jebel Marra (local media, 1/08/2014).

30 July: Khartoum state declared a high state of alert after heavy flooding affected the capital and its twin city Omdurman (local media). Camps sheltering South Sudanese refugees in Khartoum were reportedly flooded during the heavy rains (international media, 30/07/2014).

KEY CONCERNS

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

- 6.9 million people (20% of the population) need humanitarian assistance (OCHA 20/07/2014): 3.5 million in Darfur and 1.2 million in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states (OCHA, 05/2014). 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 took place between armed opposition groups, militias, and the Sudanese army in Darfur since March.

- 2.4 million IDPs. Two million in Darfur prior to the latest clashes (OCHA, 03/2014), and 358,000 displaced in 2014 (OCHA, 07/2014).

- 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 the Sudanese society have persisted since independence in 1956, and the 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 the Government’s abuse of civilians in Darfur.

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 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.

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 opposition groups: the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM); the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel Wahid Al Nur (SLM-AW); and the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Arkou Minnawi (SLM-MM).

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

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. On 25 April, the SRF published a roadmap for a peace settlement, according to local sources.

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 the SRF members, 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 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.

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

Blue Nile and South Kordofan States

While the SPLM governs the independent South Sudan, the SPLM-North continues an insurgency in Sudan’s Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, which have routinely opposed government rule.

Negotiations between Khartoum and the SPLM-N collapsed in April, reportedly over the SPLM-N’s demand for a comprehensive peace process. Talks had been held unsuccessfully in February and March, and in April 2013.

Instability in the East

Despite being home to the largest gold mine in the country 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 2013, 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 continuing armed opposition would be crushed by a military offensive in 2014.

According to local media, on 2 July, 10 farmers were killed in an alleged cross-border raid by Ethiopian gunmen in Gedaref state.

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. IDPs in camps across the Darfur region have requested protection (local sources, 12/03/2014). Tribal conflicts have also contributed to insecurity.

Jebel Marra

On 1 August, local media reported that aerial bombing by the SAF left two children dead in Dolma, East Jebel Marra. On 15–16 May, aerial bombing of a health centre and a market in East Jebel Marra reportedly killed three people. Intense SAF aerial bombings in East Jebel Marra over 16–20 March caused a number of deaths and the displacement of thousands of people, with the RSF attacking locations prior to the bombings, local sources reported.

North Darfur

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

Kabkabiya: On 25 July, one man was reportedly killed and one abducted by Abbala militia on the road between Saraf Omra and El Sareif (local media, 27/07/2014). On 20 July, an attack by pro-government militia on a convoy of vehicles along the El Fashir–Kabkabiya road left 13 people dead, according to local media. Local media reported four people were killed by pro-government militia between El Sareif Beni Hussein and Kabkabiya on 3 July. On 18 June, clashes between armed militia and the police in Kabkabiya killed four, local media said.

El Fashir: On 1 August, local media reported that militia attacks had left one person dead, and several women were raped (local media, 1/08/2014). Similar attacks on 6 June left 11 people dead. On 20 May, clashes between militia and government forces 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, according to international observers.

Kutum: On 1 August, local media reported that a militia attack on Kassab IDP camp had left three people injured and a girl raped. On 27 July, one herder was reportedly killed in a grenade explosion (local media, 28/07/2014). Gunmen ambushed six commercial vehicles in Kutum locality on 11 July. The day before, gunmen robbed the passengers of a commercial vehicle north of Kutum town, and abducted two (local media 15/07/2014). On 29 May, militia attacks left two people dead, local sources said.

Inter-communal violence: As of 29 June, clashes between the Northern Rizeigat and Beni Hussein tribes had reportedly left 39 people dead in the El Sireaf area (OCHA). On 22–23 June, six people died in clashes near Um Katira, local media reported. On 24 May, clashes that erupted during mediation between rival tribes facilitated by UNAMID in Kabkabiya left one peacekeeper dead and three injured.

South Darfur

On 20 July, four people died during a pro-government militia attack on a village near Malam, according to local media. On 11 July, one person was killed in Kass, and an IDP was injured and robbed, according to local media.
On 29 June, local media reported that a militia attack on a village had left one person dead and 49 missing in Gireida locality. On 22 June, clashes in Shattai locality left one person dead, and triggered the deployment of government forces (OCHA). 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.

Central Darfur

Attacks by pro-government forces on displacement sites were reported in April, May and June in Zalingei, Kailik, and Niertiti. Over ten people were killed, according to local media.

Inter-communal violence: Clashes between the Misseriya and the Salamat tribes in the areas of Salayle, Mukjar, and Um Dukhun in June 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.

East Darfur

Inter-communal violence: On 6 July, local media reported that clashes between Maaliya and Rizeigat tribesmen left 18 people dead near the state capital Ed Daein. Clashes reported on 19 June left seven people dead, according to local media. A reconciliation conference was adjourned on 20 June due to lack of progress. The presidency reportedly called for another reconciliation conference on 10 August (local media 16/07/2014).

On 1 July, local media reported that 25 people had died in clashes between Maaliya and Hamar tribes in Um Shaalouba area. Clashes near Adilla at the end of May had killed a number of people and reportedly caused displacement. West Kordofan and East Darfur authorities deployed military forces to secure borders between the rival tribes, local sources said.

West Darfur

On 29 June, local media reported that clashes between Misseriya clans over pasture in Babanusa locality had left 196 people dead. As of 22 June, clashes between farmers and nomads in Kereinik locality had reportedly left three people dead (OCHA, 22/06/2014).

Armed Violence and Conflict in Kordofan and Blue Nile

The Sudanese Government announced that it would expand its counter-insurgency operations in Blue Nile state on 23 May. According to an SPLM-N spokesperson on 21 April, the SAF had launched an offensive in North Kordofan.

On 28 June, heavy fighting between government forces and the SPLM-N was reported in the area of Kadugli, the state capital of South Kordofan. On 18 June, SAF and police detained villagers of Lagori in the Nuba Mountains, local media reported. On 6 June, the SAF said it had captured the SPLM-N stronghold of Al Atmur in South Kordofan. Bombings had reportedly intensified in the region at the end of May, with heavy bombing of Kauda reported by OCHA. On 24 May, a Sudanese commander was killed in an SPLM-N offensive on Daldako, South Kordofan, which government forces had recently recaptured.

Inter-communal violence: A reconciliation conference between the Hamar and Maaliya tribes is scheduled to take place on 23 July in Al Foula, West Kordofan (local media 16/07/2014).

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

6.9 million people (20% of the population) are in need of humanitarian assistance;

The first half of 2014 saw more displaced in Darfur than any single year since 2004 (OCHA 20/07/2014). 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.

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

Administrative Constraints

Khartoum has repeatedly accused international organisations of exaggerating the magnitude of internal conflict, disseminating false information, and spying. August 2013 regulations 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 21 July, UN humanitarian flights to Um Dukhun locality, Central Darfur, were allowed to resume after not running for a month due to government restrictions (OCHA, 20/07/2014).

Attacks on Humanitarian Staff

On 25 July, an IOM member of staff who had been abducted on 6 July in Nyala, South Darfur, was released (IOM, 25/07/2014). On 18 June, 25 aid workers were reportedly abducted in three separate incidents in the area of Kutum, North Darfur, and were released by 18 July (UNICEF, 19/07/2014). On 20 June, an international NGO reported the abduction of three staff in the area of Kutum.

Darfur: As of 15 July, humanitarian agencies had access to 253,000 IDPs of a total of
266,000 in Darfur, and a cumulative 363,000 people had been reached by humanitarian aid (OCHA, 15/07/2014). ECHO reported on 4 July that officials had denied access to medical teams attempting to provide assistance in El Sereif and Kalma camps, South Darfur.

Militia checkpoints on the Kutum–El Fashir and Anka–El Tina roads hamper humanitarian access (local media, 03/07/2014). Areas near Kutum (North Darfur) and Adilla and Abu Karinka (East Darfur) were reportedly inaccessible on 26 May (OCHA). On 21 May, local media reported that UNAMID had allegedly been denied access to parts of Kutum area.

**East Jebel Marra** region has been virtually inaccessible since 2010. 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.

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

**Blue Nile and South Kordofan:** On 23 June, an INGO said that it was operating in parts of South Kordofan despite government denial of access. On 16 June, a hospital run by an NGO in Farandalla, South Kordofan, was reportedly bombed (OCHA, 22/06/2014). There has been no humanitarian access from Sudan to opposition-held areas in South Kordofan since October 2013.

**White Nile:** Heavy rains are expected to hamper the delivery of service to Jouri, Al Kashafa, and El Redis refugee relocation sites (UNHCR, 04/07/2014).

**Disasters**

As of 2 August, 22 districts in eight states have been affected by heavy rains and flooding. 6,100 households have been affected, half in Nile and North Kordofan states. More than 3,000 homes have been destroyed, 50 people have died and over 180 injured (official sources quoted by AFP, 28/08/2014). On 30 July, Khartoum state declared a high state of alert after heavy flooding affected the capital and its twin city Omdurman (local media): various local and international sources deemed the Khartoum State Government response inadequate.

On 22–23 July, heavy rainfall destroyed 800 shelters in Nierteti locality, Central Darfur. Flooding in River Nile state left one dead and 12 injured (local media, 27/07/2014).

On 20 July, 3,000 people were reported affected by flooding in Kadugli locality, South Kordofan, at the beginning of July (OCHA, 20/07/2014).

1,000 are reportedly affected by floods in the El Gal’a, Banat, and Sinja districts of Sennar state; 424 villages in Sinja had been reported swept away on 10 July.

**IDPs**

There are 2.3 million IDPs in the five states of Darfur, residing in 46 camps and 68 settlements (82,530 orphans, 34,099 widows, and 52,352 sick and elderly), according to the results of the survey conducted by the Darfur Regional Authority from December 2013 to April 2014.

358,000 displaced in Darfur in 2014: 227,000 remain displaced and 131,000 people are reported to have returned (OCHA 31/07/2014). On 21 June, OCHA reported that government policy preventing the creation of new camps is an obstacle for IOM’s verification and registration of IDPs.

3,324 villages were destroyed December 2013–April 2014 (local media citing DRA official sources 15/07/2014).

Clashes between armed opposition groups, militias, and the Sudanese Armed Forces in the Darfur region had caused the displacement of 385,000 people between February and end June (OCHA, 29/06/2014).

**North Darfur:** 615,660 IDPs; 729 villages were destroyed December 2013–April 2014 (DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014). IOM was able to verify 54,000 newly displaced since March in five sites (OCHA, 22/06/2014). On 18 June, 21,000 people who had taken refuge in the Korma UNAMID base required humanitarian assistance (OCHA). 9,000 IDPs have been relocated from Melit to Abassi camps.

**South Darfur:** 667,450 IDPs; 736 villages were destroyed December 2013–April 2014 (DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014).

On 15 July, over 70 people were reported to have died in less than a month in Kalma IDP camp in Nyalia locality, South Darfur, as a result of the deteriorated humanitarian situation and insecurity (local media 15/07/2014). On 24 June, local sources reported that an unidentified disease in Kalma IDP camp had caused 18 deaths over the last month. Close to 17,000 IDPs in Kalma camp are suffering an acute water shortage (OCHA, 29/06/2014).

**Central Darfur:** 464,459 IDPs; 778 villages were destroyed December 2013–April 2014 (DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014).

34,000 IDPs were reported in need of humanitarian assistance in the Um Dukhun and Mukjar areas on 20 July (OCHA, 20/07/2014). 30,000 IDPs in Deleig camp are living in dire conditions. Food rations have been cut for many, food prices are soaring, and there is no work available (local media 10/07/2014).

**East Darfur:** 188,241 IDPs; 331 villages were destroyed (DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014). 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.

**West Darfur:** 373,225 IDPs; 750 villages were destroyed December 2013–April 2014 (DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014).

**Blue Nile and South Kordofan:** On 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). At 18 July, an estimated 170,000 people had been displaced in SPLM-N areas of South Kordofan since April, according to the South Kordofan and Blue Nile Coordination Unit. 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 Meiram, El Salam, and Ghubaysh localities were in urgent need of humanitarian aid (OCHA).

**Refugees in Sudan**

On 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.

As of 25 July, 87,000 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 (UNHCR, 16/07/2014). A total of 165,000 are expected to arrive in 2014 (WFP, 02/07/2014). On 30 April, 3,000 newly displaced South Sudanese had arrived in the disputed area of Abyei, bringing the total of South Sudanese displaced to the area to 6,000 (OCHA).

**Camps sheltering South Sudanese refugees in Khartoum were reportedly flooded during the heavy rains that affected the capital on 30 July (International media, 30/07/2014).** On 16 June, Khartoum state officials issued an order to evacuate informal camps hosting South Sudanese refugees, local media said.

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). All foreigners in Sudan had to register with the immigration administration by 1 April. UNHCR has declared it constitutes an obstacle to access humanitarian assistance.

**West Kordofan:** As of 15 June, 33,000 South Sudanese refugees in Babanusa and Muglad localities were reportedly in urgent need of humanitarian aid (OCHA). UNHCR reported only 3,000 South Sudanese refugees in West Kordofan as of 25 June.

**White Nile:** On 25 June, WFP reported the relocation of 30,000 refugees from Kilo 10 camp was complete. The Government has reportedly identified additional sites in anticipation of new arrivals: El Khaira Tawakalna and Zalataya (UNHCR, 20/06/2014).

**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.

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). In late March, humanitarian organisations expressed concern over tensions between Sudanese refugees and host communities in Maban, where 126,000 Sudanese refugees reside in four refugee camps (OCHA, 03/04/2014).

**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 on 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).

2.7 million food insecure people are in the five Darfur regions, where Crisis levels are expected to last until September (FEWSNET, 05/2014). On 21 July, WFP reported a deteriorating food security situation across the Darfur region due to insufficient rain, increased food prices, and persistent insecurity (WFP, 21/07/2014). In October, one million were food insecure 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 29 June, FEWSNET reported that heavy fighting in the Buram, Um Dorein, and Kadugli localities of South Kordofan was likely to cause newly displaced people to miss the harvest season.

On 24 June, a human rights group stated that the Government’s refusal to allow humanitarian access in SPLM-N-controlled areas further aggravated the food security situation of the population.

**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.

**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. About 90,000 people are living without access to any medical care in Mukjar locality (Central Darfur). On 20 July, OCHA reported that two health clinics run by an international NGO had been attacked and looted in two separate incidents in Kutum locality.

**Dengue**

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As of 17 June, 738 cases of dengue had been reported in Red Sea State, six of which were fatal (OCHA). Cases of haemorrhagic fever had been reported by local media on 13 June.

**Hepatitis E**

On 4 July, ECHO reported cases of hepatitis E in El Sereif and Kalma IDP camps, South Darfur. MSF reported an outbreak of hepatitis E in El Sereif camp with more than 400 cases as of 21 June (OCHA 06/07/2014).

**Jaundice**

An increased number of suspected cases of acute jaundice syndrome (AJS) was reported in several IDP camps in South Darfur in July: 36 cases in Kalma, 19 in El Sharif, two in El Salam and one in Otash camps between mid-June and the first week of July. Insufficient access to clean water and sanitation facilities contribute to the spread (OCHA 06/07/2014).

**Malnutrition**

GAM rates among South Sudanese refugees have reportedly decreased from 20% in March/April to 13.6% as of 16 July (OCHA, 20/07/2014). 1.4 million people have acute malnutrition (OCHA, 20/07/2014).

**Measles**

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

**WASH**

17,000 new IDPs face acute water shortages in sectors 7 and 8 of Kalma camp, with just 2.5 litres per day per person (OCHA 06/07/2014).

The 30,000 IDPs in Zamzam camp receive only 6.6 litres of water per person per day (OCHA, 29/06/2014).

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.

250 locations covering an estimated 32km² 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 and Gender-Based Violence

Numerous rapes have been reported by local media in North, South and Central Darfur since March. Six rapes were reported in the Gireida and Bai’ashum localities of South Darfur over 21–22 July. On 1 August several rapes were reported in El Fashir and one rape was reported in Kutum locality, North Darfur (local media).

**Human Trafficking**

On 22 March, local Sudanese officials announced that they would implement measures in border areas to stop human trafficking, following a call from the UN Human Rights Council.

**Education**

IDP camps in Saraf Omra locality, North Darfur, lack educational services. IDP children are unable to enroll in public or private schools in the area as they cannot afford the school fees.

Over 3,000 school teachers in Nyala, South Darfur, have requested to be transferred due to insecurity, according to local media in July.

Updated: 04/08/2014

### CHAD FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**7 August:** More than 800,000 people are estimated to be food insecure and around 3.1 million people are at risk of food insecurity (FAO).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- There are 107,536 CAR refugees in Chad, of whom 18,675 arrived since December 2013 (OCHA, 08/08/2014). 340,000 Chadians have returned to their country as of June 2014 (FAO, 07/08/2014).

- There are 461,000 refugees in Chad (FAO, 07/08/2014).

- 3.9 million people are food insecure or at risk of food insecurity (FAO, 07/08/2014).

- There is a high prevalence of malaria: 191,630 cases in the first quarter of 2014, compared to 144,640 in the same period in 2013: 991,840 cases were diagnosed in 2013, including 2,610 deaths (OCHA, 11/2013).

**OVERVIEW**

Added to the impact of three major humanitarian crises at its borders (Darfur, CAR, and Nigeria) and the presence of hundreds of thousands of refugees, Chad faces chronic
food insecurity, repeated food crises, malnutrition, natural hazards, and outbreaks of disease.

Political Context

Central African Republic Crisis

On 12 May, Chad’s President Idriss Déby announced that the southern border with CAR will be closed to all except Chadian citizens until the CAR crisis is resolved. The Government has deployed additional security forces to the border, and expressed concern that armed fighters might be infiltrating refugee populations in the area. On 16 June, UNHCR announced that it will be investigating reports that people seeking refuge in Chad are being refused entry at the Sido border, in contravention of non-refoulement principles.

Chad withdrew its troops from the African Union Peacekeeping Force in CAR in April, after accusations of violence against civilians. 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. Chad has always denied the charges.

International Presence

As of 1 August, France deployed a 3,000-strong counterterrorism operation across the Sahel region. Based in Chad, operation Barkhane is active in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger (Local Media, 01/08/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Bad road conditions due to the rainy season, which starts in June and usually lasts until October, is limiting access (ECHO, 02/2014).

Displacement

Successive waves of instability and conflict in neighbouring countries have caused large-scale population movements into Chad, which now hosts the seventh highest number of refugees worldwide with over 440,600 refugees (OCHA, 05/2014).

IDPs

An estimated 90,000 IDPs are living in protracted displacement in the east (OCHA, 19/11/2013). Most were displaced in 2007 by armed conflict between government forces and opposition groups, inter-communal violence, and attacks by criminal groups known as couleurs de route. Most IDPs would prefer to integrate into their place of refuge or resettlement. However, conditions have not yet allowed a durable solution. Limited information is available on the current situation.

Refugees in Chad

As of June 2014, Chad was host to 461,000 refugees, mainly from Sudan’s Darfur, CAR, Libya, and Nigeria (FAO, 07/08/2014). 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.

1,000 Nigerians fled from Kolokolia due to attacks by Boko Haram on their villages early August and have arrived on the uninhabited island of Choua in Lake Chad. The large majority of the group are children and women. There are in urgent need of food, water, shelter and medical care and will be relocated to the hosting area of Ngouboua at the request of the Chadian government (UNHCR, 05/08/2014).

Sudan: As of July, 361,000 Sudanese refugees are registered in Chad (UNHCR, 07/2014). In Tissi, which is mainly hosting Sudanese refugees, basic services are non-existent, having been destroyed or damaged during the 2004–2006 civil war and more recent ethnic clashes in the Sila region (UNICEF, 04/2013).

Refugees and Third-Country Nationals from CAR

As of 8 August, there are 107,536 CAR refugees in Chad, of whom 18,675 arrived since December 2013 (OCHA, 08/08/2014). 340,000 Chadians have returned to their country as of June 2014 (FAO, 07/08/2014).

Although the Chad–CAR border remains officially closed, refugees continue to arrive at a number of border points and are in very vulnerable conditions, malnourished, dehydrated and traumatised (UNHCR, 07/2014). Fewer than 80 arrivals from CAR were registered in the first week of July, compared to over 3,000 at the height of the influx in January. However, people are arriving without being registered (OCHA, 16/07/2014). Most of the first arrivals were women and children, their numbers later being equalled by men (IOM, 19/05/2014). In May, 106 unaccompanied or separated minors were in Doyaba camp (Ministry of Social Affairs, 05/2014). 92% of arrivals lack any form of identity documentation.

The total population of Dosseye and Belom camps, in the south of the country, where the large majority of newly-arrived CAR refugees from 2013 and 2014 are located, stands at 50,281 individuals: 21,807 individuals in Dosseye and 28,474 individuals in Belom. In 2014, a total of 9,879 newly-arrived CAR refugees have been relocated in majority to Dosseye, mostly in February, and, to a lesser extent, in Belom camps, mostly in April (UNHCR, 01/08/2014).

The situation in southern transit sites remains critical. Serious gaps in assistance were reported in May, notably in shelter and WASH (OCHA, 27/05/2014). Heavy rains have also destroyed tents and flooded transit sites and temporary camps in both N’Djamena and southern Chad. The new Maingama temporary camp now accommodates over 2,000 people. Over 6,100 people in Doba transit site are waiting to be relocated to Maingama, which should ultimately house 30,000 people. The temporary site of Danamadja has reached its current maximum capacity with over 11,000 inhabitants, although only 40% of the camp is completed. Humanitarian actors are in discussion with the authorities to prepare a new site, a few kilometres from Goré and Danamadja, as an extension (OCHA, 16/07/2014).
There is an urgent need of transport assistance to facilitate the relocation of refugees to the camps or host communities. The current fleet capacity does not meet the requirement in terms of both quantity and quality (UNHCR, 07/2014).

An estimated 1,500 third country nationals, the majority of Chadian nationality, have fled into Congo from the violence in CAR. They live in isolated and difficult conditions in the north of the country. Many have been in border towns for up to two months, receiving no assistance to survive and having to rely on host communities (UNHCR, 07/2014).

Chadian Returnees

Evacuation operations stopped in mid-February, but people continue to arrive, and conditions for 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 second and third-generation Chadian returnees are at risk of statelessness, without family links or any identity documents (UNHCR, 07/2014).

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

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

Returnees from Nigeria: 3,500 returnees and 553 Nigerian refugees had fled to western Chad as of March (OCHA, 03/2014). 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.

Returnees from Cameroon: 5,000 Chadians who initially fled to Cameroon are expected to arrive in Logone Occidental, and a new site, Djako (Moundou), has been set up for them (WFP, 17/07/2014). This week, almost 500 Chadian migrants, from the town of Garoua Boula, have returned by road, with the assistance of IOM, and have been settled in this newly temporary site (IOM, 25/07/2014). Around 2,150 Chadians in Cameroon need to be registered in Moby, Bite and Yokadouma (UNHCR, 07/2014).

Food Security

The increased influx of refugees and returnees due to insecurity in Chad’s neighbouring countries, has affected commodity movement and put additional pressure on the domestic market. As a result, more than 810,000 people are estimated to be in Phase 3 (Crisis) and above during the lean season from June-August. An additional 3.1 million people are experiencing stressed food security levels, IPC Phase 2 (FAO, 07/08/2014).

Funding difficulties have forced WFP and UNHCR to cut food rations from 1 July (UNHCR, 01/07/2014). Some 300,000 refugees, primarily from Darfur and CAR, are reported to be among the worst affected. According to local media, food distributions in some places have been reduced by up to 60%, leaving refugees with a 850-kilocalories ration per day, while the normal ration is 2,100 kilocalories per refugee a day (24/07/2014).

Pasture deficits have impacted on livestock conditions, reducing milk availability and livestock prices and eroding purchasing power. Affected households in the Batha, northern Bahr El-Ghazel, Kanem, Guera, Sila, and Hadjer Lamis areas will have difficulty maintaining their food access and will be in Stressed conditions between April and September.

The additional cost of refugees and returnees in Logone Oriental, Moyen Chari, Mandoul, and Salamat, in border areas with CAR, is putting pressure on household demand, consumption, and spending. As a result, these households will also find themselves in Stressed conditions. In Ouaddai market, at the border with Sudan, sorghum and millet prices, from April to June, were 28% and 10% higher respectively than the previous quarter, partly due to production deficits (WFP, 07/2014).

Regional Outlook: Sahel

In March 2014, more than 25 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, North Cameroon, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, North Nigeria, Senegal and Chad), suffered from food insecurity (FAO, 03/04/2014). Food insecurity in 2014 has risen dramatically compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Health professionals at refugee/returnee sites are indicating a significant increase in diarrhoea and malaria cases, which are coinciding with the start of the rainy season (OCHA cited by WFP, 05/2014).

Chad is regularly afflicted by epidemics and disease outbreaks, owing to low vaccination coverage and weak water and sanitation infrastructure. There are fewer 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 (OCHA, 05/2014).

Malaria

At the end of March, the number of malaria cases reported in 2014 was 191,630, compared to 144,640 in March 2013. National authorities indicated an increase in malaria in six districts, mainly in N’Djamena.

Malaria is a major health problem with a prevalence of nearly 30% across all age groups and about 36% among children under five (UNICEF). In 2013, 991,840 cases were recorded, including 2,610 deaths (compared to 616,720 cases and 1,160 deaths in 2012).

Malnutrition
In refugee/returnee sites and entry points, acute malnutrition rates were above the emergency threshold in May: 24% in Bitoye and 20% in Doba (FAO and WFP, 05/2014). The nutritional situation could deteriorate with the ongoing rains and lack of services (FAO and WFP, 05/2014). 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).

Reference and treatment of severely malnourished children with medical complications remains a challenge in Doba transit site (OCHA, 16/07/2014).

In May, 147,000 children were estimated to have SAM and over 406,000 MAM (OCHA, 05/2014). Acute malnutrition rates in the five regions of Chad's Sahel belt range from 9% to 12%. In the first two months of 2014, UNICEF registered 63,000 malnourished children in Chad, the majority in the Sahel belt. Last year, 45,000 children died due to malnutrition (OCHA, 05/2014).

Measles

Following an outbreak of measles in Danamadja temporary site, a vaccination campaign is under way (OCHA, 16/07/2014).

As of 5 May 7,100 measles cases, including nine deaths, had been registered in 2014 (Ministry of Health). MSF said 70% of reported cases were 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. In 2013, 2,222 measles cases were recorded, including 33 deaths.

Updated: 11/08/2014

ETHIOPIA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

4 August: Poor seasonal rains and water shortages are adding to a growing food insecurity and deteriorating nutritional situation in northeastern Afar, southern SNNP, and Tigray regions, as well as south and south eastern pastoralist areas (OCHA).

1 August: Four opposition party members were arrested in July for alleged connections with terrorist organisations (Crisis Watch).

31 July: A UNHCR survey indicates a serious public health emergency among South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR).

KEY CONCERNS

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

Political Context

Ethiopia is considered comparatively stable, but deep clan tensions and intra-communal violence persist. Two decades of deadly conflict in the southeastern region of Ogaden have had a severe impact on the Ethiopian Somali population, especially after years of a relatively successful government counter-insurgency campaign. The government has yet to address the root causes of the violence.

However, weak political opposition, the perspective of a new peace process between the Government and separatist groups, and the Government’s determination to accelerate economic growth all make continued stability likely.

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, began on 25 April. In May dozens of people were reported killed in violence across the region, according to local sources.

Four opposition party members were arrested in July for alleged connections with terrorist organisations (Crisis Watch, 01/08/2014).

Security Context

Participation in Regional Military Operations

Ethiopia has historically been a key player in peacekeeping and counter-terrorism operations in East Africa. Peace talks on the South Sudan conflict, under the mediation of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, are taking place in Addis Ababa. In 2014, Addis also hosted peace talks over conflict in Sudan.

In January 2014, according to official reports, the Government pledged that Ethiopian troops, currently part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) 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.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Access**

The start of the rainy season is posing access problems as many areas are flooded, including refugee camps and Burubiey entry point, which is now closed (UNICEF 15/07/2014).

Insecurity levels have made some camps at Beninshangul-Gumuz inaccessible (IOM, 08/07/2014).

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

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

**Refugees in Ethiopia**

At the end of May, Ethiopia was host to 590,000 refugees from 13 countries: mostly Somali (242,765) South Sudanese (220,114), Eritreans (94,492), and Sudanese (34,331).

**South Sudanese Refugees**

Results from a UNHCR survey indicate a serious public health emergency among South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR, 31/07/2014).

As of 1 August, 181,546 South Sudanese have sought asylum in Gambella since 2013 (UNHCR, 01/08/2014). They are arriving through Pagak (50%), Akobo (22%), Burubiey (23%), Matar, Raad, Pugnido and Wanke entry points (UNHCR, 25/07/2014). 46,362 South Sudanese refugees were in Ethiopia before 2013.

The number of South Sudanese refugees crossing the border into Ethiopia has seen a sharp decline, from an average of 2,000 per day in May to 400–600 per day on 30 June (OCHA, 30/06/2014). The rate of new arrivals in Burubiey has decreased to approximately 250 people per day since mid-July. Refugees have blamed this on fighting around Nasir, which has made roads to Burubiey unsafe (UNHCR, 18/07/2014).

Women and children make up 95% of refugees (OCHA, 05/05/2014), with a recent breakdown of this number indicating 25% women and 70% girls. 24% are children below the age of five (UNHCR, 18/07/2014). The majority of arrivals come from Upper Nile state and are predominantly from Gajaak, Gajiosk, and Luo-Nuer tribes (UNHCR, 03/07/2014). By 30 June, 34,300 refugees were from Blue Nile (UNHCR, 30/06/2014). Most new arrivals cite food insecurity as their main reason for flight (UNHCR, 03/07/2014).

As of 4 August, 14,000 refugees are awaiting relocation, including 8,762 in the Matar way station and 6,102 at Pagak entry point (OCHA 04/08/2014). Heavy rains and poor road conditions have made the relocation of refugees from Burubiey challenging (IOM, 08/07/2014). 300,000 refugees are expected to arrive over 2014, an upward revision from 200,000 in early May (WFP, 11/06/2014).

As of 16 July, refugee operations are facing critical resource shortfalls (WFP, 16/07/2014). Camp facilities have long been overwhelmed. On 30 June, Leitchuor camp hosted 47,485 people, with a capacity of 40,000 (UNHCR, 30/06/2014). Transfers from border points to Leitchuor have been interrupted (UNHCR, 09/05/2014). As of 1 July, Kule camp hosts 51,476 refugees (UNHCR, 01/07/2014). Tierkidi houses 37,287 refugees and has reached its full capacity (UNHCR, 28/06/2014). Preparations for Pamadong, the new camp, are ongoing. Relocations remain suspended until new facilities are ready (WFP 30/07/2014).

**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, due to poor sanitation in some of them. Urgent needs for the migrants include food, sanitation, and health services.

**Ethiopian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries**

As of 1 July, there are 30,343 Ethiopian refugees in Kenya (10/07/2014, 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).

**Food Security**

On 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 consecutive 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).

Water shortages are adding to the growing food insecurity and poor nutritional situation in northeastern Afar, southern Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples’ (SNNP), and Tigray regions, as well as in south and southeastern pastoralist areas. As of August, contrary to initial forecasts, seasonal rains have been poor in. (OCHA 4/08/2014).

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 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.

**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 (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, the 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 shooat in monitored markets decreased, as low demand against normal supply further pressed 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**

**Hepatitis E**

12 hepatitis E cases have been confirmed in Leitchuor and Kule refugee camps (UNICEF, 15/07/2014).

**Malaria**

Malaria remains the main public health concern in all the refugee camps. The death rate from malaria in Kule 1 camp is 5.9/1,000/week, in Leitchuor 5.6/1,000/week and in Tierkidi 5/1,000/week (UNHCR 03/07/2014).

**Malnutrition**

Results of a SMART survey in Leitchuor, Kule, and Tierkidi show GAM rates of 25.8%, 30.3%, and 28%, and SAM rates of 5.7%, 10%, and 7.8% respectively. Crude mortality rates in Kule 1 were 1.47/10,000/day and Leitchuor 1.03/10,000/day. Under-five mortality rates at Kule 1 were 5/10,000/day and Leitchuor 2.73/10,000/day (UNICEF, 15/07/2014).

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 a 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**

The ratio of latrines to people in refugee camps varies greatly: 1:217 in Burubiey; 1:78 in Kule 1; and 1:55 in Kule 2; 1:47 in Leitchuor; and 1:26 in Pugnido (UNHCR, 03/07/2014).

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 utilisation of tankers. As of 17 March, water shortages across Oromia, Afar, Tigray, Amhara, and Somali regions affected an estimated 360,000 people.

**Education**

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

**Protection**

In mid-February, human rights NGOs reported that a government-run land clearance plan had 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: 05/08/2014

GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
No significant news reported this week. Last update on 25 July

KEY CONCERNS
- Delays in the arrival of the rainy season reported in July are jeopardising planting activities and likely to increase the risk of food insecurity and poverty among the most vulnerable families. 200,000 people are already in need of critical food assistance by July (OCHA 25/07/2014).
- Over 50,000 children are malnourished, 19,300 children more than in July 2013 (OCHA January 2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

200,000 were in critical need of food assistance, and around 600,000 were at risk of food insecurity in July (OCHA 25/07/2014).

Access to food continues to be constrained by high food prices and the lingering effects of the Sahel food crisis, and coping mechanisms have eroded since the 2011 Sahel crisis and heavy flooding in July–October 2012 and August–September 2013. 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.

Sahel Food Crisis - Regional overview

In March 2014, more than 25 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, North Cameroon, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, North Nigeria, Senegal and Chad), suffered from food insecurity (FAO, 03/04/2014). Food insecurity in 2014 has risen dramatically compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03 /02/2014).

Health and Nutrition

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 (OCHA, 03/02/2014). 20% of deaths among under-fives are WASH-related.

Diarrhoeal Disease

As of 3 February, OCHA stated that the incidence of diarrhoea in children is 14%.

Malnutrition

Around 50,000 children are reported to be acutely malnourished, of whom 7,000 children suffer SAM. This represents 3,000 more SAM cases than in July 2013 (OCHA 25/07/2014).

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%.

Meningitis

131 meningitis cases have been reported since the beginning of 2014, and 18 people have died (13.7% lethality). An alert was declared in three districts and an epidemic was declared in one district (WHO 01/06/2014).

Reviewed: 05/08/2014

KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
2 August: The first phase of the voluntary repatriation of Somalia refugees has started, with only 3,000 signing up to the initial ‘pilot project’ (UNHCR, EastAfrican).
31 July: Browse and water are being depleted faster than anticipated in pastoral and agropastoral areas, causing the lean season to start a month early (FEWSNET).

KEY CONCERNS
- Violence is ongoing in the capital Nairobi, as well as the northeastern and coastal areas; two-thirds of those violent attacks have been attributed to the Somali Islamist Al Shabaab movement.
- Inter-communal tensions are running high: 491 people were killed and 47,000 displaced by tribal conflict in 2013. Tana River, Mandera, Marsabit, and Moyale counties are the most affected.
- There are over 503,310 refugees in Kenya, including at least 427,000 Somalis and
There are over 503,310 refugees in Kenya, including at least 427,000 Somalis and 76,310 South Sudanese (UNHCR, 01/2014; OCHA, 02/2014; UNHCR, 06/2014). 100,000 South Sudanese refugees are expected by the end of 2014 (WFP, 28/05/2014).

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

### Political Context

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

The implementation of a devolution process, land reform, and national reconciliation all challenge stability, in a country where institutions are perceived to be weak. Minority groups are said to use politically motivated violence to influence the devolution process.

### Security Context


The frequency and scale of militant attacks in Kenya have increased dramatically since Kenyan troops began operating in Somalia, as has the nature of the violence, with 40% of events targeting civilians. Al Shabaab has built a cross-border presence and clandestine support network among the Muslim population in the northeast, in Nairobi, and on the coast.

Deadly inter-communal violence remains common in a number of areas.

### Tensions with Somali Communities

Since Al Shabaab’s attack on Nairobi’s Westgate shopping mall in September 2013, tensions with the Somali community have risen even further. Muslims make up 11% of Kenya’s 40 million population, and the increasing radicalisation of the ethnic Somali Muslim population is allegedly fuelled by systematic ethnic profiling and discrimination.

In March, the more than 50,000 refugees living in urban areas were ordered to relocate to two camps: Dadaab and Kakuma. At the end of the month, seemingly coordinated bomb blasts killed six people, according to international media. In April, mass arrests targeting refugees took place in Nairobi, Trans Nzoia county, and Mombasa: 82 allegedly illegal immigrants were reportedly deported to Mogadishu. 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 23 April, according to international media, four people died in a bomb blast near a police station not far from Eastleigh, Nairobi.

In February, protests took place in Mombasa after three people were killed. More than 100 people were arrested during a police raid on a mosque. Three people were stabbed in the ensuing riots. 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.

### Militant Incidents

Seven attacks in Kenya’s coastal region since mid-June have left 102 dead. On 15 June, attacks in Mpeketoni and Poromoko killed at least 49 and 15 people, respectively. On 23 June, an attack in the village of Witu, near Mpeketoni, killed at least five (AFP, BBC, 06/24/2014). On 5 July, an attack on Gamba police station killed nine, and another in Kibiboni village killed 13 (Kenya Red Cross, 06/06/2014). About 500 families are reported to have fled the area to nearby camps (Reuters, 06/07/2014). On 10 July, gunmen raided Panganguo, torching houses and classrooms. On 19 July, a bus was attacked by gunmen near the village of Witu, killing seven. The gunmen then targeted a police vehicle that arrived at the scene. A day later, two gunmen on a motorcycle killed four and injured several others in the area of Soweto, Mombasa. Leaflets were distributed demanding minorities leave Mombasa (AFP, 19-21/07/2014). Fearing more attacks, hundreds of families from Maleli, Bora Moyo, Kakathe and Miasha Masha have fled their homes (AFP, Kenya Daily Nation, 12/07/2014). Experts fear a ‘coastal insurgency’ (Reuters, 11/07/2014).

Although most evidence points towards Al Shabaab involvement in these attacks, the Kenyan government insists local political networks are to blame, flaring political and ethnic tensions in the coastal area (IRIN 23/07/2014). A high profile politician, Governor Issa Timamy, has been held on terrorism and murder charges (BBC, 20/07/2014).

### Inter-communal Violence

In 2013, 491 people were killed and another 1,235 injured in inter-communal violence. 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 (OCHA, 12/2013).

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.

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.

### Conflict in Moyale

On 21–22 February in Nairobi, the government-organised Marsabit Peace Initiative brought together leaders from 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, facilitate reconstruction of houses and the return of the displaced, ensure their security, strengthen cross-border dialogue with Ethiopia on the issue, and ensure that all public resources, under the charge of the national and county governments, be allocated fairly to all communities.
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.

**Conflict in Turkana**

On 28 June, four herdsmen were killed and one boy was injured in an attack in Turkana led by Toposa raiders from South Sudan (Kenya Daily Nation, 29/06/2014). 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.

The conflict stems from longstanding disputes over land, water, and grazing rights.

**Conflict in Mandera and Wajir**

Since May 2014, clashes between Garre and Degodia communities along the border between Wajir and Mandera counties have caused at least 60 deaths and displaced 75,000 (OCHA, 23/06/2014). Fighting that broke out on 22 June killed at least 20 people (AFP, 22/06/2014). The Garre and Degodia Somali clans have been feuding over natural resources since March 2012.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

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

At the end of July, 5,574 people were reported displaced by inter-communal clashes between the Degodia and the Garre clans along the Mandera–Wajir border since May; 3,000 are seeking shelter in Hindi prison, 1,554 in the Kipini areas, and 1020 in Kitale Mavuno (ACT Alliance, 30/07/2014). Fighting that broke out on 22 June killed at least 20 people (AFP, 22/06/2014). The Garre and Degodia Somali clans have been feuding over natural resources since March 2012.

**Refugees**

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

**From Somalia**

As of July, 427,000 Somali refugees were in Kenya, a decrease of 50,000 from previous estimates (UNHCR, OCHA). Most are in the northeastern Dadaab and Aalinjurg refugee camp complex, which in July hosted 340,000 Somali refugees. 55,468 Somali refugees are in Kakuma camp, Turkana, and 32,014 are in Nairobi (UNHCR, 01/07/2014).

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**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 levels of food insecurity (FEWSNET). Crisis levels of food insecurity were reportedly concentrated in pastoral areas in Turkana and Marsabit counties. Poor households had entered Crisis levels in February, due to below average rains, and reduced access to livestock sales and markets as a result of inter-clan conflict.

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. In Isolo county, water shortages are severe, with drought conditions having worsened compared to previous months. Well below average March–May rains in southeastern and coastal areas are likely to lead to a below-average maize harvest (FEWSNET, 29/06/2014).

In pastoral and agropastoral areas, pasture, browse and water are being depleted faster than usual. The lean season is therefore expected to start in July instead of August (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014). On 30 July, the Council of Governors in Kenya warned 24 counties were in danger of a ‘ravaging famine’ (Kenya Daily Nation, 30/07/2014) due to prolonged dry spells in the north (The Guardian, 30/07/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

**Displacement**

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The Tripartite Agreement between the Kenyan and Somali governments and UNHCR, signed in November 2013, establishes the legal framework for those Somali refugees wishing to return home. The first phase of the voluntary repatriation is set to start in August 2014, but only 3,000 refugees have registered for the ‘pilot project’, compared to the original target of 10,000. Refugees cite insecurity and lack of opportunities to earn a living as their main uncertainties to return to Somalia. UNHCR has promised material and financial support for those deciding to return (UNHCR, EastAfrican, 02/08/2014).

**From South Sudan**

As of 23 July, more than 46,000 South Sudanese refugees have crossed into Kenya since mid-December (WFP), bringing the total to 76,310 (UNHCR, 01/07/2014). 75,038 are in Kakuma camp, Turkana county (UNHCR, 07/07/2014). A May report indicated a daily arrival rate of 90 (UNHCR, 23/05/2014). Humanitarian agencies are reportedly expecting 100,000 South Sudanese refugees by the end of 2014 (WFP, 28/05/2014). Since December 2013, 5,648 new unaccompanied children have arrived in Kakuma camp, bringing the total of unaccompanied children to 11,855 (UNHCR, 11/07/2014).

In July, a Kenya Human Rights group has taken legal action against the government, accusing it of separating 300 Somali and South Sudanese children from their parents, who were arrested and taken to refugee camps. (Reuters, 01/08/2014).

Kakuma camp is currently hosting 176,634 refugees, surpassing its capacity of 150,000 (UNHCR, 23/07/2014). Government officials have authorised the construction of a new camp nearby. As of 11 July, no land had been granted to settle new arrivals (UNHCR, 11/07/2014).

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**Health and Nutrition**
**Hepatitis B**

Increasing numbers of hepatitis B cases, with a prevalence of 10% among pregnant women and 30% among liver disease patients, are concerning the Kenya Medical Research Institute. No scientific study has been carried out as to the cause of this increase (The East African, 28/06/2014).

**Malaria**

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

**Polio**

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

**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). Statistics show that the malnutrition rates among South Sudanese refugees increase with the ascending periods of arrivals (the later the arrival rate, the higher malnutrition rate) (UNHCR, 11/07/2014).

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

**Protection**

South Sudanese refugees travelling to Kenya face high levels of insecurity. Three refugees were killed travelling to the Kenyan border in mid-July. As a result, refugees are now taking a longer route to Kenya or are requesting for police escorts in the area (IOM, 20/07/2014).

On 29 June, Kenyan security forces at the Nadapal Reception Centre engaged in a gunfire with the Sudanese armed forces. Refugees were caught between the gunfire, and one was injured. Security at the border has since improved and normal operations resumed (IOM, 06/07/2014).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- The number of food insecure people, estimated at 30% has doubled. The affected population that will require humanitarian assistance is estimated at 447,760 people for a period of 4-5 months (starting Oct/Nov 2014) in all districts (FAO, 03/07/2014).

- As of July, acute malnutrition rates among children under five stand at 8%. 16% of the population is underweight (OCHA, 25/07/2014).

- More than 25,000 new HIV infections occur every year in Lesotho.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Food Security**

Since the last update in February 2014, the proportion of food insecure has doubled to 447,760 people, or 30% of the population. The food insecure, mostly located in the rural areas of the country, are predicted to require food assistance for four–five months from October–November onwards (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 22/07/2014). The highest concentration of food insecure people is located in the western districts of Maseru, Mafeteng and Mohale’s Hoek (GIEWS, 01/08/2014).

The increase in food insecurity is caused by an almost 75% drop in sorghum production since last year due to the late onset of rains and frost damage; reduced labour opportunities and high food prices; as well as decreasing resilience of the population. Crop estimates by the Lesotho Bureau of Statistics for the 2013/14 main season indicate that cereal production is 14% below last year and 19% below the five-year average (FEWSNET, 27/06/2014).

Although food prices are expected to remain stable, they will be significantly higher compared to the 2010 ‘normal’ year and the four-year average. Combined with low production and reductions of income from typical sources, purchasing power of poor households will be reduced particularly from October to December, and those households will be expected to face livelihood protection deficits and Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes. In the Southern Lowlands, Foothills and Senqu River Valley Livelihood zones (the areas most affected by reduced production), prices for staple maize are 220-290% above prices at the same time in 2010, the reference year (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

**HIV**

More than 25,000 new HIV infections occur every year in Lesotho. The situation is worsened by limited knowledge of HIV and transmission among Basotho people. Lesotho has also particularly high HIV–tuberculosis co-infection rates; tuberculosis being a major cause of death for people living with HIV/AIDS (ICAP, 01/07/2014). More than 40% of all pregnancy-related deaths are caused by HIV/AIDS (MSF, 22/07/2014).

WFP reported in June 2013 that the country records a HIV prevalence of 23.5% among...
adults, the world’s third highest rate. On 7 March, international media reported that contribution shortfalls from donor countries – cutbacks of around 30% in 2014 and another 20% in 2015 – threaten adequate treatment of HIV/AIDS patients in what is an already underfinanced healthcare system.

Malnutrition

As of July, acute malnutrition rates among children under five stand at 8%. 16% of the population is estimated to be underweight (OCHA, 25/07/2014).

Food Security

The number of food insecure people remained at 1.8 million, or 12% of the population, in June (WFP, 12/06/2014). 12 out of 28 districts are potentially food insecure due to prolonged dry spells and early cessation of rains (UNICEF, 30/06/2014). Acute food security currently stands at Minimal (IPC Phase 1). Maize prices dropped 13% between March and April.

In Central Karonga and Middle Shire livelihood zones, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes were expected in June. Food security conditions are then likely to deteriorate, resulting in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes between July and September (FEWSNET, 06/2014), particularly in localised areas that experienced production shortfalls due to prolonged dryness and early cessation of rains (UNICEF, 30/06/2014). Phase 3: Crisis is likely to continue after October, as the lean season takes place from November to February (FEWSNET, 29/05/2014).

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. Despite progress, around 180 new HIV infections are still occurring every day. 12% of the adult population live with the disease.

Malnutrition

As of June, 21,423 children aged 6–59 months are suffering from severe acute malnutrition (UNICEF, 30/06/2014). Acute malnutrition among children under five was 11% in July; 17% of the population is underweight (OCHA, 25/07/2014).
Up to 55% of girls and more than 70% of boys are experiencing some form of violence while growing up. Two in five girls and two out of three boys are experiencing physical violence, one in five girls and one in three boys experience emotional and sexual violence. Out of these, one in four girls and one in three boys experience multiple forms of violence (UNICEF, 30/06/2014).

Reviewed: 06/08/2014

SENEGAL FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 06/08/2014. Latest update 29/07/2014.

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).

Political Context

Although Senegal enjoys a reputation for stability in a largely volatile region, the country has been unable to resolve the 30-year conflict in the coastal Casamance area, where separatist movements continue to oppose authorities. Attempts to restart talks in March 2013 failed.

On 25 February 2014, the Community of Sant’Egidio, which is mediating the conflict, announced that progress had been made in discussions between the Senegalese authorities and the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC), with confidence-building measures agreed. Senegalese authorities agreed to withdraw an international arrest warrant against the leader of the separatist movement, Salif Sadio. MFDC has not, however, agreed on any demining.

On 30 April, Salif Sadio declared a unilateral ceasefire as proof of engagement in the peace process.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement

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

Food Security

At the end of April, 3.6 million people were food insecure, including 2.23 million in need of food assistance, including 618,000 experiencing Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity (FAO, 03/07/2014).

At mid-July, poor households in northern and central regions are forecast to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes between now and September, despite food assistance efforts and stable to declining prices of broken rice, due to 2013/14 crop production shortfalls, poor pastoral conditions, and groundnut marketing difficulties (FEWSNET, 18/07/2014).

Food insecurity is predicted to increase, particularly in rural areas, according to the government, due to forecasts of a stressed agricultural market over coming weeks, as stocks have been depleted early while consumption demands are high. (Government of Senegal, 28/07/2014). Food stocks were depleted in April this year, compared to May –June in a normal year.

Although only slight rises in food prices and an improved weather situation were reported at a regional level, food security remains a serious issue (FAO, 11/07/2014). Market failure of groundnut has brought lower average incomes for poor households (FEWSNET, 05/2014), as it has caused producers to resort to selling atypically large quantities of cereal crops, such as sorghum, maize, and rice. Cash crop sales, food stock levels, livestock conditions, and food access in the north, the groundnut basin, and Casamance will be worse than usual until August.

In Casamance, which has an estimated population of 1.8 million, an estimated 37% of households face food shortages. In February, 10% of households were reportedly experiencing severe food insecurity (WFP).

The Food Security and Nutrition Survey (ENSAN) reported in June 2013 that rural food security levels have generally deteriorated since 2010, with rural households being more at risk. Recurrent shocks from drought and flooding, poor infrastructure, and inadequate social safety nets continue to increase the chronic overall vulnerability of the population, while household and community resilience continues to erode due to poor coping strategies.

Agricultural Outlook

The lack of rains has delayed planting in Senegal and could further degrade ground conditions and negatively impact cropping activities (FEWSNET, 30/07/2014).

Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview

In March 2014, more than 25 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) suffered from food insecurity (FAO, 03/04/2014). Food insecurity in 2014 has risen dramatically compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food consumption (OCHA, 03/02/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Hepatitis B
More than two million people, or 15% of the population, including 350,000 chronic carriers, have hepatitis B, due to untimely vaccination, prohibitive treatment costs, and lack of universal screening to curb transmissions (IRIN, 08/05/2014).

**Malnutrition**

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

Updated: 06/08/2014

**ANGOLA DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No significant developments this week, 06/08/2014. Latest update 30/07/2014.

**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.

**Political Context**

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.

**Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC)**

Much of the country’s oil wealth lies in Cabinda province, which is cut off from the rest of Angola by DRC. For decades, a low-intensity separatist conflict simmered between 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**

**Displacement**

**Refugees in Angola**

According to government figures, over 20,300 asylum-seekers and 23,783 refugees from DRC and some 20 other African countries resided in Angola by end January. The protection space for refugees and asylum-seekers has been reduced as a result of stringent immigration policies (UNHCR 30/01/2014).

As of end June, more than 7,000 DRC refugees were residing in Angola (UNHCR, 17/07/2014). 13,000 people from DRC had been expelled and returned to DRC (OCHA, 17/07/2014).

At least 177 former refugee families from neighbouring Namibia, Zambia, and DRC have been resettled in Angola over the last 16 months, as part of an ongoing integration programme (Government of Angola 21/06/2014).

**Angolan Refugees in Neighbouring Countries**

As of end June, around 560 Angolan refugees are residing in DRC (UNHCR 17/07/2014).

**Returnees**

From 28 August onwards, almost 30,000 former Angolan refugees living in DRC will be voluntarily repatriated to Angola. Around 18,000 Angolans have opted to remain in DRC (Radio Okapi, 01/08/2014).

Some four hundred thousand people, who lived as refugees in neighbouring countries, returned to Angola in the 2002/2007 period under the voluntary and organised repatriation programme implemented by the Angolan government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

**Food Security**

Areas of Kwanza Sul and Benguela provinces that fall within the Coastal Fish, Horticulture and Non-farm Income zone will face Stressed (Phase 2) acute food insecurity outcomes between July and December (FEWSNET, 23/07/2014). Food assistance has started, however it is considered inadequate. Poor households in Namibe are also Stressed (Phase 2), while more populated areas in Cunene province will face Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity between July and December (FEWSNET, 23/07/2014).

On the national level, despite an increase in the availability of produce in local markets, the non-weighted consumer price index has increased, limiting access for poor households that are dependent on market purchases for their food needs (FEWSNET, 23/07/2014).

**Agricultural Outlook**

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.

Production prospects in Cuanza Sul and Benguela provinces are below average due to lack of rain (FEWSNET 18/06/2014).

Crop losses are anticipated in coastal areas, particularly in Namibe, due to dry spells and water deficits (FAO, 06/06/2014).

However, nationwide water availability for human and livestock consumption has improved significantly as a result of the rains from late February to the end of May (FEWSNET, 18/06/2014).
BURUNDI DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

5 August: As of July, Burundi is host to 56,856 refugees (UNHCR)

KEY CONCERNS

- As of June, 78,958 people are currently food insecure (OCHA, 05/08/2014)

Political Context

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 of civil and political rights, following a series of violent acts by the ruling party’s increasingly militant youth wing, Imbonerakure.

2015 General Elections: Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Presidential elections are scheduled for 26 June, with a second round on 27 July if necessary (AFP, 18/07/2014). On 9 June, the Government, the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI), and all political parties and actors signed the General Principles for the conduct of the 2015 elections (UN, 10/06/2014).

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. On 4 June, Burundi expelled a second UN official, stating he was carrying ammunition when boarding a plane (AFP, 04/06/2014).

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 origin and claiming land where other families, often of a different ethnic background, have since settled.

Returnees

As of 30 June, 9,764 Burundian refugees were residing in DRC (UNHCR, 30/06/2014).

As of 1 July, 5,900 Burundian refugees were residing in Kenya (UNHCR, 1/07/2014).

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). They are mostly ethnic Tutsis, located in and around 120 sites across northern and central Burundi. No new displacement has been recorded since 2008 (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre).

Refugees

As of July, Burundi is host to 56,856 refugees (UNHCR, 07/2014).

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). In November 2013, Burundi’s three refugee camps (Bwagiriza, Musasa and Gasorwe) reached their maximum capacity with a total population of 26,000 refugees. UNHCR opened a refugee camp in Kavumu, Cankuzo province, in May (UNHCR, 11/2013).

Food Security

As of June, 78,958 people are currently food insecure (OCHA, 05/08/2014).

Poor households in northeastern livelihood zones are expected to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity from July to November (FEWSNET, 30/06/2014). The production deficits in Kirundo were among the worst in the country, leading to atypical migration (FEWSNET, 30/06/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

Dry spells since mid-April – only 50–80% of the average seasonal rainfall – have led to a rapid deterioration of ground conditions across Burundi. Maize deficits could be up to 80% in some areas and beans and sorghum deficits are estimated to be between 30% and 50%. 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, 01/07/2014; 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).

Updated: 07/08/2014

CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

6 August: Rains and insecurity caused by Nigerian Boko Haram (BH) insurgents are aggravating a cholera outbreak in northern Cameroon which has killed at least 75 people and infected another 1,400 since April (IRIN).

6 August: Police sources reported that several hundreds of children continued to be forcibly recruited by BH in Far North region (AFP).

4 August: CAR refugees have arrived in Cameroon since December 2013, bringing the overall number to 227,280 (UNHCR).

Late July: Troop levels along the Nigeria border increased to 4,000 (ICG).

KEY CONCERNS

- 120,000 refugees from CAR have arrived since December 2013, bringing the total to 227,280 (UNHCR, 07/2014).

- Cameroon hosts approximately 24,000 Nigerian refugees (UNHCR, 07/2014).

- The 2011–2012 drought impact continues, with 615,000 people in the north at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition (WFP).

- 30% of Cameroon’s 20 million inhabitants have access to piped drinking water. In Yaoundé, needs surpass the current capacity by three times (Government).

Overview

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 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). Biya met with Chadian President Déby to discuss concerted action. Late July, troop levels along the Nigeria border increased to 4,000 (ICG, 01/08/2014).

Boko Haram insurgents, normally concentrating attacks in northeastern 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. Amchide town, which is in Cameroon, on the border with Nigeria, has become a significant BH base. It is estimated that BH account for 90% of its population. BH has developed alliances with businesses and is reportedly forcing others to finance their activities (AFP, 24/06/2014).

On 27 July, at least 16 people were killed in two simultaneous raids by BH insurgents in Kolofata region. More than a dozen people were also kidnapped, including the wife of the Vice Prime Minister (AFP, 28/07/2014). On 24 July, Boko Haram insurgents reported an attack on a Cameroonian military base in Balgaram (Far North) killing two (OCHA, 30/07/2014).

On 10 June, 300 suspected Boko Haram members committed the fifth cross-border attack from Nigeria into Cameroon this year, on the town of Gorsi Tourou (OCHA, 16/06/2014). On 7 June, suspected BH gunmen attacked a town in Mayo Tsanaga department, Far North region. Local security forces fought them off. In May, a Cameroonian soldier and a policeman were killed, and ten Chinese nationals were feared kidnapped in the Far North. In April, two priests and a Canadian nun were abducted. In February, a Cameroonian chief was kidnapped.

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 Gbidi in order to allow them to undertake search operations in the area (UNHCR, 22/05/2014). UNHCR and Cameroonian security forces are seeking possible locations for security posts at the refugee sites of Lolo, Mblé, and Timangolo in East region (UNHCR, 04/07/2014).

The transport union in Cameroon called a strike after an attack on drivers in CAR, and blocked the movement of all commercial and humanitarian goods from Garoua Boulai into CAR (WFP, 13/06/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Damage to a bridge on the main supply route from Cameroon to Bangui has interrupted humanitarian supplies since 18 July. Repairs were not complete as of 21 July (OCHA, 22/07/2014).

Assistance projects in Far North region have been suspended due to high levels of
insecurity linked to BH (Reuters, 08/07/2014).

Displacement

Refugees from the Central African Republic

As of 4 August, 227,280 CAR refugees are in Cameroon: 120,000 have arrived since December 2013 through 31 border points in Cameroon’s East (86,080) and Adamawa (21,673) regions (UNHCR). Close to 60% of newly arrived refugees are children, of whom 20% are below five years of age. 96% of the refugees are Muslim. New arrivals are suffering from exhaustion, dehydration and malnutrition (UNHCR, 07/2014). ECHO found that acute needs at the border are shelter, food, health, water and protection (ECHO, 05/2014).

More than 3,000 arrived between 24 June and 1 July. As of early June, more than 2,000 refugees were crossing into Cameroon weekly. The border is open and there are refugees who cross it spontaneously without being registered.

The number of new CAR refugees in Cameroon is expected to reach 180,000 by the end of 2014 and 30,000 third-country nationals are expected to need assistance (UNHCR, 17/07/2014). At least another 17,670 third-country nationals and returnees have also crossed into Cameroon since December 2013, including some 4,500 Chadians (UNHCR, 07/2014 and IOM, 25/07/2014).

The main challenges to reception arise from the extensive border, the multitude of entry points and an operational area spread over 50,000km². Bad road conditions delay the provision of assistance. The security environment is also a concern, with the possible presence of armed elements and risks of robbery.

51,930 refugees have been relocated to seven sites: 40,656 to the sites of Gado, Lolo, Mbié, Timangolo, and Yokadouma in the East region and 11,326 Borgop and Ngam in the Adamawa region. However, over 67,100 are living outside sites, including 10,840 at the border crossing points and 56,260 in host families at the border. The transit site at the entry point of Gbidi was closed and refugees were relocated to sites (UNHCR, 01/08/2014).

Some are reluctant to be transferred to the sites (UNHCR, 25/07/2014). 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.

Access to water and sanitation remains below standard. In Gado, Mbié, and Borgop, the quantity of water provided per day to refugees remains below 15 litres (UNHCR, 07/2014).

Refugees from Nigeria

Cameroon hosts approximately 24,000 Nigerians. Since May, more than 8,000 Nigerians from Adamawa, Yobe, and Borno states have fled to the remote north part of Cameroon (IRIN, 11/07/2014).

Since June 2013, Mayo Sava, Logone-et-Chari, and Mayo Sanaga departments have accommodated most Nigerian refugees. 3,000 live in Minawao refugee camp, 130km east of the Nigeria-Cameroon border (UNHCR and UNCT Nigeria cited by UNICEF, 01/07/2014). Those living outside the camp do not receive humanitarian assistance and lack of identification is a concern. The needs among the refugees are largely WASH, health, and nutrition-related.

Food Security

Food prices have risen significant due to border closures with Nigeria, just as Ramadan begins (early July), a period when food expenditure among Muslims is normally higher. Nigeria supplies up to 80% of food in northern Cameroon (Voice of America, 02/07/2014).

On 14 February, local media reported that food prices in Cameroon had climbed by over 20% since December. The growing food shortages are compounded by prolonged water scarcity following limited rainfall.

Cereal production improved in 2013 (GIEWS and FAO, 16/01/2014). 2013 aggregate cereal production was tentatively put at about 3.1 million metric tonnes, 5% up on last year’s output, and 10% above the average of the previous five years.

The impact of the 2011–2012 drought is still being felt, however, and the arrival of refugees has increased 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.

Health and Nutrition

Cameroon’s Far North, North, Adamawa, and East regions suffer chronic shortages of health workers. Nationally, there are 1.43 healthcare personnel for 1,000 people. In the Far North region, the ratio is 0.47 doctors for 1,000 people (IRIN, 06/08/2014).

Malnutrition, malaria and respiratory infections are the most common health problems among refugees from CAR, according to an ECHO needs assessment carried out on the border. A number of measles cases were also reported among recently arrived child refugees.

Quoting WHO, US media outlet NPR reported that the public healthcare system was unable to address increasing infant mortality rates, along with high rates of HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis. 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.

Cholera

Rains and insecurity caused by Nigerian Islamist militants are aggravating a cholera outbreak in northern Cameroon which has killed at least 75 people and infected another 1,400 since April (IRIN, 06/08/2014). 218 cases were reported between 31 July

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Rains and insecurity caused by Nigerian Islamist militants are aggravating a cholera outbreak in northern Cameroon which has killed at least 75 people and infected another 1,400 since April (IRIN, 06/08/2014). 218 cases were reported between 31 July
and 5 August, up from 208 cases reported the week before. Health experts are concerned that the epidemic will spread to the northern capital city of Maroua (OCHA, 05/08/2014).

The first cholera case was in a Nigerian family who were among a group of refugees fleeing to Cameroon from bombings and attacks by Nigeria’s Boko Haram extremist militia in April. Water scarcity, poor public health care and risky hygienic practices have rekindled the disease which badly hit Cameroon between 2009 and 2011 (IRIN, 06/08/2014).

**Malaria**

The death toll from malaria 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 surge on low bed net use, heavy rains, weak medical services, and widespread poverty.

**Malnutrition**

In North and Far North regions, an estimated 55,200 children under five will have SAM and 132,430 MAM in 2014 (UNICEF, 06/2014).

Up to 30% of refugees from CAR under the age of five suffer from acute malnutrition, according to an early June assessment at three border entry points and five refugee sites (UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP): 7–8% of cases were infants under six months and 18% people over five years. One in five pregnant and lactating refugee mothers arrived in Cameroon malnourished, and malnutrition among the elderly is also of concern (UNICEF and WFP, 03/07/2014).

Approximately 15% of all children with SAM require hospitalisation. The assessment team also reported overloaded nutrition services in host communities and estimated that inpatient facilities will need to triple their capacity. Mortality rates have been over 20% at some locations in the last month, due to dehydration, hypothermia and severe anaemia (OCHA, 06/2014).

Between March and early July 2014, more than 1,600 children with severe acute malnutrition were admitted in the therapeutic feeding centres at arrival points and refugee sites and hospitals. Another 9,000 children and 2,000 mothers received supplementary feeding (UNICEF and WFP, 03/07/2014).

According to ECHO, an estimated 186,000 children, including refugee children, are expected to require life-saving care in 2014.

**Polio**

On 17 March, WHO elevated the risk assessment of international spread of polio from central Africa, particularly Cameroon, to very high. As of 17 March, three 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 (WHO). In total, seven WPV1 cases have been reported from West, North West, Centre and Adamawa regions. Wild polio had not been reported since 2009.

**Yellow Fever**

Several cases of yellow fever were reported in an area previously considered at low risk, and therefore not covered by the preventive campaign of 2009. (WHO, 04/07/2014).

**WASH**

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 reported that an estimated 200 young people (aged 15–19) from Kolofata area in the Far North region have been recruited by Boko Haram since February and reportedly transferred to training camps in the Nigerian bush. Early August, police sources confirmed that several hundreds of children continued to be forcibly recruited (AFP, 06/08/2014).

**Education**

Over 36,000 child refugees have arrived from CAR since January 2014: approximately 50% have not attended school for extended periods of time. Only a small number of CAR refugee children reportedly attend school in public schools in hosting communities (UNHCR, 07/2014).

Updated: 06/08/2014

**CÔTE D’IVOIRE FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No new significant developments this week, 8 August. Last update: 22/07/2014.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 6.4 million people are at risk from food insecurity. In the western Montagnes district, at least 76,500 people are suffering from severe food insecurity. Chronic child malnutrition is also a concern (OCHA December 2013).
- 3.13 million people in Côte d’Ivoire do not have access to potable water and sanitation (OCHA 12/2013).
- Ongoing concern about region of Zanzan, on the eastern border with Burkina Faso and Ghana, where 60% of the population live below the poverty line and three quarters of the population lack access to safe drinking water (UNICEF).
Agricultural production still impacted by over a decade of civil unrest.

Political Context

As the 2015 elections approach, the Ivorian Popular Front (FPI)’s attempts to unite the opposition parties into one common front are facing delays and obstacles. Five of the 11 invited parties have so far declined to sign the founding document proposed by the FPI, accusing it of consistently refusing to join other common opposition efforts developed by the Permanent Framework for Dialogue (CPD) over the past two years.

A framework of direct dialogue was initiated over a year ago between the Ivorian Government and the FPI: the two sides met for the first time in five months in January. Tensions date back to the 2010-2011 crisis, and remain strained due to the FPI’s position stating that the current President Ouattara is ineligible for the 2015 campaign. Preparation for the 2015 presidential elections began in November 2013 despite disagreement on election procedures.

National Reconciliation Process

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission announced in February that listening centres will be set up to facilitate dialogue between victims and executioners. Legal clinics will be opened to enable civilians’ access to justice. The Commission was created in 2011, and its initial two-year mandate was extended to early 2015. The investigations and public hearings are still yet to be carried out.

In February, the Ivorian Government released 70 senior army officers and politicians who had been detained whilst awaiting trial for crimes including murder, kidnapping, and corruption. President Ouattara announced in January that the ultimatums on 80,000 people in exile, of whom 300 are soldiers have ceased and that the government would prioritise the facilitation of return for all, including safety guarantees. Critics of President Ouattara’s government have expressed concerned that such political compromises undermine the authority and independence of the judiciary.

Security Context

A UN human rights report published in January indicated that despite some improvements, the security situation remains fragile due to a persistent culture of violence and a large number of ex-fighters who have not yet benefited from Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) programmes. On 10 February, it was reported that more than 27,000 ex-combatants had been demobilised. In addition, large quantities of illicit arms are still circulating in the country.

On 23 February, the government reported that at least four Ivorian soldiers were killed when suspected gunmen from Liberia raided a border town in the west of the country. Several gunmen were also killed in the incident. Several assaults had already been carried out beforehand, with the UN and the government often blaming allies of former President Gbagbo.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Besides political turmoil and economic instability, the violent post-election phase described above has resulted in destruction of assets and caused the displacement of 500,000 people both internally and across borders. Despite recent intermittent attacks in the western region, which was the worst affected, peace and security seem to have been considerably restored and the situation is expected to improve further during 2014.

In Zanzan, on the eastern border with Burkina Faso and Ghana, nearly 60% of the population live below the poverty line, and three-quarters of the population lack access to safe drinking water. The presence of humanitarian organisations remains low in comparison with needs. UNICEF reports that the most pressing needs include child protection and gender-based violence (FGM), access to water and health facilities, malnutrition, education, and birth certificate issuance/provision.

Access

On 6 February, ECHO reported that a humanitarian convoy transporting relief goods was attacked by armed men in Duekoue, in the west. Staff on board were reportedly harmed. The attack comes after a period of relative calm since the end of post-electoral violence.

Displacement

IDPs

Humanitarian needs are pressing for 45,000 IDPs, and their host communities, in the west. At the beginning of 2013, UNHCR reported that 36,500 IDPs had returned home.

Refugees in Ivory Coast

For 2014, the UNHCR is prioritising finding solutions for Liberians and Rwandans whose refugee status has ceased by facilitating local integration or undertaking resettlement assessments; others will continue to receive international protection.

Returnees

Voluntary repatriation programmes assisted 16,232 refugees to return in 2013, mostly from camps and communities in Grand Gedeh, Nimba, and Maryland counties in Liberia, doubling the total repatriation figures for 2011 and 2012. Towards the end of 2013, the trend of return slowed down with a monthly average of 1,300 returnees. Fear of reprisals, lack of safety and no access to land were the main reasons cited.

In July, around 400 Ivorian returnees traveling from Liberia were turned away from Ivory Coast citing fears of the spread of Ebola; other people are reportedly crossing the border without problems (AFP 14/07/2014).

Ivorian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

An estimated 70,730 Ivorian refugees still reside in neighbouring countries, namely Liberia (52,785), Ghana (8,461) and Guinea (6,170) at end December 2013, according to UNHCR.
This figure represents a significant decrease from 2011 (250,000) and 2012 (85,000). 73% of returnees went back to the Cavally and Tonkpi regions.

**Liberia:** The majority of Ivorian refugees in Liberia are unwilling to return until after the 2015 presidential elections. On 18 February, the head of the UN refugee Agency in Liberia expressed concern over the alleged ‘forced extradition’ of 14 Ivorian refugees, part of a group of 23 accused by Ivory Coast of being mercenaries.

**Disasters**

At least 23 people were killed and over 7,000 people displaced by floods since the start of the rainy season in June. 5,000 people are displaced and living in primary schools (OCHA 22/07/2014).

**Food Security**

The instability and unrest of the past decade has affected the food security and economic stability of the population, leaving households more vulnerable. At present, over half a million people live in a state of food insecurity in the western and northern regions. This is largely due to structural problems such as repatriation/late return of farmer households, insecurity and population movements, delay/early end of rains, and crop loss due to flooding. Most affected are households repatriated after the agricultural season, displaced during the sowing period, affected by floods, and with precarious livelihoods.

At end December, 6.4 million people were facing food insecurity (OCHA). In the western Montagnes district, 76,500 people suffer from severe food insecurity. An October 2013 assessment by FAO, WFP, and the Ministry of Agriculture, indicated that 500,000 in the west and the north are food insecure. The most affected areas are the southwestern regions of Moyen-Cavally and Bas-Sassandra where 387,000 people face food insecurity, including 123,000 who need immediate assistance in areas at risk of the district of Montagnes (Toulepleu, Biollequin and Tai). In the northern region of Savanes, an estimated 193,000 face food insecurity, including 99,000 in need of immediate assistance in the heavily populated area around Korhogo.

**Health and Nutrition**

The 2012 Demographic and Health Survey reports that essential drugs are often out of stock in health facilities at all levels.

**Diarrhoeal Disease**

Diarrhoea is a major concern: only 17% of patients receive adequate treatment in the form of oral rehydration. Compounded by a high rate of malnutrition and limited healthcare, the burden of morbidity and mortality associated with diarrhoeal diseases is high.

**Malnutrition**

According to statistics published by the National Nutrition Programme in August 2013, malnutrition is the cause of 54% of deaths and of 35% of diseases among children under five. Incidence of malnutrition is higher in the north of the country.

**WASH**

As of 31 December, OCHA reported that 3.13 million people do not have access to potable water and sanitation: 42%, in the north, 25% in Abidjan and the southeast, and 30% in the west.

**Protection**

High risks of violence and abuse against children and women remain with continued impunity of perpetrators. A recent report expressed deep concern over the increase in sexual violence and trivialisation of the offence, though comprehensive data is hard to come by.

**Statelessness**

According to Ivorian government statistics, UNHCR estimates that 700,000 people are stateless or of undetermined nationality. During the 2002 civil war and the post-election crisis of 2010–2011, the destruction of vital records and the loss of individual documents have made it very difficult for Ivorians to prove their citizenship. Abandoned children are not covered by national legislation and do not have the Ivorian citizenship. In addition, tens of thousands of children who were not registered at birth cannot prove their nationality and are at risk of statelessness. Access to basic rights remains problematic for people who lack proper documentation. In July, the UN representative mentioned that Ivory Coast is taking concrete measures to eliminate statelessness.

Reviewed: 06/08/2014

**MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**31 July:** The lean season has begun. Due to the early depletion of food reserves, poor and very poor households will be particularly affected (OCHA).

**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.
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

Around 300 homes have been destroyed and 5,000 people are homeless after heavy rains caused a dam to break in M’Bout, Gorgol region (OCHA, 16/07/2014).

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

The food security situation is particularly difficult in northern Guidimakha, Gorgol, and Brakna, where poor households have begun facing food consumption gaps and are already experiencing Crisis levels of food insecurity (FEWSNET, 06/2014). The lean season has begun; poor and very poor households, who rely on market for supplies will be the most affected due to the early depletion of food reserves (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

In July, the delayed start and poor distribution of the seasonal rains have negatively impacted cropping activities along the Mauritania-Mali border, with conditions expected to worsen throughout August (NOAA, 06/08/2014). Pastoral conditions continue to deteriorate throughout the country, causing atypical migrations to seasonal grazing areas inside and outside the country. For several months, pastoralists in western agropastoral zone and northern Guidimakha have been experiencing Stressed food security outcomes. They have resorted to purchasing animal feed, the price of which has risen steeply, and risk livelihood protection deficits (FEWSNET, 06/2014).

As of February, nearly 800,000 people, a fifth of the total population, were 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 requires humanitarian assistance. Chronic poverty and limited access to basic services have created high levels of vulnerability.

Food Security in the Sahel Region

In March 2014, more than 25 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) suffered from food insecurity (FAO, 03/04/2014). Food insecurity in 2014 has risen dramatically compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2014).

Health and Nutrition

- 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).

Displacement

- Around 300 homes have been destroyed and 5,000 people are homeless after heavy rains caused a dam to break in M’Bout, Gorgol region (OCHA, 16/07/2014).
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: 06/08/2014

NAMIBIA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 06/08/2014. Last update 30/07/2014.

KEY CONCERNS
- More than 100,000 people are in need of food assistance and over half a million people are at risk of food insecurity from June to December 2014 (Food and Nutrition Security working group, 22/07/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

Displacement

Over 3,000 Angolan refugees have been repatriated from Namibia, after their refugee status ended on 30 June 2012. Namibia had about 5,000 refugees: 2,000 will receive Namibian citizenship or permanent residency permits (Angolan Embassy in Namibia 26/06/2014).

Food Security

Despite significant improvement in crop production this year, 117,600 are affected by a food security crisis and around 557,900 people in rural areas are at risk (Food and Nutrition Security Working Group 22/07/2014).

The northern regions have been worst affected, with the largest number of food insecure found to be 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 forecast at 122,390 metric tonnes, an increase of 50% from last season's harvest but still 2% below average (OCHA, 19/05/2014). 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: the number of cholera cases reported in Khomas region (which covers Windhoek) remains at 70, with two deaths, since November 2013. The last cholera patient was discharged on 26 April (OCHA, 30/04/2014).

Malnutrition

As of July, GAM among children under five is at 7%, while 15% of the population is underweight (OCHA, 25/07/2014).

Reviewed: 06/08/2014

UGANDA DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

31 July: 824,104 persons in Northern Nakapiripirit, Moroto, Kotido, Napak, and Kaabong districts are at risk of acute food insecurity, IPC Phase 3 (FEWSNET).

KEY CONCERNS
- 120,100 South Sudanese refugees have arrived since December 2013.
- Cholera is endemic in the region, with an ongoing outbreak in Arua district, with six cases confirmed (23/07/2014).
- GAM levels remain above 10% in Karamoja, especially in Napak and Moroto districts (WFP, UNICEF, 06/2014)
- The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an Islamist group fighting the Ugandan government and based in the DRC–Uganda border region, has been accused of recruiting child soldiers, sexually abusing women and children, and carrying out attacks on peacekeepers.

Security Context
On 6 July, Ugandan troops killed 41 people in a clash with tribal gunmen on the border with DRC (AFP, 06/07/2014). On 8 July, another 13 attacks, presumed to be the result of inter-ethnic clashes between two tribes, occurred across three districts in the same area leaving 90 people dead (UNHCR, 08/07/2014). Fearing for their safety, 2,000 Ugandans sought refuge during the violence in Bundibugyo district’s Bubukwanga transit centre (TC), though most have already returned home (UNHCR, 08/07/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement

IDPs

As of July, Uganda hosts 30,196 IDPs (OCHA, 05/08/2014).

Refugees in Uganda

As of 30 June, Uganda hosts 388,950 refugees (UNHCR, 08/07/2014), 87% of whom are women and children (OCHA, 11/06/2014).

Prior to 15 December 2013, 22,264 South Sudanese were already hosted by Uganda (UNHCR, 24/07/2014). As of 24 July, 120,100 South Sudanese refugees fled to Uganda since the crisis began (OCHA, 24/07/2014). The total population of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda reaches 142,327 people (UNHCR, 24/07/2014).

170,000 refugees are from DRC (IRIN, 10/07/2014). Transportation from Kyangwali to the DRC border has been set up for 3,500 refugees in Uganda who have expressed their will to return (IRIN, 10/07/2014).

As of 22 July, 1,500 Kenyans are still living in Kiryadongo refugee settlement, from the 4,000 who crossed into Uganda during the 2007–2008 post-election violence (local media, 22/07/2014).

The rest of the refugee population is believed to be from Somalia.

Ugandan Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 1 July, there are 1,230 Ugandan refugees in Kenya (UNHCR, 01/07/2014). As of 30 June, there are 1,211 Ugandan refugees in DRC (UNHCR, 30/06/2014).

Food Security

Karamoja: The area is classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Northern Nakapiripirit, Moroto, Kotido, Napak, and Kaabong Districts are the areas of concern with an estimated 824,104 persons. At least 20 per cent of the households are only marginally able to meet minimum food needs with continued erosion of livelihoods through stressed sales of livestock. Current levels of humanitarian assistance are not meeting the needs of the vulnerable households (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014).

Agricultural Outlook

In Karamoja, the September/October harvest is expected to only be 20 to 30 percent of average (FEWSNET, 01/08/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Morbidity levels are high across Karamoja with more than half of the children having suffered at least one illness in the two weeks prior to assessment (WFP, UNICEF, 06/2014).

Cholera

The Government of Uganda has so far confirmed six cases of cholera in Arua district (WFP, 23/07/2014).

Malaria

A rising trend in malaria has been reported (UNHCR cites Medical Team International, 18/07/2014).

Malnutrition

GAM among children under five in Moroto district, Karamoja have passed the emergency threshold to reach 22.2%. GAM is at 14.6% in Nakapiripirit district (WFP, UNICEF, 06/2014).

WASH

In Amudat district, safe water access, latrine access and sanitation issues are a serious concern (WFP, UNICEF, 06/2014).

اسطورة: 07/08/2014

ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new developments this week, 06/08/2014. Last update: 01/07/2014

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 are common in Eritrea (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).

Political Context

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 Eritreans 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 31 May, 3,136 refugees reside in Eritrea, including 3,056 Somalian 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. According to UN figures, some 4,000 Eritreans, among them hundreds of unaccompanied minors, are fleeing the country every month to escape government repression and lack of basic freedoms (UN, 05/06/2014).

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). On 30 June, 74 Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers were sent back from Sudan, after being convicted of illegally entering Sudan (UNHCR, 04/07/2014)

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).

Kenya: As of 1 July, there are 1,631 Eritrean refugees in Kenya, most of them located in Nairobi (UNHCR 01/07/2014).

Food Security

A swarm of desert locusts was treated in July. Small scale breeding will occur in the western lowlands in August, causing locust numbers to increase slightly (FAO, 01/08/2014).

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).

GUINEA FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

4 August: 495 Ebola cases (351 confirmed, 133 probable, and 11 suspected), including 363 deaths have been reported. Between 2 and 4 August, 10 new cases and five deaths were reported. The total cumulative number of cases across the region is 1,711, including 932 deaths (WHO).

1 August: West African Ebola-hit nations agreed to impose a cross-border isolation zone at the epicentre of the outbreak, amid warnings that the deadly epidemic is spiralling out of control. The announcement came at an emergency summit in Conakry (AFP).

Latest July: Early harvests in September will improve food availability for households. The continuation of Minimal food insecurity will be maintained through December 2014 (FEWSNET).

KEY CONCERNS

- 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).

Political Context

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 and 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

Early harvests in September are expected to improve food availability for households, who will benefit from the sale of green harvests of groundnuts and maize, from which they will derive substantial income. Good food availability from previous harvests and the normal, seasonal evolution of prices are in line with a normal lean season and are facilitating access to food for poor households, despite increased demand in July during the month of Ramadan. The continuation of Minimal food insecurity will be maintained through December 2014 (FEWSNET, 07/2014).

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


- 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).
Torrential rains (over 50mm) have been observed; seasonal rains have been 120-200% above average, resulting in flooding and damage to infrastructure in the past two months (FEWSNET, 11/07/2014).

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

As of 4 August, 495 Ebola cases (351 confirmed, 133 probable, and 11 suspected), including 363 deaths have been reported. Between 2 and 4 August, ten new cases and five deaths were reported. The total cumulative number of cases across the region is 1,711, including 932 deaths (WHO).

Ebola patients have been identified in four countries of West Africa: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Nigeria, complicating efforts to treat patients and curb the outbreak. The outbreak in West Africa has been declared a Grade 3 Emergency under WHO’s Emergency Response Framework (ECHO, 29/07/2014).

On 1 August, West African Ebola-hit nations agreed to impose a cross-border isolation zone at the epicentre of the outbreak, amid warnings that the deadly epidemic is spiralling out of control. The announcement came at an emergency summit in Conakry (AFP).

A shortage of trained health workers who can treat Ebola victims and prevent further spread of the deadly disease is hampering response efforts in the region (IRIN, 31/07/2014).

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).

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.

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: 07/08/2014

Liberia Epidemic

Latest Developments

6 August: President Ellen Johnson declared a State of Emergency for a period of 90 days (Government)

4 August: Between 31 July and 4 August, Liberia reported 125 new cases of Ebola with 55 deaths (WHO).

3 August: Monrovia's Elwa Hospital has had to turn away Ebola cases this week, due to the withdrawal of some international staff following the infection of two U.S. health workers (Reuters)

Key Concerns

- Since March 2014, 1,711 cases of Ebola and 932 deaths have been reported in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria (WHO, 06/08/2014).Humanitarian Context and Needs

Health and Nutrition

Ebola

As of 4 August, 516 Ebola cases, including 282 deaths, had been reported in Lofa, Margibi, and Montserrado, Bomi and Bong counties, and the capital, Monrovia (WHO, 06/08/2014; OCHA, 31/07/2014). Between 31 July and 4 August, Liberia reported 125 new cases with 55 deaths, indicating that active transmission continues in the community (WHO, 06/08/2014).
At least five major hospitals and health centres in Monrovia reported a decline in manpower. In addition, health workers have been faced with a lack of training and lack of knowledge. The Health Minister of Preventive Services is working to return to full service (UN, 15/07/2014). In Lofa county, health workers threatened to stop working if risk benefit was not given (Ministry of Health, 28/07/2014). As of 3 August, Monrovia’s understaffed Elwa Hospital has had to turn away Ebola cases this week, due to the withdrawal of some international staff following the infection of two U.S. health workers (Reuters, 03/08/2014).

The current number of treatment centres is not sufficient to cope with actual demand. Laboratory capacity, as well as logistics at the health ministry, needs to be strengthened to better address emergency needs. Logistical capacity, such as means of transportation for health personnel, equipment and needed medications, is extremely limited, especially in Nimba county (WHO, 05/08/2014; Ministry of Health, 28/07/2014).

**Crisis Management**

On 6 August, President Ellen Johnson declared a State of Emergency for a period of 90 days (Government, 06/08/2014).

On 30 July, Liberia announced all schools would be shut down and non-essential government workers placed on 30 days’ leave in a bid to halt the spread of the epidemic. All markets in border areas are closed until further notice (AFP, 30/07/2014).

On 29 July, Liberia closed its borders, with the exception of major entry points and the airport. One commercial airline has suspended all fights from Sierra Leone and Liberia to Nigeria (OCHA, 29/07/2014). The crossings that are still open, together with the International Airport, will intensify screening of travellers (ECHO, 29/07/2014).

The struggle to contain the Ebola epidemic is being complicated by the rising prices of some hygiene items, making them unaffordable for many in the region (AFP, 31/07/2014). The President asked the Ministry of Commerce to guarantee an unaffordable price for all hygiene products (International Media, 30/07/2014).

**Tensions**

In Liberia, security issues continue to be of concern. Community resistance against health workers and treatments remains high (WHO, 06/08/2014).

In Lofa county, there is a high demand for security, as there are threats from unidentified persons to burn the hospital and disrupt burials (Ministry of Health, 28/07/2014).

In Monrovia, as bodies pile up, many have complained that overstretched health workers have been leaving bodies on the streets and in homes for days (AFP, 04/08/2014).

**Regional Overview**

As of 4 August, the total cumulative number of cases reported in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone was 1,711, including 932 deaths (WHO, 06/08/2014). Ebola patients have been identified in more than 60 separate locations across the four countries, complicating efforts to treat patients and curb the outbreak (MSF, 25/06/2014). On 26 July, the Director General for WHO declared a Level 3 Emergency, the highest crisis category, to garner the requisite resources to tackle the epidemic (OCHA, 07/2014).

The Ministers of Health of 11 countries and partners involved in the outbreak response agreed on 3 July on an inter-country accelerated response to contain the epidemic. This will include enhanced cross-border cooperation and a regional coordination centre based in Conakry, Guinea (WHO, 07/07/2014).

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.

**Sierra Leone Epidemic**

**Latest Developments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 August</td>
<td>691 cases, including 286 deaths, have been reported in Sierra Leone, mostly in Kailahun, Kambia, Port Loko, Kenema, and Western urban and rural districts. The total cumulative number of cases reported in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria was 1,711, including 932 deaths (WHO).</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 August</td>
<td>West African Ebola-hit nations agreed to impose a cross-border isolation zone at the epicentre of the outbreak, amid warnings that the deadly epidemic is spiralling out of control (AFP).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 July</td>
<td>Sierra Leone’s president announced a national health emergency and troops were deployed to guard quarantined Ebola patients (UNICEF).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Concerns**

- Since March 2014, more than 1,711 Ebola cases, including 932 deaths have been reported in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria (WHO, 06/08/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

**Ebola**
On 30 July, Sierra Leone’s president announced a national health emergency and troops were deployed to guard quarantined Ebola patients. A Presidential Task Force has been established to lead the response (UNICEF, 03/08/2014).

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa has been declared a Grade 3 Emergency under WHO’s Emergency Response Framework (ECHO, 29/07/2014).

Sierra Leone is reporting the largest number of cases. As of 4 August, 691 cases, including 286 deaths, have been reported in Sierra Leone, mostly in Kailahun, Kambia, Port Loko, Kenema, and Western urban and rural districts. Between 2 and 4 August, five new cases were reported. As of 4 August July, the total cumulative number of cases reported in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria was 1,711, including 932 deaths (WHO, 04/08/2014).

On 1 August, West African Ebola-hit nations agreed to impose a cross-border isolation zone at the epicentre of the outbreak, amid warnings that the deadly epidemic is spiralling out of control. The announcement came at an emergency summit in Guinea’s capital Conakry (AFP).

A shortage of trained health workers who can treat Ebola victims and prevent further spread of the deadly disease is hampering response efforts in the region (IRIN, 31/07/2014). MSF reported that entire villages have still not been visited for case tracing and surveillance as the number of teams on the ground is too limited (OCHA, 07/2014).

An outbreak was declared in Sierra Leone in late May. In June, Sierra Leone closed its borders with Guinea and Liberia, closed schools, cinemas, and nightclubs in border areas. Some commercial airlines also suspended flights from Sierra Leone and Liberia to Nigeria (OCHA, 07/2014).

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: 07/08/2014

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN  CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, LANDSLIDES, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

31 July: Two–three months of humanitarian assistance has been provided to the thousands affected by flooding in the north, but without further assistance later in the year, households will likely move from Stressed to Crisis food insecurity (IPC Phase 3).

31 July: Eight polio cases have been reported so far this year, mostly in conflict-affected areas. The most recent cases was reported on 17 June in Khost province, linked to virus in North Waziristan, Pakistan. Health workers have been vaccinating displaced children, with at least 35,000 children having received vaccination before entering Paktika or Khost provinces (Global Polio Eradication Initiative).

KEY CONCERNS

- More Afghans have been killed through natural disasters since the beginning of May than in all of 2013 (UN Humanitarian Coordinator, 05/2014).
- 4,853 civilian casualties in the first half of 2014, 24% higher than the same period in 2013. Ground combat is now causing more deaths and injuries than improvised explosive devices (AFP, 12/07/2014).
- Pakistani refugees and Afghan refugees in Khost and Paktika province in Afghanistan are in immediate need of food, WASH, shelter, and non-food items (OCHA, 29/06/2014).
- 5 million Afghans in Pakistan and Iran; 659,960 IDPs; 113,000 displaced in 2013 (UNHCR, OCHA, 02/2014).
- 1.7 million people in need of protection; 2.5 million are classified as severely food insecure. The conflict has caused widespread disruption to health services (OCHA).

OVERVIEW

Both disasters and armed conflict have prompted humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Assistance needs include food, healthcare, and protection.

The Afghan Government faces both internal and external challenges to its capacity and legitimacy, and the outcome of 2014’s presidential transition will have implications for internal cohesion. The security environment remains highly volatile, with further destabilisation expected. The continued presence of international military personnel is seen as vital for the stability of Afghanistan.

Political Context
International Presence

The waning NATO military presence in Afghanistan is shifting the role of the international community to a more political and developmental one.

Regional Dimension

Afghanistan has close cultural, religious, and economic ties to its neighbours, and its internal stability is therefore of significant regional interest.

Pakistan: Tensions with Pakistan, in particular its relationship with the Afghan Taliban, negatively affect Afghan security and development. Pakistan is concerned about a security vacuum developing along the Afghanistan–Pakistan border following US withdrawal.

India: In 2013, Afghan President Karzai requested greater defence and security cooperation with India, which is now the fifth largest development donor in Afghanistan. So far, however, deploying troops and supplying heavy equipment is too much of a threat to India’s strained relations with Pakistan.

National Political Context

Presidential Election

Former World Bank economist Ashraf Ghani won Afghanistan’s presidential election, according to preliminary results on 7 July. The figures showed Ghani won 56.4% of the run-off vote against ex-foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah’s 43.5%.

However, the results are disputed. Over 200 professional international observers and UN experts will play a key role in scrutinising the audit, which resumed on 2 August (UN, 01/08/2014). The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) had suspended the audit after the two candidates failed to reach an agreement on the procedure for invalidating votes (AFP, 26/07/2014). The audit began on 16 July.

Turnout was more than eight million out of an estimated electorate of 13.5 million, far higher than expected, and likely to fuel fierce arguments about fraud. Thousands of protesters marched on the presidential palace in support of candidate Abdullah Abdullah’s allegations of fraud at the end of June (Reuters, 27/06/2014).

Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai is of Pashtun descent and has chosen the Uzbek ex-warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum as running mate. Abdullah Abdullah, of Tajik descent, ran against Karzai in 2009, and was Karzai’s foreign minister until 2006.

Peace Talks with the Taliban

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. Civilian casualties soared by 24% to 4,853 in the first half of 2014 compared to the same period in 2013. Ground combat is now causing more deaths and injuries than improvised explosive devices (AFP, 12/07/2014).

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). In 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

On 25 July, in Ghor province in western Afghanistan, unidentified armed men killed at least
15 people belonging to the Shiite Muslim Hazara minority (UNAMA, 26/07/2014; WSJ, 25/07/2014).

On 24 July, a suicide bomber killed six civilians and wounded more than 20 in a crowded market in Khwaja Ghar district, Takhar province, northern Afghanistan (AFP, 24/07/2014).

The Taliban carried out an attack on Kabul airport on 17 July: four assailants were killed by security forces or blew themselves up (AFP, 17/07/2014).

At least 89 people died when a suicide bomber attacked a busy market in Urgun district, Paktika province, near the border with Pakistan on 15 July (AFP, 15/07/2014). The Taliban denied involvement in the attack, having ordered militiants not to target civilians (Reuters, 15/07/2014). The incident is the worst single attack so far this year.

A roadside bomb killed eight civilians in a vehicle in Panjwayi district, Kandahar. There was no claim of responsibility, however, roadside bombs are commonly used by the Taliban (AFP, 12/07/2014).

A Taliban suicide bomber killed 16 people, including ten civilians and four NATO soldiers, in an attack in Parwan province, east of Kabul. The attack also seriously injured six children (AFP, 08/07/2014; UNAMA, 08/07/2014).

In June, armed clashes between 800 Taliban and Afghan forces took place in Sangin, Musa Qala, Naw Zad and Kajaki districts of Helmand province (UNAMA). 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).

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. Presidential front-runner Abdullah escaped an assassination attempt in which six people were killed.

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).

Two female Finnish aid workers were shot dead by unidentified gunmen while travelling by taxi in Herat city on 24 July (AFP, 24/07/2014).

Displacement

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

Many Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan due to ongoing military operations in Pakistan’s North Waziristan. Their provinces of origin are mainly Paktika (35%), Khost (20%), Paktiya (11%) and Baghlan (7%) (IOM, 15/07/2014).

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.

Refugees in Afghanistan

As of 23 July, over 116,000 Pakistani refugees – or 15,195 families – have been registered in Khost and Paktika provinces, having fled military operations in North Waziristan (IOM, 24/07/2014; UNHCR, 23/07/2014). At 20 July, 48 families in Urgun and Sarobi, Paktika province, required NFIs, food, and WASH and shelter support. 290 families in Nadirshahkot, Mandozayi, Tani, Gurbuz, and Khost (Matun) in Khost province, need NFIs, food, WASH, and shelter support (IOM, 20/07/2014).

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.

Disasters

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 7,000 affected and 5,000 displaced by the landslide in Argo, Badakhshan province, where investigations are ongoing and the exact death toll has not been verified (OCHA, 12/06/2014; IOM, 22/05/2014). More Afghans have been killed through natural disasters since May than in all of 2013 (UN Humanitarian Coordinator).

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.

People affected by flooding in the northern provinces have received assistance for two–three months, but without further assistance later in the year, households will likely move from Stressed to Crisis food insecurity (IPC Phase 3).

Some groups continue to face high level of food insecurity, particularly IDPs displaced by the conflict, returnees from Pakistan, and households affected by natural disaster. Resources of host communities are limited (FAO, 03/07/2014; UNHCR, 03/07/2014). However, the above-average harvest will allow many households to stock sufficient grain for winter and the lean season in 2015. The vast majority of households are able to maintain food purchases and essential non-food expenditures. Most areas are likely to remain in Minimal food insecurity conditions (IPC Phase 1) through at least December (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

Steady spring rainfall is likely to result in a larger grain harvest than in either of the previous two years. Some households are nonetheless currently acutely food insecure, including the newly displaced, flood-affected households, and households who lost orchard crops to frost (FEWSNET, 30-06-2014).

The average wheat price increased by 21.7% compared to the last year, and is 36.3% higher than the previous five-year average price, i.e. May 2009–2013 (FAO, 30/06/2014; WFP, 13/06/2014). Wheat is the staple food for most Afghans, and Afghanistan remains dependent on wheat imports. Continuous currency depreciation fuels price rises (WFP, 31/07/2014). Compared to last year, bread and cereal prices have increased 7%; vegetable prices have increased 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).

Health and Nutrition

While most Afghans now have access to basic public healthcare, the quality is so low that many patients seek private services at a higher cost than they can afford (MSF quoted in IRIN, 02/07/2014). The number of people in need of access to health services has increased from 3.3 to 5.4 million (OCHA).

Nine health facilities and four other facilities located in active fighting areas in Helmand remain completely blocked due to ongoing hostilities (WHO, 24/07/2014).

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.

Diarrhoeal Disease

The rise of diarrhoea cases registered by the health clinic in Gulan refugee camp, Khost province, indicates that access to safe water is a concern (UNHCR, 21/07/2014).

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).

Measles

Gulan refugee camp, Khost province, has recorded a measles outbreak, with 18 mild cases without complications or deaths (WHO, 24/07/2014).

Polio

In 2014, eight polio cases have been reported, mostly in conflict-affected areas. The most recent cases was reported on 17 June in Khost province, linked to the virus in North Waziristan, Pakistan. Health workers have been vaccinating displaced children in Afghanistan, with at least 35,000 children having received vaccination before entering Paktika or Khost provinces (Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 31/07/2014).

Extensive cross-border movement is one of the major challenges and cause for the spread of the polio virus. 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. Afghan and Pakistani authorities agreed in July to cooperate in an anti-polio campaign in the border areas of both countries (DAWN, UNICEF, 12/07/2014).

Afghanistan is on track to stop endemic transmission before the end of 2014 (Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 11/06/2014).

Protection
For the Pakistani refugees and Afghan returnees in Khost province, there are a number of growing protection concerns. Access to women and girls in Gulan camp remains a challenge (UNHCR, 23/07/2014). The presence of landmines is of concern.

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. On 1 August, the Government confirmed its commitment to end and prevent recruitment of children in the Afghan National Security Forces, with the endorsement of the 2011 Road Map Towards Compliance (UN, 01/08/2014).

The Taliban has been listed for attacks on schools and hospitals (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 02/06/2014).

Updated: 05/08/2014

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES COMPLEX, CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

11 August: 1,960 people have been reported killed since the start of Operation Protective Edge on 7 July, including 1,395 civilians, of whom 485 are children and 237 are women. 9,986 people have been wounded, including 3,009 children and 359 elderly (OCHA).

11 August: 1.8 million, or the total population of Gaza, have been affected by the conflict and are in need of food and other assistance to recover. At least 100,000 people whose homes were destroyed or damaged need food and other assistance on a long term basis; and humanitarian access to allow for provision of this assistance needs to be maintained. At least 237,000 IDPs are hosted in 90 UNRWA schools and another 39,000 IDPs in 23 government and private schools and public facilities. Another 110,000 IDPs are reported to reside with host families, yet, the actual number is believed to be higher. 16,735 housing units have been destroyed or severely damaged during hostilities, rendering approximately 100,401 people homeless (OCHA).

5 August: 90% of wells, waste water treatment plants and desalination plants cannot operate due to power cuts and lack of fuel. Due to aquifer depletion, municipal water pumped from wells and distributed through the network is saline and not potable. Over 90% of the water from the coastal aquifer is unfit for human consumption (EWASH).

4 August: 34 people have been killed and 3,706 injured by Israeli forces in the West Bank in 2014. There have been 210 incidents of settler-related violence, of which 65 resulted in Israeli casualties or property damage. The demolition of 318 structures, including 41 in East Jerusalem, has displaced 558 people this year, including 101 in East Jerusalem (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.81 million people need humanitarian assistance (OCHA).
- 1.6 million people, or 61% of the population, are estimated to be food insecure (OCHA, 30/04/2014).
- 1.5 million people in the Gaza Strip have no or extremely restricted access to water (OCHA, 03/08/2014).
- An estimated 315,000 Palestinians are vulnerable to violence, including 130,000 people considered at high risk (OCHA).
- Continuity of medical care is threatened by the financial crisis and electricity shortages in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (OCHA, 31/05/2014). In the West Bank, stocks of 150 (of 525) essential medicines were at zero in May 2014.
- The Gaza Strip is experiencing a healthcare crisis; the main government pharmacy reported zero stocks of 118 (of 481) essential medicines prior to current humanitarian emergency (OCHA, 05/2014; Humanitarian Partners, 07/2014).
- The ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip limits access and movement of both people and goods.

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

Israel launched Operation Protective Edge on 8 July, striking Gaza with intensive aerial
bombing, aimed at ending cross-border rocket fire. The UN Security Council called for a ceasefire and protection of civilians on 12 July. On 9 August, Israel and Palestinian negotiators agreed on a new 72-hour truce (AFP, 09/08/2014). In Cairo, indirect talks continue with no progress reported yet (AFP, 12/08/2014).

The new Palestinian Unity Government was sworn in before President Abbas on 2 June, ending seven years of division between Fatah and Hamas (AFP, UN, 02/06/2014). In response, Israel unveiled plans for 3,200 settler homes (AFP, 05/06/2014).

**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 had 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 began in July 2013 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).

**Operation Protective Edge, Gaza**

1,960 people have been reported killed since the start of Operation Protective Edge on 7 July, including 1,395 civilians, of whom 485 are children and 237 are women. 9,986 people have been wounded, including 3,009 children and 359 elderly (OCHA, 11/08/2014).

Up to 30 July, at least 76 families have lost three or more family members in the same incident (OCHA, 03/08/2014). Over 485,000 people have been displaced, almost a third of the population of the Gaza Strip.

On the Israeli side, 67 soldiers, two civilians and a foreign national have been killed (OCHA, 03/08/2014).

On 6 August, a 72-hour humanitarian truce began, as Israel completed the withdrawal of all troops to defensive positions outside the Gaza Strip (AFP, 05/08/2014). The truce was a first step towards negotiations on a durable ceasefire (Reuters, 06/08/2014). Following mediation efforts by the Egyptian government, on 9 August, a new 72-hour truce was agreed upon (AFP, 09/08/2014). In-between the ceasefire, hostilities and damage to property across the Gaza Strip continued, causing several deaths, including children (UNRWA, 10/08/2014).

**Earlier Conflict Incidents**

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. In June, a series of Israeli airstrikes were launched on Gaza, and rockets fired at Israel.

**West Bank**

As of 4 August, 34 people have been killed and 3,706 injured by Israeli forces in the West Bank in 2014. There have been 210 incidents of settler-related violence, of which 65 resulted in Israeli casualties or property damage. The demolition of 318 structures, including 41 in East Jerusalem, has displaced 558 people this year, including 101 in East Jerusalem (OCHA, 04/08/2014). An upward trend in clashes and casualties throughout the West Bank has been ongoing since the end of April (OCHA, 26/07/2014).

Since the beginning of the Gaza offensive, 15 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank, and 1,848 were injured. In the past two weeks only, 13 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces. This is the largest number of fatalities recorded in such a period in the West Bank since May 2006. Another 1,137 were injured, including 127 children. The use of live ammunition used by Israeli forces continues to rise, accounting for at least 45% of all injuries in the past two weeks. Other injuries have been caused by (metal-coated) rubber bullets or tear gas inhalation (OCHA, 04/08/2014).

In incidents related to settler-violence, one Palestinian has been killed and 13 others injured, alongside damage to agricultural property (OCHA, 04/08/2014).

On 9 August, a 22-year old Palestinian, wounded by the Israeli army during protests in Hebron, died from his injuries. Another man was hit by bullets and dozens of other demonstrators when injured, when 2,000 protesters took their grievances on the Israeli offensive in Gaza to the streets (AFP).

On 4 August, one Israeli was killed and five injured when a Palestinian rammed a bulldozer into a bus before being shot dead by the police. Shortly afterwards, an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldier was seriously wounded in a drive-by shooting in a nearby neighbourhood. Police activities have led to clashes in several neighbourhoods across East Jerusalem (AFP, 05/08/2014).
In East Jerusalem, Palestinians under age 50 have been forbidden from entering Al Aqsa compound, resulting in clashes that led to at least 40 Palestinians injured (DCI, 27/07/2014). Tight restrictions on access to East Jerusalem continue (OCHA, 21/07/2014).

On 30 June, the bodies of three abducted Israeli boys were found close to Hebron. The Israeli cabinet vowed to retaliate against Hamas, which denied any involvement. Four Palestinians were killed, over 70 injured and over 400 arrested during Israeli security operations (OCHA, 16/06/2014).

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.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Access**

Cargo bottlenecks are causing delays at Beituniya and Tarqumia crossings, and prioritisation procedures at these crossings are unpredictable, hence impeding operations (OCHA, 11/08/2014).

UNRWA reported nine of its staff members have been killed since 20 July (UNRWA, 03/08/2014). Also, 12 Palestinian journalists and one media worker have been killed since 8 July, seven of them in connection with their work (RsF, 05/08/2014).

**Crossings**

Rafah Crossing: the crossing has been open, with a limited amount of dual nationals and foreign residency card holders exiting Gaza, including three injured individuals (OCHA, 11/08/2014). 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: Open as per its regular operating hours. 34 truckloads with food and medicine entered on 10 August, and on the same day, the crossing was closed for a short period of time due to a security incident. The increasing needs and deteriorating situation force the humanitarian community to augment its pipelines, increasing pressure on KS crossing (OCHA, 11/08/2014).

Erez Crossing: The crossing is open from 0900 to 1300 for pre-coordinated movement only (OCHA, 03/08/2014).

Beit Hanoun (Arba-Arba) crossing: Operations at this crossing have been reactivated (OCHA, 11/08/2014).

**Critical Infrastructure**

Critical infrastructure has been targeted directly during the military offensive. Gaza’s sole power plant remains inoperable following it having been directly targeted in an Israeli airstrike on 29 July (11/08/2014). Repairs have been carried out on three high tension lines transferring electricity supply from Israel. The following increase in electricity supply purchased from Israel may reduce outages to 12 hours a day in the southern area, Khan Yunis and Gaza City. Areas that sustained severe damage to the internal electricity grid, namely Gaza City, Beit Hanoun, Khuza’a and east of Rafah, continue to have very limited access to electricity. Together with limited supply from three lines from Egypt feeding the Rafah area, 30% of the estimated demand of the Gaza Strip is now covered (OCHA, 11/08/2014; Gisha, 07/08/2014).

141 schools (90 UNRWA and 51 government schools) designated as emergency shelters have been affected by shelling due to their close proximity to targeted sites (OCHA, 03/08/2014).

**Displacement**

As of 11 August, at least 237,000 IDPs are hosted in 90 UNRWA schools and another 39,000 IDPs in 23 government and private schools and public facilities. Another 110,000 IDPS are reported to reside with host families, yet, the actual number is believed to be higher (OCHA, 11/08/2014).

In January, 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**

1.8 million, or the total population of Gaza, have been affected by the conflict and are in need of food and other assistance to recover. At least 100,000 people whose homes were destroyed or damaged need food and other assistance on a long term basis; and humanitarian access to allow for provision of this assistance needs to be maintained. Yet, delays at crossings are complicating food delivery and have resulted in waste of much needed food (OCHA, 11/08/2014).

In addition, electricity shortages have impacted bread production capacity, as well as commercial activities, and the ability to refrigerate food items (OCHA, 11/08/2014).

Supply chains in Gaza are stretched, and the price of some food items has gone up, including fresh fruit, vegetables and eggs, among else due to the large damage
The inaccessibility of agricultural lands has resulted in fewer fresh crops (OCHA, 03/08/2014). Food shortages are reported at markets in some areas, along with sharp price increases in vegetables and dairy products (Food Security Cluster, 02/08/2014).

4,000 herders need fodder (OCHA, 11/08/2014). Farmers’, breeders’ and fishermen’s livelihoods are heavily compromised (FAO/WFP, 20/07/2014). 36 fishing boats have been damaged or destroyed; 3,600 fishermen do not have access to the sea; 3,000 herders have problems in feeding their animals; 123 hectares (1,230 dunum) of agricultural land have been damaged; 5.8 hectares (58 dunums) of greenhouses have been destroyed; 17 livestock farms have been damaged (FAO/WFP, 24/07/2014).

Prior to the current crisis, food insecurity in Gaza stood at 57%, unchanged from 2012, while in the West Bank food insecurity remained at 19%. 1.6 million – or a third of households – are food insecure. 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.

Fishing catch during the sardine season in the Gaza Strip increased by 27% compared to 2013 and 120% compared to 2012 (OCHA, 31/05/2014).

Livelihoods

Seasonally adjusted prices of imported rice and oil are higher by 17% and 25%, respectively. Gaza and West Bank markets are in crisis phase for rice. Despite high prices for rice, oPt had negative rates of headline inflation and food inflation (WFP, 31/07/2014).

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 public health system is on the verge of collapse, with the number of casualties growing. Facilities are overwhelmed and critical supplies of medicines and disposables are almost depleted. Hospitals and clinics have reported damage due to hostilities. The destruction of power supplies has left hospitals dependent on unreliable back-up generators (OCHA, 03/08/2014).

Al Aqsa hospital was again attacked on 30 July, causing major damage to the female medical department and injuring a nurse. An attack on 21 July had already left it working at just 50% of its capacity. The Gaza European Hospital reported that its water supplies have stopped; water trucking can only supply 50% of its needs (OCHA, 03/08/2014).

On 29 July, 22 hospitals, clinics and medical centres had been damaged, including Al Aqsa Hospital, the main casualty hospital (OCHA, 29/07/2014). On 27 July, only 13 out of 21 UNRWA health centres were open.

The military incursion is restricting access to healthcare for wounded and for patients with acute and chronic illness. Access to maternity care is restricted for an estimated 45,000 pregnant women, of whom approximately 5,000 have been displaced (OCHA, 29/07/2014).

Prior to the current crisis, continuity of medical care was threatened by the financial crisis and electricity shortages in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Stocks of 150 (of 525) essential medicines were at zero in May 2014; in the Gaza Strip the main government pharmacy reported stocks of 118 (of 481) essential medicines were at zero (OCHA, 31/05/2014). In addition, there have been shortages of affordable fuel to operate generators, which have severely disrupted critical hospital functions, such as emergency rooms, operating theatres, and neonatal care, affecting all health facilities. Also, there have been continuing problems of access through Rafah crossing to Egypt resulting in a lack of drugs, especially for chemotherapy, and a lack of medical disposables (WHO, 30/04/2014).

Child Health

373,000 children in the Gaza Strip are in need of direct and specialised psychosocial support (OCHA, 03/08/2014). The number of social workers and counsellors is insufficient to meet the needs; and organisations continue to face fuel and electricity shortages (OCHA, 11/08/2014).

Lice, scabies and diarrhoea have been reported mostly amongst children and in shelters (EWASH, 05/08/2014). An increase has been reported despite improved personal hygiene and showers installed in shelters (OCHA, 03/08/2014).

WASH

An estimated 182,000 displaced moving between shelters and home have restricted access to water.

90% of wells, waste water treatment plants and desalination plants cannot operate due to power cuts and lack of fuel. Due to aquifer depletion, municipal water pumped from wells and distributed through the network is saline and not potable. The population in Gaza depends on desalination plants to access potable water. Over 90% of the water from the coastal aquifer is unfit for human consumption (EWASH, 05/08/2014).

Provision of fuel is needed to operate critical WASH facilities until the electricity grid has been repaired and its functioning resumed. Water and waste water lines are in need of urgent repair as well (OCHA, 11/08/2014).

Of 225 water wells, approximately 50 were damaged and another 50 are not operational.
Only 30 of the remaining 125 are functioning, due to a lack of electricity (Gisha, 04/08/2014; OCHA, 03/08/2014).

The desalination plant in Deir El Balah sustained damage during airstrikes and continues to be non-operational. Solid waste collection in Gaza is affected by lack of access (OCHA, 03/08/2014).

90 million litres of untreated sewage flow into the Mediterranean per day due to entry restrictions of building material and fuel (EWASH, 05/08/2014).

Protection

Between 23 and 25 July, Israeli forces in Khuza’a, southern Gaza, fired on, and killed civilians ordered to leave the area. In addition, repeated shelling took place of civilian structures (Human Rights Watch, 04/08/2014).

Children continue to bear the brunt of the crisis, with 373 killed and at least 2,744 injured. Meanwhile, displaced children and families hosted by community members remain largely unreached by child protection interventions (OCHA, 03/08/2014).

There is a major concern regarding the risk of unexploded ordnance (UXO), especially to children (OCHA, 21/07/2014).

Human rights organisations estimated that since the start of Operation Protective Edge, over 180 homes were targeted and destroyed. Targeting of civilian homes is a violation of international humanitarian law; and in case of doubt, homes are not presumed to be legitimate military targets (OCHA, 14/07/2014).

The OHCHR has voiced concern regarding the worsening health of the Palestinian hunger strikers protesting administrative detention (UN, 20/06/2014).

Shelter

16,735 housing units have been destroyed or severely damaged during hostilities, rendering approximately 100,401 people homeless. 7,900 of these units are uninhabitable until major repairs can take place. An additional 5,600 housing units have suffered major damage but are in part still inhabitable. Another 33,485 houses have suffered minor damage and shelter NFI’s are needed for repair. Emergency shelter kits are needed for 10,412 displaced families (OCHA, 11/08/2014).

Education

The start of the new school year will be delayed due to 25 schools having been destroyed or severely damaged since the start of the emergency (OCHA, 11/08/2014). In total, 203 schools have been damaged by shelling, including 140 government schools and 90 UNRWA schools. Several buildings of the Islamic University in Gaza City sustained severe damage. All are in need of repair or reconstruction (Ministry of Education quoted by OCHA, 11/08/2014).

Updated: 12/08/2014

SYRIA CIVIL WAR

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

8 August: Damascus is coming under daily mortar and rocket fire from opposition forces. Opposition chief Abdel Rahman al-Shami said the mortar rounds, launched from Eastern Ghouta, are in answer to “an escalation of bombardments” by government forces against opposition strongholds.

7 August: The Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons stated that 74.2% of Syria’s entire stockpile of chemicals has now been destroyed.

6 August: At least 16 people, including two children, were killed when opposition forces shelled more than a dozen areas of Damascus districts. Another 79 people were wounded in the bombardment, several of whom were in serious condition, and the death toll was expected to rise.

KEY CONCERNS

- 171,509 deaths were documented between 18 March 2011 and 8 July 2014. Among the dead were 56,495 civilians, including 9,092 children (Syrian Observatory for Human Rights). At least 200–300 people are dying in Syria every day.

- 10.8 million Syrians are in urgent need of humanitarian aid.

- 11 million Syrians have been displaced, including 6.5 million IDPs; 688,000 have been displaced by violence between April and June (SNAP 03/07/2014).

- 6.5 million Syrian children (within and outside Syria) need immediate humanitarian assistance, over two million more than one year ago (UNICEF 05/07/2014).

- 2,951,423 Syrians are registered or waiting to register as refugees outside Syria as of 12 August. Lebanon: 1,147,500; Turkey: 814,000; Jordan: 609,500; Iraq: 218,000; Egypt: 138,500. Children make up 51.3% of the refugee population.

- 4.7 million people live in difficult-to-reach areas. Approximately 241,000 are living under siege. At least 325,000 children under five live in areas not accessible to humanitarian aid (UNICEF 05/2014).

- Expected wheat production for 2014 is 1.97 million metric tonnes, 52% below the average for 2001–2011. The total area planted with wheat in Syria is estimated to have declined by about 15% compared with recent years (FAO).

OVERVIEW

Conflict across the country has caused large-scale displacement and disintegration of
infrastructure, leaving millions in need of food, health, shelter and WASH assistance amid a dynamic conflict in which aid provision is highly problematic.

The conflict in Syria has been ongoing since March 2011; violence began after demonstrations demanding the departure of President Bashar al Assad.

Political Context

Bashar al Assad 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 stated the turnout was 73.4%, or 11.6 million people of the 15.8 million called on to vote.

On 22 July, opposition government chief Ahmad Tohme was sacked, reportedly due to rivalry between the group’s Saudi and Qatari-backed factions.

Security Context

Heavy fighting between government forces and opposition groups has continued across large swathes of the country, including Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Idlib and Hama. In Ar-Raqq, Al Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor, fierce fighting rages between various opposition groups.

171,509 deaths have been documented by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights between 18 March 2011 and 8 July 2014. Among the dead were 55,495 civilians, including 9,092 children. Another 65,803 were government troops and pro-government armed fighters, while 46,301 were opposition fighters. The opposition fighters’ toll includes 15,422 non-Syrians who joined the conflict.

Regional Dynamics

On 15 July, Israeli warplanes struck three administrative and military targets in Syria’s Golan Heights, killing two security guards and two women. Rockets hit Syrian military airbase Base 90, and the government-held city of Baath. The air raids came after the Israeli army said a rocket fired from Syria hit the Israeli-occupied sector of the Golan Heights, falling on open ground and causing no casualties.

On 30 June, Islamic State (IS; formerly the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant) 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 has transferred some of its pillaged weapons to Syria.

Main Conflict Incidents

Damascus is coming under daily mortar and rocket fire from opposition forces. Opposition chief Abdel Rahman al-Shami said the mortar rounds, launched from Eastern Ghouta, are in answer to “an escalation of bombardments” by government forces against opposition strongholds.

Opposition forces have made gains in Hama governorate, taking over a major checkpoint at Tarabih, north of Hama city on 28 July, and cutting off the road linking Hama city to a string of Christian and Alawite villages in the west of the governorate.

On 24 July, IS fighters launched multiple attacks on army positions across northern and northeastern Syria, with coordinated offensives near the city of Aleppo, in Al Hasakeh governorate and in Ar-Raqq, around their Euphrates valley stronghold. They seized the Syrian government army base of Division 17 in Ar-Raqq. In Al Hasakeh city, four suicide bombers attacked the local Baath headquarters. Thirty government troops and paramilitaries were killed in an ambush in Aleppo governorate.

Government forces retook the Shaar gas field in Homs in late July; it had fallen to IS on 17 July.

On 22 July, opposition-held eastern Damascus was hit by its fiercest fighting in months at the entrance to the district of Jobar. Jobar is under the control of opposition fighters, but surrounded by army-held areas that lead to the capital.

Chemical Weapons

On 23 June, the last chemical weapons materials were removed from Syria. With the exception of 12 production facilities, all of the declared Syrian chemical weapons programme has been eliminated. On 24 July, Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü announced that all 1,300 metric tonnes of chemicals removed from Syria by the international maritime operation have been delivered to destruction facilities outside the country. On 7 August, he stated that 74.2% of Syria’s entire stockpile of chemicals has now been destroyed.

On 13 May, Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported strong evidence to suggest that Syrian government helicopters dropped chlorine gas on Kfar Zeita in Hama, and Al Temanaa and Telmans in Idlib over 11–21 April. On 11 April, both Syrian state television and opposition sources reported a suspected chlorine gas attack in Kfar Zeita. OPCW has found information that lends credence to the view that toxic chemicals – most likely pulmonary irritating agents, such as chlorine – have been used in Syria (OPCW, 17/06/2014). Both the Government and the opposition deny having used chemical weapons and have accused each other.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

The total number of people in need of humanitarian aid in Syria has increased to 10.8 million, up from a December 2013 estimate of 9.3 million (OCHA).

Access

4.7 million people in need are estimated to be in areas that are hard to reach. This includes at least 241,000 people in locations that are besieged by either government or opposition forces (UN Security Council 31/07/2014).

Assistance over 18 June–21 July reached only 49 (or 17%) of the 287 locations identified as besieged or hard to reach. The number of people who were reached in hard-to-reach locations dropped since the last reporting period (UN Security Council 31/07/2014).
In July, WFP food assistance reached a total of 3.7 million people, an increase on the 3.4 million reached in June. More than 300,000 people in besieged and hard-to-reach areas received WFP food through cross-line convoys in July – double the number of people reached using cross-line convoys in June (WFP 06/08/2014).

Administrative Constraints

According to the UN, since Assad’s re-election on 4 June, 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 Peshkapour into the Kurdish region of Iraq on 10 April.

Security for Humanitarian Staff

59 humanitarian workers have been killed since March 2011: 14 UN staff, 37 SARC staff and volunteers, seven Palestine Red Crescent Society volunteers and staff, and one INGO staff member (UN Security Council 31/07/2014). 27 UNRWA staff are detained or presumed missing and one UNDP staff is in detention.

526 medical personnel have been recorded killed since December 2012, 43% of whom were specifically targeted. Damascus governorate has the highest number of medical personnel killed, with 93 deaths. Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) has documented a total of 175 attacks on 143 medical facilities. Government forces committed 157 (approximately 90%) of these attacks. Aleppo governorate has experienced the greatest number of attacks, with 45 in total (Physicians for Human Rights 23/07/2014).

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.

Al Hasakeh: WFP has resumed emergency airlifts to bolster food assistance to cut-off populations in Al Hasakeh, one of the hardest governorates to reach. WFP has resorted to airlifting food here just twice before, in December 2013 and February 2014. Food deliveries have been severely disrupted since July 2013, and only limited assistance has made it to the governorate (WFP 28/07/2014). None of WFP’s planned allocation reached the governorate in June (WFP 14/07/2014).

Ar-Raqqa: As of 23 July, WFP was unable to reach Ar-Raqqa owing to insecure roads, which have prevented access since June (WFP 28/07/2014).

Dar’a: 635,000 of Dara’s population of 1.26 million (host and IDPs) are in need of humanitarian assistance, but violence has hampered access to some places since mid-May. On 20 July, WHO was able to make its second delivery to Dar’a in 2014 (WHO 20/07/2014).

Daraya: 10km southwest of Damascus, Daraya has been under government siege since November 2012, and last received humanitarian assistance in October 2012 (UN Security Council 28/05/2014). No food or medical aid is permitted to enter Daraya. Inhabitants seem to be surviving on supplies, and food grown within Daraya. (Amnesty International 06/2014). An estimated 4,000 people fled Daraya for nearby Moadamiya in July as hostilities increased (UN Security Council 31/07/2014).

Deir-ez-Zor: Deir ez-Zor city has been under siege since 15 June. The main access road to the city – Al Syasia bridge – has been cut off, and the water crossing between Deir-ez-Zor and the village of Hatlah has also been closed. More than 60,000 residents remain in eastern Deir-ez-Zor city, where the humanitarian situation is not known (REACH 18/07/2014). Heavy fighting prevented WFP from delivering critical food supplies to almost 300,000 planned beneficiaries in June. Deir-ez-Zor has not received adequate levels of assistance since late 2013 (WFP 14/07/2014).

Eastern Ghouta: An estimated 150,000 people, overwhelmingly civilians, are under government siege, most since November 2012. The entry of food supplies is blocked. There is a severe shortage of medicine and medical equipment (Amnesty International 06/2014).

Idleb: Active conflict continues to hinder humanitarian access to the 500,000 IDPs and 500,000 others in need. The only mechanism for aid delivery is unaccompanied cross-line missions (UNICEF 27/05/2014).

Moadamiya: After intense negotiations, with 20 requests submitted for access to the area since March 2013, an inter-agency team was able to access the town with supplies on 14 July. No medical supplies, including primary health-care kits for children, were allowed on the convoy. However, two mobile clinics of SARC accessed the area and provided medical services and 1,000 doses of vaccines. The population has grown from 20,000 to 24,000 as people fled violence in nearby Daraya (UN Security Council 31/07/2014).

Yarmouk: UNRWA distributed hygiene kits in Yarmouk on 6 August. This was the second consecutive day of distribution, following a break of eight days between 28 July and 4 August. The distribution was halted when gunfire struck the staging area and clashes broke out in the vicinity of the distribution area.

Displacement

IDPs

Between 6.5 million and 7.6 million people are estimated to be internally displaced, with the highest concentration in the governorates of Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Homs, Idlib, Tartous, Hama, and Deir-ez-Zor (OCHA 05/2014). Aleppo’s population has doubled to 2.5 million people (UNICEF 06/06/2014). Over half of the displaced are children and some 4.3 million are in desperate need of food, shelter, medicine, and psychosocial support (Save the Children 07/05/2014).

Between April and June, violence displaced approximately 688,000 people, primarily in Deir-ez-Zor and Idlib governorates, with smaller-scale displacements in Aleppo, Al Hasakeh, Dar’a, Lattakia, and Rural Damascus governorates (SNAP 03/07/2014).

Idlib, Lattakia, and Aleppo governorates have gone from 68,994 IDPs organised around
seven IDP camp groups in October 2013, to 128,593 IDPs organised around 10 IDP camp groups in April 2014.

The number of informal settlements in Syria grew from 41 housing 38,320 IDPs in October 2013 to 62 housing 71,120 IDPs in February 2014. Informal settlements tend to be harder to reach and more dispersed than camps, and as of February, populations in informal settlements have received very little assistance. Most IDPs in informal settlements cannot afford fees required to access IDP camps or afford to travel long distances (REACH, 09/07/2014).

Food was identified as the foremost priority by IDPs in both camps and informal settlements, with shelter and water also priorities in informal settlements. There is a huge disparity in health service provision between camps and informal settlements (REACH 09/07/2014).

Aleppo: As of February, eight informal settlements in Aleppo governorate had no onsite water access (REACH 09/07/2014).

Al Hasakeh: Since June, renewed conflict has forced new displacement. The southern rural villages of Al Hol and Tal Hamis have been evacuated to poor neighbourhoods of Al Hasakeh city. Families are squatting in overcrowded, unfinished buildings without running water or electricity. Many are in urgent need of medicine and medical care. Compounding this situation, the crisis in Iraq is triggering a sustained influx of refugees into the governorate, increasing demand for already limited and overstretched resources (WFP 28/07/2014).

As of February, no informal settlements in Al Hasakeh and Idlib governorates had access to the Sphere minimum standard of water. Over 60% of informal settlements (38) and 17% (13) camps had no access to permanent or semi-permanent latrines (REACH 09/07/2014).

Deir-ez-Zor: By early July, an estimated 250,000 people, almost three quarters of the population of Deir-ez-Zor, had been displaced; entire villages in the east are now empty. Over 150,000 have sought sanctuary in Al Mayadeen city and other southern towns, and another 100,000 have fled to neighbouring governorates (WFP 14/07/2014).

Hama: An estimated 20,000 people fled clashes in eastern rural areas between 27 May and 10 June, seeking safety in Hama city as well as Msiaf and Sqilbie villages (WFP 14/06/2014).

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).

Lattakia and Tartous: Over a million IDPs have arrived in Lattakia and Tartous since the beginning of the conflict, swelling the local population by 50%. Tens of thousands have arrived as the conflict in Aleppo has intensified since December 2013. Local resources are severely stretched and the authorities are struggling to cope with the most recent influx (ICRC 11/07/2014).

Refugees in Syria

UNHCR has started the registration of an estimated 3,000 newly arrived Iraqi refugees in Syria (UN Security Council 31/07/2014).

Syrian Returnees

An estimated 1,000 Syrians previously seeking refuge in Iraq have crossed back into Syria. Estimates indicate that hundreds of Syrians are returning to Syria on a daily basis (UN Security Council 31/07/2014).

Palestinians Refugees from Syria

Of approximately 540,000 Palestine refugees registered in Syria, around 270,000 have been displaced inside Syria and over 70,000 to other countries. Seventeen UNRWA installations across Syria house 7,893 internally displaced persons (IDPs), of whom 15% are Syrians, and a further 4,450 Palestinians are sheltered in other UNRWA-managed installations. In Lebanon, 53,070 PRS have been recorded with UNRWA. In Jordan and Gaza, 14,290 and 860 Palestinian refugees from Syria respectively have approached UNRWA for assistance. The Agency also received reports of around 6,000 Palestinian refugees in Egypt and smaller numbers in Libya, Turkey and East Asia. (UNRWA 06/08/2014)

According to a survey, 71% Palestinians in Damascus have been displaced at least once; 45% of refugees are living on day-to-day income and only 10.5% have sufficient financial reserves to last them for the next three months. Traditional coping mechanisms are reaching their limit. Inflation is limiting refugees’ ability to secure basic food items, and many refugees are seeking shelter with host families or in crowded collective shelters, compounding vulnerabilities (OCHA 16/07/2014).

Syrian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 12 August, the total number of Syrians registered or waiting to register as refugees outside Syria stands at 2,951,423. Lebanon: 1,147,500; Turkey: 814,000; Jordan: 609,500; Iraq: 218,000; Egypt: 138,500. Children make up 51.3% of the refugee population.

The expected number of refugees by the end of 2014 has been revised down to 3.59 million from 4.1 million. Revisions are in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon (UNICEF 01/08/2014).

Health and Nutrition

According to the Ministry of Health, by June 2014, out of 97 Ministry of Health hospitals, only 46 were fully functioning, 29 were reported as partially functioning, while 22 were out of service. Five governorates, namely Aleppo, Dar’a, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs and Rural Damascus, reported the highest number of non-functioning public hospitals. The functionality of hospitals continues to be hampered by deterioration of the security context, difficulties in delivering medicines and equipment to opposition-controlled, including besieged, areas, the fluidity of populations and bureaucratic procedures imposed on humanitarian operations (UNFPA 04/08/2014).

At the end of May, 502 medical personnel had been killed since the start of the conflict
Diarrhoeal diseases are one of the main causes of death in children under 12 months old (IFRC 24/07/2014).

Leishmaniasis

Leishmaniasis is particularly common among people living in communal shelters and is now spreading to more areas; the worst cases are being reported from Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and Ra`qa governorates (IFRC 24/07/2014).

Malnutrition

Worsening food security, limited access to water, poor hygiene, sanitation and health services combined have contributed to a declined nutritional status of children under five (WHO 25/07/2014).

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.

Healthcare providers in Aleppo have observed an increase in cases of gender-based violence, including sexual violence. An average of one to two Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) cases per month were reported by different clinics in Aleppo (UNFPA). Damascus and Rural Damascus reported 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. UNFPA’s implementing partners reported that families are relying on females for money, with reports of sex being exchanged for commodities. Living conditions, in addition to a scarcity of female staff in IDP shelters, have contributed to the observed increase in SGBV cases.

Aleppo University Hospital has reported an increasing number of sexually transmitted infection cases and a shortage of family planning and maternal health medicines and supplies. 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.

Measles

2,825 cases of suspected measles were reported through the EWARNS system end of March–14 July. UNICEF and WHO supported a government measles vaccination campaign in June to reach 50% of children (six months–ten years) in high-risk districts, where measles cases are confirmed, routine vaccination is low, and where children are living in IDP shelters (UNICEF 01/08/2014).
Mental Health
Over 50% of the population is estimated to be in need of psychosocial support (WHO 25/07/2014).

Polio
36 polio cases have been reported in Syria since October 2013: 25 in Deir-ez-Zor, five in Aleppo, three in Idleb, two in Al Hasakeh, and one in Hama. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 21 January (Global Polio Eradication Initiative 02/07/2014).

According to a July 2014 WHO/UNICEF report, polio vaccination coverage has dramatically declined from an average of 99% to 52%. Over a two-year period during the conflict, at least 500,000 children did not receive the polio vaccine (WHO/UNICEF 22/07/2014). The first case of polio since 1999 was reported in October 2013 (WHO).

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).

Typhoid
1,056 cases were reported between 1 and 14 June (EWARS).

Hepatitis A
82 cases were reported between 1 and 14 June; 85% were in Deir-ez-Zor, where access to safe drinking water is particularly reduced (EWARS).

Food Security and Livelihoods
An estimated 6.3 million people are in need of food and agriculture assistance. The revised Food and Agriculture Sector response plan targets 5.47 million people for assistance (OCHA 09/08/2014).

Between 14 and 22 July, the UN entered Moadamiya and reported a dire shortage of most basic foodstuffs, including meat, dairy products, and wheat flour. No bakeries were functioning. The prices of available food were highly inflated and beyond the reach of residents with little or no income. Despite a ceasefire in May, commercial supplies to the town continue to be tightly regulated, with only two truckloads of vegetables and bread allowed each day. Moadamiya was being rationed at three pieces of bread per family per day, regardless of family size (WFP 28/07/2014).

Limited winter rain and high summer temperatures have affected agriculture and food security in most governorates.

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). Another 20% were living in abject poverty, unable to meet their basic food needs.

Consumer prices have risen 178% since the start of the conflict: yoghurt, cheese, and eggs are up by 360%, general food items up by 275%, while heating and cooking costs were up by 300% (Syrian Centre for Policy Research 05/2014).

FAO has put wheat production at an expected 1.97 million metric tons for 2014, 52% lower than in 2013 and also 52% below the 2001–2011 average (FAO; ICRC 25/07/2014). The total area planted with wheat in Syria is estimated to have declined by about 15%, and rainfall deficits of 55–85% in some areas from October 2013 to the end of April 2014 have weighed heavily on crop yield projections and conditions.

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.

WASH
Syrian families consume 40% less water than they did pre-crisis. A third of Syria’s water treatment plants no longer function, and treatment of the country’s sewage has halved (WHO/UNICEF 22/07/2014)

An estimated 2.5 million people in Aleppo City continue to be affected by water shortages since the breakdown of the main water network on 2 June. Pumping capacity remains at only 50%. As a result, up to 700,000 people in western Aleppo city and thousands more in eastern Aleppo city are in need of urgent assistance to meet their minimum water needs on a daily basis. Internally displaced persons living in crowded shelters at the edge of the city, and host communities lacking the financial resources to purchase drinking water are among the worst affected. Additionally, many people, including vulnerable children, are relying on unsafe drinking water found in a large number of wells in private compounds, thereby increasing their exposure to water-borne diseases (OCHA 09/08/2014).

Polluted water supplies, hot weather and serious water shortages are bringing the threat of disease to vulnerable communities. Health staff are already seeing an increase in hepatitis A, typhoid and diarrhoea, and skin complaints, especially IDPs living in communal shelters.

All parties to the conflict are increasingly targeting vital services, resulting in interruptions to supplies. This is aggravating the already dire water, sanitation, and health conditions in conflict areas and increasing the risk of outbreaks of waterborne diseases.

As of 23 June, power supply in Idleb city was intermittent, owing to cuts by armed opposition groups in rural areas. This has reduced the water supply to the city (UN Security Council 31/07/2014).

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.

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.

Across the refugee hosting countries, more than 60% of the 735,000 school-aged refugee children are not enrolled in school.

Protection

Indiscriminate Weapons

Between the 22 February UN resolution ordering all parties to the conflict in Syria to end the indiscriminate use of barrel bombs and other weapons in populated areas and 14 July, Human Rights Watch identified over 650 new major impact strikes on Aleppo neighbourhoods held by armed groups opposed to the Government, an average of almost five a day. The Center for Documentation of Violations reported that aerial attacks killed 1,655 civilians in Aleppo governorate between 22 February and 22 July.

Detention

Between 18 June and 21 July, OHCHR received reports of arbitrary arrest, detention, torture and ill-treatment, allegedly perpetrated by members of the Syrian security apparatus, indicating that at least seven detainees had died as a result of torture in government-run detention facilities. OHCHR received reports that, from 18 to 22 June, at least 12 civilians were taken by security forces from their homes in the Salamiyah district of Hama (UN Security Council 31/07/2014). The Center for Documentation of Violations reports that 40,853 people detained since March 2011 remain in jail (Inter Press Service 19/07/2014).

20,000 people detained by the Government since the beginning of the conflict are completely unaccounted for, as are some 7,000 government troops held by opposition forces (Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, 08/07/2014). Another 1,500 Islamic State, opposition, and Kurdish fighters have been kidnapped during battles in recent months (AFP 10/07/2014).

Human Rights Watch released a report on 6 August calling for the release of at least 54 women and children that non-state armed groups have held hostage since opening a military offensive in rural Lattakia on 4 August 2013. 40 hostages were freed in May as part of an agreement between the armed groups and the Government. In exchange for their release, government forces allowed opposition fighters safe passage out of the besieged Old City of Homs. 17 women and girls who were taken are believed to have been killed shortly after their abduction (HRW 06/08/2014).

Child Recruitment

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 (Human Rights Watch, 23/06/2014). Extremist groups have specifically recruited children through free schooling that include weapons training. As of June 2014, the Center for Documentation of Violations, a Syrian monitoring group, had documented 194 deaths of “non-civilian” male children in Syria since September 2011. The Kurdish PYD police force and the People’s Protection Units reportedly enlisted girls to guard checkpoints and conduct armed patrols.

Updated: 11/08/2014

Yemen

KEY CONCERNS

- Insecurity is hindering efforts to verify information, including on new IDPs and on humanitarian needs.

- 500,000 were estimated to be affected by conflict by the end of March 2014, some of whom have been displaced for six years (Protection Cluster, 04/2014).

- 800,000 refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants are in need of lifesaving services (OCHA, 04/2014).

- 15 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (UN, 05/2014).

- Over 10 million are food insecure, including 4.5 million severely food insecure (WFP, FAO, Food Security Cluster, 05/2014). Levels of food insecurity have doubled since
2009 (FAO, 06/2014).
- 8.6 million have no access to healthcare (OCHA, 04/2014).
- 13.1 million do not have access to safe water; 12.1 million are without access to
  improved sanitation; 4.4 million lack access to adequate sanitation (OCHA, 04/2014).
- One million children under five are acutely malnourished; 280,000 are severely
  malnourished (OCHA, UNICEF 06/2014).
- Open defecation remains the practice for more than 20% of the population (UNICEF
  2014).

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 (HNO 2014, 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 2015. In addition to economic challenges, it continues to face
three concurrent security challenges: the presence of Houthi 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 restructuring of the legislature
to guarantee sufficient representation of both northern and southern insurgents. President
Hadi’s cabinet reshuffle has not addressed core issues, however, as it has not brought
new groups into the government (ICG, 07/2014).

Under the new system, the country will consist of six regions: four in the north and two in
the formerly independent south. Houthi insurgents from the far north, who would be in a
region with 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.

The economic crisis is worsening. The government’s difficulties with paying salaries are
prompting fears of unrest. Mass protests, calling for the overthrow of the government,
were held after sabotage of the electrical grid in early June left Sana’a without fuel or
electricity for days (ICG, 07/2014).

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.

On 30 July, it was reported that protests had erupted in Sana’a, after the government
announced a sharp rise in fuel prices, part of a bid to ease the burden of energy subsidies
on the impoverished country’s state finances and curb its budget deficit (Al Jazeera,
30/07/2014).

Security Context

Yemeni security forces lost 374 personnel during the first half of 2014, fighting Al Qaeda,
northern Houthi fighters, and southern separatists (AFP in Al Jazeera, 07/07/2014).

Islamicist 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 Houthi
insurgents and tribesmen from the Sunni Hashid confederation and their allies since
October 2013. The Houthis, 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).

Conflict in Northern Yemen

Intermittent clashes continued in Al Jawf overnorate between groups affiliated with
the Houthis and Al Islah, reportedly displacing up to 100 families. A ceasefire came
into force in Al Jawf on 3 August, and the area was calm as of 5 August (OCHA,
04/08/2014).

On 30 July, armed men blew up an oil pipeline in Wady Obaida area in the central oil-
producing province of Maarib, halting the flow of crude to the Ras Isa oil terminal on the
Red Sea. The pipeline had been repaired on 24 July, after having been blown up on 12 July
The main oil pipeline in central Maarib province was bombed on 6 and 7 May, halting crude flows, according to international media. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Since the beginning of July, fighting has significantly escalated in Amran governorate. Some 85,000 people have been directly affected or displaced from Amran in recent weeks, with figures rising rapidly. At least 500,000 people could be affected in the governorate. Indiscriminate night air raids have killed more than 200 civilians, including women and children. Access was already hampered prior to recent violence, making the area completely inaccessible (IFRC, 09/07/2014; OCHA, 16/07/2014).

On 12 July, following an appeal by the Security Council, Houthi fighters stated they will pull out from Amran, allowing army units to move in (Al Jazeera, 12/07/2014). Yemeni authorities have accused the Houths of atrocities (AFP, 09/07/2014). Following the earlier take-over of Amran City by opposition fighters, the President fired two senior army commanders (Foreign Policy, 15/07/2014). Fighting has been stop-start since March, with multiple ceasefires broken.

On 16 July, Houthi militiants seized control of Dharwan village in Hamdan district, Sana’a governorate (OCHA, 23/07/2014). Fierce clashes between pro-government tribesmen and Shi’ite Houthi fighters in Dharwan, Bani Maymun, Al Jaef, Al Maam, and Hamdan villages, close to Sana’a International Airport, have caused many casualties (AFP, 28/06/2014; AFP, 25/06/2014).

Two days of clashes between Shi’ite Houthi and Sunni Islamist tribesmen in Al Jawf governorate have killed at least 35 fighters on both sides (Middle East Eye, ABC News, 16/07/2014).

A long-raging land dispute in Otoma district, Dhamar governorate claimed two more victims when two brothers were killed by an IED on 25 July, ending a six-month peace agreement that had been signed in January (Yemen Times, 21/07/2014).

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 civilian casualties; 70 people have been killed by drone strikes 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 coming to Yemen from the battlefields in Iraq and Syria.

On 9 August, gunmen affiliated to Al Qaeda confirmed they kidnapped and killed 14 Yemeni soldiers returning home from duty. The bodies were found near Seiyoun city, Hadramout province (Al Jazeera, 09/08/2014).

25 suspected fighters were killed in Wadi Hadramout area in the past week, including seven who were killed on 7 August, when they tried to attack an army facility (Al Jazeera, 09/08/2014).

On 4 August, militants attacked a security checkpoint on a main road in Hadramout province, eastern Yemen, killing six soldiers. In a similar attack, on 2 August, three soldiers were attacked in Shabwa province, southern Yemen. (Reuters, 04/08/2014).

Suspected militants attacked a post office in Hura, Hadramout province, killing a policeman and taking two million riyals with them (Gulf News, 16/07/2014).

Gunmen killed the commander of a border patrol on the Saudi side of the Wadi border crossing. Three of the attackers were killed in an ensuing firefight. Separately, six people, including a suicide bomber and two security personnel, were killed during attacks from the Yemeni side of the crossing (Reuters, 04/07/2014).

Suspected Al Qaeda gunmen briefly seized Sayun airport in Hadramout governorate at the end of June. Three soldiers and six militants were killed. Another five soldiers and nine civilians died in a suicide bombing at a nearby military headquarters. In Rad'a district, Al Bayda governorate, four alleged militants and a civilian were killed in a clash between military forces and militants.

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). The attacks took place in Sana’a, Hadramout and Maarib provinces, and at least 30 people were killed, including civilians.

Some 260 people were killed between 20 April and 6 May, during the US-backed government offensive in Abyan, Shabwah, and Maarib governorates. With the help of allied tribal militias, government forces captured Al Mahfad, in 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.

Conflict in Southern Yemen

Clashes between the Al Butahif tribe, from Maarib, and the Belhareth, from Shabwah, over the ownership of an oil-rich desert area between both governorates, killed 15 (AFP, 02/07/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Conditions in Amran governorate and its neighbouring areas are improving. With calm restored, humanitarian partners are re-establishing operations. Nevertheless, humanitarian assets looted during the conflict remain missing (OCHA, 04/08/2014).

Several districts in the south are inaccessible to humanitarian workers due to insecurity (OCHA, 09/07/2014).

In June, WFP reported that the fuel crisis and insecurity are slowing down its operations
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 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.

Kidnappings and Attacks on Aid Workers

Mike Harvey, a British teacher, was freed after five months following negotiations with kidnappers through tribal intermediaries, facilitated by the Yemeni government, and after a ransom was paid (The Telegraph, 27/07/2014).

The general manager of the Mine Action Center in Mukkala City, Hadramout governorate, was shot dead by unknown gunmen (Yemen Times, 16/06/2014).

The last kidnapping 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).

Several waves of conflict, insecurity and lack of access make it extremely difficult to estimate new displacements and needs (OCHA, 30/06/2014).

IDPs

At the end of May, 321,315 IDPs were in Yemen (OCHA, 30/06/2014). 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); Sand’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 24 July, half of the estimated 45,000 IDPS who fled Amran governorate since the end of April are said to have returned. Return is expected to accelerate. Some IDPs might face difficulties in returning home, namely opponents of Houthis and those whose properties were damaged or destroyed (OCHA, 04/08/2014).

Half of the displaced remained within Amran governorate. There is an urgent need for humanitarian assistance in Amran governorate following fighting between Houthis and tribesmen. Response efforts are limited due to active conflict (OCHA 16/07/2014; Yemen Times, 15/07/2014). From 2010 to April 2014, 65,000 had already been displaced by conflict in Amran (UNHCR, 30/06/2014).

About 100 families have been displaced in Al Jawf governorate, from Al Ghalil to Al Hazm district, due to violence between Houthis and tribesmen affiliated with the Islah party (Yemen Times, 23/07/2014).

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).

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).

Returnees

As of May, there are 223,694 returnees, in Abyan (152,950), Sa’ada (64,800), Al Bayda and Dhamar (8,160) (OCHA, 30/06/2014). As of March, 550,000 Yemenis had 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

Over 10 million are food insecure, including 4.5 million severely food insecure (WFP, FAO, Food Security Cluster, 05/2014). Around 2.5 million inhabitants are in IPC Phase 2; and another 2.5 million are in IPC Phase 3 or higher (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014). 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.

Despite declining international wheat prices, stable international rice prices, and above-average production harvest prospects, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity is expected to continue in Yemen through September due to conflicts and ongoing severe fuel shortages. This will likely persist through December 2014 unless fuel supplies stabilise and persistent conflict issues are solved. Market access problems and ongoing hostilities (causing additional displacement) further erode the purchasing ability of the poor in Yemen (FEWSNET, 01/08/2014).
Around 1,800 newly displaced families require food aid. 18,000 families received food distributions in Amran prior to the recent conflict. Since the outbreak of violence, these families have not received food aid. These operations are now being resumed (OCHA, 04/08/2014).

Fuel shortages complicate relief efforts to obtain wheat flour for planned food distributions and delay relief operations for the most vulnerable conflict-affected in Amran governorate (OCHA, 16/07/2014).

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**

Continued instability, currency depreciation, and low foreign reserve levels contributed to costlier food imports and higher local commodity prices. Increased commodity prices raised the cost of the food basket by 7% compared to the last quarter (WFP, 31/07/2014).

Little rain fell in the interior, except for a couple of light showers in the Hadramout and Shabwa regions (FAO, 01/08/2014). Nonetheless, rainy weather conditions may have created favourable conditions for locust infestations (FEWSNET, 01/08/2014).

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.

14 oxygen cylinders and an ambulance stocked with medical supplies and equipment were looted from Amran City hospital during the conflict, and have not been returned as of yet (OCHA, 04/08/2014).

An influx of cheap counterfeit pharmaceuticals and illicit drugs is driving substance abuse in Yemen, placing a growing strain on already stretched services (IRIN, 30/06/2014).

**Malnutrition**

1,060,000 children (43%) under five are estimated to be suffering from acute malnutrition, of whom 279,150 (19%) have SAM (UNICEF 2014). An estimated 1.9 million people need nutrition assistance.

On 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).

**Measles**

A measles outbreak, reported in Arhab district, Sana’a governorate at the end of July, is now under control following a vaccination campaign, which will be completed this week (OCHA, 04/08/2014).

**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, 17/07/2014).

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 between 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, very few schools in affected areas possess acceptable facilities** (OCHA, 04/08/2014).

Open defecation remains standard practice for more than 20% of the population and appears to be higher for young children (UNICEF 2014).

**Education**

Schools were closed and exams suspended in Amran governorate on 31 May, due to fighting between the army and the Houthis (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**

Unverified reports estimate that between 200 and 500 houses were damaged in the recent Amran conflict. Incomplete information on the scale of damage hinders planning for a long-term response (OCHA, 04/08/2014).
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

IDPs displaced in the recent Amran conflict may face difficulties returning, if perceived to oppose Houthi fighters (OCHA, 23/07/2014).

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 Houthis, Ansar al Sharia, and state-armed forces are all recruiting children (02/06/2014).

Updated: 11/08/2014

IRAQ CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

11 August: Haider al-Ibadi – former Deputy Speaker of the Iraqi parliament – was appointed the new Prime Minister by President Fuad Masum. Al-Ibadi, member of the Dawa party, was nominated by the Shia National Alliance parliamentary bloc. PM Maliki, caretaker since the inconclusive elections in April, challenged the appointment by appealing to the federal court (Al Jazeera; ISW). The federal court on 11 August stated Maliki’s bloc is the biggest in parliament, meaning he will be able to retain his position (Reuters).

10 August: Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki sent loyal elite military units overnight, cutting off entrances to the protected Green Zone, which is the centre of the international presence in the city, in an effort to secure power by use of force. The US announced it will directly arm Kurdish Peshmerga

8 August: President Obama sent US warplanes to Iraq to drop food to besieged displaced persons and if necessary and carried out targeted strikes in support of Iraqi security forces (AFP).

6 August: Kurdish forces from Iraq, Syria and Turkey joined forces in north Iraq to launch an offensive against the Islamic State (IS) in order to reclaim areas lost to the armed group and rescue thousands of civilians stranded in mountains without food or water. A senior official from Iraq’s Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) party said Kurdish fighting units from the Peshmerga, the Syrian-based PYD and the Turkish PKK had agreed to share responsibility for the counter-offensive (AFP).

5 August: Government officials say at least 30,000 people from Sinjar fled into a mountain range north of the city. 40 children in Sinjar were reported to have died as a direct consequence of violence, displacement and dehydration (UNHCR, UNICEF). 20,000 people were evacuated and led to Kurdistan over Syrian territory (AFP).

4 August: PM Maliki authorized air support to the Kurdish forces, in its fight against Islamic State (WSJ).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.5 million people, including IDPs, host and besieged communities are in need of humanitarian assistance. This is a 300% increase from February 2014 (OCHA, 06/2014).

- An estimated 850,000 people have been displaced in the two months since the start of Islamic State’s (IS) ‘Ramadan offensive’, bringing the total displaced since the start of the year to 1.4 million. There were 1.13 to 1.3 million IDPs displaced before 2014 (UN, IOM, 12/2013). IDPs are dispersed in 17 of Iraq’s 18 governorates (07/2014).

- Loss of assets and income opportunities, and disruptions of marketing activities and transport networks have exposed large numbers of people to severe food insecurity (FAO/ FEWSNET, 25/06/2014).

- As of 30 July, Iraq hosted 218,040 Syrian refugees (UNHCR, 31/07/2014).

- Only one of three official border crossings with Syria is still in the hands of the central government. Another is controlled by Kurdish forces. IS took the third, Al Qa’im (AFP, 21/06/2014).

- High temperatures and insanitary conditions are increasing the risk of cholera, polio, and measles. A severe fuel shortage and recent cuts to electricity and water services are exacerbating the humanitarian crisis and the ability to deliver aid (Mercy Corps, 03/07/2014).

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 IS’s June offensive.
The conflict has led to massive internal displacement and Iraq now hosts one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world with over 1.4 million displaced since January. An estimated 850,000 people have been displaced in the two months since the start of IS’s ‘Ramadan 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.

Political Context

Since the fall of Mosul on 10 June, armed opposition groups, including Baathists, tribal militias and members of the former government and military, along with Islamic State (IS), have taken control of large swathes of Iraq’s provinces of Ninevah, Salah Al Din and Diyala. The cities of Mosul, Tikrit, Tal Afar, Beiji, Quayyara, Sinjar, Suleiman Bek, Rashad, Hawijah, Riyadh, Fallujah, and Saqaqiyah are under control of armed groups.

Fighting reportedly continues in several towns north of Baghdad. Control of the town of Dhuluiya has passed back and forth between IS and government forces reinforced by local volunteers (Institute of War, 24/07/2014).

National Political Context

On 11 August, Haider al-Ibadi – former Deputy Speaker of the Iraqi parliament – was appointed the new Prime Minister by President Fuad Masum. Al-Ibadi, member of the Dawa party, was nominated by the Shia National Alliance parliamentary bloc. PM Maliki, caretaker since the inconclusive elections in April, challenged the appointment by appealing to the federal court (Al Jazeera, 12/08/2014; ISW 11/08/2014). The federal court on 11 August stated Malikí’s bloc is the biggest in parliament, meaning he will be able to retain his position (Reuters, 11/08/2014).

Iraq’s constitution requires the President of Iraq within fifteen days of his appointment to ask the “largest bloc” in Parliament, from which the premier will be drawn, to form a government. President Fuad Masum took office on 24 July setting the deadline for this appointment as 7 August (ISW 11/08/2014).

Prime Minister Maliki’s Shia-dominated State of Law alliance won the largest number of seats during April’s parliamentary elections. Maliki’s margin of victory was greater than most analysts and politicians had forecast. Despite increasing local and international pressure for his removal from office, Nouri al-Maliki has firmly pursued a third term as Iraqi Prime Minister relying heavily on the high number of seats his State of Law Alliance (SLA) secured in the national elections (ISW 11/08/2014).

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 has also links to the Iraqi PUK and the Turkish Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK).

Security Context

In July, 1,737 were killed, including 1,186 civilians (and 106 civilian police. A further 1,978 people were wounded, including 1,511 civilians. The total civilian casualties in Anbar up to 31 July inclusive were 198 killed and 611 injured, with 71 killed and 179 injured in Ramadi, and 127 killed and 432 injured in Fallujah (UN, 01/08/2014).

On 10 August, PM Maliki sent loyal elite military units overnight, cutting off entrances to the protected Green Zone, which is the centre of the international presence in the city, in an effort to secure power by use of force.

Islamic State

IS, formerly the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and an outgrowth of Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), has taken over large swathes of territory in northern and eastern Syria.

IS in Iraq is mostly Iraqi in composition and numbered at least 10,000 in early June. Since taking Mosul, IS has been gathering strength by requisitioning US military equipment, recruiting prisoners, and looting Mosul’s Central Bank.

On 29 June, IS declared the establishment of a Sunni caliphate, straddling Syria and Iraq, with Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi 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

Early August, Kurdish forces from Iraq, Syria and Turkey have joined forces in north Iraq to launch an offensive against the Islamic State (IS) in order to reclaim areas lost to the armed group and rescue thousands of civilians stranded in mountains without food or water. A senior official from Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) party said Kurdish fighting units from the Peshmerga, the Syrian-based PYD and the Turkish PKK had agreed to share responsibility for the counter-offensive (AFP).

Kurdish forces, the Peshmerga, have been trying to fill the security vacuum created by withdrawing federal forces, and take control of territory long claimed by KR-I (AFP, 12/06/2014).

Iraqi Security Forces (ISF)

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). 10,000 ISF were also deployed in and around Mosul before fleeing.
Prime Minister Maliki fired several top security commanders in a major shake-up as fighting approached Baghdad (AFP 17/06/2014) and announced the formation of reserves to fight IS.

**International Involvement**

Jordan is mobilising its troops in the border regions, as IS 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).

**Anbar Governorate**

IS has been in open confrontation with government forces in Anbar governorate since December 2013. IS 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 had displaced 480,000 civilians so far this year. The Iraqi government puts the number at 434,000. The exact scale of displacement is unknown, as registration had to be suspended over the past month because of insecurity.

**Security Incidents**

On 8 August, the US military began launching air-strikes against IS positions.

Clashes took place between IS and armed forces on 8 August around Amerli, which has been besieged by IS for 40 days. On 9 August, IS launched an attack on Tuz Khurmatu but were repelled by Peshmerga forces.

In central Kirkuk, a mosque sheltering IDPs was attacked on 7 August and at least eight people were killed.

On 6 August, IS seized Barwana, close to Haditha city and Haditha dam in Anbar governorate.

6 August saw five bomb attacks on Baghdad neighbourhoods, killing at least 22 people. The next day, two attacks occurred on checkpoints in northwest Baghdad, in which at least 15 people were killed.

On 5 August, IS and Peshmerga forces fought in heavy clashes around Mosul as the latter launched an offensive against IS positions. On 8 August, an official announced that IS had gained control of Mosul Dam. On 10 August, Peshmerga forces clashed heavily with IS in Gwer, 30 miles from Erbil city.

On 4 August, PM Maliki authorized air support to Kurdish forces fighting Islamic State (WSJ, 04/08/2014).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

1.5 million people, including IDPs, host and besieged communities 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**

Conflict affected areas face a breakdown of basic services, affecting an estimated 5 million people.

Threats by both insurgents and military are significantly hampering humanitarian operations outside KR-I. Civilians in Anbar (Falluja, Ramadi, Al Qaim, Ana, Rawa, Rutba), Ninewa (Mosul and surrounding areas), Salah al Din and Diyala are particularly hard to reach. Several key supply routes have been blocked.

Road security concerns, inaccessible conflict areas, and IDPs on the move all exacerbate the challenge of providing humanitarian assistance (OCHA 18/07/2014).

Since 10 June, the Peshkapour-Semalka border remains open for returns to Syria only.

The Al Qa’im border remains under the control of armed groups. The border situation remains fluid, now Syrians and Iraqis are moving back and forth between the two sides of the borders freely. Aerial bombardments and clashes continued in Al Qa’im (border and city), resulting in casualties among civilians. The clashes are a deterrent to the movement of vehicles and people (UNHCR 09/08/2014).

As of 15 June, Peshmerga forces were in control of the Rabia’a border crossing, and kept it closed in both directions, except to humanitarian aid convoys (UNHCR 01/07/2014).

The Baiji refinery, the biggest in Iraq and crucial to Iraq’s economy and power supply to northern Iraq, is subject to heavy fighting, and power to northern Iraq was halted in July (Norwegian People’s Aid 05/08/2014).

**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. 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.

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

At least 1,200 locations are hosting people displaced since January 2014, including a large number of women and children (OCHA, 04/07/2014).

At the start of August, 200,000 people were assessed to have fled areas taken over by
IS in Sinjar district. This latest wave places the total number of IDPs at 1.4 million, including those displaced from the Anbar and Mosul crises in 2014 (OCHA 01/08/2014). IS militants overran Qaraqosh, Iraq’s largest Christian town, as well as other Christian villages, causing tens of thousands of residents to flee (Telegraph, 07/08/2014).

On 7 August, secondary displacement took place throughout Ninewa and Dahuk following reports of fighting near IDP locations. Khazir transit centre (Dahuk) and Garmawa camp (Ninewa) were reported to be empty as of 8 August. Humanitarian agencies continue to update data on displacement numbers but these are time sensitive and subject to change.

Families also fled Qaraqosh on 7 August. In Kirkuk, violent attacks have caused new waves of displacement, estimated by local authorities to reach 40,000 people (OCHA 08/2014).

According to officials in the KR-I, at least 45,000 Iraqis, including Arabs, Christians and minority Yezidis, Shabak, Shia Turkmen and others, have fled into the region since 3 August, escaping the fighting that erupted between Peshmerga forces and armed opposition groups, who reportedly captured three communities. UNHCR staff also report that some 3,000 Iraqis fled into Syria from western Ninevah. (UNHCR 06/08/2014).

A significant number of IDPs are unable to transit certain parts of the country to safer areas. Also, entry policies into some governorates, such as Erbil, are not clearly defined. Those awaiting entry have limited access to services and are in immediate need of support (ACAPS 24/07/2014).

The influx of IDPs imposes a significant burden on host communities in several areas – 80% of the recently resettled are housed among host communities in KR-I and IDPs face discrimination from local communities (IFRC, 13/06/2014; WHO 18/06/2014). Non-Kurdish Iraqis entering KR-I have to pass through immigration controls and receive only short-stay visas, ranging from one to three weeks; sometimes a Kurdish sponsor is required to gain entry (Middle East Research and Information Project 24/07/2014).

Mosul City: An estimated 500,000 Iraqis fled their homes in Mosul in June. 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). (WFP, 14/06/2014; DailyBeast 16/06/2014; European Commission Humanitarian Aid, 07/07/2014).

KR-I: As of 30 June, the number of Iraqis displaced into the KR-I exceeded 400,000, according to the Iraq Red Crescent Society (IFRC, 30/06/2014). The Kurdish region is already overstretched by the presence of more than 200,000 Syrian refugees (WHO, 13/06/2014).

Considerable numbers of IDPs are being accommodated in schools, mosques and camps. Many families and individuals are beginning to struggle to secure the financial resources they need to support themselves. A breakdown in infrastructure and basic services has been observed in some areas (IFRC, 30/06/2014).

Five camps are being established, with a maximum capacity of 7,000 families (35,000 people) per camp. Two camps are being established in Khazir and Garmawa in disputed territories near Kurdish checkpoints, raising serious protection concerns (ECHO, 07/07/2014).

Anbar crisis: In Anbar governorate, approximately 560,000 people remain displaced by fighting centred on the cities of Fallujah and Ramadi (OCHA, 18/07/2014). Thousands more have moved to Salah al Din, Kerbala, Baghdad, and Najaf governorates.

Syrian Refugees in Iraq

As of 30 July, Iraq hosted 218,040 Syrian refugees (UNHCR, 31/07/2014).

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. All three KR-I governorates (Dohuk, Erbil, and Sulaymaniyah) have different policies towards Syrian refugees, leading to challenges in coordinating the humanitarian response.

43.2% of registered refugees are in camps, and the remaining 56.8% are predominantly scattered in and around urban centres, though information on their humanitarian situation is limited (UNHCR, 15/07/2014).

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).

Returnees to Syria: The total number of Syrians who returned during the month of July was 4,078 (3,406 UNHCR Registered and 672 non-registered). The overall figure for return in 2014 as of 31 July has reached 16,967. At the beginning of June, over 28,000 Syrians registered as refugees in Iraq had voluntarily returned to Syria since 2011 (UNHCR 09/08/2014).

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.

Anbar: The number of Syrian refugees in Al Obaidy Camp is 182 cases / 949 individuals including 161 unregistered individuals (56 cases). For the non-camp refugees, 822 cases / 2,971 individuals settled in the town of Al Qa’im on a sponsorship programme. The total number of spontaneous returns to Syria from Al Qa’im was 6,773 individuals as of 15 June 2014 (UNHCR 09/08/2014).

Non-Syrian Refugees

During the first quarter of 2014, the number of registered protracted (non-Syrian) refugees
and asylum seekers was 39,480.

Refugees Fleeing Iraq

During the first two weeks of June 2014, hundreds of Iraqis sought refuge on the Syrian side of the border, as IS took Mosul and Tikrit. According to preliminary information, at least 100 people have settled in Syria’s Hakamieh camp, which is close to the Peshkapour border crossing, and managed by the Kurdish High Relief Committee. Over 400 Iraqis have been identified close to Yaroubiyeh and in Twaimen, in southern Al Hasakeh (WFP 24/06/2014)

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.

Food Security

Loss of assets and income opportunities, and disruption of marketing activities and transport networks have exposed large numbers of people to severe food insecurity (FAO/FEWSNET, 25/06/2014).

OCHA reports tremendous stress on host communities in Sulaymaniyah and Najaf. The conflict has resulted in the disruption of the public procurement and distribution system upon which large numbers of people are dependent, which in turn has resulted in fuel shortages as well as interruption of harvest subsidies and payments, and food supply chains. The crisis has impacted the May/June cereal harvest and post-harvest activities in key production areas such as Ninevah and Salah Al Din governorates, which account for nearly a third of Iraq's wheat production and about 38% of its barley (OCHA 18/07/2014). Host families are running low on food supplies (IOM 11/06/2014).

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) involvement in the food response has been scaled back, including the cessation of daily bread distribution in camps in Erbil. Food assistance to non-camp refugees, which is currently prohibited, is still under discussion with the government (UNHCR 09/07/2014). IDPs in Erbil reported eating only once a day or once every other day due to lack of funds. Others have indicated their preference for returning to Mosul should they run out of means (PI 16/06/2014).

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).

Health and Nutrition

WHO reports an increase in measles cases, with over 800 cases documented since January 2014 in the areas covered by the EWARS (Early Warning and Reporting System), and primarily in KR-I (WHO 06/07/2014).

Shelling and aerial assaults on hospitals and medical facilities continue. According to WHO, only three out of nine public health facilities in Salah al Din are functioning, causing difficulties in access for civilians from Tikrit, Baiji and Sharqat. Patients from these districts are referred to already overwhelmed hospitals in Mosul and Kirkuk. However, armed conflict, fuel shortages and road access difficulties are affecting ambulance services. Critical shortages of essential medicines, vaccines and supplies are reported in Mosul, areas of Salah al Din and Anbar. Health facilities in conflict-affected areas report a shortage of medical personnel (OCHA 01/08/2014).

All hospitals and health centres are dependent on generators as a result of power cuts, and fuel supply is a major problem.

Availability of safe water remains a key challenge to be resolved to avoid outbreaks of water-borne diseases.

The embargo on cargo flights has stopped the medical supply chain at a time when additional provisions are urgently needed (OCHA 18/07/2014).

Refugees: A November 2013 REACH survey found that 9% of households across the assessed refugee camps included one member who had a disability; the majority were male (62%), though a large proportion were children under the age of 18 (41%). Half of disabled refugees had physical disabilities, and 53% of reported disabilities were congenital; 3% were conflict-related (REACH 25/07/2014).

Many Syrian refugees have missed vital routine vaccinations, having had no or limited access to healthcare in Syria for months before arriving in Iraq (WHO 17/07/2014).

KR-I: Since mid-June, frequent power cuts are endangering health service provision in refugee camp health centres (UNHCR 22/07/2014).

An estimated 20% of the non-camp refugee population encounters difficulties in accessing health services. Key obstacles include costs for health services and medicines as well as perceived availability of relevant services (UNHCR 09/07/2014). The KR-I Ministry of Health has reported critical shortages in medicines and medical supplies and overcrowded health facilities (PI 17/06/2014).

Access to comprehensive primary health services for refugees, including maternal and child health, has improved. Mental health services, chronic diseases management and secondary/tertiary healthcare are more difficult to access. Control of communicable diseases needs to be strengthened further (UNHCR 22/07/2014).

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).

Diarrhoea

The number of diarrhoea cases is increasing in all camps in KR-I.

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). Polio immunisation campaigns need to be conducted throughout the year to contain the spread of the virus (UNHCR 22/07/2014).

One wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) case was reported end of May from Mada'in district in Baghdad-Resafa. A first case had been confirmed on 24 March in Baghdad. Polio is believed to have spread due to the conflict and displacement in Anbar governorate.

**WASH**

Since April, IS’s control of the Fallujah dam has severely affected water levels in Iraq’s southern governorates. The governor of Diyala province warned that IS’s battle for control of the Hamrin dam close to Baqubah could threaten water supplies both to Baghdad and Baqubah.

In KR-I, water consumption has dramatically increased among the refugees in the summer months as a result of both personal domestic use, and installation and use of air coolers. The recent massive influx of displaced is putting water supplies under further strain (UNHCR 22/07/2014).

Airstrikes on 17 July targeted the water treatment plant in eastern Mosul, cutting water to parts of the city. On 16 July, IS cut the water supply to Makhmur, south of Mosul, as a response to local authorities cutting water supplies to Arab villages (ISW 17/07/2014). Neighbourhoods in western Mosul lack drinking water as the main local water station has been destroyed (IOM 11/06/2014; UNAMI 15/06/2014).

Armed groups have interrupted water provision in Telkaf and Hamdaniyah districts of Ninevah governorate and more recently in Makhour district, Erbil governorate. Some 100,000 people, including IDPs and residents, have been affected.

In Zumar, Ninevah governorate, the unreliable electricity supply is severely affecting water provision. In Sinjar, Ninevah governorate, there are critical water needs following a large influx of IDPs.

Sanitation conditions are poor in the three IDP collective centres of Khanaqin (Diyala governorate) and at the Barharka IDP transit site (Erbil governorate), affecting some 10,000 IDPs (OCHA 18/07/2014).

**Shelter**

Evictions of Syrian families in non-camp areas in KR-I is on the rise (UNHCR 01/07/2014).

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).

**Protection**

Protection concerns have significantly increased in August, primarily as a result of IS’ advance into Sinjar and neighbouring areas. Minority groups fled the area in large numbers, fearing persecution and harassment, as reportedly happened after IS overran Mosul city in June. Targeting of minorities in other areas of the country continues, including the killing of civilians, confiscation of property and the destruction of religious sites (ACAPS 07/08/2014).

Iraqi forces have allegedly used barrel bombs on multiple occasions. According to HRW, Iraq’s security forces have killed at least 75 civilians in indiscriminate air strikes on four cities since 6 June (ACAPS 24/07/2014, HRW 23/07/14).

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). IS 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). 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).

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).

**Education**

Over 15% of Syrian refugees are young males who are not in school and without work. 41% of refugees in KR-I are under the age of 18.

As of mid-July, over 250 schools in Kirkuk, Dohuk, Ninevah, and Anbar governorates are hosting IDPs. Alternative spaces are needed to ensure children are able to return to school in September (OCHA 18/07/2014).

65% of the 57,000 school-aged refugee children in Iraq are out of school. The current rate of enrolment in the camps is 55% for primary education and less than 1% for secondary. Outside the camps the enrolment rate is lower, at 22% of the school-age population. The main barriers are: very limited capacity in schools with the Arabic curriculum; high levels of dropout in schools with the Kurdish curriculum due to lack of extra support for second language speakers; lack of textbooks and other education materials; and lack of teachers (UNHCR 09/07/2014).

Updated: 12/08/2014
MYANMAR  INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

10 August: 10,000 flood-affected people have moved to 18 relief camps in Pegu, 23 schools were forced to shut and thousands of acres were inundated due to recent storms (local media).

6 August: Heavy rains have caused severe flooding in Pegu and Mon states, with hundreds forced to flee their homes and road traffic disrupted due to flooding (local media).

4 August: 3,000 people have been affected by flooding caused by heavy rains in Hlegu; more flooding is expected in other areas of the Yangon region as the monsoon peaks (local media).

KEY CONCERNS

- Repeated bloodshed has been occurring between Buddhists and Muslims in Rakhine state since 2012, with human rights abuses against the Muslim minority being reported (UN).

- There are 640,000 IDPs as a result of years of internal ethnic conflict, including 137,000 IDPs, mainly Rohingya Muslims, in Rakhine state (OCHA, 06/2014).

Political Context

The military-led authoritarian regime in Myanmar (Burma) has made moves to improve its record on human rights over recent 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. The pardon reportedly extends to over 200 political prisoners and other categories of detainees.

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 2013, several amnesties led to the release of members of ethnic minority armed groups with whom the government is seeking peace deals.

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. Minority groups make up some 30% of the estimated 55–60 million population, and ethnic and political groups have conducted protracted insurgencies mainly in remote and economically marginalised areas such as Kachin, Kayin (Karen ethnic group), Kayah (Karenni), 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 (the armed wing of the Kachin Independence Organisation, or 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 process.

After a four-day meeting, the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT), an umbrella body representing 17 ethnic armed organisations, has established a 10-point set of guidelines for pursuing peace talks with the Myanmar government, and has appointed five committees (local media 31/07/2014).

Some government sources have warned that if negotiations fail to progress in the coming weeks, a nationwide ceasefire before the 2015 elections could become impossible and opposition fighters might have to deal with a new, tougher, commander-in-chief as reported by local media.

Representing the Mon, the Karen, the Karenni, the Shan, the Kachin, the Chin and the Arakanese Buddhists, the NCCT is the most comprehensive alliance of ethnic actors to assemble in recent history. The most notable exclusions are the Shan State Army-South and the United Wa State Party.

Senior government officials, military commanders and ethnic leaders held the first discussions on jointly drafting a nationwide ceasefire text in early April. However, army demands for the incorporation of its own six-point statement reportedly complicated the process. 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.

Security Context

Despite peace negotiations between the authorities and various insurgent groups, the security situation remains tense in parts of Myanmar, especially in the north. Massive human rights infringements against the Rohingya Muslim minority in Rakhine state, in the west, continue to be reported.

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.

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 border.

Insecurity in Rakhine State

According to local sources and several human rights organisations, at least 40 people, including women and children, were killed in government attacks on Rohingya 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.

Kachin State

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 on the borders between Kachin state, northern Shan state and China. The fighting continued for approximately one week. Over 2,700 people were displaced and are being hosted in four camps around Man Win Gyi and Nam Kham. A ceasefire had been agreed in October 2013.

Shan State

Two civilians were killed and at least ten children wounded after fighting broke out between government troops and opposition fighters in northern Shan state on the 19 and 20 of July. Fighting continues in eastern Shan state, and hundreds of people have fled since June.

On 4 March, local sources citing Shan ethnic armed groups 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. Fighting between the regular army and the SSA-N has continued despite agreeing a ceasefire in January 2012.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

10,000 flood-affected people have moved to 18 relief camps in Pegu, 23 schools were forced to shut and thousands of acres were inundated due to recent storms (local media 10/08/2014). In 2013, about 50,000 people were displaced by flash floods in Pegu division and some 60,000 acres of farmland were flooded, of which 15,000 acres were severely damaged (local media 10/08/1204).

3,000 people have been affected by flooding caused by heavy rains in Hlegu. Flooding is expected in other regions of Yangon region, Arakan state, and Irrawaddy, Pegu and Rangoon divisions as the monsoon season peaks (local media 04/08/2014).

Access
Kachin

Access is difficult in areas outside of government control. Concern is growing over the impact of upcoming rains on access to 5,000 IDPs in southern Kachin state, over 50% of whom are in areas beyond government control (IRIN 05/2014).

Rakhine

On 23 July, the Rakhine state Government issued a statement inviting UN agencies and INGOs to work in Rakhine, which should facilitate humanitarian access from now on. International media reports from the end of July indicate that access to Northern Rakhine state along the Myanmar–Bangladesh border is tightly restricted. In June, over 60% of humanitarian personnel had returned to Rakhine and operations were being scaled back up after assistance was disrupted in March, following attacks against humanitarian workers over perceived bias towards Rohingyas (33 UN agency premises and seven international NGOs were ransacked, over 300 aid workers temporarily relocated, and more than 1,000 humanitarian staff forced to stop working).

As of 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 (OCHA). Access to services is impeded by tension and restrictions on freedom of movement. Humanitarian activities have been heavily constrained in a region where many displaced people, mostly Rohingya Muslims, are completely reliant on humanitarian assistance. In early February, ECHO reported that some demonstrators were demanding the departure of the UN and INGOs from Buthedaung, northern Rakhine state.

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. Many Rohingyas cannot travel, get married or even seek medical treatment without official permission, which is costly and difficult to obtain.

Due to security concerns, the Government has designated a specific area of Sittwe - the Southern Quarter - for relief organizations to establish offices and accommodation. NGOs and U.N. agencies have identified the limited availability of space in the Southern Quarter as a key constraint to operating at full capacity (USAID 02/07/2014).

Displacement

IDPs

As reported by UNHCR in late March, over 640,000 people are internally displaced because of violence. 99,300 IDPs are in Kachin and Shan States (north), 400,000 in the South East, 5,200 in Mandalay and 137,000 in Rakhine state (OCHA 01/06/2014).

Up to 400,000 people across 36 townships in the southeast continue to be displaced following years of conflict (OCHA 03/2014).

Rakhine: 137,000 people, mainly Rohingya Muslims, continue to be displaced as of June 2014, since inter-communal violence erupted between Rakhine Buddhists and the Muslim minority in June and October 2012. An estimated 100,000 people live in host communities and in isolated villages and 70,000 are said to be food insecure. Rohingya Muslims continue to face abuse and movement restrictions, according to reports from human rights groups; most are considered crisis-affected and need humanitarian assistance.

Kachin: Five people were killed and 120 families relocated due to landslides in the Je Yang camp in Kachin state (local media 28/07/2014). Over 100,000 people have been displaced by armed conflict since June 2011 and over 50% of them are 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 or third time, from more than 14 villages and four camps in opposition-controlled areas. On 10 April, fighting in southern Kachin state displaced over 2,700 people who are being hosted in four camps around Man Win Gyi and Nam Kham (OCHA). An unconfirmed number of people have fled across the border to China. In February, OCHA reported that, in addition to shelter renovation and WASH assistance, the most urgent needs in displaced communities are education, healthcare, and non-food items.

**Shan:** 400 people from a Shan village abandoned their homes in fear of Myanmar army reprisals after being questioned by the army about the death of two army officials (local media 01/08/2014). Over 800 ethnic Palaung villagers fled northern Shan state’s Namkham township after clashes between the government and Palaung armed groups, bringing the total number of IDPs from Palaung villages to 4,600 (local media 25/07/2014).

Fighting in northern and eastern Shan during June and July has displaced hundreds of people and is causing disruptions in humanitarian access to some areas (local media 21/07/2014). Clashes in the area of Muse township, in northern Shan state, caused the displacement of more than 700 people in May. Many of the IDPs had already been displaced by fighting in 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 (IRIN 14/05/2014).

**Refugees from Myanmar**

According to UNHCR as of late March, over 415,000 refugees originate from Myanmar.

In early November, UNHCR reported that an increasing number of people, mainly Muslims from Rakhine state, are setting out to sea on smuggling boats from the Bay of Bengal. Although numbers are difficult to obtain, such forced departures often result in disaster as boats capsize.

**Bangladesh:** To date, most Rohingya are denied refugee status by the Bangladeshi authorities. An estimated 30,000 Rohingya Muslims live in official camps, where they are assisted by aid agencies, and another 200,000 refugees reside in unofficial camps or Bangladesh villages where they get little or no humanitarian assistance and almost no protection from human rights abuse.

**Thailand:** Since July 2014, 120,000 refugees living in refugee camps in Thailand face movement restrictions imposed by the Thai junta, who is pushing for Myanmar refugee’s repatriation especially that of the several thousand Rohingya Muslims refugees hosted in Thailand. In July 2014, there are almost 120,000 refugees from Myanmar (registered and unregistered) living in Thailand-Myanmar border refugee camps, according to the Border Consortium; UNHCR figures are 76,000 refugees. Rohingya Muslims are reportedly subject to human trafficking in Thailand (international human rights organisations, 12/2013).

**Malaysia:** In June, 28,000 Rakhine Muslims were registered as refugees in Malaysia (UNHCR). However, according to groups representing them, the real number of Myanmar Muslim immigrants is much higher and surged in 2013 because of the violence.

**Food Security**

Households affected by flooding in 2013, particularly in Kayin state and Bago region, have raised levels of food insecurity. Nearly half a million IDPs are at risk of food insecurity in Rakhine, Kachin, and Shan states, and southeast Myanmar. Generally, however, the food situation is 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 rainfalls. 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.

**Malnutrition**

In June, a 2.1% SAM and 6.8% MAM was found among 32,000 children under five screened in Rakhine. This indicates a deterioration in the nutritional status of children in parts of Rakhine state since March. Severely malnourished children are being referred to Sittwe hospital; fewer referral services, high transportation costs, and fear of traveling to Sittwe are preventing many children from receiving medical care (OCHA 30/06/2014).

A joint survey by humanitarian partners and local authorities in February indicated that 12.3% of children under five in Myanmar’s central “dry zone” are acutely malnourished.

**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 were concerns for more than 23,000 people who do not have access to safe water and who are dependent on daily humanitarian intervention, which was suspended due to March’s attacks. This led to low levels of supervision and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities. However, activities are now getting back on track and the situation should be monitored over the coming weeks (WASH Cluster 05/2014).

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**

Nevertheless, according to groups representing them, the real number of Myanmar Muslim immigrants is much higher and surged in 2013 because of the violence.
Legal Status of Rohingya Muslims

Over 800,000 people, mostly Muslims, are estimated to be without citizenship in the northern part of Rakhine state (UNHCR). On 21 November 2013, authorities rejected a UN resolution urging them to grant citizenship to the Rohingya Muslims. Myanmar continues officially to state that the Rohingya Muslims are migrants from neighbouring Bangladesh, thus excluding them from citizenship under the 1982 Citizenship Law.

Children

91 children and young people were released from the armed forces as part of the government and armed forces’ commitment to end the recruitment and use of children (UN 01/08/2014)

SGBV

Adolescent girls in camps in Kachin and Rakhine states face increasing violence and abuse, including SGBV (OCHA, 02/2014).

Eight women’s rights activists were questioned in July by two Chin state courts for staging unauthorised public protests against sexual violence by the Myanmar military (Local media 21/07/2014).

In 2014, the Women’s League of Burma released a report that documented more than 100 victims of sexual violence at the hands of the Burmese Army since Thein Sein’s government took power (local media 24/07/2014).

Mines

Mine clearance has not begun in Kayah state, despite a ceasefire since 2012. Around 15-20 people are injured annually by landmines in Kayah but the number of fatalities is unknown. More than 34,000 IDPs in Kayah are at greatest risk due to their movement in unfamiliar areas. Around five million people in Myanmar live in mine-contaminated areas, according to a 2011 report by Geneva Call (IRIN 25/07/2014).

Updated: 11/08/2014

PAKISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT, EARTHQUAKE

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

10 August: Pakistan’s current political crisis has already led to a cut in petrol supplies, clashes between police and followers of a controversial cleric in Lahore, and demands by politician Imran Khan for the government to quit. More protests are expected in the upcoming days, since Khan called upon his supporters to take their grievances to the street in Islamabad, on the county’s Independence Day, which is the 14th of August (The Guardian).

7-10 August: The number of displaced registered from North Waziristan (NWA) stands at over 1 million, with 74% of them being women and children (FDMA). As of 31 July, the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) stated that, after review of registration data, 42% of the families were rejected. Registration has finished in all areas but Kurram Agency. Nevertheless, more outflow from NWA is expected based on an extension of the military operation into other areas where some people had remained (OCHA).

8 August: 15,489 families were assessed displaced. 7,884 of them were assisted (UNHCR).

7 August: The security situation does not allow access to all locations where IDPs reside, spreading over eight districts and as far as the Malakand region (OCHA).

31 July: Bannu district is hosting the majority of the displaced. The huge influx of people has increased stress on the local infrastructure with limited absorption capacity. A significant percentage of the displaced is occupying schools and other public buildings, which are now overcrowded, lack basic facilities and have inadequate existing amenities (Government / OCHA / WFP).

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).

- There are over 1 million IDPs following military operations in North Waziristan. Priority needs include protection, food, shelter, health, and WASH.

- There were 930,000 IDPs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA as of mid-December 2013; and 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).

- 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.

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

A year after Sharif became PM, Pakistan is in a political crisis which led to a cut in petrol supplies, clashes between police and followers of a controversial cleric in Lahore, and demands by politician Imran Khan for the government to quit.

Observers state the chaos is to be blamed on the fact that Sharif’s authority has been undermined by the powerful military. More protests are expected in the upcoming days, since Khan called upon his supporters to take their grievances to the street in Islamabad, on the county’s independence day, which is the 14th of August (The Guardian, 10/08/2014).

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. A Taliban spokesperson confirmed the Taliban vowed to start all-out war from 10 June (CNN, 10/06/2014).

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 the 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. 650 prisoners have been marked for release.

Local media report that the jirga supports the peace talks, but has complained of being left out of the process.

Security Context

Military Operations: Operation Zarb-e-Azb

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).

The Pakistani government launched operation Zarb-e-Azb on 15 June, with the aim of removing the TTP and foreign and local militants from North Waziristan. On 15 July, the authorities announced military operations will continue until all militants are eliminated (DAWN, 15/07/2014). Involving over 30,000 soldiers, the army began ground assaults on 26 June. Around 399 militants and 20 soldiers have been reported killed. The area is currently off-limits to journalists, making it impossible to verify military claims about the number and identity of those killed (AFP, 09/07/2014). Resistance from insurgents has been relatively light, leading to fears that many of them have escaped into Afghanistan.

Retaliatory Pakistani air force strikes in North Waziristan in May killed at least 60 people, including insurgent commanders (AFP, 21/05/2014). Air strikes in Shawal Valley and Dattakhel areas of North Waziristan between 20 February and early March left over 100 militant fighters dead. Another major military operation in North Waziristan took place in January.

Attacks by TTP and Splinter Factions

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 four 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).

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An explosion in Metroville area of Karachi wounded three people in early July. No responsibility has been claimed (DAWN, 12/07/2014). A blast near Makki Masjid mosque in Karachi killed two people, including the attacker (DAWN, 04/07/2014). In June, 14 people were killed in separate incidents in and around the city.

Taliban attacked Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, between 8 and 10 June (AFP, 10/06/2014).

On 18 July, at least five people, including three policemen, were killed and two others wounded in Peshawar when gunmen opened fire at a restaurant (AFP, 18/07/2014). In June, gunmen opened fire on a passenger plane as it landed in Peshawar. A passenger was killed and two crew were wounded.

Attacks in Islamabad, Punjab, Balochistan, and FATA killed over 80 people in June. Eight people were killed in Lahore when riot police clashed with followers of Tahir ul Qadri, a prominent preacher and anti-government critic.

In May, a targeted attack killed a member of the Ahmadi minority. Attacks in Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and FATA killed over 87 people, and destroyed three primary schools and a health unit. 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.

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. 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.

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. Around 340 drone attacks have taken place since 2004, killing an estimated 2,200 people in FATA (Reuters citing Pakistani government, 10/2013).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access to areas where the displaced are arriving remains a key challenge for organisations responding and could hamper humanitarian operations (OCHA, 24/07/2014).

Administrative obstacles are hobbling efforts to provide the displaced from North Waziristan with necessary assistance (HRW, 11/07/2014). 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).

Between January and June 2014, 60 polio vaccination workers were attacked, 31 of whom were killed, ten injured, and 19 kidnapped (OCHA, 30/06/2014).

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; followed by FATA with 21 attacks; and Sindh with 20 attacks (OCHA, 28/04/2014).

Disasters

All of Sindh province except Karachi is facing an acute food and livelihood crisis, due to prolonged water scarcity and drought. Over 306,000 families were affected between 1 December 2013 and 18 April 2014, and 248 people have died of 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). This number does not include the over one million who were recently displaced in NWA.

IDPs

As of 10 August, the number of displaced registered from North Waziristan stands at over 1 million, with 74% of them being women and children (FDMA). As of 31 July, NADRA stated that, after review of registration data, 42% of the families were rejected. Registration has finished in all areas but Kurram Agency. Nevertheless, more outflow from NWA is expected based on an extension of the military operation into other areas where some people had remained (OCHA, 07/08/2014).

Bannu district is hosting the majority of the displaced. The huge influx of people has increased stress on the local infrastructure with limited absorption capacity. A significant percentage of the displaced is occupying schools and other public buildings, which are now overcrowded, lack basic facilities and have inadequate existing amenities (Government/ OCHA/ WFP, 31/07/2014).

The IDPs face increased protection concerns in Sindh province, where residents have demanded an end to the migration (IRIN, 04/08/2014). 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).
Most IDPs have taken refuge in over 1,200 schools, health facilities, or with host communities in Bannu, Karak and Lakki Marwat districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (UNDP, 14/07/2014; ECHO, 01/08/2014). 930,000 people who were already displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA prior to the military operation are in need of humanitarian assistance. Other are in Hangu, Dera Ismail Khan, Charsadda, Tank, and Kohat districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (OCHA, 30/06/2014). The government said it has made arrangements to provide food and shelter to over half a million people.

96% of the people already displaced reside outside camps in Peshawar, Dera Ismail Khan, and Kohat, while 4% reside in IDP camps in Tough Sorai, Jalozai, and New Durrani (UNHCR, 09/06/2014).

In addition, military operations against the Taliban and clashes between militant groups in the Tirah Valley of Khyber Agency 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). Some 4,690 families returned to Tirah Valley in May and 407 families returned to Upper Kurram in June 2014 (UNHCR, 30/06/2014). 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).

**Refugees in Pakistan**

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 25 July, 15,489 families were assessed displaced. 7,884 of them were assisted (UNHCR, 08/08/2014).

Food is an urgent and immediate need in both Khost and Paktika provinces; and there are protection concerns for women in Gulan camp in Khost (UNHCR, 03/07/2014).

**Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Neighbouring Countries**

As of early August, 214 Pakistan and Afghan people of concern in Sri Lanka have been arrested and held in two detention centres. UNHCR has appealed to the Sri Lankan authorities to uphold their responsibilities under international law (UNHCR, 02/08/2014).

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).

**Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province**

Distribution points for food and NFI have been established in Bannu, Kyber Pakhtunkhwa. However, women may not have identity cards, and therefore cannot be registered for humanitarian aid (ECHO, 01/08/2014). In addition, the security situation does not allow access to all locations where IDPs reside, spreading over eight districts and as far as the Malakand region (OCHA, 07/08/2014).

New IDPs protested over food shortages and distribution delays in Bannu, in June (AFP, 24/06/2014). Most IDPs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA are relying 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. As of April, food prices had gone up 8.8% (FAO, 30/04/2014).

**Sindh Province**

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).

**Agriculture and Markets**

Despite a decrease in the average retail price of wheat and wheat flour by 8.3% and 5.4%, respectively in June, prices are still higher (by 10.7% and 10.3%) compared to a year ago (FAO, WFP, 30/06/2014).

Vegetable prices increased as a result of high spoilage in the local markets due to extreme heat.

Dry conditions prevail along the Indo-Pakistan border due to a delay in the arrival of the southwest monsoon (FAO, 03/07/2014). 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 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).

More than 90% of ponds and underground storage tanks in Cholistan, Punjab province, have gone dry, causing displacement for over 170,000 and affecting almost 190,000 people (FAO, 30/04/2014).
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.

In Bannu district, neighbouring North Waziristan, insufficient reproductive health services, and a lack of health staff and essential medicines are reported. There is currently no presence of health actors in the field (ECHO, 01/08/2014; OCHA, 07/08/2014). 36,000 displaced women are pregnant and health facilities are overwhelmed by demand (UN Population Fund, 28/07/2014). Current stocks of medicines will cover less than 5% of the estimated displaced population. In addition, overcrowding and high temperatures have heightened the risk of diarrhoea and skin infections (WHO, 08/07/2014). Water and sanitation facilities need immediate attention. Another concern is the low routine vaccination coverage (WHO, 30/06/2014). WHO reported that 4% of the displaced are pregnant and those in Bannu need immediate medical attention (DAWN, 18/07/2014).

Overcrowding combined with the presence of livestock are adding to concerns about the spread of both human and animal diseases (DAWN, 12/07/2014).

Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever

A seasonal spike of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever has recently been detected. 42 cases, including ten deaths, were reported 30 March–20 July, most in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever is endemic in Pakistan (WHO, 25/07/2014).

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.

Diarrhoea

Over 2,300 cases of acute diarrhoea were reported 22 June–14 July among IDPs from North Waziristan (WHO, 15/07/2014).

Malnutrition

More than 200 people have died from malnutrition-related causes so far in 2014 (OCHA, 09/05/2014). In April, an estimated 17,000 children had SAM and 55,000 MAM (04/2014). Over 46,000 pregnant and lactating women are priorities for malnutrition assistance. Many were in Tharparkar district, Sindh province. 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

As of 2 July, 786 cases of measles have been reported in 2014 (Government, WHO). More than 25,000 cases of measles were reported in 2013, with 321 deaths. In 2012, 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.

There is a high risk of measles outbreak among the recently displaced population, who had not been vaccinated due to the security situation (WHO, 08/07/2014).

Naegleria fowleri

The authorities have confirmed two more deaths (in Karachi and Hyderabad) caused by the Naegleria fowleri, or brain-eating amoeba, transmitted by contaminated water. Chlorination is considered the only way to stop the disease spreading. The disease has claimed five lives so far (DAWN, 12/07/2014).

Polio

So far in 2014, 102 polio cases have been reported; 85 concern patients under two (Government, WHO, 31/07/2014). Most cases were reported from FATA (73.5%) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (16.6%).

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 huge number of people displaced by the Zarb-e-Azb offensive prompts fears of polio spreading (AFP, 26/06/2014). The Punjab provincial government has started registration of displaced families for the purposes of vaccination (DAWN, 19/06/2014). After five years, polio vaccinators 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 hampering vaccination. Delayed security measures also affect polio drives in Karachi city (DAWN, 23/06/2014). 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.

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. The polio virus has also been detected in a sewage line by Western Bypass, Quetta. 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.

The densely populated Peshawar Valley is considered to be the main ‘engine’ of polio transmission, due to large-scale population movements through Peshawar.

WASH
There is an urgent need for drinking water. An estimated 690,000 people – largely IDPs and returnees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and FATA – needed assistance in accessing safe drinking water. Hygiene conditions among the newly displaced are very poor, and the probability of WASH-related disease outbreaks is rising (OCHA, 07/08/2014). Improved knowledge of household water treatment among non-camp IDPs and returnees is necessary (OCHA, 20/02/2014).

Water supplies in eight localities in Punjab are contaminated (DAWN, 05/07/2014).

Shelter

As schools start on 15 August, appropriate alternate shelter is needed for the displaced currently living in over 1,200 school buildings, 80% of which in Bannu (OCHA).

Education

Educational supplies are a major gap in education response, such as school tents, stationery, and other teaching and learning materials. Schools used as IDP shelter will affect the school infrastructure, facilities, furniture, teaching and learning material, and liability of high electricity bills (OCHA, 07/08/2014).

At least 86,000 students from government schools in North Waziristan are affected by the current military operations. The amount of students enrolled in private schools is unknown. In addition, many educational institutions are occupied by military or security forces (DAWN, 15/07/2014).

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).

The current policy on registration of IDPs from NWA will not consider new Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) card holders, and there is no plan to re-open new registration (OCHA, 07/08/2014).

There are increased reports of law enforcement agencies and workers of Sindhi ethnic parties harassing ethnic Pashtuns in Sindh province. Despite hostilities, the Pakistani army is not allowing the Pashtun to return to South Waziristan, which they fled during government military operations against the Taliban five years ago (IRIN, 04/08/2014).

SGBV

A recent spate of acid attacks in Balochistan province, until recently untouched by this type of crime, suggests a new pattern is emerging. In most attacks, the victims know their assailants. The acid attacks fit a wider pattern of erosion of women’s rights, especially in separatist and previous relatively secular strongholds (AFP, 31/07/2014).

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.

Updated: 11/08/2014

JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

7 August: About 900 Syrian refugees were registered by UNHCR in the period between 31 July and 7 August, bringing the total number of registered Syrian refugees in Jordan to 609,400.

4 August: In response to reports that Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) are barred from entering Jordan and are subject to refoulement, a government official stated that all Syrian refugees are treated equally, regardless of their origin, however, he added that Jordan cannot allow those who do not have documents to stay in the country.

KEY CONCERNS

- Jordan remains affected by the crisis in neighbouring Syria, with the regular flow of Syrian refugees swelling Jordan’s population by about 10%: 609,400 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 and freedom of movement.

- Jordanian authorities are tightening restrictions on refugees residing in informal tented settlements (ITS) and refugees who have left the camps unofficially, outside of the ‘bailout’ process. An estimated 200,000 Syrian refugees have left the camps unofficially. Without documentation allowing refugees to reside outside of the camps, refugees would be unable to access public services or receive WFP food vouchers.

- 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 about 15% of Syrian refugees in Jordan. Refugees arriving to the newest refugee camp, Azraq, have demonstrated a strong desire to leave. It is estimated that up to half 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 Mafraq 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.

On its social media accounts, the Islamic State (formerly known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL) has threatened to take its jihad to Jordan. In June, Islamists demonstrated in Ma’an, southern Jordan, praising IS victories in Iraq. The jihadist movement in Jordan is generally dominated by anti-IS groups that support Al Qaeda and its Syrian ally Al Nusra Front, which is an IS rival (AFP, 23/06/2014). On 3 August, a gendarme was shot and killed by unidentified assailants in Ma’an and a man was arrested for attempting to attack lawmakers with a homemade bomb, which did not detonate.

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 requirement 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 over 600,000 Syrian refugees.

Syrian Refugees

Jordan hosts the third largest number of Syrian refugees, after Lebanon and Turkey. As of 31 July 2014, about 609,400 Syrian refugees were registered with UNHCR in Jordan. 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 to fewer than 200 daily arrivals in June 2014. 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 1 July, 11,600 refugees were registered by UNHCR in Azraq camp. However, it is believed that only about half of the population remains in Azraq due to the isolation, poor living conditions and services available in the camp.

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’tari 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’tari 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 14,200 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.

Non-Syrian Refugees

Due to the conflict in Iraq, the number of Iraqis seeking asylum through UNHCR continued to increase in the past year. As of mid-July, about 4,800 Iraqis had approached UNHCR in
Jordan. Despite the recent crisis in northern Iraq and Anbar governorate, the majority of Iraqi asylum seekers originate from the Baghdad area. The number of Sudanese asylum seekers also increased in 2014, while the number of Somali asylum seekers has decreased slightly. Over 2,000 refugees and asylum seekers from Sudan, Somalia and other countries currently live in Jordan.

**WASH**

The 2013/14 rains were only 77% of the long-term annual average, leading to a reduction in underground water reserves and a marked increase in underground water salinity in some well fields. This situation is unfortunately expected to result in increased stress on the existing water resources (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 *refoulement* of refugees by the Jordanian authorities. The joint Government–UNHCR re-verification process began in Za'atari in late 2013 and was completed in June 2014. 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*.

According to recent assessments, at least 7,000 refugees were residing in informal tented settlements (ITS) in five governorates in June. The vast majority 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. This policy seems to have again been implemented, with even broader interpretation. According to sources, about 1,270 residents of two settlements located on private land in southeast Amman were evicted in the early hours of 28 June and forced to move to Azraq camp. Evictees reported that up to six people had been forcibly returned to Syria. Unlike previous evictions, the residents were not allowed to identify other options, such as finding non-camp housing to rent.

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.

**Food security**

A recent food security assessment was conducted by WFP and REACH, which covered nearly 8,000 Syrian refugee households in all districts in Jordan, as well as in camps and host communities. The assessment found that nearly all Syrian refugee households in Jordan receives food assistance. Of those assessed, 6% of them were rated as food insecure, 42% as vulnerable to food insecurity and 52% as food secure. It also found that 74% of Syrian refugee households cited WFP vouchers as their main source of income and that 85% would not have sufficient access to food if WFP ceased assistance. Using the findings, the WFP started targeted distribution of its food vouchers to assist the most vulnerable based on vulnerability criteria developed through the assessment. In Lebanon, a similar exercise was undertaken in late 2013 and about 30% of Syrian refugees no longer qualify for UN assistance. In Jordan, WFP plans to reduce the total number of refugees receiving vouchers by 10% in September. This percentage might increase over time based on funding constraints, leading to increased dissatisfaction among Syrian refugees. This could also lead to more refugees working illegally, placing more pressure on informal labour markets.

**LEBANON CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**7 August:** Islamic State (IS) fighters withdrew from Aarsal, near the Syrian border following a battle with the Lebanese army. Seven policemen were set free. At least 17 soldiers, 50 militants and 12 civilians were killed in the Aarsal clashes.

**6 August:** Armed fighters began to leave Aarsal after agreeing a cease-fire with the Lebanese army. The armed groups in Aarsal were split over attempts to end the fighting, according to security forces. While Nusra Front wanted to leave the town and move to the outskirts, IS insisted on staying to continue fighting the Lebanese army.

**4 August:** The army announced that 22 soldiers were missing, possibly taken hostage. Some 20 policemen were also detained, three of whom were freed on 5 August. The local government estimates that some 3,000 families from Aarsal have so far been displaced. The city is believed to also house 100,000 Syrian refugees.

**2 August:** Fighting broke out in Aarsal between the Lebanese army and armed fighters. It erupted after the detention of a Syrian who had admitted being a member of Al-Nusra Front, according to the Lebanese army. Gunmen angered by the arrest surrounded Lebanese army checkpoints and opened fire on troops and stormed a police post in Aarsal. The armed fighters were able to seize control of the town. The violence is the worst to hit the area since the beginning of the Syria crisis in 2011. The outbreak of violence sparked clashes in the northern city of Tripoli, where fighting killed a child and wounded 11 other people, including seven soldiers.

**28 July:** 13% of refugees are moderately or severely food insecure, 62% mildly food insecure and 25% food secure, according to preliminary results of the 2014 vulnerability assessment of Syrian refugees, conducted in May–June. The number of food secure households was 7% lower than in 2013.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 1,116,000 Syrians registered as refugees and 27,500 were awaiting registration, as of 5 August. More than 78% are women and children (53% children) (UNHCR 01/07/2014).
Over 53,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria have been recorded by UNRWA.
- 77% of refugee children are under the age of 11 and 25% are at risk. Youth aged 15-24 years constitute approximately 16%. (UNHCR 06/2014, UNFPA 06/08/2014)
- Lebanon will need USD 1.6 billion to cope with the humanitarian situation this year; as of 1 June, only 23% has been raised. (UNHCR 03/07/2014)
- Shelter is a critical problem: as of 10 July, over 173,000 refugees are living in 1,259 informal tented settlements (UNHCR).
- 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.

OVERVIEW

Lebanon has the highest per capita concentration of refugees worldwide. While the country struggles to deal with the refugee influx, which exceeds a quarter of the Lebanese population, tensions between host and refugee populations are increasing due to pressure on health and education systems, housing, employment, and food price hikes. 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

National Political Context

On 23 July, lawmakers failed for the ninth time to convene and elect a new president for lack of quorum. Former president Michel Sleiman’s term expired on 25 May, leaving Lebanon without a head of state. March 8 bloc lawmakers, which include Hezbollah, have boycotted the last eight 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

On 2 August, fighting broke out in Aarsal between the Lebanese army and armed fighters. It erupted after the detention of a Syrian who had admitted being a member of Al-Nusra Front, according to the Lebanese army. Gunmen angered by the arrest surrounded Lebanese army checkpoints and opened fire on troops and stormed a police post in Aarsal. The armed fighters were able to seize control of the town. The violence is the worst to hit the area since the beginning of the Syria crisis in 2011.

On 7 August, IS fighters withdrew from Aarsal. The outbreak of violence also sparked clashes in the northern city of Tripoli.

Clashes broke out between Hezbollah forces and Syrian opposition fighters on 12 July in an un-demarcated area of the border between Qalamoun in Syria and Lebanon’s Aarsal. 16 fighters died.

On 11 July, unidentified armed fighters began launching rockets from southern Lebanese territory towards Israel, prompting Israeli retaliatory shelling on 14 July.

Shelling from Syria on the border regions frequently results in casualties. The first major clashes between Lebanese Hezbollah fighters and Syrian opposition fighters inside Lebanese territory were reported in June 2013. Between 16 April and 31 May, over 45 rockets and shells, most allegedly fired from Syrian territory, landed in Bekaa and some in Akkar. Clashes were also reported in Aarsal. Hezbollah’s involvement in support of President Assad’s forces has prompted the Free Syrian Army and Al Nusra Front to warn that their members could start fighting Hezbollah inside Lebanon.

Two suicide bombings on 20 and 23 June marked a return of insecurity to Lebanon after months of relative calm. The Al Qaeda-affiliated Abdullah Azzam Brigades announced that the attacks will continue until Hezbollah withdraws from the conflict in Syria.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Insecurity in some areas is hindering assistance. Security concerns forced the postponement of planned WFP assignments in the east and south of the country 9-22 July. In Aarsal, in the northern part of the Bekaa Valley, food distributions were delayed and monitoring cancelled following heavy fighting (WFP 28/07/2014).

Displacement

As of 5 August over 1,116,000 Syrians are registered as refugees in Lebanon and over 27,500 are awaiting registration. 78% are women and children. The number of Syrians in Lebanon who are not registered with UNHCR is unknown. The percentage of refugees who experienced multiple internal displacement in Syria before arriving in Lebanon went from 11% in January to 54% in April. (UNHCR 06/2014)

The UN estimates that Lebanon will need USD 1.6 billion in funding to cope with the humanitarian situation this year; as of 1 June only 23% has been raised. (UNHCR 03/07/2014)

Refugees reside in over 1,700 locations, of which some 1,000 are informal settlements.

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 imposed on 8 May. According to Human Rights Watch, the unclear application process for entry permits makes it almost impossible for Palestinian refugees to enter Lebanon.
Food Security

13% of refugees are moderately or severely food insecure, 62% mildly food insecure and 25% food secure, according to preliminary results of the 2014 vulnerability assessment of Syrian refugees (VASyR), conducted in May–June. The number of food secure households was 7% lower than in 2013, which is mainly attributable to a higher proportion having resorted to negative coping strategies. The food security situation was found to be worse in Akkar and the Bekaa Valley, where 22% and 16% of households, respectively, were moderately and severely food insecure. 6% of households in Beirut and Mount Lebanon were moderately and severely food insecure (WFP 28/07/2014).

A severe drought has resulted in a substantial decline in agricultural production throughout the country. The most affected products are fruits and vegetables, for which prices have increased (Inter Press Service 23/07/2014).

Food is the largest expense for Syrian refugees and PRS. For Syrian refugees, it ranges from USD 151 to USD 275 per household per month. Monitoring reports found the commodity basket to cost more 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 (inter-agency multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA) 05/2014).

Livelihoods

28% of Syrian refugee households resorted to emergency coping strategies this year, up from 22% in 2013, according to preliminary results of the 2014 VASyR. 82% of assessed households reported having borrowed money during the last three months, compared to 71% in 2013. Half of households had debts amounting to USD 400 or more (WFP 28/07/2014).

Only 22% of refugee households report having any income (UNHCR): 90% of those completely reliant on others for support cited lack of work as the main problem. Medical conditions or permanent disability were also reasons (MSNA 05/2014).

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 (ILO). UNHCR reports that newcomers arriving in 2014 are in general more vulnerable, having spent their savings and assets while in Syria and find conditions more difficult. Between 70% and 91% of Syrian refugee households are in debt, mainly to friends of relatives, with amounts owed ranging from USD 201 to USD 600 (MSNA 05/2014).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: More than 37% of PRS reported cash and food aid as their main source of income (UNRWA, 03/2014). The majority of employed PRS cannot rely on wages to ensure a decent standard of living. Only 11% of PRS households were able to rely on previous saving and remittances.

Lebanese population: Social Affairs Minister Rashid Derbas stated on 3 July that border communities hosting Syrian refugees were under particular pressure because of the increase in people willing to work for low wages. Unemployment in these areas, especially among unskilled or unskilled labour, has doubled since the refugee influx (Reuters 03/07/2014).

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).

According to a September 2013 World Bank study, should the current rate of refugee inflow continue, more than 170,000 additional Lebanese could fall into poverty by 2014.

Health and Nutrition

Health working group members have identified a shortage of medicine, equipment and health worker capacity as a growing concern (UNHCR 01/07/2014). The current supply of medicines for acute and chronic diseases is insufficient to cover rising demand. Many refugees still find it difficult to cover the costs of medical treatment; distance is also a barrier to accessing healthcare.

At the end of June, approximately 85% of primary health consultations were for acute conditions and 15% chronic conditions, mental health conditions, and injuries. Chronic non-communicable diseases, which consist of mainly respiratory, cardiovascular, and diabetes, are having a disproportionate effect due to poor quality treatment (UNHCR 18/07/2014).

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). 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).

Low utilisation of antenatal and post-natal services is leading to high rates of emergency obstetrics (34% of all deliveries are caesarean sections as of March). Geography and cost present barriers to accessing antenatal care (UNHCR 01/07/2014).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: 42% of surveyed households had at least one member who required hospitalisation. More than a quarter (27%) of households reported at least one pregnant or breastfeeding woman within the household. Households living outside the refugee camps have been less frequently accessing UNRWA’s health services than households in the camps (UNRWA, 03/2014).

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 WHO minimum acceptable meal frequency (UNHCR 10/2013).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: Almost 75% of PRS children aged between six months and five years were sick in the two weeks prior to the UNRWA survey in March. 91% of
PRS children did not meet the minimum acceptable meal frequency levels and 86% did not have acceptable dietary diversity.

**Mental Health**

Around 300,000 displaced Syrians are estimated to be most vulnerable to mental health concerns, 60% of them being women and children (WHO 16/07/2014).

**Polio**

Lebanon is now considered one of the top 13 countries with high polio vulnerability (Global Polio Eradication Initiative). Lebanon has been polio-free for 12 years.

**WASH**

The demand for water has increased by 7% due to the refugee influx (UNHCR 01/07/2014). An estimated 28% of Syrian refugees do not have enough access to safe water. WASH conditions are worse for the Syrian refugees living in 1,250 informal settlements, and for Syrian refugees in difficult-to-access locations in the Bekaa Valley and the north. 26,000 PRS are also considered to be among those most in need of WASH assistance (UNHCR 01/07/2014).

2014 is likely to be the driest year in 100 years. Average rainfall in 2014 is estimated at 470mm, far below annual averages of 824mm, according to the Rafik Hariri International Airport Meteorological Department (Inter Press Service 23/07/2014). 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. Lebanon’s inability to store water efficiently, water pollution, and its misuse both in agriculture and for domestic purposes, have put great pressure on the resource (Inter Press Service 28/07/2014).

**Waste management:** 29% of Syrian refugees are in need of access to improved sanitation, of which 7% are using primitive toilet facilities. The lack of adequate sanitation is a particular concern in buildings and settlements that were not originally intended as living spaces. In informal settlements, wastewater is not properly evacuated (UNHCR 01/07/2014).

**Shelter**

Shelter remains a priority need for refugees. Finding suitable sites for formal settlements and collective shelters remains a key issue. As of March, 81% of refugees were renting accommodation: most in shared apartments, and others in unfinished buildings, garages, warehouses, animal sheds, and informal settlements. More than 80% of registered refugees pay on average USD 200 per month for accommodation, which includes substantial shelters.

Projections from UNHCR shelter surveys suggest that 55% of Syrian refugees will be living in unfinished houses, worksites, and informal settlements by December. Shelter conditions and winter needs are often more acute in substandard buildings than in informal settlements (UNHCR 18/07/2014).

The number of informal settlements across the country continues to increase. About 1,250 informal settlements across the country host over 173,000 Syrian refugees. This is a more than fourfold increase in settlements since June 2012, when there were 282 informal settlements (UNHCR 27/07/2014). Akkar has over 300, and the Bekaa 700, of four or more tents. Threats of and actual evictions are growing: a recent assessment of the 200 largest informal settlements in Bekaa revealed an increase in potential eviction cases (OCHA 16/07/2014). The multi-sectoral assessment of informal settlements in Bekaa indicate congestion, low quality drainage systems and great needs for shelter repair.

Shelter is the primary reason for widespread secondary displacement among Syrian refugees, with people seeking better or cheaper shelter, and some being evicted (MSNA 05/2014). Only 10% of registered Syrian refugees possess a written rent agreement.

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. The cost of living is significantly higher 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: 80% of assessed households are in debt. Findings illustrate a clear correlation between debt, and increased protection, health and hygiene risks. Approximately 34% of families in the Mount Lebanon and Beirut region are residing in substandard shelter accommodation (ACTED 14/05/2014, 18/07/2014).

**Palestinian refugees from Syria:** PRS households are residing in alarmingly crowded dwellings, with an average of 4.6 persons per bedroom. Households are also extremely constrained in their access to bathroom facilities, with 8.4 people on average sharing one bathroom. Most households (71%) reported paying rent for shelter. Slightly over a quarter of households (27%) were hosted for free.

**Lebanese returnees:** Some 50,000 Lebanese nationals are expected to return from Syria by the end of 2014, with the majority obliged to rent or live with host families. At least 51% are shelter insecure and require assistance to cover rental costs or shelter repair (UNHCR 01/07/2014).

**Education**

462,300 school-age children are in need of education assistance. The enrolment rate of Syrian refugee children is approximately 20%. The Lebanese education system is predominantly private, and the Syrian influx has increased demand on the limited public school places by almost 134% (UNHCR 01/07/2014).

Language barriers and safety concerns of Syrian parents contribute to a high drop-out rate. Transportation is another need. Access to education differs between geographical areas, primarily depending on proximity to schools. There are increasing tensions being reported between Lebanese and Syrian refugees, including discrimination, bullying, and violence. Child protection actors report that bullying and violence in schools are causing high tensions and resulting in children dropping out from school (UNHCR 18/07/2014).

**Youth aged 15-24 years** constitute approximately 16% of the refugee population. 6% of Syrian refugees aged 15-24 years are enrolled in education in Lebanon, making up merely 16% of those who used to study in Syria. One third of those formerly
studying in Syria have dropped out of education in Lebanon; the remainder, or just over 60% had already done so in Syria. The age group 15-18 years is the most affected; 51% among male and 44% of young female refugee youths in that age bracket had been enrolled in formal education in Syria, but have dropped out since arriving in Lebanon. (UNFPA 05/08/2014).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: School enrolment rates have doubled since the last academic year to 64%. Most PRS children are enrolled in UNRWA schools, which are predominantly located within refugee camps, resulting in lower enrolment rates for those outside camps. Enrolment rates decrease as a child's age increases (even within the same household): children aged 13 years and older are facing difficulties adjusting to UNRWA’s Lebanese curricula, taught in English or French.

Protection

Refugee Status

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.

PRS have reportedly been denied entry into Lebanon due to tightened border restrictions (Amnesty International, 30/06/2014). The report indicated evidence of a policy to deny PRS entry into Lebanon altogether. Since 8 May, 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.

Syrian and PRS refugee parents continue to experience barriers to registering the births of refugee children born in Lebanon, mainly due to the lack of legal residency permits and, in the case of PRS, the inability to renew visas. It is estimated that 35,000 Syrian refugee children will be born in Lebanon at the end of 2014. There is a risk of statelessness for those who are unregistered (UNHCR 01/07/2014). In addition, some refugees arrive in Lebanon with unconfirmed nationality, or without documents proving their nationality, including Syrian Kurds, who were denaturalised in Syria in 1962.

The renewal of legal stay documentation 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. Over 45,000 individuals have been de-registered this year as of end June because they failed to keep in contact with UNHCR or were otherwise found not to be in need of international protection (UNHCR 18/07/2014).

Mines and ERW

Lebanon has nearly 1,400 confirmed minefields and 520 cluster munitions strike areas, including in areas hosting refugees. 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.

Scarc economic opportunities coupled with high costs of living lead some families to negative coping mechanisms including early marriage, child labour, survival sex.

Child Protection

Child labour is reported to be increasing across the country, and children are engaging in dangerous forms of work. There is a noted increase of unaccompanied or separated children amongst working children. Within Mount Lebanon, there are reports of men approaching girls on the streets. Increased restrictions on visa renewals and entry into Lebanon of Palestinian refugees from Syria is also increasing concerns about the impact on children (UNHCR 18/07/2014).

Social Tensions

REACH undertook an assessment of host community needs in Akkar governorate, one of Lebanon’s most underdeveloped regions and where 63% of the population currently lives below the poverty line. Approximately one-third of the population of Akkar consists of refugees, with 195 villages in Akkar hosting refugees. Livelihoods have been affected, with tensions created by growing populations competing for scarce income-generating opportunities, more expensive goods and services, and less affordable accommodation. Work opportunities appear to be the most significant generator of tensions. Approximately three-fourths of key informants said that housing prices in their village were much higher than before the crisis. (REACH 05/08/2014)

Syrian refugees are mainly residing among the poorest communities of Lebanon, sharing scarce resources. Wages and work opportunities have been reduced for many. Social services cannot cope with the increasing demand. Host communities also fear infectious disease outbreaks as the number of insanitary informal refugee settlements grows. A perception that Syrian refugees get preferential treatment, perhaps due to humanitarian assistance directly targeting them, is adding to the friction.

Vulnerability has increased since late 2013, as UN mapping in May indicated 242 most vulnerable localities, where 86% of Syrian refugees are living, alongside 68% of Lebanese who are surviving on less than USD 4 per day.

Updated: 06/08/2014

PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, TYPHOON

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
9 August: 2,875 people were affected by armed conflict between a lawless group and the government forces in SSM Manguindanao. Of these, 1,150 are in one evacuation centre (Government).

8 August: Over 15,750 people were affected by Typhoon Halong in Pangasinan, Ilocos Norte and Bataan and 2 deaths were reported. Rice crops were damaged in Pangasinan (Government).

8 August: Food insecurity concerns remain due to high prices and for the population affected by several typhoons/cyclones. Rice prices increased 4.9% since 2013 (GIEWS).

7 August: 9,256 persons were affected by a bush fire in Rapu-Rapu Albay, which caused damage to water systems and livelihoods (upland crops and coconuts) (Government).

6 August: A historic peace settlement in the southern Philippines is at risk of falling apart as Muslim insurgents accuse the government of going back on its word over a proposed law to create self-rule for the war-torn region, according to reports in international media in early August.

- 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

A historic peace settlement in southern Philippines is at risk of falling apart as Muslim insurgents accuse the government of going back on its word over a proposed law to create self-rule for the war-torn region, according to reports in international media in early August.

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) that 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 their 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 28 July, 21 people were killed and 11 wounded by Abu Sayyaf militants in the remote town of Talipao on Jolo island, according to international media. Abu Sayyaf holds about 10 hostages, including two German tourists seized in April, and a Dutch and a Swiss national kidnapped two years ago, according to international media in July. Abu Sayyaf has about 300 armed fighters who are split into several factions.

**BIFF**

Eighteen people were killed in one day due to fighting between the Philippine army and BIFF in Maguindanao in July. Over 300 families fled the violence (IRIN 22/07/2014). Over 28–29 January, at least 53 people were killed after a military offensive was launched against BIFF in Maguindanao. Some 11,000 people were displaced in five days of fighting (OCHA).

The BIFF split from the main Muslim insurgent group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front...
(MILF), in 2008.

**MNLF-Nur Misuari**

In September and October 2013, a Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) faction led by Nur Misuari assaulted the southern city of Zamboanga in western Mindanao island, ignoring 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 that 202 were killed in the fighting, including over 160 militants, and 324 injured. 140,000 were displaced (UNHCR).

**MILF**

The government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), a group who separated from MNLF in favour of the independence of the Bangsamoro Land, are set to meet in Davao City from 1-10 August 2014 to continue working on an agreed version of the draft Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

**New People’s Army**

Sixteen people were killed in southern Mindanao on 15 July as a result of clashes between the New People’s Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party, and armed tribesmen (AFP 15/07/2014).

In May, 39 miners were taken hostage by the New People’s Army, during confrontation with government forces in Compostela Valley.

15EC

The over 200 members of the 15EC, a group formed by 15 leaders of MNLF who turned against Nur Misuari were all officially expelled from the MNLF on 10 October 2013 for at least one of the following reasons: factionalism to the One MNLF Doctrine, counterfeiting the negotiations and sabotaging the MNLF-GPH peace process, participating in fraudulent transactions, accepting bribes from, and defection to the GPH and other opposite counterpart of the MNLF, collaborating in acts of terrorism and armed-conflict-related human trafficking.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Access**

Access is restricted in some areas affected by Typhoon Rammasun (locally known as Typhoon Glenda) due to damage to 11 roads and two bridges (National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council NDRRMC 22/07/2014).

Insecurity in parts of Mindanao and nearby areas is limiting humanitarian access. Concurrent natural disasters have hampered further aid delivery to affected populations.

**Disasters**

Prolonged dry spells and strong 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 strong 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).

**Typhoon Halong**

Some 15,769 people were affected by HALONG Typhoon in Pangasinan, Ilocos Norte and Bataan, which caused two deaths; rice crops were damaged in Pangasinan and road access was affected in some areas (Governement 08/08/2014).

**Typhoon Henry**

683 people in Occidental Mindoro (MIMAROPA region) and Negros Occidental (Western Visayas region) provinces were affected by Typhoon Henry, which hit the Philippines between 21 and 23 of July. 132 houses were damaged: 28 fully destroyed and 104 partially (National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council NDRRMC 24/07/2014).

**Typhoon Rammasun**

Typhoon Rammasun damaged over 111,000 houses (28,795 fully destroyed and 89,486 partially damaged). The most affected areas are Laguna (CALABARZON region) with over 40,000 houses, Northern Samar (Eastern Visayas region) with more than 24,000 and Camarines Sur (Bicol region) with almost 17,000 (OCHA 22/07/2014).

Over 1.6 million people were affected, after the typhoon hit the Philippines on the 15–16 July, leaving 97 dead and 460 injured. 518,700 people in 1,264 evacuation centres and 115 shelters were reported. 5,000 farmers were destroyed, affecting 5,000 farmers (OCHA, 14/07/2014).

**Floods in Mindanao**

160,000 people have been affected by floods in Maguindanao province that started in early June, caused by heavy rains. Authorities have declared a state of emergency in Maguindanao and in some areas of North Cotabato province. 45% of planted areas has been destroyed, affecting 5,000 farmers (OCHA, 14/07/2014).

**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 within 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, and 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, it was reported that 6,201 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, 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.

Rehabilitation of people affected by Typhoon Haiyan is being delayed due to mixed messages about “no-build zones” in coastal areas and the time taken to develop multi-hazard mapping for areas devastated by the typhoon (IRIN 18/07/2014).

**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**

2,875 persons were affected by armed conflict between a lawless group and the government forces in SSM Manguindanao. 1,150 of these are in one evacuation centre (Government 09/08/2014).

There were 7 dead and over 5,250 displaced as a result of fighting between Palaman and Sandiki groups in Basilan (Government 07/08/2014).

**Zamboanga**

Over 64,000 IDPs remain in evacuation centres of Zamboanga city, and lack adequate sanitation conditions (OCHA 01/08/2014). Fighting between the army and Muslim guerrillas caused 100,000 to flee Zamboanga (Trust 11/07/2014).

The two largest camps in Zamboanga city will be closed by July and December, the government announced on 7 July. 15,800 IDPs will be transferred to temporary sites while waiting for permanent accommodation (OCHA 07/07/2014). The two largest evacuation centres host some 20,000 people. Prolonged displacement in overcrowded conditions poses health and protection risks. 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**

In early July, the government announced the official recovery and rehabilitation phase for the Haiyan affected areas.

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.

**Health and Nutrition**

97 dengue cases were recorded from the different hospitals and health centres in the city of Baguio from January to June 2014, a significant decrease compared to the 373 cases recorded during the same period last year (Government 7/08/2014).

17 suspected cases of dengue and one death have been reported in Tulungatong transit site in Zamboanga. Heavy rainfall and poor sanitary conditions in the evacuation centres are likely to increase the risk of disease outbreaks in Zamboanga city (OCHA 01/08/2014)

Over 1,000 children under five living in Zamboanga city evacuation centres are suffering from acute malnutrition (ACH 29/07/2014).

**Food Security**

9,256 persons were affected by a bush fire in Rapu-Rapu Albay which caused damage to water systems and livelihoods (upland crops and coconuts) (Government 7/08/2014).

Food insecurity concerns remain due to high prices and for the population affected by several typhoons/cyclones: the price of rice continued to increase in July reaching a 4.9 per cent year – on – year increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) since 2013 (GIEWS 08/08/14).

Flooding has affected 45% of the planted area in Maguindanao, affecting over 5,000 farmers (OCHA 07/07/2014).

Losses to stored crops caused by the disasters are likely to be high. FAO reported heavy
losses of the staple food crop rice, as well as other high value crops such as sugarcane, coconut, fruits and vegetables.

Livelihoods

Agriculture, fisheries and agricultural infrastructures were affected by typhoon Ramassun. Damage assessments are ongoing (NDRRMC 22/07/2014)

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 Philippine authorities.

As reported by Human Rights Watch, Philippines’ security forces and Muslim insurgents have committed serious human rights abuses during fighting in Zamboanga.

Updated: 11/08/2014

SRI LANKA INTERNAL UNREST, DROUGHT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

05 August: 36 Pakistani asylum-seekers deported from Sri Lanka between the 1 and the 5 of August, after two months of arrests and detentions. Their families including women and children might be deported too. This is creating a great deal of anxiety among the refugee and asylum-seeker population in Sri Lanka (UNHCR).

05 August: 700% increase asylum seeker/refugee population in Sri Lanka since 2013, with 1,562 asylum seekers and 308 refugees by 30 June, according to a Government report in early August; which also states the majority of them are driven by commercial human trafficking networks.

31 July: 111,459 families affected by drought suffer shortages of water for domestic and agricultural use in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Hambantota, Puttalam, Mannar, Vavuniya, Moneragala and Ampara districts. The drought is affecting the daily income of families as crop production has decreased by 42% compared to 2013 (Government of Sri Lanka).

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

Displacement

Refugees

36 Pakistani asylum-seekers were deported from Sri Lanka between the 1 and the 5 of August, after two months of arrests and detentions. Their families including women and children might be deported too. This situation is creating a great deal of anxiety among the refugee and asylum-seeker population in Sri Lanka (UNHCR).

A 700% increase in asylum seeker and refugee population since 2013, with 1,562 asylum seekers and 308 refugees by 30 June, according to a Government report in early August; which also states the majority of them are driven by commercial human trafficking networks.

Disasters

In July, over 870 houses have been damaged in Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, Ratnapura, Monaragala and Matale districts due to strong winds, according to Government sources.

Floods

About 104,000 people in 11 districts were affected by flash floods and landslides caused by above-average monsoon rains in the southwest at the beginning of June (National Disaster Management Centre). 27 people died and nine were injured.

Drought

By July the north and east of the country have not received significant rain since last
November and the southwestern monsoon rains have been below average.

111,459 families affected by drought suffer shortages of water for domestic and agricultural use in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Hambantota, Puttalam, Mannar, Vauniya, Moneragala and Ampara districts. The drought is affecting the daily income of families as crop production has decreased by 42% compared to 2013 (Government of Sri Lanka 05/08/2014).

Over 132,000 people are affected by drought in six districts of Polonnaruwa, according to Government figures released on 30 July.

Rainfall was below average every month between September 2013 and March 2014, leading to prolonged drought across most of the country. The northeast monsoon supplies water for agriculture across the key rice-producing areas of the country.

Food Security

Food security has deteriorated, affecting around 770,000 people. The most affected areas are the rain-fed 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).

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 (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 unfavorable.

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).

Updated: 05/08/2014

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 8 August. Last update: 14/07/2014.

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

KEY CONCERNS

- Massive human rights infringements, including against prisoners in prison camps who face starvation and torture, continue to be reported. Humanitarian access remains extremely limited (UN).

- Information on the food security situation remains limited. As of August, an estimated 16 million people (almost 65% of DPRK’s population) are chronically food insecure and an estimated 2.4 million people need food assistance (OCHA).

- As of August, malnutrition rates, particularly in the northwest, were extremely high with global chronic malnutrition (stunting) at almost 28% and global acute malnutrition (wasting) at 4% among children under five (OCHA).

- DPRK is disaster prone, regularly experiencing seasonal flooding that, for instance, affected over 800,000 people in summer 2013 (OCHA).

Political Context

On 26 March, the UN Human Rights Council passed a resolution condemning DPRK for what it considered as longstanding and ongoing systematic, widespread, and gross human rights violations. On 17 March, China dismissed the UN report on the ground that it made unfounded accusations. On 18 February, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights had urged world powers to refer DPRK to the International Criminal Court after a UN report documented evidence of widespread and systematic human rights violations and crimes against humanity. The team conducting the report recommended targeted UN sanctions against civil officials and military commanders suspected of the worst crimes.

Security Context

DPRK–South Korea

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. In 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.

**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. The food system in DPRK remains highly vulnerable to shocks and serious shortages exist, particularly in the production of protein-rich crops.

Despite a small increase in the aggregate food production for a third consecutive year in 2013/14, the food security situation remains unsatisfactory; 84% of households have borderline or poor food consumption. The lean period, which lasts between May and August, is expected to further aggravate the food security situation of much of the population (FAO, 03/07/2014).

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).

In late February, authorities reported an outbreak of foot-and-mouth, a highly contagious livestock disease. The disease was first reported in a suburb of Pyongyang. The outbreak may further heighten food insecurity. In 2011, the entire Korean peninsula was hit by an outbreak of foot-and-mouth that led to the culling of more than three million livestock in South 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**

**Malnutrition**

Acute malnutrition rates have improved in recent years. 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 within the normal range, according to international standards.

**Measles**

An outbreak of measles reported by local media in Yongchon, in North Pyongan province in mid-June has reached Sinuiji, on the border with China. Despite travel restrictions between Yongchon and Sinuiju, the disease has spread quickly since the beginning of July. So far, a senior citizen and two children have died (Chosun Ilbo, 10/07/2014).

Reviewed: 05/08/2014
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
No significant news reported this week, 5 August. Last update on 29/07/2014

KEY CONCERNS
- Despite the decreasing trend in cholera cases since January 2014, the disease remains a concern, especially now that the hurricane season has started (WHO 27/06/2014)
- Haiti remains highly vulnerable to natural disasters and extreme weather events. The resilience of the population and its capacity to cope with new crises are generally weak.
- Four years after the 2010 earthquake, an estimated 103,565 are still living in 172 camps scattered throughout metropolitan Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas (IOM, July 2014).

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.

Political Context
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

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.

Displacement

IDPs
An estimated 103,565 people (28,134 households) remain displaced in 172 IDP sites by July 2014, more than four years after the devastating January 2010 earthquake. The number of IDPs has decreased by 92% since the July 2010 peak of 1.5 million IDPs in 1,555 camps. Between March and June 2014, 71 IDP sites were closed. Rental subsidies accounted for the closure of 70 sites, one camp was closed as a result of eviction affecting 305 individuals and none was closed due to spontaneous departures (IOM 07/07/2014).

In June 2014, the majority of IDPs (68%) were living in Delmas (43,000 IDPs), Port-au-Prince (23,000 IDPs) and Cite Soleil (8,900 IDPs). Port-au-Prince has the highest number of IDP sites (37% of open sites), followed by Delmas and Carrefour. Carrefour, Croix-des-Bouquets, Petionville, and Tabarre host IDP sites ranging between 150 and 2,300 households. Léogane hosts 5,039 IDPs, and Gressier has 612 (IOM 07/07/2014).

Most people who have been relocated from camps continue to live in temporary housing and dire conditions, and are 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.

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 had parents who 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 the limited government capacity to monitor, prevent, and respond to crises all contribute to national vulnerability.

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, who 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.
Poor and very poor households in the north will likely be at Crisis levels 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.

**Agricultural Outlook**

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.

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. Rainfall has been low in recent weeks, especially in southern areas, and continuing dry conditions are forecast, which have implications for food insecurity (FEWSNET 29/07/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

**Chikungunya**

On 18 July, 62,422 suspected and 14 confirmed cases of Chikungunya had been reported since the outbreak started in April. The incidence rate is 605.2 per 100,000 (WHO/PAHO 18/07/2014). In June, Ouest department had reported 67% of cases. Many patients do not go to hospitals or public health centres, and it is estimated that at least 150,000 people may have been affected country-wide (IFRC 03/07/2014).

**Cholera**

15 July: 923 suspected cases and 9 fatalities were registered in June (which represents a 74% reduction in cases from the same period last year). In the first half of 2014 (from January to July) there have been 6,406 cases and 45 deaths (OCHA 15/07/2014).

The following numbers were recorded in previous years: 993 cases and eight deaths in 2013; 1,498 cases and 11 deaths in 2012; and 7,697 cases and 62 deaths in 2011. Nonetheless, eight out of ten departments continue to record new cases. The departments of Nippes and Nord-Est have not recorded new cases since May 2014 (WHO, 27/06/2014).

Since the beginning of the epidemic (October 2010) in Haiti until early June 2014, there have been 703,510 cholera cases, of which 393,912 have been hospitalised (56 %) and 8,562 people have died. The cumulative case fatality rate remains 1.2 %, with variations ranging from 4.4 % in the department of Sud-Est to 0.6 % in Port-au-Prince (WHO 02/06/2014).

**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.
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 had parents who were undocumented foreigners, mainly Haitians.

Food Security

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Poor and very poor households in the north will likely be at Crisis levels 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.

**Agricultural Outlook**

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.

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. Rainfall has been low in recent weeks, especially in southern areas, and continuing dry conditions are forecast, which have implications for food insecurity (FEWSNET 29/07/2014).

Health and Nutrition

**Chikungunya**

On 18 July, 62,422 suspected and 14 confirmed cases of Chikungunya had been reported since the outbreak started in April. The incidence rate is 605.2 per 100,000 (WHO/PAHO 18/07/2014). In June, Ouest department had reported 67% of cases. Many patients do not go to hospitals or public health centres, and it is estimated that at least 150,000 people may have been affected country-wide (IFRC 03/07/2014).

**Cholera**

15 July: 923 suspected cases and 9 fatalities were registered in June (which represents a 74% reduction in cases from the same period last year). In the first half of 2014 (from January to July) there have been 6,406 cases and 45 deaths (OCHA 15/07/2014).

The following numbers were recorded in previous years: 993 cases and eight deaths in 2013; 1,498 cases and 11 deaths in 2012; and 7,697 cases and 62 deaths in 2011. Nonetheless, eight out of ten departments continue to record new cases. The departments of Nippes and Nord-Est have not recorded new cases since May 2014 (WHO, 27/06/2014).

Since the beginning of the epidemic (October 2010) in Haiti until early June 2014, there have been 703,510 cholera cases, of which 393,912 have been hospitalised (56 %) and 8,562 people have died. The cumulative case fatality rate remains 1.2 %, with variations ranging from 4.4 % in the department of Sud-Est to 0.6 % in Port-au-Prince (WHO 02/06/2014).

**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.

**WASH**

Over 42% of the population does not have access to clean water.

Reviewed: 05/08/2014

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EPIDEMIC**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

8 August: 370,141 suspected cases of chikungunya have been reported, increasing from 307,862 cases by 19 July. 71 cases have been confirmed and three people have died from the disease (PAHO, 08/08/2014).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 370,141 suspected cases of chikungunya have been reported. 71 cases have been confirmed and three people have died from the disease (PAHO, 08/08/2014).

- With the onset of the hurricane season, increased rainfall and stagnant waters could exacerbate disease outbreaks (IFRC, 04/07/2014).
Humanitarian Context and Needs

Refugees/Migrants

On 23 May, the Dominican Senate unanimously approved a bill to 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 had parents who were undocumented foreigners, mainly Haitians. Many do not possess the legal documents necessary for this procedure. The government has announced that no deportations will be carried out for a year to give the affected people time to pursue legal status (El Nacional 02/06/2014; Consejo Nacional de Migracion, May 2014).

On 5 June, the Minister of Defence reported more than 25,500 illegal Haitian immigrants had been deported since the beginning of 2014 (Haiti Press Network, 06/06/2014).

Food Security

As of July, 14% of the households of small producers and day labourers are moderately or acutely food insecure. On 25 June, almost 30,000 people were severely or moderately affected and almost 14,000 people were incrementally affected by food insecurity (OCHA, 09/07/2014).

Agricultural Outlook

Most of the Dominican Republic, particularly the southern parts of the island, remained drier than average over the past several weeks. Low dam levels near Santo Domingo have led to water restrictions and occasional power outages (FEWSNET, 09/08/2014).

A national deficit of 100 million gallons of water is reported (Diario Libre, 30/07/2014).

The passage of tropical storm “Bertha” brought increased amounts of rainfall. The tropical storm reportedly caused localised flooding, the displacement of dozens of families, and elevated river levels. Despite increased rainfall last week, seasonal rainfall deficits that have accumulated since May still remain throughout much of Hispaniola. Over the same period, the southern parts and eastern third of the island have received only 25-50 percent of their average rainfall (FEWSNET, 09/08/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Chikungunya

As of 1 August, 370,141 suspected cases of chikungunya have been reported, increasing from 307,862 cases by 19 July, since the beginning of the outbreak in December 2013. 71 cases have been confirmed and three people have died from the disease (PAHO, 08/08/2014).

According to a senior health official, mother-to-child transmission is increasing. The rise in chikungunya cases has further been paralleled by a rise in child mortality and strokes (national epidemiology agency, 01/08/2014). 33,491 new cases were reported between 29 June and 5 July. Distrito Nacional province, which includes the capital, and San Juan, were the most affected by new cases over this period (Dominican Ministry of Health, 15/07/2014).

The increase in rainfall during the hurricane season, and resulting stagnant waters, could exacerbate outbreaks (IFRC, 04/07/2014).

Regional Overview

An outbreak of chikungunya was first reported in the Caribbean region on 6 December 2013, from the French part of the island of Saint Martin. It is the first time that transmission of the virus by infected mosquitos within the region has been documented in the Americas. Both the presence of mosquitos and the movement of people facilitate the spread of the disease (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, 21/02/2014).

302,243 suspected cases, including 21 deaths, have been reported December 2013- 7 July 2014; 4,756 cases are confirmed (PAHO/WHO). Affected areas comprise the Caribbean and Central America, as well as Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guyana and the United States. All 21 deaths were in the Caribbean, with most suspected cases of illness being recorded in the Dominican Republic (OCHA, 07/07/2014).

Cholera

As of April, over 30,000 people have contracted cholera and 454 have died since November 2010. In the first quarter of 2014, 42 cases have been reported in the Dominican Republic. In the previous year, 621 cases and seven deaths had been reported between January and May. The epidemic’s spread has slowed compared to 2010 and 2011, but the rate of infection varies with the weather. The May–November rainy season has led to sharp increases in the number of cholera cases (IFRC, 10/07/2014).

Updated: 11/08/2014

GUATEMALA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

5 August: The government estimates that approximately 480,000 people (120,000 families) could be affected by harvest losses expected to be higher than 50% in the ‘dry corridor’ (Prensa Libre, 05/08/2014).

4 August: Flooding in Alta Verapaz affected 15,000 people and damaged more than 2,500 homes (OCHA, 04/08/2014).

KEY CONCERNS
- 800,000 people are food insecure in Guatemala (OCHA, 09/07/2014).
- Over 8,000 children under five suffering from acute malnutrition have been recorded in Guatemala so far this year (Government of Guatemala, 24/07/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

Earthquake

By 25 July, 63,280 people were affected by the 7 July earthquake, 9,885 homes damaged, and 6,730 people evacuated (UN, 25/07/2014). 270 people were injured and one killed. The earthquake struck off the coast of the Mexican state of Chiapas, 50km from the border with Guatemala (ECHO, 08/07/2014).

Dozens of schools were damaged and roads were blocked in the Guatemalan departments of Quetzaltenango and San Marcos. Guatemala’s national disaster relief agency, CONRED, declared an institutional orange alert (OCHA, CONRED, UN, 07/07/2014), which was still in place at the end of July (CONRED, 30/07/2014). Most affected are San Marcos, the south of Huehuetenango, Sololá, Quetzaltenango, Totonicapán, Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez (UN, 25/07/2014).

Floods

By 4 August, OCHA reported that flooding in Alta Verapaz affected 15,000 people and damaged more than 2,500 homes (OCHA, 04/08/2014).

By 28 July, the Government stated that heavy rains during the preceding days had affected more than 1,500 people in Alta Verapaz, Izabal, and Baja Verapaz and damaged 270 homes (Government of Guatemala, 28/07/2014).

On 17 July, torrential rains were reported to have affected the south of El Estor in Izabal department, and Valle del Polochic in Alta Verapaz department. Bridges crossing the rivers Tinajas, Pueblo Viejo, and Zarcón were severely damaged. Around 19,200 people (4,800 households) were cut off in 76 communities of El Estor, and Panzos in Alta Verapaz. 150 homes were flooded and the affected families lost belongings and domestic animals (Siglo XXI, 17/07/2014).

El Estor was also hit by floods on 13 July, and 220 people in San Vicente I and II were affected (Government of Guatemala, 15/07/2014).

Tropical Storms

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, 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

By 5 August, the government estimated that approximately 480,000 people (120,000 families) could be affected by harvest losses expected to be higher than 50% in the ‘dry corridor’. 10% of the countrywide maize harvest is normally produced in the dry corridor which encompasses Chiquimula, Jutiapa, Jalapa, Baja Verapaz, El Progreso, Zacapa and Quiché (Prensa Libre, 05/08/2014). Currently, at least 160,000 people (40,000 families) in the dry corridor are affected by harvest losses due to the lack of rain (Siglo XXI, 30/07/2014). Chiquimula department reported losing 64% of its harvest (Prensa Libre, 24/07/2014).

About 240,000 people in three municipalities of San Marcos (El Tumbador, El Quetzal, and La Reforma) will face moderate to severe food insecurity during July–September, as a consequence of the coffee leaf rust epidemic (WFP, 25/07/2014).

As of 9 July, 800,000 people are at risk of food insecurity (OCHA, 09/07/2014).

A state of emergency was declared in February 2013 for food insecurity caused by coffee rust and drought. The coffee leaf rust epidemic is affecting the entire Central America region, and is one of the worst ever (International Coffee Organization). Some 70% of the Guatemalan plantation have 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, 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.

Agricultural Outlook

Over the past 30 days, Eastern Guatemala has received only between 25 and 50 percent of its average rainfall (FEWSNET, 29/07/2014).

The chance of El Niño affecting the country this year is 80% (Prensa Libre, 15/07/2014). 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 and Nutrition

Malnutrition

As of 24 July, 8,067 cases of acute malnutrition were reported among under-fives from the beginning of the year until 6 July (Government of Guatemala, 24/07/2014). On 24 July, 58
children had died from causes related to malnutrition in 2014 (Government of Guatemala, 24/07/2014). On 17 July, 17 children under five in Huehuetenango had died of malnutrition in 2014. It is feared that this year’s figures will surpass those of 2013, when 25 children died (Prensa Libre, 17/07/2014). On average, one in 100 severely malnourished children dies from lack of food (Government of Guatemala, 17/07/2014).

HONDURAS FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

29 July: 304,000 people (76,000 families) are affected by food insecurity.

KEY CONCERNS

- 304,000 people affected by food insecurity: Ocotepeque, Lempira and Copán departments are most affected (Government of Honduras, 29/07/2014).

- The food security situation for day labourers, small coffee farmers, and basic grain producers in the western and southern areas will be Stressed (IPC Phase 2) from July to September because of reduced employment demand in the coffee sector, lack of food reserves, and high food prices (FEWSNET, 29/07/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Dengue

10,547 cases of dengue have been recorded so far this year, 900 suspected of being haemorrhagic dengue. Over 1000 new cases were recorded 12-29 July. Severe cases have also increased: by 19 July, 947 suspected cases were recorded-a increase of 53 over the previous week. Two deaths have been recorded so far (La Prensa, 29/07/2014).

Updated: 05/08/2014

SOUTH AMERICA

BOLIVIA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new developments this week. Last update: 30/07/2014.

KEY CONCERNS

- 325,000 affected by heavy rainfall and flooding across most of Bolivia (Government, WFP, and OCHA, 06/2014).

- Bolivia is prone to natural disasters including earthquakes, floods, and droughts. The 2013 drought and severe frost affected over 340,000 people and damaged 87,000 hectares of crops (Government).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access
Most roads in Beni remain unusable and those to the municipalities of San Ignacio, San Ramón, San Joaquín, and Puerto Siles are being repaired. The municipalities of Santa Ana and Exaltación are still cut off, and cannot be reached over ground (WFP, 09/07/2014).

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.

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).

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. The most affected regions during the rainy season are typically north of La Paz and in the south Andean plateau of Lake Titicaca.

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.

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

The nutritional status of flood-affected families in the departments of Pando, Beni, La Paz and Cochabamba is deteriorating, according to preliminary results of the Emergency Food Security Assessment (WFP, 25/07/2014). It is estimated that sowing will start in July in Beni and harvest would not take place before November (WFP, 09/07/2014).

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. 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 (Heath Ministry). National authorities issued an alert for dengue and malaria in flood-affected regions at the beginning of 2014.

Chikungunya

The Ministry of Health has declared preventive alert as Chikungunya cases were confirmed in Brazil and Chile (OCHA, 30/06/2014).

Reviewed: 07/08/2014

PARAGUAY FLOODS

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

7 August: The flow level of the Paraguay River has started to decrease. According to WFP, 245,900 people were affected in 11 provinces and 83,500 people remain displaced, of whom 76,000 are in Asunción. Some families have started to move their belongings to their houses, but they continue to be sheltered.

KEY CONCERNS

- Over 245,900 people are affected by heavy rainfall and flooding across Paraguay (WFP, 07/08/2014).
- Paraguay is prone to a variety of natural disasters, particularly seasonal floods and droughts.

Humanitarian Context and Needs
Floods

The flow level of the Paraguay River has started to decrease. According to WFP, 245,900 people were affected in 11 provinces and 83,500 people (17,000 families) remain displaced, of whom 76,000 are in Asunción. Some families have started to move their belongings to their houses, but they continue to be sheltered (WFP, 07/08/2014).

Outlook: Rainfall over Paraguay had been heavy since May, and heavy rain in southeastern Brazil since the beginning of June had also an impact. The level of the Paraguay River reached its highest level on 10 July, at 7.38m. However, water levels may rise again with the beginning of El Niño in a few months (BBC, 26/07/2014).

Updated: 08/08/2014
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 on-going crisis which triggers a change of prioritisation, the Global Overview will be updated on an ad-hoc basis.

Disclaimer

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

More information on the Global Emergency Overview Methodology can be found in the Global Overview Methodology Brief and the Frequently Asked Questions.