GLOBAL EMERGENCY OVERVIEW
August 2014

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

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

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

Watch list
DPRK
Eritrea
Guinea
Sierra Leone
Ukraine

Snapshot 13-19 August

**Yemen:** The 9 August Al Jawf ceasefire has been broken. Access to people affected by the conflict in Al Jawf is extremely limited due to persistent insecurity, and it is very difficult to obtain information. Almost 3,000 people have died in violence since the National Dialogue Conference took place on 25 January.

**Syria:** Government air strikes hit Islamic State positions in Ar-Raqqa, as well as Deir-ez-Zor and Aleppo, while IS advanced west towards the Turkish border, taking several villages from rival opposition groups. IS killed some 700 Sunni Sheitat tribe members, while an estimated 15,000 Yazidis fleeing IS in Iraq are seeking refuge in Al Hasakeh governorate.

**Iraq:** A Level 3 emergency was declared by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. 17 million people, more than half the population, are affected by the ongoing violence, and 1.5 million need assistance. 200,000 people were displaced in the week of 4–11 August.

*Updated: 19/08/2014. Next update: 26/08/2014*
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-Seleka 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 Seleka fighters, and civilian mob violence, have caused mass displacement, targeted killings along communal lines, and human rights abuses since December 2013. The government has virtually no control of the territory, and new warlords have established dominance over a number of territories.

Political Context

International Response

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

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

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

National Political Context

On 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-Seleka, 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 Nzapayeké, as Prime Minister. Nzapayeké’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 Sagani, 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.

**Mbamou:** 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-Grebi, 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 (Lobaye 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 Mbali in Lobaye (OCHA). Most Muslim inhabitants of Boali, and of Bossembete, 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 Bafatango 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 Koui (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 Ngaoounday and Bang, Ouham-Pende (UNHCR, 5/06/2014).

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 16,000 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 forcible 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

13 August: Suspected LRA fighters killed four people after attacking several villages in Kisangani area, Orientale province (Radio Okapi).

13 August: Bakata Katanga attacked several houses in the Kasinge area of Katanga before killing three civilian pygmies (AFP).

12 August: Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) was forced to interrupt a measles vaccination campaign in Kalonge, South Kivu. A clash erupted between FARDC troops and an armed group on 3 August in the town of Cifunzi. Eight people were killed. MSF staff said they received violent threats from militants (MSF).

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 agreement for DRC and the region. In January 2014, the Framework members adopted a plan of action, and Kenya and Sudan also agreed to join the process. There are however concerns about DRC’s commitment to the Framework, as implementation is not progressing.

National Political Context

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

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

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

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 soldiers in Equateur and ex-Seleka fighters in Orientale province has 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.

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.

On 4 August, MONUSCO peacekeepers discovered an important cache of ammunition in northeastern Kalemie, were repeatedly attacked by Mayi Mayi Yakutumba from South Kivu between Pweto, Manono, and Mitwaba, and in Malemba Nkulu.

On 4 August, MONUSCO peacekeepers discovered an important cache of ammunition in north Kivu.

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 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.

In June, 200 FDLR militants voluntarily surrendered in North and South Kivu. However, MONUSCO officials warned on 6 August that the FDLR remains active (AFP, 06/08/2014).

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. By May, some 1,300 ex-M23 who had fled to Uganda had 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

On 4 August, MONUSCO peacekeepers discovered an important cache of ammunition in Tshanzu (MONUSCO, 04/08/2014).

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 Mpofi-Bunyampuli area is considered to be free of insurgents (MONUSCO, 11/07/2014).

ADF-NALU: The Islamic Alliance of Democratic Forces (ADF-NALU) is a 1,400-strong alliance opposed to the Ugandan Government. 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 (APCLS) and government forces were reported in January. Human rights violations and summary executions were reported in Nyamaboko villages I and II, Masisi territory, in February. On 23 April, local sources reported that FARDC had taken APCLS bases in Matembe, Mirenge, and Maniema, Walikale territory. The insurgents reportedly retreated into Mutongo area, attacking MONUSCO peacekeepers and FARDC positions in Nyabiondo area and Goma a week later.

FDLR: On 13 March, local media reported that the FARDC had regained the city of Kahumo without resistance, after two years of occupation by FDLR.

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 Kolula areas have 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.

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 from 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.

Mayi Mayi: Over 15–30 July, 18 of 25 villages located between Kabimba and Kabanga, northeastern Kalemie, were repeatedly attacked by Mayi Mayi Yakutumba from South Kivu
Humanitarian actors are speaking of a scorched earth policy. Schools and health centres are also being targeted. 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, and Moba territories (OCHA).

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

Inter-ethnic violence: Self-defence groups are being created between Moba and Kalemie as conflict between pygmies and Luba intensifies (ECHO, 25/03/2014). Ten people were killed in inter-ethnic clashes in Malabo area over 20–23 June. On 13 August, Bakata Katanga in Kasinga area burned several houses before killing three civilian pygmies. Similar Bakata Katanga attacks provoked clashes between pygmies and Luba in May 2013 (AFP, 13/08/2014).

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.

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. On 13 August, suspected LRA fighters killed four people after attacking several villages near Bili, Kisangani area (Radio Okapi, 14/08/2014). 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 had been recorded January–June 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. Conflict has in the past few months extended to the neighbouring Malemba, and Moba territories (OCHA, 06/2014). Growing insecurity is hindering both the delivery of assistance to up to 500,000 displaced and access to healthcare (OCHA, 06/2014; Médecins Sans Frontières, 09/01/2014). Katanga has the smallest humanitarian community of the four eastern provinces. Agencies are targeted by Mayi Mayi militias seeking to pillage supplies.

South Kivu: A clash between FARDC troops and an armed group on 3 August in the town of Cifunzi forced Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to interrupt a measles vaccination campaign in Kalonge area, South Kivu. MSF staff said they received violent threats from militants (MSF, 12/08/2014). Since the beginning of the year, 44 security incidents against humanitarian workers have been recorded, including 19 in Bukavu territory (UNDSS, 06/2014).

Oriental: 13 INGOs have withdrawn from Haut Uele and Bas Uele since mid-2013 due to lack of funding, leaving thousands of people without assistance. Insecurity is a major obstacle to access, as are logistical constraints, especially in eastern Tshopo.

Disasters

Floods

In April, 30,000 people, of whom more than half are returnees, were reported affected by heavy rains and flooding in Katanga, particularly in Bukama and Kasenga territories (OCHA).

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 913,610, North Kivu has the highest number of IDPs in the country (DRC Commission on Population Movements and UNHCR, 25/07/2014). This is an increase of 5,000 since June, mainly due to FARDC-MONUSCO operations in Walikale territory. FARDC operations against ADF-NALU in Beni territory, and communal tensions between Raiya Mutomboki and Nyatura in Masisi territory. Masisi and Walikale territories host more than 451,600 displaced while an estimated 462,000 IDPs live in Beni, Rutshuru, Lubero, and Goma. 67% of IDPs live with host families and the rest are in public buildings and camps (DRC Commission on Population Movements and UNHCR, 25/07/2014).

Katanga: Insecurity and logistical constraints continue to challenge humanitarian access.
Masisi territory hosts 280,900 IDPs. In late March, residents were gradually returning to locations taken by the FARDC on the Mbau-Kamango route, although the security situation remains fragile (OCHA). In the first week of July, some 14,000 people moved from Walikale territory following FARDC operations against Nduma Defence of Congo (NDC) in Kibua area (OCHA, 16/07/2014).

Almost 124,200 IDPs are in Beni territory. High incidence of malaria, diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, and sexual violence are reported among IDPs in Beni territory (OCHA 09/07/2014). An estimated 22,600 people (3,780 households) were displaced by activities from Mayi Mayi Morgan insurgents and fled from Orientale province to Beni territory between June and July (OCHA, 30/07/2014). Since May, almost 8,000 IDPs in Kayama, Beni territory have fled clashes between the FARDC and ADF in Kpelo, Bango, Kpolou, Malundi, Vudaki, Msongo, 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 several armed groups. Urgent needs include WASH, NFI’s, and food (OCHA, 18/06/2014).

Around Pinga, clashes between APLCS, NDC, and FARDC since mid-January have displaced thousands towards Walikale and Masisi. Fighting between APLCS 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 36,800 since March. 50% of the new displacements occurred in Shabunda territory, following clashes between FARDC and Raiya Mutomboki (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 in Mutarule over 6–7 June 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 pygmies and Luba.

Manono territory has registered the highest increase, with 25,200 newly displaced by Mayi Mayi activities in Kahongo, Kishale, Mpiana, 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).

An estimated 36,000 people were displaced in Malemba Nkulu territory following clashes between FARDC and Mayi Mayi Nakata Katanga in Malemba Nkulu, Mitwaba, and Manono. Shelter is their most pressing need (Radio Okapi, 08/08/2014).

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

Orientale: As of end June, 439,200 IDPs were hosted in Orientale, an increase of 20% compared to April. Clashes between FARDC and FRPI in Ituri territory, Ituri, displaced 274,200 people in the second quarter compared to 173,800 in the first quarter. Another 145,900 people returned home (DRC Commission on Population Movements, 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).

On 15 April, an estimated 20,000 IDPs had been living in the bush in Tshopo district for two months following the burning of their houses by militias in the area of Opie in Bafwesende 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 Punia 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 (OCHA, 05/2014).

Refugees in DRC

DRC hosts an estimated 117,900 refugees, mainly from Angola, 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, 06/2014).

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 May 2012, an estimated 119,000 DRC nationals have been repatriated and about 23,000 chose to stay in the Republic of Congo (UNHCR, 05/08/2014). Many forced returnees reportedly have little attachment to DRC and lack access to basic services.

Returnees from Congo: In Nobili-Kamango area, Beni territory, the repatriation of some 51,000 nationals (8,500 households) has led to increased education needs in the region (OCHA, 30/07/2014).

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 of 67 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). Conflict and displacement along the border with CAR, and armed groups in the Kivu regions, continue to be a cause of food insecurity (FEWSNET, 07/2014)

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, recorded a significant drop in cholera, from 80 cases in June to four in the first week of July (local media, 09/07/2014).

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.

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).

Rape is used as a weapon of war to intimidate local communities, and to punish civilians. It is also an opportunistic crime. Since 2008, Médecins Sans Frontières has never treated
fewer than 4,000 cases of sexual violence in DRC per year (03/03/2014).

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

In March, over 5,100 incidents of gender-based violence were registered in Katanga, with Kalemie, Malemba Nkulu, Manono, Mitwaba, Moba, and Pweto most affected. This is about 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).

Updated: 19/08/2014

DJIBOUTI DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
No significant developments this week, 13/08/2014. Last update 05/08/2014.

KEY CONCERNS
- The estimated number of people 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 have 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 areas 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 diraac/sugum 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.

Reviewed: 13/08/2014

MALI CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

16 August: Two UN soldiers were killed and four wounded by a suicide attack in Ber, northern Mali (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS
- Security, particularly in the north, remains volatile, and access is limited for aid workers. Security in and around the north eastern region of Kidal is of particular concern.
- Almost 2 million people needed food assistance in June 2014. The situation is extremely worrying in Northern Mali with the violence uprising in May in Kidal and Gao region (ACTED, 13/08/2014).
OVERVIEW

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

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

Political Context

On 5 April, Moussa Mara became Prime Minister after Mali’s first post-war Prime Minister Oumar Tatam Ly resigned just six months into office.

The Tuareg Rebellion and National Reconciliation

A ceasefire was signed with the Bamako Government on 23 May. On 15 June, three armed groups from northern Mali, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), the High Council for the Unity of Azawad (HCUA), and the Arab Movement of Azawad (MAA) signed the Algiers Declaration with the Government of Mali. The groups have agreed to engage with the Government on a path of dialogue and negotiation, in exchange for the release of prisoners and better conditions for the return of refugees.

The first round of the negotiations between Mali’s Government and armed groups occurred on 16 July in Algiers. On 24 July, the Government and Tuareg-led insurgents agreed that a second round would take place between 17 August and 11 September in Algiers. However, there have been signs of distrust from the main Tuareg separatist group, which has accused the Malian army of backing local militias east of Timbuktu.

The security situation in the north is volatile. Al Qaeda-linked militants are known to operate in the region; a number of so-called self-defence militias, formed in 2012, are active; and strained relations between Tuareg 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, 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

The stability of the Sahel region is reliant on the presence of armed foreign troops. Malian and French forces, 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% of the forces on the ground) and in northern cities such as Kidal, Gao, Timbuktu, and Menaka (28%) (OCHA, 31/05/2014).

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).

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

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 16 August, two UN soldiers were killed and four wounded by a suicide attack in Ber, northern Mali (AFP, 15/08/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Security 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).

Displacement

IDPs

- 496 000 children under five suffered from SAM as of 31 July (OCHA, 12/08/2014)
- The increase in the arrival of returnees to the north has meant greater needs among host communities (IOM, 24/07/2014).
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, number 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).

**Refugees in Mali**

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

**Returnees**

829 Malian refugees returned in July, a huge decrease compared to the average of 2,750 over the past three months. So far in 2014, more than 31,000 Malians have returned: more than 10,000 from Burkina Faso; about 12,000 from Niger; around 7,300 from Mauritania; and 2,200 from Algeria (UNHCR, 14/08/2014).

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, however, 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**

As of late May, 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.

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

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

**Food Security**

The number of people needing food assistance almost doubled from December 2013 to March 2014 to reach 1.5 million people, according to the Cadre Harmonisé, and is thought to have reached almost two million in June.

The situation in northern Mali is extremely worrying (ACTED, 13/08/2014). The Dogon Plateau is the major area of concern. Poor households are currently facing Stressfood 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 oversaturated 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).

**Livelihoods**

Livestock are in 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 have been observed (OCHA, 07/2014).

**Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview**

In March, more than 25 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) 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. 128,000 children under four and 105,000 women are at risk of malnutrition in northern Mali (OCHA, 12/08/2014).

**Protection**

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

Grave violations against children, from January 2012 to December 2013, 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.
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: 18/08/2014

NIGER FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

12 August: Heavy rains and subsequent flooding have affected 27,800 people and killed 12 across the country since June. Niamey, Tillabéri (west) and Dosso (south) are among the most affected regions (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- Acute food insecurity in large parts of the country: certain poor households will reach Crisis (IPC Phase 3), particularly in Ouallam, 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 protestors from the opposition coalition Alliance for the Republic, Democracy, and Reconciliation took to the streets on 28 December over the failure of the government to improve living standards. It was the largest public protest 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

Disasters

Floods

Heavy rains and subsequent flooding have affected 27,800 people and killed 12 across the country since June. Niamey, Tillabéri (west) and Dosso (south) are among the most affected regions (AFP, 12/08/2014).

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

Update: 18/08/2014

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

12 August: Heavy rains and subsequent flooding have affected 27,800 people and killed 12 across the country since June. Niamey, Tillabéri (west) and Dosso (south) are among the most affected regions (AFP).
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 Tabareybaray. 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, 28/07/2014). Diffa continues to receive approximately 800 displaced persons per week (IFRC, 08/08/2014).

The displaced are in a critical situation with needs in food, water, health and shelter. 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 region of Diffa in Niger, has long been facing serious gaps in the provision of food staples, health care and potable water for more than half a million inhabitants. The refugee influx has further aggravated this situation (IFRC, 08/08/2014).

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 the 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).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 15.5 million people are directly affected by violence in the northeast (OCHA, 06/2014).
- 4.2 million are food insecure and Crisis levels of food insecurity are expected in the state of emergency (SoE) states (UNICEF, 06/2014).
- There are 705,000 IDPs country-wide due to the insurgency in the three SoE states (OCHA, 07/2014).
- 1.74 million children are acutely malnourished (UNICEF and OCHA, 03/2014).
- Nearly half the population does not have access to safe water (UNICEF).
- 23,765 cholera cases have been 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).
- As of 13 August, 12 cases of Ebola were reported in Nigeria, with four fatalities from the disease (WHO, 15/08/2014).

**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 (BH) 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 BH.

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

While the Nigerian military has been unable to stop BH, it may be borrowing their tactics, according to Amnesty International. According to Amnesty, a mass extrajudicial execution of 16 men occurred near Maiduguri, the Borno state capital, in March. The group cited another incident in Kaduna state in July (Washington Post, 05/08/2014).

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). Emerging reports from Marte district indicate that BH gunmen attacked the villages of Durwa and Maforo on 17 August, killing ten civilians (Sahara Reporters, 18/08/2014).

On 10 August, BH insurgents kidnapped scores of people from fishing communities, taking some by boat across Lake Chad. Several people were also reportedly killed in the raids on a number of villages in Kukawa local government area, a Boko Haram stronghold (AFP, 15/08/2014).

On 7 August, the Nigerian military recaptured the town of Damboa from BH, who had taken it on 21 July, displaced some 15,000 people (Sahara Reporters, 07/08/2014).

On 6 August, BH attacked the town of Gwoza, forcing hundreds of residents to flee to the mountains along Nigeria and Cameroon’s border. (AFP, 06/08/2014). At least 50 people were reported to have been killed in the attacks. Gwoza had been a bastion of opposition to Boko Haram (Wall Street Journal, 07/08/2014).

On 4 August, Boko Haram insurgents reportedly attacked five churches in Hawal local government area (OCHA, 05/08/2014).

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, 16/07/2014). 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 in Gwoza district, and stormed a market in Dako. 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:** BH fighters have reportedly taken control of the towns of Buni Yadi, Buni Gari and Goniri, all in Guja local government area (Sahara Reporters, 10/08/2014).

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 31 July, a ten year-old suicide bomber attacked a school in Kano, killing three and injuring seven (OCHA, 05/08/2014).

On 30 July, a suicide bomber killed six people at a college campus in Kano city. 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 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 church. 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 Sabor Gari neighbourhood of Kano, which had previously been targeted by BH (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.

**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 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 4 August, state authorities reported that inter-communal violence in Taraba state left 40 people killed and over 3,500 displaced (OCHA, 05/08/2014).

On 15 April, Human Rights Watch said inter-communal violence had 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).
Humanitarian access in the northeast is impeded by insecurity, poor infrastructure, and limited openings for dialogue with both security forces and non-state actors (OCHA, 05/2014). Most international actors have withdrawn from the SoE states.

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).

Displacement

IDPs

In July, there were 705,000 IDPs country-wide, including 646,700 in the three SoE states (OCHA, 07/2014). Early July, the most affected state was Borno, with some 257,700 IDPs, 100,000 of whom were displaced in the capital, Maiduguri. Adamawa and Yobe states respectively hosted 102,560 and 76,360 IDPs (UNHCR and OCHA, 01/07/2014).

Counter-insurgency efforts to recapture the Borno towns of Gwoza and Damboa displaced at least 10,000 people, who fled to Madagali in neighbouring Adamawa state, or across the border into Cameroon. NEMA reports that many of displaced people remain trapped on the hilltops of Gwoza with no access to food or water (OCHA, 13/08/2014).

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).

268,200 are displaced in surrounding 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).

IDPs

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

Nigerian Refugees

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

Niger: Some 71,520 Nigerian refugees and returning migrants are in Niger (OCHA, 10/08/2014). 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 prefer 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: Another 1,000 Nigerians arrived on the uninhabited Choua Island in Chad on 31 July, reportedly having fled BH violence, from Kolokolia village in Borno state (UNHCR, 06/08/2014). Since 2009, 4,000 Nigerian refugees have arrived in Chad (OCHA, 05/08/2014).

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, will face 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

In Borno, Yobe and northern Adamawa states, Crisis levels of food insecurity will persist until December, despite the main harvest beginning in October. About one million people are expected to remain in crisis in the areas worst affected by the conflict, while two million in other parts of the SoE will experience Stressed levels of food insecurity (FEWSNET, 08/2014).

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.

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 in these areas (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**

As of 5 August, an outbreak of cholera in two IDP sites - hosting 10,000 IDPs - in Biu, Borno, has infected 1,343 persons and killed 27 (OCHA, 05/08/2014). 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.

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).

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**

As of 13 August, 12 cases of Ebola were reported in Nigeria, with four fatalities from the disease (WHO, 15/08/2014).

On 18 August, a Cameroonian government spokesman reportedly announced that all borders between Cameroon and Nigeria had been closed in order to prevent the spread of Ebola (Sahara Reporters, 18/08/2014).

On 25 July, the country confirmed that Ebola caused the death of a Liberian national who died in quarantine in Lagos, the largest city in sub-Saharan Africa. Border officials have been put on red alert. 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). Authorities in Lagos said they need volunteers because of a shortage of medical staff (AFP, 09/08/2014).

**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 this is the second year the region is facing food consumption gaps and the closure of several health facilities has limited access to essential health and nutrition services, it is possible that the prevalence of acute malnutrition could increase over the coming months (FEWSNET, 08/2014).

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**

Nonetheless, kidnappings of groups of women and girls by BH continue, and more than 200 schoolgirls are still being held captive (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).

The Government has noted 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: 19/08/2014*

**SOMALIA** **CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**12 August:** Puntland once again cut ties with the Federal Government, after forming a new state in central Somalia (VOA).

**8–12 August:** An AMISOM water tanker was the target of an IED in Marka, southern Somalia, causing protests against AU presence in the village. AU forces opened fire on demonstrators, injuring six (Al Jazeera).

**31 July:** GAM among Garrowe IDPs is over 20%, and over 15% among Mogadishu, Dhibolay, Kismayo, Dhusamareb and Galkayo IDPs (ICRC). Populations most affected by food insecurity are in Hudur, Wajid, Burdhubo, Garbaharey, Bulo Burde, Goyole and Albuur.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Widespread violence and insecurity, particularly in south-central Somalia.
- Insecurity and bureaucratic impediments continue to hinder humanitarian access.
- There are 1.1 million IDPs, mainly in the south-central region, with high concentrations in Mogadishu (OCHA, 06/2014).
- More than one million Somali refugees live in neighbouring countries, mostly Kenya, Ethiopia, and Yemen (UNHCR, 03/2014).
- 2.9 million are estimated to need humanitarian and livelihood assistance between March and September 2014 (OCHA, 04/2014).
- 857,000 people are at Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity; 74% are IDPs (OCHA, 06/2014). Two million people experience Stressed levels of food insecurity.
- More than 203,000 acutely malnourished children under five have been reported, mainly in south-central Somalia (OCHA, 05/2014).
- 520,000 children under five urgently require measles vaccination in outbreak areas (UNICEF, 06/2014).

**OVERVIEW**

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

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

Puntland: On 8 January, former Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed Ali was elected President of the self-declared semi-autonomous region Puntland. On 12 August, the region cut ties with the federal Government after it learned of the formation of a new federal state in central Somalia, which would allegedly include part of the Puntland region (VOA, 14/08/2014). This is the second time in August that Puntland has cut ties with the Government. On 17 August, the UN pledged its support for Puntland (UNSO, 17/08/2014).

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

On 13 August, members of the UN Security Council made a landmark visit to Somalia to review the progress made by the Federal Government (UN, 13/08/2014). 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

On August 8, an AMISOM water tanker was the target of an IED in the coastal town of Marka, causing protests against AMISOM presence among the population. On 12 August, six people were injured and more than a dozen properties destroyed after AU forces opened fire on demonstrators (Al Jazeera, 11/08/2014).

In November 2013, the AU’s Peace and Security Council increased the strength of the AMISOM force to 22,000 from 17,600. 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 15 August, government forces carried out a disarmament raid targeting militia leader Ahmed Dahir, killing at least ten. Dahir was not captured (BBC, 15/08/2014).

Al Shabaab

Al Shabaab, a militant Islamist group linked to al Qaeda, 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. 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).

In June, three attacks were carried out in Mogadishu, killing four and injuring 14 in total. All of the attacks involved IEDs. Several attacks took place 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. Puntland is struggling to uproot Al Shabaab and has scaled up operations in the Bari area, from where insurgents launch their attacks. Humanitarian access to these towns is nearly non-existent as few
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 and elsewhere (FAO 07/07/2014).

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 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 a 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 voluntary repatriation started this month, but only 3,000 refugees registered, compared to the original target of 10,000. Refugees cite insecurity and lack of earning opportunities as their main uncertainties regarding a return to Somalia. UNHCR has promised material and financial support for those deciding to return (UNHCR, East African, 02/08/2014; UNHCR, 11/08/2014). On 16 August, local media reported that Somalia was pulling out of tripartite talks (The Star, 16/08/2014).

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

Food Security

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.

Food security is expected to deteriorate considerably in the coming months. The most affected populations include civilians of Hudur, Wajid, Burdhubo, Garbaharey, Bulo Burde, Qoryole and Albuur. Pastoralists in south-central and north-eastern regions are under stress owing to low and erratic gu rains. Moderate drought conditions persist in Sanaag, Sool, Nugal, Hiran, Bakool, Gedo and parts of Shabelle (ICRC, 31/07/2014). Severe water scarcity is likely to hit the livestock sector (FAO 07/07/2014). A predicted El Nino phenomenon is expected to exacerbate the situation during September-December this year (ICRC, 31/07/2014).

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).

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

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

Puntland: 60,000 people are in Phase 3/4; 240,000 are in Phase 2; there are 129,000 IDPs (OCHA, 03/06/2014; 31/05/2014). Recent violence in Puntland has reportedly scared traders away, leading to fluctuations in food prices and increasing food insecurity in Somaliland and Puntland (ICRC, 31/07/2014).

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

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

Agriculture and Markets

Food prices in Hudur, Wajid, Burdhubo, Garbaharey, Bulo Burde, Qoryole and Albuur are 30–150% higher than usual (ICRC, 31/07/2014).

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: Garowe IDPs show very critical levels of acute malnutrition (over 20% GAM), and IDPs in Mogadishu, Dhobley, and Kismayo (south Somalia) and Dhusamareb and Galkayo (central Somalia) are at critical levels (over 15% GAM). IDPs in Beletweye are in a similar or worse condition (ICRC 31/07/2014). GAM among displaced communities in Mogadishu has been 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, Dhobley (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, Mudug, 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 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).

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: 18/08/2014

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 Bariel 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 Ayiel and Panyar sub-clans left 12 people dead in Cueibet county. On 31 May, clashes during a peace conference between clan leaders of Rumbek East, Rumbek North, Cueibet, and Greater Yirol counties left one person dead. On 28 May, clashes between the Kok-Awac and Kok-Ker sub-clans in Rumbek East left three people dead, according to local sources.

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

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 8 June, 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 attempted to coerce 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 Madiang.

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 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).

The average number of latrines per IDP in Lakes state is reportedly 1:350 (OCHA, 06/06/2014).

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

11 August: 126,000 people have been affected by heavy rains and flooding in Khartoum (32,000 affected), River Nile (19,000), Kassala (17,000), Sennar (13,000) and North Kordofan, South Kordofan, Northern, Al Gezira, West and Central Darfur, and White Nile states (OCHA, 11/08/2014).
9 August: One passenger on a bus linking El Fashir to Nyala (South Darfur) was killed by militia men at a checkpoint (local media, 11/08/2014).

8 August: Sudan's main opposition parties, the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) and the National Umma Party, announced they had agreed to unite in order to bring about a transitional government, thereby addressing the alleged wish of Sudanese citizens to put an end to Khartoum’s rule. They announced they would not participate in the upcoming elections, which the government announced a few days earlier and are scheduled for April 2015 (local media, 8/08/2014).

7-8 August: Two men were reportedly killed by militia in Nyala and Bieel localities (local media, 09/08/2014).

6 August: One person was killed in a presumed tribal-based attack in Um Dukhun, Central Darfur (local media, 06/08/2014).

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 03/08/2014): 3.5 million in Darfur and 1.2 million in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states (OCHA, 05/2014).

- 5 million people faced Stress, 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 399,000 displaced in 2014 (OCHA, 08/2014).

- 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 independence 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’s 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 Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (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 8 August, Sudan’s main opposition parties, the SRF and the National Umma Party, announced they had agreed to unite in order to bring about a transitional government, thereby addressing the alleged wish of Sudanese citizens to put an end to Khartoum’s rule. They announced they would not participate in the upcoming elections, which the government announced a few days earlier and are scheduled for April 2015.

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 lifts the state of emergency and allows 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 continued 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 (SAF). 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 Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Sudanese paramilitary forces, 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 9 August, one passenger on a bus linking El Fashir to Nyala (South Darfur) was killed by militia men at a checkpoint (local media, 11/08/2014). 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 7 and 8 August, two men were reportedly killed by militia in Nyala and Biebel localities (local media, 09/08/2014). 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.

Inter-communal violence: 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: On 6 August, one person was killed in a presumed tribal-based attack in Um Dukhun, Central Darfur (local media, 06/08/2014). 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.

Central Darfur

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 11 August, 126,000 people have been affected by heavy rains and flooding in Khartoum (32,000 affected), River Nile (19,000), Kassala (17,000), Sennar (13,000), North Kordofan, South Kordofan, Northern, Al Gezira, West and Central Darfur, and White Nile states (OCHA, 11/08/2014). 39 people have died, 17 of whom in Khartoum (local media, 05/08/2014). 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.

Assessments carried out in Kassala (South Kordofan) and White Nile state revealed acute needs for emergency food, NFI, and health and WASH services (OCHA, 03/08/2014).

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 reportedly 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.

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

There are 2.4 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.

There have been 399,000 displaced in Darfur in 2014 thus far: 268,000 remain displaced and 131,000 people are reported to have returned (OCHA 10/08/2014). On 22 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).

**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 Meliti 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 Nyala 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). As 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 7 August, 90,000 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 that 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 newly displaced South Sudanese had arrived in the disputed area of Abyei, bringing the total of 165,000 are expected to arrive in 2014 (WFP, 02/07/2014). On 30 April, 3,000

**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.

According to WHO, 50,000 people from host communities are in need of access to health services in Bielel locality, South Darfur (OCHA, 03.08.2014).

Dengue

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 suffer from acute malnutrition (OCHA, 03/08/2014).

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 had been 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 Ba’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). On 10 August, three women were raped in Kabkabiya locality, North Darfur (local media, 11/08/2014).

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: 13/08/2014

CHAD FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

14 August: 150,000 children suffer from SAM, according to current estimates (UNICEF).

14 August: The number of malaria cases has increased 28% compared to the same period in 2013 (UNICEF).
**KEY CONCERNS**

- 107,536 CAR refugees, 18,675 of whom have 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). Malaria remains the first direct cause of death for children under five in Chad (UNICEF, 14/08/2014).

**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 would be closed to all except Chadian citizens until the CAR crisis is resolved. The Government 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 would 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 had 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, are 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 461,000 refugees (FAO, 07/08/2014).

**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 *coupeurs 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 31 July, 360,500 Sudanese refugees are registered in Chad (OCHA, 14/08/2014). In Tissi, which is mainly hosting Sudanese refugees, basic services are non-existent (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). 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). 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, 05/08/2014).

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). 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). At the end of July, almost 500 Chadian migrants, from the town of Garoua Boula, had returned by road, with the assistance of IOM, and had been settled in this new 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 has affected commodity movement and put additional pressure on the domestic market. 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 (UNCHR, 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 ration of 850 kilocalories per day, while the normal ration is 2,100 kilocalories per refugee per 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 food access and will be in Stressed conditions between April and September.

The additional cost of refugees and returnees in Logone Oriental, Moyen Chari,MANDou, 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**

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

In 2014, the number of malaria cases in N'Djamena has increased compared to last year. This trend is confirmed in different endemic areas of the country, indicating a 28% increase at the national level (UNICEF, 14/08/2014).

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

150,000 children are severely malnourished, according to current estimates (UNICEF, 14/08/2014).

406,000 children were estimated to be moderately malnourished in May (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).

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).

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.

WASH

In the CAR refugee camps, potable water is provided on stable basis but additional arrivals affect both the quantity and quality of available water and increase risks of contamination (UNHCR, 31/06/2014). Access to WASH facilities for the host community has also been affected as a result of the presence of refugees (UNHCR, 31/07/2014).
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) would 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 had 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 5 August, 185,000 South Sudanese have sought asylum in Ethiopia since December 2013. 90% are women and children who arrive in critical nutritional conditions (WFP, 08/08/2014). The majority of arrivals come from Upper Nile state and are predominantly from Gajaak, Gajiok, and Luo-Nuer tribes (UNHCR, 03/07/2014). Most new arrivals cite food insecurity as their main reason for flight (UNHCR, 03/07/2014). 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).

26,000 refugees are currently awaiting relocation, including 8,762 at Mathar and 6,102 in Pagak. An additional 12,000 have arrived with livestock and opted to stay in border areas (WFP, 08/08/2014). 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 hosted 51,476 refugees (UNHCR, 01/07/2014). Tierkidi houses 37,287 refugees and has reached its full capacity (UNHCR, 28/06/2014). Preparations for Nip Nip, the new camp, are ongoing. Relocations remain suspended until new facilities are ready (WFP 08/08/2014).

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–March 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 northeast Ethiopia. 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 between the end of May and early June, over some isolated areas of northwestern and south-central Ethiopia (FEWSNET, 20/06/2014). In southern and central Afar, the anticipated belg 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 horticultural products 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**

Twelve 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**

During the first week of August, 160 suspected cases of measles were reported, half of them in Amhara and Oromia. The government and humanitarian actors on the ground have responded to more than 200 measles outbreaks this year (OCHA, 11/08/2014).

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. As of March, fewer than two million children had reportedly been vaccinated in SNNP region and only 250,000 in Amhara.

**Meningitis**

In the first week of August, 26 cases of meningitis were reported in Amhara and SNNP (OCHA, 11/08/2014). 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

Critical water shortages are persisting despite ongoing karan rains in parts of the Somali region. In more drought-prone areas, like Afar and Oromia, critical water shortage also exists.

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).

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: 12/08/2014

GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant news reported this week, 13/08/2014. Last update: 25/07/2014.

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: 13/08/2014

KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

6 August: Screening of South Sudanese arrivals shows increasing rates of malnutrition, especially among children <5 (WFP).

8 August: East Pokot subcounty is facing a severe drought, with food either unavailable or inaccessible. There is also a critical need for clean water (ACTED).

KEY CONCERNS

- Violence is ongoing in the capital Nairobi, as well as in 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 575,334 refugees in Kenya, including at least 426,500 Somalis and 87,019 South Sudanese (UNHCR 31/07/2104, 07/08/2014).

- 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. 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.

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.

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 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.

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 insurgency group is also said to have made several deadly incursions into Kenya.

**Due to the ongoing drought in Baringo county, some communities have been forced to take their livestock further distances in search of pasture, which has led to some reports of intercommunal tensions and violence (ACTED, 08/08/2014).** 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 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 1,020 in Kitale Mavuno (ACT Alliance, 30/07/2014). 61,000 IDPs had been reported by the Kenyan Red Cross on 11 June.

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

**Refugees**

As of 30 July, Kenya is hosting more than 575,334 refugees and asylum-seekers (UNHCR, 31/07/2014). 169,743 are located in Kakuma, 355,406 between Dabaab and Alinjugur and 50,185 in Nairobi. Somalis represent 75% of the refugees, with South Sudan following with 13% (UNHCR, 30/07/2014).

**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 Alinjugur 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).

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 87,019 (UNHCR, 07/08/2014). 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).

Kakuma camp is currently hosting 169,743 refugees, surpassing its capacity of 150,000.
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).

**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 (IPC Phase 2) 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 August, reports revealed that some areas of East Pokot subcounty are facing a severe drought, and food is either unavailable or inaccessible (ACTED, 08/08/2014). In pastoral and agropastoral areas, pasture, browse and water are being depleted faster than usual. The lean season started 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**

**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 rates in East Pokot subcounty (Baringo) have reached 21.1% due to severe drought and inconsistent rains (ACTED, 08/08/2014).

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 the malnutrition rate) (UNHCR, 11/07/2014). In August, screening of new arrivals still shows increasing rates of malnutrition, especially among children below 5 (WFP, 06/08/2014).

On 5 May, in Mandera county, GAM rates were above the 15% emergency threshold. UNICEF had highlighted the 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 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).

**WASH**

There is a critical need for clean water. Households are currently having to walk long distances to access water, much of which does not meet health standards. Since water sources are being shared with animals, the risk of waterborne diseases is much higher (ACTED, 08/08/2014).

*Updated: 13/08/2014*

**LESOTHO FOOD INSECURITY**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No significant developments this week (13/08/2014). Latest update 30/07/2014.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- The number of food insecure people, estimated at 30%, has doubled since February 2014. 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.

Political Context
In June 2014, the opposition attempted to pass a motion of no confidence on the governing coalition, made up of three political parties. This resulted in the leading party, the All Basotho Convention (ABC), suspending Parliament for nine months. This development exacerbated pre-existing tensions within the ruling coalition, prompting the government to convene interparty talks which have thus far failed to resolve the crisis. This development takes place against the backdrop of escalating tensions between the Lesotho Defence Force and the Lesotho police, siding with different political parties. The political stand-off has prompted a warning from South Africa, which threatened to intervene in case the crisis could not be resolved (Institute for Security Studies, 29/07/2014; 03/07/2014).

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 a 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.

Although food prices are expected to remain stable, they will be significantly higher than 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 Senque 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).

Agricultural Outlook
The 2014 cereal crop, which was harvested in May–June, is estimated at a comparable level to the previous year’s near-average output. At 86,000 tonnes, maize accounts for almost all of the cereal harvest (83 percent), while the winter wheat crop, to be harvested in November, largely constitutes the remaining output. Despite a significant 26 percent increase in the area planted to 2013/14 maize this year, heavy rain and frost damage contributed to a reduction in yields and resulted in a stunted output. Similarly, a 29 percent decrease in sorghum production was recorded (FAO, 01/08/2014).

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. 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).
Political Context

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

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement

The total number of refugees in Malawi is 5,757, with 11,620 asylum seekers (UNHCR, 01/03/2014). Refugees mostly reside in the only refugee camp in Malawi, located in Dzaleka, Dowa district, or with host communities. The camp is managed by the Government of Malawi with support from UNHCR.

On 4 March, the UN reported that since mid-January an estimated 2,000 people had arrived in Malawi from Mozambique, fleeing clashes between the government and former insurgents. At the time of their arrival, the government and UNHCR were in disagreement about their status and assistance was delayed.

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).

Currently, most areas in Malawi are generally experiencing favourable food security conditions. As of late June and early July, only localised areas in Central Karonga and parts of the Middle Shire (a chronically food insecure area) were reporting constrained food access among poor households due to production shortfalls in food and cash crops because of seasonal dry spells and early cessation of rains. Poor households in Karonga, Balaka, Neno, and Mwanza district are currently Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and outcomes are expected to deteriorate to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between August and December (FEWSNET, 07/08/2014).

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 were 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).

Protection

A UN Human Rights Committee investigation documented extra-judicial killings, child abuse, forced and child marriage, harmful traditional practices such as FGM, domestic violence and the criminalisation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex relations (All Africa, Voice of America, 24/07/2014; Nyasa Times, 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).

Updated: 13/08/2014

SENEGAL FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

5 August: More than 3.5 million people are currently food insecure or experiencing stressed food security levels (FAO)

KEY CONCERNS

- More than 738,000 Senegalese are estimated to be food insecure and an estimated 2.9 million people experience stressed food security levels (FAO, 05/08/2014).
- 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

More than 738,000 people are estimated to be in Phase 3 (Crisis) and above during the lean season from June-August, as a result of the high import dependency rate for food and the impact of unpredictable seasonal rains and climatic conditions. An additional 2.9 million people are experiencing stressed food security levels, IPC Phase 2 (FAO, 05/08/2014).

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 had 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: 13/08/2014

ANGOLA DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 19/08/2014. 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

Updated: 13/08/2014
As of end June, around 560 Angolan refugees are residing in DRC (UNHCR 17/07/2014).

**Returnees**

From 28 August onwards, almost 30,000 Angolan returnees, having lived 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**

Over the past few months food security has shown signs of improvement, except in areas of Kwanza Sul and Benguela provinces that fall under the coastal fish, horticulture and non-farm income zone. Here, poor seasonal rainfall and inadequate food assistance mean people will face Stressed (Phase 2) acute food insecurity between July and December period. Poor households in Namibe are also Stressed (Phase 2), while the more populated areas of the zone in Cunene province will face Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity between July and December (FEWSNET, 15/08/2014).

The 2013/14 harvest season continues to increase food availability. The influx of food supplies continues to decrease food prices, improving access for households relying on market purchases and creating favourable food security conditions across most of the country (FEWSNET, 12/08/2014).

The reintroduction of cattle auctions in the southern part of the country has increased the volume of cattle trade (FEWSNET, 12/08/2014).

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.

**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 on 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 2015, 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 have 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.

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

As of 31 July, 6,101 Burundian refugees were residing in Kenya (UNHCR, 31/07/2014).

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 July, Burundi has 78,948 IDPs (UNHCR, 07/2014). 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 August, 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, 31/07/2014). 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. Production in the northeast is estimated to be 40 to 60% below average.

Prices remain higher than the five-year average (FEWSNET, 31/05/2014) and price variability in some areas has caused poor households to reduce non-food expenditures in order to cover for food requirements. The most affected households are in the northeast (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014).

Updated: 13/08/2014

**CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

8 August: 120,970 CAR refugees have arrived in Cameroon since December 2013, bringing the total to 228,230. Around 55,060 refugees have been relocated to seven sites: 43,130 in five sites in East region and 11,930 in two sites in Adamawa region. An additional 58,400 are living outside sites (UNHCR).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 120,970 refugees from CAR have arrived since December 2013, bringing the total to 228,230 (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).
- 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 Deby to discuss concerted action. Late July, troop levels along the Nigeria border increased to 4,000 (ICG, 01/08/2014).

Boko Haram insurgents, previously concentrating attacks on 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,
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 Gorsii 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, Mbilié, 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 8 August, 228,230 CAR refugees are in Cameroon: 120,970 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.

**55,057 refugees have been relocated to sites: 43,130 in the East region, including 10,750 in Lolo, 15,860 in Gado, 9,530 in Mbilié, 6,320 in Timangolo, 670 in Ngari-Singo, and 11,930 in the Adamawa region including, 10,030 in Borgop and 1,890 in Ngam. However, 58,400 are living outside sites. The transit site at the entry point of Gbidi was closed and refugees were relocated to sites (UNHCR, 08/08/2014).**

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, Mbilié, 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 northern 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, which 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 the previous 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 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 Yaounde’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: 13/08/2014

CÔTE D’IVOIRE FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

11 August: After months of delays, the Ivorian opposition, led by the party of former President Laurent Gbagbo, decided to participate in the new Electoral Commission (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- 6.4 million people are at risk of 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 Ivory Coast do not have access to potable water and sanitation (OCHA 12/2013).

- There is ongoing concern about the 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 is still impacted by over a decade of civil unrest.

Political Context

On 11 August, the new Electoral Commission, in charge of the next elections in October 2015, has been officially set up when the Ivorian opposition, led by the party of former President Laurent Gbagbo, the Ivorian Popular Front (FPI), decided to join (AFP, 11/08/2014).

As the 2015 elections approach, FPI’s attempts to unite the opposition parties into one common front have faced delays and obstacles. Five of the 11 invited parties had declined to sign the founding document proposed by the FPI for a long time, 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.

**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. 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 the end of December, 6.4 million people were facing food insecurity (OCHA, 12/2013). In the western Montagnes district, 76,500 people suffer from severe food insecurity. In October 2013, 500,000 people in the west and the north were found food insecure, according to a joint assessment by FAO, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture. 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, Biéloquin 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.

Updated: 13/08/2014

Liberia Epidemic

Latest Developments

11 August: Lofa County has been put under quarantine (AFP). Between 6 and 9 August, Liberia reported 45 new cases of Ebola with 29 deaths (WHO).

Key Concerns

- Since March 2014, 1,848 cases of Ebola and 1,013 deaths have been reported in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria (WHO, 11/08/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Health and Nutrition

Ebola

As of 9 August, 599 Ebola cases, including 323 deaths, had been reported in Lofa, Margibi, and Montserrado, Bomi and Bong counties, and the capital, Monrovia (WHO, 11/08/2014).

Health Infrastructures

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 had to turn away Ebola cases, 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 11 August, Lofa County has been put under quarantine. About 276,000 people are living in this County (International Media, 11/08/2014, Government, 03/2008).

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). People are becoming frustrated because of the delays in provision of lab results to families and removal of sick patients and dead bodies (Government, 08/08/2014).

The quarantine has meant that traders have been unable to travel to buy food and farmers cannot harvest their crop, which has in turn caused shortages and sent prices soaring (International Media, 10/08/2014).

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 11 August, the total cumulative number of cases reported in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone was 1,848 , including 1,013 deaths (WHO, 11/08/2014). 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, 25/08/2014). 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.

Updated: 13/08/2014

MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
No significant news reported this week, 13/08/2014. Last update: 25/07/2014.

KEY CONCERNS
- 800,000 people are estimated to be food insecure, of whom 190,000 are severely food insecure (OCHA, 02/2014).
- Mauritania’s acute malnutrition level has already surpassed the estimated 2014 caseload (SMART survey), with a reported 31,000 SAM and 95,000 MAM children (UNICEF, 03/2014).
- Security challenges continue to be a problem in Mbera refugee camp on the border with Mali. The camp currently hosts most of the 52,850 Malian refugees in Mauritania. Mauritania is the largest recipient of refugees fleeing the conflict in Mali (UNHCR, 06/2014 and OCHA, 04/2014).

Politics and Security

National Political Context

On 21 June, President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz was elected for another five-year term, winning 82% of the vote, according to the Election Commission. Anti-slavery campaigner Biram Ould Dah Ould Abeid, who came second, filed a complaint to the Constitutional Council, arguing that fraud and irregularities marred the voting. Most opposition parties boycotted the poll, citing a lack of electoral reform.

The National Forum for Democracy and Unity (FNDU) demonstrated against the election process in Nouakchott on 4 June. The coalition combines the Islamist National Rally for Reform and Development (Tawassoul) and the parties of the Co-ordination of Democratic Opposition, which announced their intention 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 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

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).

Displacement

Malian Refugees

With 52,850 Malian refugees, Mauritania is the largest recipient of refugees fleeing conflict in Mali (UNHCR, 06/2014). Almost all refugees live in Mbera camp, a remote desert location on the border with Mali that has significant security challenges. According to UNICEF, 60% of camp residents are women and children, and many have been in the camp for 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**

**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.

Reviewed: 13/08/2014

**NAMIBIA FOOD INSECURITY**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No significant developments this week, 13/08/2014. 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: 13/08/2014

**RWANDA FOOD INSECURITY**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**Disasters**

**Displacement**

**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: 13/08/2014
8 August: 260,650 people are food insecure in Rwanda (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS
- 260,650 people are food insecure (OCHA).
- Most areas of the country will be in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity between July and December (FEWSNET).

Political Context
In late July, Rwandan Prime Minister Pierre Damien Habumuremyi was dismissed and replaced with Anastase Murekezi. This is the third Prime Minister since 2000 under President Paul Kagame (VOA, 24/07/2014).

In 1994, Rwanda was the scene of a genocide that killed almost 1 million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in less than 100 days. Twenty years after the genocide, Rwanda is perceived by its neighbours as a progressive country (Peace Direct, 23/07/2014). The current government is said to have put ethnic differences aside, prioritising the economic development of the country (UNHCR, 02/2014).

Security Context
While the overall security situation in Rwanda is calm, the armed conflict in North Kivu, on the border between DRC and Rwanda, has affected the security level in the area (UNHCR 02/2014). Rwandan Hutu fighters of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLE) are perceived as a destabilising factor and source of insecurity in the region. The UN has denounced FDLE to be behind forced labour of local people, harassing, beatings and torture in Eastern DRC (AFP, 06/08/2014).

On May 30, a voluntary disarmament process started under the auspices of MONUSCO, the AU and the Development Community (SADC). Although Tutsi insurgencies are disbanded, tensions between Rwanda and DRC escalated in July, when troops from both countries were posted along the border after gunfire broke out.

Humanitarian Context and Needs
Displacement

Refugees in Rwanda
Rwanda currently hosts 73,336 refugees, mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo (OCHA, 16/06/2014), located in Nyabiheke, Gihembe, Kiziba and Kigeme (ARC, 01/2014). Due to deterioration of the security situation in DRC, there has been an influx of refugees into the country, prompting humanitarian actors to prepare a fifth refugee camp in Mugombwa. The monthly arrival rate is 2,600 (UNHCR).

Food Security
Agriculture and Markets
Below-average March to May cumulative rainfall damaged crop performance for Season B harvests. April and May dry spells further reduced yields. The hardest hit areas are the eastern Semi-Arid Agro-Pastoral zone, the Bugesera Cassava zone, and the Eastern Congo Nile Highland Subsistence Farming zone. These areas will most likely revert to negative coping mechanisms between July and December in order to meet food needs. With the start of the dry season, agricultural labour opportunities and wages have begun to decline (FEWSNET, 12/08/2014).

Households will most probably exhaust their own stocks in August, relying on markets for food until November. Most areas of the country will be in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity between July and December (FEWSNET, 12/08/2014).

Health and Nutrition
260,650 people are food insecure in Rwanda (OCHA, 05/08/2014).

A German medical student who was recently in Liberia with Ebola-like symptoms has been placed in isolation awaiting test results (AFP, 11/08/2014).

Updated: 12/08/2014

UGANDA DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
5 August: There are 560,000 food insecure people in Uganda. GAM levels within South Sudanese refugees has reached 19.9% (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS
- 121,577 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 among South Sudanese refugees is 19.9% and above 10% in Karamoja,
especially in Napak and Moroto districts (OCHA, 05/08/2014) (WFP, 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, 121,577 South Sudanese refugees fled to Uganda since the crisis began. The total population of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda has reached 143,841 people (UNHCR, 07/08/2014).

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 31 July, there were 1,263 Ugandan refugees in Kenya (UNHCR, 31/07/2014). As of 30 June, there were 1,211 Ugandan refugees in DRC (UNHCR, 30/06/2014).

#### Food Security

As of 5 August, there are 560,000 food insecure people in Uganda (OCHA, 05/08/2014).

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**

**GAM levels within South Sudanese refugees in Uganda has reached 19.9% (OCHA, 05/08/2014).** 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 rates 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).

*Updated: 13/08/2014*
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 Eritrean soldiers deserted and became refugees in Djibouti.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

There is a lack of updated and reliable data on the humanitarian situation due to limited humanitarian access.

In 2011, the Government of Eritrea issued a directive to all non-state development partners operating in Eritrea to cease operating by the end of 2012. In November-December 2013, several projects began in partnership with the UN commenced (IFRC, 30/05/2014).

As reported in ECHO’s Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) released in October 2013, providing direct humanitarian assistance remains a challenge due to limited access, and 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 Somali refugees (UNHCR).

Eritrean Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

According to 2012 UNHCR figures, there are 300,000 Eritrean refugees in neighbouring countries as well as in Europe and Israel. 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).

Reviewed: 06/08/2014

KEY CONCERNS
- Since March 2014, more than 1,975 Ebola cases and 1,069 deaths have been reported in four West African countries, including 510 people infected and 377 killed in Guinea (WHO, 11/08/2014).
- 220,000 of 6.7 million people are severely food insecure in Boke, Kindia, Conakry (west), and N’Zerekore (south); 1.8 million people are estimated moderately food insecure (FAO, 02/2014).
- 139,200 children were suffering from acute malnutrition (WFP, 12/2013).
- A measles outbreak has killed five children and led to at least 1,300 suspected cases since January in the Conakry municipalities of Matam, Matoto, and Ratoma (UNICEF, 02/2014).

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

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

11-13 August: Guinea imposed health checks at its borders with Sierra Leone and Liberia (ECHO) while Guinea-Bissau also decided to close its border with Guinea in a bid to prevent the entry of the virus (Reuters).

12 August: WHO said that Ebola outbreak patients in West Africa can ethically be treated with experimental treatments or vaccines that haven’t yet been tested on humans.

11 August: 510 Ebola cases (confirmed, 133 probable, and 8 suspected), including 377 deaths have been reported in Guinea, as the total cumulative number of cases across the region reached 1,975, including 1,069 deaths (WHO). The disease has spread to several new areas including N’Zerekore and Yomou in the South and Siguiir, close to the border with Mali, bringing the number of active infection areas to seven (UNICEF).
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

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 (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 11 August, 510 Ebola cases (confirmed, 133 probable, and 8 suspected), including 377 deaths have been reported in Guinea. Between 7 and 9 August, 11 new cases and six deaths were reported. The total cumulative number of cases across the region reached 1,975, including 1,069 deaths (WHO). The disease has spread to several new areas including N’Zerekore and Yomou in the South and Siguiiri, close to the border with Mali, bringing the number of active infection areas to seven (Conakry, Gueckedou, Kouroussa, Macenta, Siguiiri, Pita, N’zérékoré and Yomou) (UNICEF, 07/08/2014).

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).

As the death toll from Ebola is over 1,000 since the beginning of the outbreak six months ago, WHO declared the epidemic a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). It advised the affected countries to declare a state of emergency and recommends neighbouring countries to take preventative measures. WHO did not, however, impose a travel ban. Guinea has imposed health checks at its borders with Sierra Leone and Liberia (ECHO, 11/08/2014). Guinea-Bissau also decided to close its border with Guinea in a bid to prevent the entry of the virus (Reuters, 13/08/2014).

On 12 August, WHO said that Ebola outbreak patients in West Africa can ethically be treated with experimental treatments or vaccines that haven’t yet been tested on humans.

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: Siguiiri, 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: 13/08/2014

SIERRA LEONE EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

12 August: WHO said that Ebola outbreak patients in West Africa can ethically be
treated with experimental treatments or vaccines that haven’t yet been tested on humans.

**11 August:** 783 cases, including 334 deaths, have been reported in Sierra Leone. The total cumulative number of cases reported in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria was 1,975, including 1,069 deaths (WHO). Eight Chinese medical workers who treated Ebola patients have been quarantined in Sierra Leone (AFP, 12/08/2014).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Since March 2014, more than 1,975 Ebola cases, including 1,069 deaths have been reported in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria (WHO, 11/08/2014).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**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 11 August, 783 cases (706 confirmed, 38 probable, and 39 suspected), including 334 deaths have been reported. Between 7 and 9 August, 13 new cases and 17 deaths were reported. The total cumulative number of cases across the region reached 1,975, including 1,069 deaths (WHO, 11/08/2014). Eight Chinese medical workers who treated Ebola patients have been quarantined in Sierra Leone (AFP, 12/08/2014).

As the death toll from Ebola is over 1,000 since the beginning of the outbreak six months ago, WHO declared the epidemic a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). It advised the affected countries to declare a state of emergency and recommends neighbouring countries to take preventative measures. WHO did not, however, impose a travel ban (ECHO, 11/08/2014).

On 12 August, WHO said that Ebola outbreak patients in West Africa can ethically be treated with experimental treatments or vaccines that haven’t yet been tested on humans.

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: 13/08/2014
in northern Afghanistan will likely move from Stressed to Crisis food insecurity (IPC Phase 3). They need assistance moving towards the lean season (February-April 2015), without having harvested (FEWSNET).

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 returnees in Khost and Paktika provinces in Afghanistan are in immediate need of food, WASH, shelter, and non-food items (OCHA, 29/06/2014).
- 5 million Afghans are in Pakistan and Iran; there are 659,960 IDPs in Afghanistan, of which 113,000 were displaced in 2013 (UNHCR, OCHA, 02/2014).
- 1.7 million people are 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 a 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

On 8 August, Ghani and Abdullah signed a deal to form a national unity government by the end of August, regardless of the result of the ongoing audit. The deal was welcomed by US Secretary John Kerry who visited Kabul to mediate the impasse (AFP, 08/08/2014).

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 4,833 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.

**International Military Presence**

On 18 June, NATO officially handed 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.

**Militant Incidents**

On 10 August, a suicide attacker targeted a NATO convoy in Kabul, killing four civilians and wounding at least 35 others. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack (AFP, 10/08/2014).

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 militants 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).

Disasters

In Takhar Province, a landslide struck Zeker Abad village in Chah Ab district. Four people were killed and three sustained injuries. Six families were affected, having their house destroyed or threatened to be destroyed by further landslides.

Twelve families were affected by flooding in Mihtarlam district, Now Abad village. Another 1762 individuals were affected by flooding in several villages in Matun district, and five people sustained injuries. In Gardez district, 100 families were affected by flooding, with thirty houses severely damaged, 200 jeribs of land affected and water sources contaminated.

In Wardka province, 100 families were affected by flooding in six villages of Nirkh district, 52 houses were severely damaged (IOM/ USAID, 11/08/2014).

Displacement

IDPs

As of 31 March, 659,960 people were displaced due to conflict (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 following the elections in Afghanistan.

Refugees in Afghanistan

As of 12 August, over 124,000 Pakistani refugees – or 16,362 families – have been registered in Khost and Paktika provinces, having fled military operations in North Waziristan (OCHA, 12/08/2014). On 20 July, 48 families in Urgun and Sarobi, Paktika province, required NFIs, food, and WASH and shelter support. 290 families in Nadorshahkot, 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, and are in IPC Phase 2, Stressed. Without further assistance later in the year, households will likely move from Stressed to Crisis food insecurity (IPC Phase 3). They need assistance moving towards the lean season (February-April 2015), without having harvested (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014).

Some groups continue to face high levels 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 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, 15/05/2014).

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 had 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 case 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 Pakti 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 between 1 January and 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 also 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: 12/08/2014

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

19 August: The Gaza ceasefire has been extended for another 24 hours for talks in Cairo and is now set to expire on 19 August at midnight local time (2100 GMT). 1,976 Palestinians and 67 Israelis have died since the beginning of Israel’s offensive on Gaza (BBC).
18 August: 237,659 IDPs have sought refuge in 81 UNRWA schools designated as emergency shelters. This number, which has risen since last week, is expected to increase further as the ceasefire expires (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. Extending a 72-hour cease-fire from 9 August, a five-day truce between Israel and Hamas ceasefire has been further extended and is set to expire on 19 August at midnight local time (2100 GMT), according to the BBC. No progress in the negotiations in Cairo has yet been reported (Wall Street Journal, 18/08/2014).

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 begun 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. 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 and settler-related violence continue to undermine the physical security and livelihoods of Palestinians. OCHA estimated in May 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 (OCHA, 05/2014).

Operation Protective Edge, Gaza

1.976 people have been reported killed since the start of Operation Protective Edge on 7 July, including 1,417 civilians, of whom 459 are children and 239 are women. 10,913 Palestinians, including 3,084 children, 1,970 women and 368 elderly, were injured (OCHA, 18/08/2014). As of 4 August, at least 122 families had lost three or more family members in the same incident, for a total of 655 civilian fatalities (OCHA, 07/2014). Over 485,000 people have been displaced, almost a third of the population of the Gaza Strip.

On the Israeli side, 64 soldiers, and three civilians, including one foreign national, have been killed (OCHA, 18/08/2014).

The five-day truce between Israel and Hamas – the ninth ceasefire since the beginning of the current violence – was extended to 19 August at midnight local time (2100 GMT), although no progress in negotiations in Cairo has been reported (Wall Street Journal, 18/08/2014; BBC, 19/08/2014).

On 13 August, six people, including an Italian journalist, were killed and six others injured by unexploded ordnance in Beit Lahia (UNICEF, 14/08/2014).

Earlier Conflict Incidents
Prior to the current crisis, the number of violent incidents in and around Gaza had been on the rise in 2014. 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 and East Jerusalem**

As of 11 August, 38 people have been killed and 3,856 injured by Israeli forces in the West Bank in 2014. An upward trend in clashes and casualties throughout the West Bank has been ongoing since the end of April (OCHA, 26/07/2014).

19 people, including two children, have been killed and over 2,000 injured since the beginning of Operation Protective Edge. Between 4 and 11 August, four Palestinians, including a child, were killed and over 150, including 71 children and two women, were injured (OCHA, 16/08/2014). This is the largest number of fatalities recorded in a week in the West Bank since May 2006. The use of live ammunition used by Israeli forces continues to rise, accounting for at least 45% of all injuries 21 July-4 August. Other injuries have been caused by (metal-coated) rubber bullets or tear gas inhalation (OCHA, 04/08/2014).

Reports of kidnapping attempts of Palestinian children by Israeli settlers have been on the rise over the past two months, particularly in East Jerusalem (OCHA, 15/08/2014). There have been 215 incidents of settler-related violence resulting in Palestinian casualties or property damage and 68 incidents which resulted in Israeli casualties or property damage so far this year. The demolition of 326 structures, including 41 in East Jerusalem, has displaced 570 people this year, including 101 in East Jerusalem (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

Since the beginning of the year, 34 settler-related incidents were reported against Palestinians in East Jerusalem, of which 13 were reported since 1 July. According to Israeli media reports on 11 August, there has been a sharp increase in the frequency of Palestinian attacks against these settlements since the beginning of July (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

On 10 August in Al Fawwar camp, Hebron, an 11-year-old boy was shot in the back and killed. According to eyewitnesses, the incident occurred as Israeli forces were leaving the camp, following a search and arrest operation, and no stone throwing or clashes were ongoing at the time (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

On 9 August, a 22-year-old Palestinian, wounded by the Israeli army during protests in Hebron, died from his injuries. Another man was shot and dozens of other demonstrators were injured (AFP). 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 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 Defence 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).

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, 16/08/2014). On 18 August, the IDF destroyed the homes of two men suspected of kidnapping and killing three Israeli youths in June 2014 (The Guardian).

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**

On 13 August, 198 tons of gas, 244,000 litres of benzine and 353,000 litres of transport fuel were imported into Gaza through Israeli crossings (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

**Rafah Crossing:** No goods entered on 14 August (OCHA, 15/08/2014). The crossing has been open, with a limited amount of dual nationals and foreign residency card holders exiting Gaza, including three injured (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.

**Kerem Shalom Crossing:** Open according to regular schedule. A total of 283 truckloads entered, mostly containing food aid. On 15 August, the crossing opened outside its regular schedule because of high demand (OCHA, 15/08/2014).
Erez Crossing: The crossing is open from 08:00–14:00 for urgent cases only (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

Beit Hanoun (Arba-Arba) crossing: operational (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

Critical Infrastructure

Critical infrastructure has been targeted directly during the military offensive. Gaza's sole power plant is still not functioning after being 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 subsequent 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).

Displacement

As of 17 August, 380,000 IDPs were registered: 237,659 IDPs were hosted in 81 designated UNRWA schools (up from 229,872 registered the previous day) and 28,229 in seven government shelters supported by UNRWA (up from 26,949 previously). The number of IDPs in government schools not assisted by UNRWA is unknown. Nearly 115,000 IDPs residing with host families have been registered and reached by various shelter partners.

The number of IDPs in emergency shelters continues to fluctuate (OCHA, 15/08/2014). IDPs return to shelters because they wish to secure their places in shelters should hostilities resume or because of general insecurity, i.e. the presence of ERW (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

An estimated 100,000 people will be long-term displaced due to destruction/severe damage to homes (OCHA 18/08/2014).

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. 1.15 million people are reached by standard food assistance (Food Security Cluster, 15/08/2014). 730,000 people not usually reached by UNRWA/WFP food distribution are meant to receive food parcels. So far, 300,000 have been reached (OCHA, 18/08/2014).

Electricity shortages have impacted bread production, as well as commercial activities, and refrigeration. Delays at crossings are complicating food delivery and have resulted in waste. Vegetable prices have risen on average 45% compared to prices prior to the start of the violence (WFP, 12/08/2014). Prices of fresh fruit, vegetables, and eggs have all gone up, among other reasons due to the damage sustained by farms and agricultural lands (OCHA, 11/08/2014). The inaccessibility of agricultural land has also resulted in fewer fresh crops (OCHA, 03/08/2014). Food shortages are reported at some markets (Food Security Cluster, 02/08/2014). 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).

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 – a third of all 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, 12/08/2014). The halt in the smuggling of food via the tunnel has increased food prices.

Agriculture

Farmers’, breeders’ and fishermen’s livelihoods are heavily compromised (FAO/WFP, 20/07/2014). Losses to the farming sector are estimated at USD 450 million (Ministry of Agriculture cited by OCHA, 18/08/2014).

Around 55,000 livestock head are in need of animal feed and water tanks. 1,000 poultry farmers and 220 egg farmers have lost their production capacity and are in need of immediate assistance (Food Security Cluster, 14/08/2014). 36 fishing boats have been damaged or destroyed; 123 hectares (1,230 dunum) of agricultural land have been damaged; 5.8 hectares (58 dunum) of greenhouses have been destroyed; 17 livestock farms have been damaged (FAO/WFP, 24/07/2014). On 17 August, Israel partially lifted sea access restrictions, allowing fishermen to move three nautical miles (NM) from the Gaza shore. According to the Oslo Accords, the fishing areas allocated to Palestinian fishermen should extend to 20 NM off the Gaza coast (OCHA, 18/08/2014).

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

2,695 businesses had to stop operating due to hostilities, resulting in approximately 30,000 workers totally or partially losing their jobs. Some 350 businesses were damaged, with 126 destroyed and 234 partially damaged. Two-thirds of the damaged businesses were in Gaza city (OCHA, 18/08/2014). 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).

In the West Bank, Israeli forces delivered requisition orders for around 12 dunum of...
land planted with olive trees near the settlement of Ma'ale Shomron, in Qalqilya. The requisition is grounded on security reasons for maintenance and fortification of the Barrier near the village (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

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).

As of 12 August, 33 hospitals and clinics have been damaged (OCHA, 12/08/2014). Al Aqsa hospital was again attacked on 30 July, causing major damage to the female medical department. 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).

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, 15/08/2014).

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

Over 50% of water networks are estimated to be damaged in areas which experienced intense violence, such as Beit Hanoun. In Khuza’a, the demand for water is so high that tensions are developing around distribution areas. As a consequence, tanker drivers have been unable to deliver in eastern Khan Yunis and Khuza’a (OCHA, 15/08/2014). 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, 459 have been killed and at least 3,084 injured, and 50,000 are homeless (OCHA, 18/08/2014; UNICEF 16/08/2014). Meanwhile, displaced children and families hosted by community members remain largely unreached by child protection interventions (OCHA, 03/08/2014).

Thousands of explosive remnants of war (ERW) are left in civilian areas affected by conflict, causing a major threat, especially to children, farmers, humanitarian workers, and returnees. UN premises have also been contaminated by ERW (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

Shelter

16,792 housing units have been destroyed or severely damaged during hostilities, rendering approximately 100,750 people homeless and in need of emergency shelter kits. An additional 5,635 housing units have suffered major damage but are in part still inhabitable. Another 33,625 houses have suffered minor damage and shelter NFI’s are needed for repair (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

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).

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. A total of 230 schools (90 UNRWA and 140 government-run) have sustained some degree of damage (OCHA, 15/08/2014). 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: 19/08/2014

SYRIA CIVIL WAR

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

17 August: At least 31 Islamic State (IS) fighters and eight civilians died in government air force raids in Ar-Raqqa. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the raids were the Government's “most intensive” against IS so far, with air strikes also on Deir-ez-Zor governorate and Akhtarin and Dabeq towns in Aleppo governorate, which the IS seized from other opposition groups on 13 August.

16 August: IS fighters have killed over 700 Sheitat tribe members in Deir-ez-Zor over the past two weeks, 600 of whom were civilians, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The fate of 1,800 other members of the Sunni Muslim tribe is unknown.

16 August: Opposition forces battled to retain strongholds near the Turkish border against a rapid IS advance. Marea is a stronghold of the Islamic Front, a coalition of Islamist groups that is among those fighting against IS. Aazaz sits next to a border crossing point.

15 August: A car bomb explosion by a mosque killed 22 people in the opposition-controlled town of Namar in Dar’a. Government barrel bombs killed ten people in Aleppo city.

14 August: An estimated 15,000 Iraqi Yazidis are seeking refuge in Al Hasakeh, according to UNHCR. Most are staying in the Newroz camp near Quamishli, run by local NGOs. Other refugees are scattered among various Yazidi villages in Qahtania or urban areas. It is estimated that more than 200,000 Yazidis remain stranded on the Iraqi side of the border, with many expected to cross into Syria in the coming days. Tens of thousands have transited through Syria in the past ten days to reach Dohuk governorate in northern Iraq.

13–14 August: IS fighters captured ten villages in the area between Aleppo and the Turkish border from rival opposition groups.

KEY CONCERNS

- 171,509 deaths documented 18 March 2011–8 July 2014, including 56,495 civilians, 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).

- 2,966,940 Syrians are registered or waiting to register as refugees outside Syria as of 18 August. Lebanon: 1,155,000; Turkey: 822,000; Jordan: 609,500; Iraq: 218,000; Egypt: 139,000. 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, Idleb and Hama. In Ar-Raqqa, 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. The toll includes 56,495 civilians, of whom 9,092 are children. 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.

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

On 13–14 August, IS fighters captured 10 villages in the area between Aleppo and the Turkish border from rival opposition groups. IS already controls almost all of Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor and has been making gains further west. On 16 August, opposition forces battled to retain Marea and Aazaz, near the Turkish border. Marea is a stronghold of the Islamic Front, a coalition of Islamist groups that is among those fighting against IS. Aazaz sits next to a border crossing with Turkey.

On 17 August government air raids on Ar-Raqqa were the "most intensive" against IS so far, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The Observatory said the Government also carried out air strikes on Deir-ez-Zor as well as Akhtarin and Dabeq in Aleppo governorate, two northern towns which the IS seized from other opposition groups on 13 August.

IS fighters have killed over 700 Sunni Shaitat tribe members in Deir-ez-Zor over the past two weeks; only 100 were fighters. The fate of 1,800 other Shaitat is unknown.

On 15 August, at least 22 people were killed when a car bomb exploded in front of a mosque in the opposition-controlled town of Namar in Dar’a. Government barrel bombs killed ten people in Aleppo city.

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 7 August, Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü stated that 74.2% of Syria’s entire stockpile of chemicals had 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 Idleb 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).

WFP dispatched food for 3.7 million people in 13 of Syria’s 14 governorates in July, reaching 86% of intended recipients. This is an improvement on 3.4 million and 81% in June and 3.3 million (77%) in May. Almost 303,000 people reached were across conflict lines in hard-to-reach opposition-held areas of Dar’a, Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb and Rural Damascus. The increase in dispatches was partly attributable to an easing of logistical bottlenecks following the Government’s introduction in April of new cargo loading regulations (WFP 17/08/2014).

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: The resumption of the airlifts on 22 July was necessitated by a surge in fighting between IS and government forces, which precipitated widespread population displacement and blocked overland routes (WFP 17/08/2014).

Deir-ez-Zor: On 4 August WFP trucks containing rations for nearly 77,000 people crossed the frontline into Deir-ez-Zor. It was the first time since May that WFP food reached the governorate. Two-thirds was to be offloaded in contested Deir-ez-Zor city, with the remainder destined for opposition-held Al Mayadeen city (WFP 17/08/2014).

Ar-Raqqa: In July, no WFP food reached Ar-Raqqa, which had 284,000 targeted recipients (WFP 17/08/2014).

Dar’a: Cross-line access during July included the delivery of rations for 10,000 people to opposition-controlled villages. More than 36,000 people were in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, including food (WFP 17/08/2014).

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 28/03/2014). 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).

Idlib: 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).

Rural Damascus: A resumption of hostilities in the Qalamoun and Kisweh regions of Rural Damascus meant that only 13% of the food assistance earmarked for the governorate in July got through (WFP 17/08/2014).

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).

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: There was no UNRWA distribution of humanitarian assistance in Yarmouk on 15 August; for the sixth consecutive day UNRWA was not authorised to distribute any humanitarian assistance in the camp due to clashes in the area. UNRWA’s last food distribution in Yarmouk took place on 24 July.

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 internal 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).

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).

Refugees in Syria

On 12 August, the transfer of Iraqi refugees from the border area to Newroz camp near Quamishli began. The refugees have spent days on Mount Sinjar in temperatures up to 45 degrees Celsius without food, water, or shelter. They are extremely weak, thirsty, and hungry.

Shelter and food aid is urgently needed. Hundreds are sleeping in the open. After a few days at the camp, many refugees head to the Dohuk area of Iraqi Kurdistan to reunite with families (UNHCR 14/08/2014).

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 Palestine refugees from Syria respectively have approached UNRWA for assistance. The Agency also received reports of around 6,000 Palestine refugees in Egypt and smaller numbers in Libya, Turkey and East Asia. (UNRWA 06/08/2014)

According to a survey, 71% of 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 18 August, the total number of Syrians registered or waiting to register as refugees outside Syria stands at 2,966,940. Lebanon: 1,155,000; Turkey: 822,000; Jordan: 609,500; Iraq: 218,000; Egypt: 139,000. 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 partially functioning, while 22 were out of service. Aleppo, Dar’a, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs and Rural Damascus reported the highest number of non-functioning public hospitals (UNFPA 04/08/2014). At the end of May, 502 medical personnel had been killed since the start of the conflict (PHR). As of May, 62% of ambulances had been damaged.

Since the start of the conflict, some 200,000 Syrians have died from chronic illnesses due to lack of access to treatment and medicines.

Insufficient access to safe blood is increasingly exposing the population to the risk of blood-borne diseases.

Even functioning hospitals are unable to cope with the demand for surgery, due to the increase in the number of injured – averaging 25,000 each month – combined with severe shortages in surgical supplies and frequent power cuts. An increasing number of complications such as septicaemia, gangrene, organ failure are being reported (WHO 25/07/2014).

Syrian pharmaceutical production capacity has been reduced by 65–70%. The devaluation of the Syrian pound by more than 50% and the increase in the cost of medications has affected patients’ ability to purchase needed medications and treatments (WHO 25/07/2014; 16/07/2014).

All injectable medicines, antiseptics, serums, psychotropic medicines, even bandages and gloves, are routinely denied inclusion in aid convoys. Insulin, oxygen, and anaesthetics are no longer available in many parts of Syria. Lengthy administrative procedures surrounding the supply of clinics have caused delays in distributing medical equipment and medicines to some areas.

Aleppo city: Four primary healthcare centres and five trauma clinics are functioning; seven of 17 ambulances are operational. As of March 2014, in the opposition-controlled areas of Aleppo city, there were an estimated 10–12 general surgeons, three–five orthopaedic surgeons, and fewer than ten internal medicine specialists.

Ar-Raqqa governorate: The only dialysis service in the governorate was destroyed by bombing in March. It had served 200 patients (PHR 04/07/2014).

Damascus governorate: As of April 2014, only two of 18 medical facilities in Qaboon were functioning, and were only providing basic services, such as first aid. In Jobar, there are
no functioning medical facilities. In Yarmouk Palestinian camp, the only pharmacy still operating has been attacked by shelling and rockets at least twice. There were once between 100 and 120 pharmacies in the camp.

**Dar’a governorate:** Dar’a has nine public hospitals; five are out of service and three are only partially functioning, with the one operational hospital serving a population of 256,750 (WHO 20/07/2014).

**Deir-ez-Zor:** None of the seven public hospitals are fully functioning, with two completely out of service (UNFPA 04/08/2014).

**Rural Damascus:** 24 out of 44 private hospitals, three out of six public hospitals, and 54 out of 176 health centres are out of service (PHR 04/07/2014).

**Diarrhoeal Disease**

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 Raqqa 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 EWARS 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 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 of typhoid 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 Idlib 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

On 14 August, Human Rights Watch released a report corroborating allegations of mass deaths in government custody. Accounts from four former detainees closely match the allegations of a defector, who had taken photographs of an estimated 11,000 bodies in military hospitals and other locations in Damascus. The bodies showed signs of starvation, brutal beatings, strangulation, and other forms of torture and killing (HRW 14/08/2014).

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: 18/08/2014

YEMEN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

18 August: Tens of thousands of people joined an anti-government rally in Sana’a, called for by Shi‘ite rebel commander Abdel-alik al Houthi, who gave the Government until Friday to meet the protesters’ grievances, including the petrol tax increase (AFP).

14 August: Around 5,000 people are reportedly displaced by conflict in Al Jawf governorate, although, with unconfirmed reports of up to 14,000 people displaced. IDPs are with neighbouring host communities or relatives. Humanitarian presence and access is extremely limited due to persistent insecurity (OCHA).

13 August: A 9 August ceasefire agreement between Houthis and tribesmen has been broken in Al Ghail district, causing displacement. However, the presidential committee implementing the agreement cannot yet reach the district (Yemen Times).

12 August: Around 2,980 people, including military and security personnel, Houthi insurgents, AQAP militants, armed Sunni tribesmen, and civilians, have been killed in violence since the National Dialogue Conference on 25 January (Yemen Times).

10 August: Taizz, Ibb, Dhamar and Al Maharah governorates have recorded increased GAM. There was a decline in GAM in Al Hudaydah, Aden, Lahj, Marib, Al Dhale‘e, Hadramout and Al Bayda governorates. Over one million children are acutely malnourished (OCHA).

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.

On 18 August, tens of thousands of people joined an anti-government rally in Sana’a, called for by Shi’ite rebel commander Abdel-ali al Houthi. Al Houthi gave the Government until Friday to meet the protesters’ grievances, including the petrol tax increase. Further protests, marches and sit-ins are announced (AFP). Protests have been taking place in the capital since June. The Government’s difficulties with paying salaries are prompting fears of unrest as the economic crisis worsens.

On 28 February, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2140 banning travel and freezing assets of people who obstruct or undermine the country’s political transition and those who commit human rights violations.

Security Context

Since the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) was concluded on 25 January, around 2,980 individuals, including military and security personnel, Houthi insurgents, AQAP militants, armed Sunni tribesmen and civilians, have been killed in clashes between the Government and armed militias (Yemen Times, 12/08/2014).

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.

Islamist militants were largely driven out of their strongholds in a US-backed military offensive in 2012. Since then, they have regrouped and continue fighting. AQAP remains extremely active, retaining strongholds in the east and south. Security has been stepped up around government buildings and possible foreign targets.

In the north, intermittent fighting has been taking place between Zaidi Shi’ite 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. Most recent clashes took place in July between tribes from Maarib and Shabwah governorate over the ownership of an oil-rich desert between these governorates.

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

Renewed clashes between Houthis and armed tribesmen in Al Ghail district of Al Jawf governorate caused dozens to flee into other districts, breaking a 9 August ceasefire agreement. However, the presidential committee implementing the agreement, which requires both parties to remove roadblocks and barricades, and to exchange prisoners, cannot yet reach Al Ghail (Yemen Times, 13/08/2014).

On 30 July, armed men blew up an oil pipeline in Wady Obaida area in the central oil-producing governorate 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 (Al Jazeera). The main oil pipeline in Maarib was bombed on 6 and 7 May, halting crude flows, according to international media.

As of 6 August, Amran governorate is under de facto control of Houthi insurgents (OCHA, 10/08/2014). Fighting escalated significantly in Amran governorate in July. Indiscriminate night air raids killed more than 200 civilians, including women and children (IFRC, 09/07/2014; OCHA, 16/07/2014). Although an agreement between the Government and Houthi insurgents has been reported, with fighting ending on 9 July, local sources indicate that parties have interpreted the scope of the agreement very differently. In June, fierce clashes between pro-government tribesmen and Shi’ite Houthi fighters in Dharwan, Bani Maymun, Al Jawf, Al Maamar, and Hamdan villages, close to Sana’a International Airport, caused many casualties (AFP, 28/06/2014; AFP, 25/06/2014). Fighting has been stop-start since March, with multiple ceasefires broken.

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).

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)

Al Qaeda has disowned AQAP, as it considers the group too radical (Al Jazeera, 15/08/2014).

Since the start of the military campaign in 2012, AQAP has targeted army and security forces, 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.

Six suspected AQAP militants and three Yemeni troops died in clashes in Qatan town, Hadramout governorate, on 17 August (AFP, 18/08/2014). Two separate drone
strikes in Abyan killed seven suspected AQAP militants (AP, 16/08/2014). Another drone attack in Hadramout killed three suspected AQAP militants (Al Jazeera, 16/08/2014).

On 16 August, gunmen killed two Yemeni men in separate attacks in Lahj. Authorities blame AQAP (AFP, 18/08/2014). Ten civilians and three army technicians were killed in Saber, Lahj, three days earlier, by a roadside bomb, presumably by presumed AQAP militants. Another 13 people were wounded (Reuters, AFP, 13/08/2014). On 14 August, a policeman and two militants died in clashes in Mukalla, the capital of Hadramout (AFP, 18/08/2014).

Gunmen affiliated to AQAP confirmed they kidnapped and killed 14 Yemeni soldiers. The bodies were found near Seiyoun city, Hadramout governorate (Al Jazeera, 09/08/2014).

25 suspected fighters were killed in Wadi Hadramout area in a week, including seven who were killed on 7 August when they tried to attack an army facility (Al Jazeera, 09/08/2014).

Militants attacked a security checkpoint on a main road in Hadramout, killing six soldiers. In a similar attack, on 2 August, three soldiers were attacked in Shabwah governorate. (Reuters, 04/08/2014).

In July, suspected militants attacked a post office in Hura, Hadramout, killing a policeman and taking two million riyals (Gulf News). Gunmen killed the commander of a border patrol on the Saudi side of the Wadi border crossing. Six people, including a suicide bomber and two security personnel, were killed during attacks from the Yemeni side of the crossing (Reuters). Suspected AQAP gunmen briefly seized Sayun airport in Hadramout at the end of June. Five soldiers and nine civilians died in a suicide bombing at a nearby military headquarters. In Rada’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 governorates, 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.

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).

Southern districts are mostly 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 (23/06/2014). Aid deliveries from Sana’a have been interrupted due to road closures (AFP, 05/06/2014). 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

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, lack of access, as well as the fluidity of displacement, make it extremely difficult to estimate new displacements and needs.

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); Sana’a (42,760 people); and Al Jawf (24,700).

Amran and the North: as of 10 August, most of the 45,000 IDPs who fled Amran governorate since the end of April reportedly have returned (OCHA). Some IDPs might face difficulties in returning home, namely opponents of Houthis and those whose properties were damaged or destroyed (OCHA, 04/08/2014).

Information on the humanitarian impact of the conflict in Al Jawf governorate is limited. Around 5,000 people are reportedly displaced, although unconfirmed reports state up to 14,000 people displaced. IDPs are with neighbouring host communities or relatives. Persistent insecurity makes humanitarian presence and access extremely limited (OCHA, 14/08/2014).

About 100 families have been displaced in Al Jawf governorate, from Al Ghail to Al Hazm district, due to violence between Houthis and tribesmen affiliated with the Islah party (Yemen Times, 23/07/2014).

There is an urgent need for humanitarian assistance in Amran governorate following fighting between Houthi fighters and an alliance of tribesmen and military units (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).

Refugees

Some 6,225 African migrants arrived in Yemen in June 2014. 31,435 new arrivals so far in
2014 indicates a 32% drop from 46,417 migrants recorded in the same period in 2013 (OCHA 10/08/2014).

Around 800,000 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants need lifesaving assistance.

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 (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**

**Around 10.6 million are food insecure, among whom five million are severely food insecure** (CFSS 2014 quoted by OCHA, 10/08/2014; WFP, FAO, Food Security Cluster, 05/2014). The number of food insecure has declined 4% in the last three years.

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 until December. Market access problems and ongoing hostilities (causing additional displacement) further erode the purchasing power 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).

50–75% of the population in Lahj, Hajjah, Raymah and Al Jawf governorates is food insecure. Over 80% of households in these governorates are estimated to be in debt to meet food needs (Comprehensive Food Security Survey cited by OCHA, 10/08/2014).

About 58% of households do not have enough food or money to buy food to sustain their minimum consumption requirements (FEWSNET 07/2014). About 75% of food insecure people give economic concerns as the primary causes of food distress. Household debt levels increased from 2011 to 2014 (Comprehensive Food Security Survey cited by OCHA, 10/08/2014). Current fuel shortages are likely to contribute to significant price increases for basic commodities, including food and water. Purchasing power of poor families will be reduced due to rising market prices (Oxfam, quoted by OCHA, 10/08/2014).

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 07/2014).

**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).

Insecurity is hampering agricultural activity. Crop production levels will be lower due to drought and locust infestation in the northwest. Harvesting of the 2014 grain crop will start in July–August (FAO, 03/06/2014).

**Recent rains have created favourable conditions for locust infestations (OCHA, 10/08/2014).**

**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**

GAM rates marginally improved across the country to about 12.7%, although still far exceeding the critical threshold. Over one million children are acutely malnourished. The situation is particularly serious in Taizz, Ibb, Dhamar and Al Maharah governorates, which recorded increased GAM. In general, western coastal regions and rural areas are most affected (OCHA, 10/08/2014). There was a decline in GAM in Al Hudaydah, Aden, Lahj, Marib, Al Dhale’e, Hadramout and Al Bayda governorates.

An estimated 1.9 million people need nutrition assistance (UNICEF 2014).

**Polio**

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**

GAM rates marginally improved across the country to about 12.7%, although still far exceeding the critical threshold. Over one million children are acutely malnourished. The situation is particularly serious in Taizz, Ibb, Dhamar and Al Maharah governorates, which recorded increased GAM. In general, western coastal regions and rural areas are most affected (OCHA, 10/08/2014). There was a decline in GAM in Al Hudaydah, Aden, Lahj, Marib, Al Dhale’e, Hadramout and Al Bayda governorates.

An estimated 1.9 million people need nutrition assistance (UNICEF 2014).
There are concerns that Syrian refugees fleeing to Yemen could reintroduce the polio virus (Yemen Times, 17/07/2014). Yemen had cVDPV2 and cVDPV3 outbreaks between April 2011 and July 2013 (WHO).

**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).

Open defecation remains standard practice for more than 20% of the population and appears to be higher for young children (UNICEF 2014).

**Education**

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, information on the scale of damage remains incomplete hindering a proper 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**

Widespread arms possession continues to fuel sectarian and tribal conflicts throughout the country (Yemen Times, 12/08/2014).

Child rights violations incidents were reported in Amran, Al Dhale’e and Sa’ada during the Amran conflict in July 2014 (UNICEF, 31/07/2014). IDPs displaced in the recent Amran conflict may face difficulties returning, if perceived to oppose Houthi fighters (OCHA, 23/07/2014).

In the first half of 2014, 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).

Child recruitment by armed forces and armed groups was reported during the Amran conflict (UNICEF, 31/07/2014).

**IRAQ**

**CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST, DISPLACEMENT**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

19 August: Supported by allied militia, Iraqi forces launched a third attempt to retake Tikrit from Islamic State (IS). Tikrit fell on 11 June (Daily Star).

18 August: Around 2,000 Yazidis have fled Iraq for southeastern Turkey. The Turkish Government publicly stated that it is open to receive Yazidis (IRIN).

18 August: Kurdish forces took control of the Mosul Dam, with the support of US air strikes (FT).

17 August: Details emerged of a massacre carried out by jihadists in Kocho village, close to Sinjar town. Around 80 civilians, most of them Yazidis, were killed (AFP).

15 August: Following clashes between Peshmerga and IS forces, there are reports of secondary displacement from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) to southern governorates. Khazir transit centre in Erbil, and Garmawa camp in Ninewa governorate are now reported empty as Peshmerga forces indicated they will not be able to protect IDPs residing in these camps. Southern areas receiving IDPs are Najaf, Kerbala, Basrah, Wassit and Missan.

15 August: Around 55,000 people from Sinjar district (Ninewa governorate) reportedly crossed into Syria, including a large number of the displaced on Sinjar Mountain. Most made their way back into Iraq at the Peshkhapour crossing point in KR-I. An estimated 15,000 Yazidis are seeking refuge in Al Hasakeh. Most are staying in the Newroz camp near Quamishli, run by local NGOs. It is estimated that more than 200,000 remain stranded on the Iraqi side of the border, with many expected to cross into Syria in the coming days (UNHCR; OCHA).

15 August: Supply routes have been interrupted by insecurity, limiting the movement of products already stored in Government silos, including wheat. Food shortages have been reported from Mosul (OCHA).
15 August: Prime Minister Maliki has stepped aside and will support his successor, Al Abbadi, paving the way to form a new, inclusive, and broad-based government (UN).

15 August: The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2170 condemning gross, widespread abuse of human rights by extremist groups in Iraq. The resolution calls for member states to suppress the flow of foreign fighters, financing, and other support to Islamist extremist groups in Iraq and Syria (UNSC).

14 August: The water plant in eastern Mosul was partially destroyed by an airstrike, leaving large parts of the city without access to water. Current interventions remain limited and insufficient (OCHA).

12 August: A Level 3 emergency was declared by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. The move is expected to support a more effective response to the humanitarian needs of the affected population (OCHA).

12 August: Approximately 200,000 people were displaced in the week of 4-11 August (IOM).

KEY CONCERNS
- 1.5 million people, including IDPs, and host and besieged communities are in need of humanitarian assistance. This is a 300% increase from February 2014 (OCHA).
- 1–1.5 million people since the start of Islamic State’s June ‘Ramadan offensive’, bringing the total displaced since the start of the year to an estimated 2 million (IOM, 07/08/2014). There were 1.13 to 1.3 million 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

15 August: Prime Minister Maliki has stepped aside and will support his successor, Al-Abbadi, hence paving the way to form a new, inclusive, and broad-based government (UN).

14 August: The water plant in eastern Mosul was partially destroyed by an airstrike, leaving large parts of the city without access to water. Current interventions remain limited and insufficient (OCHA).

12 August: A Level 3 emergency was declared by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. The move is expected to support a more effective response to the humanitarian needs of the affected population (OCHA).

12 August: Approximately 200,000 people were displaced in the week of 4-11 August (IOM).

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 2 million displaced since January. An estimated 1 to 1.5 million people have been displaced in the two months since IS’s ‘Ramadan offensive’ began in June. 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

The Security Council adopted Resolution 2170 condemning gross, widespread abuse of human rights by extremist groups in Iraq. The resolution calls for member states to suppress the flow of foreign fighters, financing, and other support to Islamist extremist groups in Iraq and Syria (UNSC, 15/08/2014).

National Political Context

On 15 August, Prime Minister Maliki has stepped aside and announced to back his successor, Al-Abbadi, hence paving the way to form a new, inclusive and broad-based government (UN).

On 11 August, Haider al-Abadi – former Deputy Speaker of the Iraqi parliament – was appointed the new Prime Minister by President Fuad Masum. Al-Abadi, 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 Maliki’s bloc is the biggest in parliament, meaning he will be able to retain his position (Reuters, 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).

Prime Minister Barzani has stated the acts committed against Yazidi Kurds constitute genocide by every measure and demands the Iraqi Council of Representatives to formally recognise these acts and treat the situation accordingly. Barzani further announced substantive military reform, including the distribution of
weapons from the US and Europe (Government of Iraq, 18/08/2014).

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 to cut off entrances to Baghdad’s protected Green Zone, which is the centre of the international presence in the city.

Since the fall of Mosul on 10 June, armed opposition groups, including Baathists, tribal militias, members of the former Government and military, along with IS, have taken control of large swathes of Iraq’s provinces of Ninewa, Salah Al Din and Diyala. The cities of Mosul, Tikrit, Tal Afar, Beiji, Quayyara, Sinjar, Suleiman Bek, Rashad, Hawijah, Riyath, Fallujah, and Saqlawiyah 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).

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, spreading from Aleppo in northern Syria to Diyala in eastern Iraq. Its chief Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi was declared caliph and leader for Muslims everywhere (AFP, 29/06/2014, 30/06/2014; Washington Post, 11/06/2014; ISW, 11/06/2014).

KR-I Forces

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 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). On 18 August, Kurdish forces took control of the Mosul dam, with support of US military air strikes (FT, 18/08/2014). On 8 August, an official announced that IS had gained control of the dam.

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.

On 4 August, PM Maliki authorised air support to Kurdish forces fighting Islamic State (WSJ, 04/08/2014).

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.

On 19 August, with the support of allied militia, Iraqi forces launched a major push in a third attempt to retake Tikrit. Tikrit fell on 11 June (Daily Star).

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 has appealed for international support to deal with challenges in the region (AFP, 30/06/2014).

The US military carried out 23 airstrikes on IS targets in northern Iraq over 16–17 August, mostly near the Mosul dam. Operations by the US military are stated to be limited in their nature, duration and scope, and have been coordinated with, and at the request of, the Iraqi Government since 8 August. President Obama has indicated that although it will not deploy military troops to Iraq, this does not prevent the stationing of civilian personnel (TIME, AP 18/08/2014).

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 16 August, details emerged of a massacre carried out by jihadists in Kocho village, close to Sinjar town, northern Iraq. Around 80 civilians, most of them Yazidis, were killed (AFP).

On 10 August, Peshmerga forces clashed heavily with IS in Gwer, 30 miles from Erbil city. Clashes took place between IS and armed forces on 8 August around Amirli, which has been besieged by IS for 40 days. On 9 August, IS launched an attack on Tuz Khurmato but was 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.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

A Level 3 emergency was declared by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on 12 August. The move is expected to support a more effective response to the humanitarian needs of the affected population (UNAMI, 13/08/2014).

17 million (out of a total population of 33 million) are affected by the ongoing hostilities. 1.5 million people, including 1.2 million IDPs, host and besieged communities are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 15/08/2014; SRP 2014 14/08/2014). This is a 300% increase from February 2014. Around 17 million people reside in affected areas (OCHA, 29/08/2014).

Dohuk is hosting 400,000 IDPs, some of whom have endured repeated displacement. There is concern of the risk of waterborne diseases is due to poor sanitation conditions, especially in the extreme heat (UN, 18/08/2014).

Access

Threats by both insurgents and military are significantly hampering humanitarian operations outside KR-I, Civilians in Anbar (Falluja, Ramadi, Al Qa'im, 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).

Amirli

An estimated 15,000 to 20,000 people, primarily Turkoman Shi’ites, remain inside Amirli, in the Tooz district of Salah al Din. Roads have been rendered inaccessible since early July as IS forces surround the area. The humanitarian situation is deteriorating quickly (IOM, 17/08/2014). Food shortages, lack of fuel and power has affected the availability of water. Medical facilities lack basic supplies. Insecurity is affecting access to assess the situation in Amirli and deliver aid, which is now limited to military air operations (UN, 18/08/2014). In an earlier attempt to leave the region by themselves, following negotiations between Amirli leaders and IS, 30 people were nonetheless killed by IS (OCHA, 17/08/2014).

Peshkapour-Semalka border: Since 10 June, this border remains open for returns to Syria only.

Al Qa’im border: This 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).

Rabia’a border crossing: 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).

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

In the week of 4–11 August alone, approximately 200,000 people were displaced (IOM, 12/08/2014). The majority of IDPs live in abandoned buildings, schools, mosques and among host communities. Local authorities are overstretched and under-resourced, unable to deal effectively with the crisis. As a result, northern governorates are now encouraging IDPs to travel south (IOM, 17/08/2014).

Approximately 35% of IDP families are hosted by relatives; and over 36% are living in rented accommodation or hotels with little to no access to employment (IOM DTM, 07/08/2014).

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.

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 Duhok following reports of fighting near IDP locations. Khazir transit centre (Duhok) 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.

In Kirkuk, violent attacks have caused new waves of displacement, estimated by local authorities to reach 40,000 people (OCHA 08/08/2014).

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.

Most of the Yazidis who were trapped on Sinjar Mountain are heading for the town of Khaniq. With an estimated population of 60,000 Khaniq has received some 15,000 families (90,000 individuals) from Sinjar and nearby villages (ICRC, 16/08/2014).

**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).

**Kurdistan Region of Iraq**

The Kurdish region is already overstretched by the presence of more than 200,000 Syrian refugees (WHO, 13/06/2014).

According to officials in the KR-I, at least 45,000 Iraqis, including Arabs, Christians and minority Yazidis, 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 Ninewa. (UNHCR 06/08/2014).

The influx of IDPs imposes a significant burden on host communities in several areas – 80% of the recently displaced are housed among host communities in KR-I – and IDPs face discrimination from local communities (IFRC, 13/06/2014; WHO 18/06/2014). 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).

Following clashes between Peshmerga and IS forces, there are reports of secondary displacements from KR-I to southern governorates. Khazir transit centre in Erbil, and Garmawa camp in Ninewa governorate are now reported empty, after Peshmerga forces indicated that they will not be able to protect the IDPs in these camps. Southern areas receiving IDPs are Najaf, Kerbala, Basrah, Wasit and Missan. In addition, thousands are displaced in Disputed Internal Boundary Areas (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

**Syria**

Around 55,000 people from Sinjar district (Nineva governorate) reportedly crossed into Syria, including a significant part of those displaced to Sinjar Mountain. Most of them made their way back into Iraq at the Peshkhapour crossing point in KR-I. An estimated 15,000 Yazidis are seeking refuge in Al Hasakeh. Most are in the Newroz camp near Quamishli, run by local NGOs. It is estimated that more than 200,000 remain stranded on the Iraqi side of the border, with many expected to cross into Syria in the coming days (UNHCR, 14/08/2014; OCHA, 15/08/2014).

**Turkey**

Around 2,000 Yazidis have fled Iraq for southeastern Turkey. The Turkish Government has stated that it is open to receive Yazidis (IRIN, 18/08/2014).

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. Around 100,000 refugees reside in Duhok, 87,000 in Erbil, and 24,000 in Sulaymaniyah (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.

Around 40% of registered refugees are in camps, and the remaining 60% 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).

It is unclear to what extent the on-going influx of IDPs has affected refugee needs and response.

**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.

Food Security
Supply routes have been interrupted by insecurity, limiting the movement of products already stored in government silos, including wheat. Food shortages have been reported from Mosul (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

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 Ninewa 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
There is concern of the risk of waterborne diseases is due to poor sanity conditions, especially in the extreme heat (UN, 18/08/2014).

Health facilities in Dohuk are overwhelmed by their caseloads (OCHA, 15/08/2014). 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 Ninewa, 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 will 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

Access to clean water has emerged as a critical, life-threatening problem facing conflict-affected areas and those under control of armed groups. Power cuts, fuel shortages following clashes at the Baiji refinery, disruption to supply routes, and the seizure of municipal water facilities has left communities without clean water (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

On 14 August, following previous attacks, the water plant in eastern Mosul was partially destroyed by an airstrike, leaving large parts of the city without access to water. Host communities behind the frontline could be forced to flee because of lack of water in their areas of origin. Current interventions remain limited and insufficient (OCHA, 15/08/014).

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 already lacked drinking water as the main local water station was destroyed (IOM 11/06/2014; UNAMI 15/06/2014). Armed groups have interrupted water provision in Telkaf and Hamdaniyah districts of Ninewa governorate and more recently in Makhour district, Erbil governorate. Some 100,000 people, including IDPs and residents, were affected.

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 Zumar, Ninewa governorate, the unreliable electricity supply is severely affecting water provision. In Sinjar, Ninewa governorate, there are critical water needs following a large influx of IDPs.

Sanitation conditions are poor and there is a concern of waterborne diseases spreading among host communities, with regard to the extreme heat.

Shelter

Shelter is of particular concern, as a result of the increased influx of IDPs throughout Iraq and particularly in KR-I. Current accommodation might not be sustainable and could lead to secondary displacement. Around 40,000 IDPs reside in schools and urgently need shelter so that schools can reopen in September (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

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, rape and violence perpetrated against women and children, confiscation of property and the destruction of religious sites.

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).

Children

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). IDP children suffer from psychosocial distress, limited access to basic resources and a lack of a safe environment; are at risk of violent attacks; are at increased risk of exploitation including child labour; and there are no special services available for children with disabilities or special needs (ACTED, 17/08/2014).

There are continued reports of acts of violence, including sexual violence, against women and teenage girls and boys belonging to Iraqi minorities. Some 1,500 Yazidi and Christians may have been forced into sexual slavery (UN, 12/08/2014).

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
Education

Reopening of schools, scheduled for 10 September, might be delayed, since many schools are used as shelter by IDPs or military. 850,000 children are affected. In the Kurdistan region, around 2,900 schools are estimated to be occupied, and almost 50,000 teachers are affected by the displacement (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

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.

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: 19/08/2014

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).
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).

In 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 Bangladeshi 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.

Health and Nutrition

Recent heavy rain, coupled with the after-effects of a recent aid worker pull-out, is prompting health concerns for the more than 140,000 Rohingya IDPs in Rakhine state (IRIN 07/07/2014).

MSF will be allowed to resume operations in Rakhine state, having had to withdraw in February, according to a 24 July announcement by the Union Government of Myanmar and
**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**

**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).

**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 country’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 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).

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**

Access to areas where the displaced are arriving remains a key challenge for organisations responding and could hamper humanitarian operations (OCHA, 24/7/2014).

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 Punjab and FATA with 21 attacks; and North Waziristan 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 Laki 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).

Food Security

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
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**

**11 August:** About 400 Syrian refugees were registered by UNHCR in the period between 7-11 July, bringing the total number of registered Syrian refugees in Jordan to 609,700.

**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%: 609,700 Syrian refugees are registered with UNHCR in Jordan.

- Operational and protection concerns are growing as the Government of Jordan (GoJ) 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. It appears that the GoJ is increasingly closing off entry to Syrian refugees trying to enter the Kingdom and implementing its encampment policy for Syrian refugees.

- 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 them to reside outside of the camps, refugees would be unable to access public services or receive WFP food vouchers.

- 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, a small group demonstrated in Ma'an, southern Jordan, praising IS victories in Iraq. The extremist 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). Recent violence in the restive governorate of Ma'an in the south is expected to reduce as locals turned over 4 males, including 1 minor, who were wanted by Jordanian authorities.

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 609,700 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 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’atari is the second largest refugee camp in the world, and the equivalent of a new city
in Jordan. The lack of security in certain parts of Za’atari camp impedes access to
services, particularly for women and girls. Security incidents and protests are frequent.
Thousands of refugees have left for other urban centres through both official and unofficial
channels. However, authorities have cracked down on unofficial departures in 2014.

About 4,000 Syrians live in the Emirates Jordan Camp (EJC). Known as the “five-star”
camp due to its high living standards and extensive support, primarily from the UAE Red
Crescent. The camp provides three hot meals each day and caravans for all residents.
Despite the improved living standards, a significant number of refugees have also left EJC
camp for urban areas or to return to Syria.

Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)

About 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

Since early 2014, the GoJ appears to be implementing a more rigorous approach to
its encampment policy of Syrian refugees. 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.

On 14 July, Jordanian authorities notified UNHCR that it is not permitted to register
refugees in urban areas if they have left the camps unofficially, outside of the ‘bailout’
process. Refugees who have approached UNHCR for documents to access services in
urban areas must now show official bailout documentation in order to obtain an
appointment. An estimated 200,000 Syrian refugees have left the camps unofficially.
Without official documentation to live outside of the camps, refugees would be unable to
access public services or receive WFP food vouchers.

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 Mafrak 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 been implemented again, 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 Mafrak 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 receive 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
quality 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.

Updated: 13/08/2014
10 August: There have been no major outbreaks of armed violence in Aarsal since 7 August, but intermittent gunfire was reported over 9 and 10 August, especially on the outskirts of the town. The current situation does not allow for the resumption of humanitarian operations. Syrian refugees are reportedly still not allowed to enter or exit Aarsal through the main road, and the roads leading to Ras Baalbek are also reportedly blocked. Reportedly, Lebanese can exit and enter Aarsal unhindered.

10 August: An initial assessment suggests that recent clashes between the Lebanese army and armed opposition groups in and around the town of Aarsal since 2 August have completely or partially burnt 1,700 tents in 21 informal sites. Over 3,000 households are affected.

9 August: A convoy carrying 1,086 persons returned to Syria. The situation of the Syrians stranded in Tniyi, outside Ras Baalbek, is increasingly a concern. Many are reportedly afraid of returning to Aarsal and are not allowed to enter Ras Baalbek, and humanitarian actors have no access to them.

8 August: Several hundred Syrian refugees who had been sheltering in Aarsal crossed back into Syria. A first group of 350 of some 1,700 refugees who left the town of Aarsal passed through the Masnaa border crossing back into Syria after a ceasefire between armed fighters and the Lebanese military, following clashes that began on 2 August. The departure appeared to be the first time a group of refugees has left Lebanon en masse to return to Syria.

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 ceasefire 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.

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.

26 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
- 1,151,500 Syrians registered as refugees and 27,500 were awaiting registration, as of 14 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% had 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. Around 80,000 Lebanese people and Syrian refugees were trapped between the armed clashes in Aarsal and its surrounding areas. The violence is the worst to hit the area since the beginning of the Syrian 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. 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. 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.

The first major clashes between Lebanese Hezbollah fighters and Syrian opposition fighters inside Lebanese territory were reported in June 2013. Hezbollah's involvement in support of President Assad's forces prompted the Free Syrian Army and Al Nusra Front to warn that their members could start fighting Hezbollah inside Lebanon.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Insecurity in some areas is hindering assistance. As of 10 August, movement into, and within, Aarsal was still curtailed by the security situation, access remained limited and reports indicate that food stocks and baby supplies were running low. People lacked food and water, medical assistance was restricted and humanitarian activities were mostly suspended. No NFI distribution was undertaken in Aarsal over 9-10 August, reportedly due to the municipality not allowing the establishment of distribution points (UNHCR 10/08/2014).

Displacement

As of 14 August, over 1,151,500 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)

Lebanese municipal authorities estimate that more than 2,000 Lebanese and Syrian people, mainly women and children (1,700 refugees), have fled Aarsal since the clashes began on 2 August. The refugees are sheltering in private houses, community centres and schools in Bekaa towns such as Al Marj, Bar Elias and Baalbek. Movements of refugees from North Bekaa have also been observed (UNHCR 10/08/2014).

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.

The average household size is 6.6 family members compared to 7.7 in 2013. About 40 per cent of households had seven or more members. (VASYR 10/08/2014)

Palestinian refugees from Syria: Over 53,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) have been recorded by UNRWA. There has been a decrease in registered arrivals due to entry restrictions 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

Nearly 74% of households face some degree of food insecurity, with the majority falling under the mild food insecurity classification. Almost 13% of households were classified as moderately or severely food insecure, an important decrease compared to the Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees (VASyR) results in 2013. Coping strategies are the indicator that reflected the deteriorating situation for Syrian refugees compared with 2013. It was also the main determining factor for food insecurity. Nearly 68% households reported having reduced the number of meals (and/or money to buy food), 77% relied on other livelihood sources such as non-agricultural casual labour and debts or loans. Approximately 80% of households borrowed money or received credit (VASyR 10/08/2014).

The Lebanese economy is widely affected by the large influx of refugees and the economic spill-over of the Syrian crisis. The crisis has led to a sharp decline in real GDP growth, an increase in government expenditure, a surge in demand for public services (health, education and transportation) and high unemployment. Furthermore, heightened political instability and insecurity is affecting overall economic activity in the country. In 2013, the real GDP growth rate was just 0.9%, even lower than the 1.6% recorded in 2006 during the conflict with Israel. The public debt to GDP ratio in 2013 was 141%, reversing the declining trend observed in previous years. The Syrian crisis has had a particularly acute impact on the tourism and trade sectors. Lebanon’s economy is largely co-dependent on the Syrian economy because of the proximity of the two countries and their role as trading
partners. The instability in Syria has spilled over to the service sector in Lebanon, especially tourism, with the number of international visitors steadily declining since 2010. The structurally weak labour market is also under stress from the refugee influx. According to the International Labour Organization, unemployment in Lebanon was more than 22% in 2013. The Syrian crisis has also impacted food trade between Lebanon and Syria (WFP 07/08/2014).

Lebanon is a net food importer that relies extensively on imports to meet its food consumption requirements: 85% of cereal requirements are imported. The average aggregate grain consumption in the three years following the Syrian crisis (2011–2013) was 11% higher than the average of the preceding three years. Yet there has been no discernable domestic supply response to the increased demand caused by the influx of refugees. Aggregate cereal consumption has increased from 0.9 million mt a year (2004–2008) to 1.2 million mt a year, but the supply side has not responded. National grain production has remained stagnant at just under 200,000 mt over the past decade. Faced with an increase in aggregate food demand, Lebanon has mainly responded by increasing imports rather than production. Wheat accounts for the bulk of grain imports, followed by rice and maize. According to FAO and the World Bank (2012), the Black Sea (Russia and Ukraine) region is a major exporter for Lebanon. In 2013, trade flows fell, particularly for food products and consumer goods (WFP 07/08/2014).

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).

**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.

High healthcare costs, coupled with unhygienic living conditions, have resulted in a rise in waterborne diseases amongst the refugee population in Lebanon. A recent needs assessment conducted by ACTED in Beirut and Mount Lebanon highlighted the frequent occurrence of diarrhoea and scabies amongst the refugee population, with children particularly affected (UNHCR 10/08/2014).

Reports indicate that healthcare centres in Arsal are running low on medical supplies. Primary care and mobile medical unit activities have mostly been suspended, with only one primary care centre open to receive patients. Mobile medical units serviced informal settlements over 9-10 August and reported that the majority of cases involved old injuries or children having diarrhoea (UNHCR 10/08/2014).

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 and cardiovascular conditions, 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 (UNHCR, 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

33% of refugee households do not have drinking water, compared to 28% in 2013. Approximately 12% of households (twice the percentage in 2013) do not have access to bathrooms (i.e. a place for washing/bathing) at all, and out of those who had access, over 7% were sharing bathrooms and latrines with 15 persons or more (VASyR 10/08/2014).

Initial reports confirmed that 55 water tanks have been destroyed due to the fighting in Aarsal. As of 10 August, the water supply situation in the whole of Aarsal was precarious, with trucking impossible. Electricity has been reportedly cut, which has prevented pumping of boreholes (UNHCR 10/08/2014).

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: 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

59% of households live in apartments and independent houses, while 41% live in tents, collective shelters, unfinished constructions, garages, squatting, and separate rooms. Households in tented settlements amount to over 14%. Poor quality shelter, overcrowding, and limited access to water, sanitation, and urban services are the norm throughout the country for the vast majority of the vulnerable. Housing is the most serious concern for most refugees both in terms of quality and monthly cost (UN Habitat 09/08/2014, VASyR 10/08/2014).

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 indicates 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.

An initial assessment in Aarsal after the fighting suggested that nearly 1,700 tents in 21 informal sites had completely or partially burned, affecting over 3,000 households. Approximately 100-200 houses of Arsalis were impacted during the fighting. Local businesses (bakery and gas station) have also been impacted. (UNHCR 10/08/2014).

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. (UNHCR 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 without 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**

After the fighting in Aarsal, there is a growing sense of animosity between the host community and Syrian refugees. Attempts to provide humanitarian assistance led to further hostility between the local community and those who wanted to provide such assistance, including with respect to assistance to Lebanese Aarsali. Rehabilitation of shelter options in Aarsal was also perceived as unwanted (UNHCR 10/08/2014).

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: 14/08/2014

PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, TYPHOON

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

12 August: 147 deaths and 35,264 cumulative dengue cases by 19 of July, a significant decrease from the same period in 2013 with over 80,800 cases (WHO).

9 August: 2,875 people were affected by conflict between an armed group and government forces in Maguindanao. Of these, 1,150 are in one evacuation centre (Government).

KEY CONCERNS

- A shortage of viable evacuation centres in areas hit by Typhoon Haiyan will leave the survivors without alternative accommodation in case of a new typhoon hits this new typhoon season (IRIN 23/06/2014)

- The Philippines is one of the most hazard-prone countries in the world, experiencing several large-scale natural hazards a year.

- In November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan affected over 14.1 million people (OCHA).

OVERVIEW

A series of natural disasters, most significantly Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013, has caused widespread damage across the Philippines, affected millions. The overall political situation is relatively stable, and the Philippine authorities are finalising a peace deal with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the biggest Muslim insurgent movement in Mindanao. However, various breakaway armed groups continue the insurgency.

Political Context

Since October 2012, the government has been engaged in finalising a lengthy peace process with the MILF, which has been jeopardised by a continuing insurgency waged by breakaway armed groups.

Peace Talks in Mindanao

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. Some 11,000 people were displaced in five...
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, igniting three weeks of fighting. Zamboanga has a mixed Christian and Muslim population and the attacks were largely seen as an attempt to sabotage the peace talks between authorities and MILF. Officials estimated 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 and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), a group who separated from MNLF in favour of the independence of Bangasamoro Land, are set to meet in Davao City from 1–10 August to continue working on the draft Bangsamoro Basic Law.

**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.

**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 (Government 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 schools have been affected as per government reports on 22 July. Crops, fisheries and agricultural facilities also suffered damage. A state of calamity was declared in the regions of Cagayan Valley, CALABARZON and Eastern Visayas (NDRRMC 22/07/2014).

**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).

**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

In July and early August, 2,875 people were affected by conflict between an armed group and government forces in Maguindanao. 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

47 deaths and 35,264 cumulative dengue cases by 19 of July, a significant decrease from the same period in 2013 with over 80,800 cases (WHO 12/08/2014).

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: 19/08/2014

SRI LANKA  INTERNAL UNREST, DROUGHT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

15 August: A Sri Lankan court ordered authorities to stop deporting Pakistani asylum seekers. 88 Pakistanis have been deported since 1 August, according to UNHCR, who have been denied access to another 75 people awaiting deportation (Trust.org).

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 Buddhists 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 Sinhaleses-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

On 15 August a Sri Lankan court ordered authorities to stop deporting Pakistani asylum seekers following complaints that they were being forcibly sent home without having their claims properly assessed. 88 Pakistanis have been deported since 1 August according to UNHCR, which has been denied access to 75 people awaiting deportation (Trust.org 15/08/2014).

Some 157 asylum seekers, including 84 Pakistanis, 71 Afghans and two Iranians remain in detention. UNHCR has requested that the Government stop deportations immediately and grant it access to asylum seekers in detention so that its staff can assess their needs for international protection (UNHCR 12/08/2014).

A 700% increase in the asylum seeker and refugee population has been observed since 2013, with 1,562 asylum seekers and 308 refugees by 30 June, according to a government report in early August, which also states that the majority of them are driven by commercial human trafficking networks.

Disasters

In July, over 870 houses were 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.

Urgent priorities include WASH and health services (OCHA and Government, 16/06/2014).

Drought

The number of people affected by drought has increased to 1,620,672 people (468,347 families) over 15 districts in different parts of the country, as per latest figures reported by the government (Disaster Management Ministry 12/08/2014).

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. Families 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).

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) was also 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 tonnes, 17% below last year’s record level. Early prospects for the 2014 yala rice crop, currently being planted, are also unfavourable.

The 2014 aggregate rice production (including the 2014 maha and the ongoing 2014 yala seasons) is forecast at 3.9 million metric tonnes, 16% lower than the 2013 record output and 4% below the average level of the previous five years (FAO).

INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 19/08/2014. Last update: 13/08/2014.

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 tonnes 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

Child chronic malnutrition and poor dietary diversity among children, women and households remain the main concern. Super Cereal, biscuits, pulses and oil are much needed to improve the local diet to supplement the poor dietary intake among target vulnerable groups (WFP 06/2014).

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 Sinuiju, 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).

Protection

DPRK announced it is to publish a human rights report to counters claims of crimes against humanity made in the UN report published earlier this year (international media, 08/2014).

China is cracking down on Christian NGOs near its border with DPRK, with hundreds of people forced to leave the country and some who remain describing an atmosphere of fear. This is believed to be aimed at closing off support to DPRK who flee their homeland and illegally enter China before going on to other countries, according to August reports in the international media.

Reviewed: 19/08/2014
The humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine is worsening, with further damage to electricity and water supply systems, infrastructure, and public buildings, including schools (UNICEF).

- 3.9 million people live in areas directly affected by violence (OCHA, 11/08/2014).
- 500,000 people in Donetsk are in a critical situation (IPWR, 11/08/2014). 250,000 civilians in Luhansk, mostly pensioners and families with children, are reportedly unable to leave the city (UNICEF, 13/08/2014).
- Worsening tuberculosis epidemic in eastern Ukraine, according to doctors (AFP, 18/08/2014).
- Competition over scarce resources and fatigue among host communities have increased tensions among IDPs and host communities (OCHA, 09/08/2014).

More than 155,800 people have been displaced, while continued fighting and lack of transportation limit the possibilities for civilians to escape contested areas.

Medical supplies are lacking and health services limited. The supply of fresh food supply is limited in some contested cities. Gas, water and electricity facilities in the east have been damaged or destroyed, as well as transportation infrastructure. The human rights situation is deteriorating as a consequence of the continued instability and violence.

Russian territory: Russia seized all military bases in Crimea and the acting Ukrainian president ordered Ukrainian forces to leave. More than 15,000 people fled the region (OCHA, 08/08/2014).

By early April, tensions flared across eastern Ukraine, with uprisings by pro-Russian activists and the seizure of government buildings in the cities of Luhansks, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Slovyansk, and others. The Ukrainian forces strengthening operations in eastern Ukraine. On 6 July, government forces retook control of Slovyansk and Krematorsk. Fighting in the following weeks concentrated on the densely populated urban centres of Donetsk and Luhansk.

On 12 August, humanitarian aid left Russia for Luhansk and has not yet reached Ukraine. Ukrainian officials are concerned that Russia is using humanitarian assistance as a pretext to invade eastern Ukraine (international media, 12/08/2014).

As of 13 August, more than 2,119 people had been killed in eastern Ukraine, including civilians, the military and members of the armed groups. 5,043 people have been confirmed wounded by the conflict; the actual number is likely to be higher. On average, at least 60 people a day have been killed or wounded since mid-April (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

The humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine is worsening, with further damage to electricity and water supply systems, infrastructure, and public buildings, including schools (UNICEF, 13/08/2014). Humanitarian needs are growing just as the civil society response is weakening (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

Access

Access to humanitarian aid in conflict areas is reportedly near to impossible because of constant shelling (OCHA, 11/08/2014).

In Luhansk, 250,000 civilians, mostly pensioners and families with children, are reported unable to leave the city, although a humanitarian corridor appears to be functioning (UNICEF, 13/08/2014; international organisation, 14/08/2014). The city’s infrastructure is worsening every day. Residents have been without electricity, clean drinking water, and gas for two weeks, and there are problems with food supplies (international organisation, 14/08/2014). There has been no mobile phone service in Luhansk region since 1 July (international organisation, 14/08/2014).

Road transportation from Ukraine to Crimea experiences many border checks by Crimean authorities and long delays at the ferry crossing in Kerch. Since 15 July, international shipping has been prohibited from the ports of Evpatoria, Kerch, Sevastopol, Theodosia, and Yalta on the Crimea peninsula (GARD, 17/07/2014). Every day passengers travelling to and from Crimea are denied passage due to a lack of documentation (OSCE, 15/08/2014).

Displacement

After a referendum in the Crimea region on 16 March 2014, Crimea was absorbed into
IDPs

As of 14 August, 155,800 IDPs are registered in Ukraine (OCHA, 16/08/2014): 90% are from east Ukraine (OCHA, 13/08/2014); at least one-third are children (UNICEF, 13/08/2014). Numbers of displaced are likely to be higher as there is no functioning centralised registration system (UNHCR, 05/08/2014). More than 1,000 people are reportedly leaving the conflict zone each day (OCHA, 05/08/2014).

In June, humanitarian corridors were created to help civilians flee fighting but these are regularly blocked by combatants, impeding evacuation (UN, 05/08/2014). Many people are reportedly afraid to use evacuation corridors (OCHA, 10/08/2014). Cases of extortion and harassment were also reported (UNHCR, 05/08/2014). In July, the Ukrainian Ministry of Transportation arranged extra train capacity from the eastern regions, but intensified fighting makes it difficult to enter railway stations (OSCE, 12/08/2014).

Most IDPs have left with few belongings, and need shelter, food and other essential assistance. Tensions between IDPs and host communities are rising (IDMC, 15/08/2014). Kharkiv’s regional social protection department says the region “has exhausted” its capacity to absorb more IDPs (OSCE, 15/08/2014).

Most IDPs from Donetsk and Luhansk regions have expressed their intention to return home as soon as the security situation allows (OSCE, 12/08/2014).

Returnees

An estimated 24,000 IDPs have reportedly returned to Kramatorsk and Slovyansk since government forces retook the area, and are facing challenges due to damage to infrastructure, housing, businesses and industries (OCHA, 09/08/2014).

Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 14 August, an estimated 188,000 refugees had crossed into Russia since the beginning of the year, and over a thousand had applied for asylum in other neighbouring countries such as Poland and Belarus (OCHA, 16/08/2014).

In addition, the Russian authorities are reporting that 740,000 people have crossed the border since the start of the year, using the special 270-day visa programme for Ukrainians (UN, 05/08/2014).

Food Security

In Donetsk city, conflict is causing difficulties in supply for some supermarkets, locally produced items are in short supply (Institute for War and Peace Reporting, 11/08/2014).

Livelihoods

At the beginning of August, banks in Donetsk were reported to be closed. The people remaining in the areas affected by unrest are very vulnerable as they are financially dependent on government transfers (Institute for War and Peace Reporting, 11/08/2014).

The economic situation remains very unstable: since the end of July, there has been another wave of currency depreciation (international organisation, 14/08/2014).

Health

Emergency and primary healthcare capacities in Donbas are reportedly insufficient. Health services face intermittent electricity and water supply, and a lack of pharmaceuticals, consumables, and staff. An estimated 70% of health staff have fled the area (OCHA, 05/08/2014).

Communicable Diseases

Due to low vaccine coverage rates, especially among children, there is a heightened risk of infectious disease outbreaks among IDPs and affected populations in conflict areas (UNICEF, 27/06/2014; OCHA, 05/08/2014).

Tuberculosis

Doctors are warning of a worsening tuberculosis epidemic in eastern Ukraine. 48,000 people are registered with the disease; however, one in four people with TB are not officially registered, according to WHO (AFP, 18/08/2014).

WASH

Water supply in eastern Ukraine is hampered by the destruction of or damage to water facilities. Close to 200,000 people live in areas with no water supply (OCHA, 05/08/2014).

Shelter

27% of IDPs live in the 500 temporary shelters established by the Ukrainian authorities: 60% of these shelters cannot be used during the winter (UNHCR, 05/08/2014).

In the area around Mariupol, some IDPs live in dire conditions, lacking the most basic services: people are living in tents, cars, or summer camp facilities, which had been unused for years (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

Protection

Armed groups have increasingly committed human rights abuses, including abductions, torture/ill-treatment, unlawful detentions and killings as well as the seizure and occupation of public buildings. According to Ukrainian government sources, 924 people have been abducted by armed groups, including 811 politicians, journalists, professionals, students, and other civilians. OSCE monitors, and 113 servicemen, military border guards, and security personnel have been detained between April and August (OHCHR, 08/06/2014).

Armed groups have increasingly committed human rights abuses, including abductions, torture/ill-treatment, unlawful detentions and killings as well as seizure and occupation of public buildings. Abductions have taken place across eastern Ukraine, in Donetsk and Luhansk areas (OHCHR, 08/06/2014).

Minorities

Emergency and primary healthcare capacities in Donbas are reportedly insufficient. Health services face intermittent electricity and water supply, and a lack of pharmaceuticals, consumables, and staff. An estimated 70% of health staff have fled the area (OCHA, 05/08/2014).
An estimated 260,000 Roma live in Ukraine. In August, OCHA reported that the Roma population displaced from Donbas experiences access restrictions to government health and social services, as 40% of them do not have documentation (OCHA, 06/08/2014). Roma are afraid to be registered as IDPs, fearing persecution when they return (UNHCR, 05/08/2014).

In Crimea, harassment and discrimination has reportedly intensified against Ukrainian nationals, Crimean Tatars, religious minorities, and activists who opposed the 16 March referendum (OHCHR, 15/06/2014).

Education

117 schools have been partially or completely destroyed in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (UNICEF, 13/08/2014).

Updated: 18/08/2014

NORTH AMERICA

HAITI FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 12/08/2014. 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 people 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 close 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**

According to FAO, the prospects for the 2014 main season crops are favourable. Assuming normal weather conditions continue during the remainder of the year, as well as an average secondary season rice crop, to be harvested by December, FAO’s latest forecasts point to an aggregate 2014 cereal production of 596,000 tonnes, 3 percent up from last year’s record level (FAO, 07/08/2014).

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**

By 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**

For the month of June 2014, 923 suspected cases and 9 fatalities were registered. From October 2010 to date, around 703,000 suspected cholera cases and estimated 8,500 deaths were reported by the Ministry of Health. In 2014, 6,406 suspected cases and 45 fatalities have been registered. Compared to the same period in 2013, there is a 74 per cent reduction in the number of cases (16/07/2014).

Since the beginning of the epidemic (October 2010) in Haiti until early June 2014, 393,912 cholera cases 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.

*Updated: 13/08/2014*
- 370,141 suspected cases of chikungunya have been reported. 71 cases have been confirmed and six people have died from the disease (PAHO, 15/08/2014).

- 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, have been drier than average over July. Low dam levels near Santo Domingo have led to water restrictions and occasional power outages (FEWSNET, 09/08/2014). Many areas’ total rainfall is 50–80% of normal levels, with the worst moisture deficits on the southern coastline. This prolonged dryness is expected to continue to negatively affect local water resources and cropping activities (FEWSNET, 15/08/2014).

A national deficit of 100 million gallons of water is reported (Diario Libre, 30/07/2014).

The passage of tropical storm Bertha brought increased rainfall, localised flooding, the displacement of dozens of families, and elevated river levels. Since May, southern and eastern parts of the island have received only 25–50% of their average rainfall (FEWSNET, 09/08/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Chikungunya

At 15 August, the number of suspected chikungunya cases remained unchanged since 8 August, at 370,141. Three new deaths were reported, bringing the death toll to six. 71 cases have been confirmed (PAHO, 15/08/2014).

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 from the French part of the island of Saint Martin on 6 December 2013. It is the first time that transmission of the virus by infected mosquitoes within the Americas has been documented (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, 21/02/2014).

572,810 suspected cases have been reported in the Latin Caribbean; 4,642 cases are confirmed. The Dominican Republic is most affected, followed by Guadeloupe, Haiti, and Martinique. Affected countries outside the Latin Caribbean are mainly Dominica and El Salvador. The United States has reported 590 imported cases of the virus (PAHO, 15/08/2014).

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: 19/08/2014

GUATEMALA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

11 August: 841,390 people (168,278 families) lost their harvests due to the ongoing drought (Prensa Latina, 11/08/2014).

6 August: Since July, 220 cases of severe malnutrition have been reported in Zacapa department (Siglo XXI, 06/08/2014).

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 extended for another 30 days by 4 August, due to the damage caused by the earthquake. The alert applies to San Marcos, Quetzaltenango, Huehuetenango, Totonicapán, Sololá, Retalhuleu and Suchitepéquez (Government of Guatemala, 05/08/2014).

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). On 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).

Food Security

On 11 August, the Guatemalan government reported that countrywide 841,390 people (168,278 families) had lost their harvests due to the ongoing drought (Prensa Latina, 11/08/2014).

By 6 August, harvest losses in Zacapa department due to drought reached 85%. In Jutiapa department, 85% of maize harvest was lost, as well as 79% of the beans harvest (Siglo XXI, 06/08/2014). In Quiché department, 104,485 people, almost 10% of the department’s population, have been identified by the departmental government as most at risk of food insecurity (Prensa Libre, 08/08/2014).

By 5 August, the government estimated that in the ‘dry corridor’ alone approximately 480,000 people (120,000 families) could be affected by harvest losses expected to be higher than 50%. 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 were 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 plantations 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, Jalapa, Jutiapa, El Quiché, Huehuetenango, Zacapa, Baja Verapaz, and Sololá. The national Secretariat for Food and Nutritional Security (SESAN) recorded 800,000 people (160,000 households) impacted by coffee leaf rust, with effects including unemployment and harvest losses of staple grains.

Agricultural Outlook

Over the month of July, Eastern Guatemala has received only between 25 and 50 percent of its average rainfall (FEWSNET, 29/07/2014).

Poorly distributed Primera rainfall and acute dryness during mid-June has caused crop failure in eastern Guatemala (FEWSNET, 09/08/2014).

The chance of El Niño affecting the country this year is 80% (Prensa Libre, 15/07/2014). The consequent harvest losses mean that Primera and Postrera 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 6 August, 220 cases of severe malnutrition had been reported in Zacapa department since 20 July (Siglo XXI, 06/08/2014).

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

5 August: The government declared a State of Emergency in the ‘dry corridor’ due to drought conditions.

10 August: The recent drought has caused the loss of 70% of corn crops and 45% of bean crops. It has also affected access to safe drinking water (La Prensa).

KEY CONCERNS

- 304,000 people are 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).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Food Security

304,000 people (76,000 families) are affected by food insecurity. Ocotepeque, Lempira and Copán departments are most affected, owing to the lack of rain for the last 30–50 days. The coffee leaf rust epidemic, affecting the entire Central American region, is aggravating the situation (Government of Honduras, 29/07/2014). The recent drought has caused the loss of 70% of corn crops and 45% of bean crops (La Prensa, 10/08/2014).

The food security situation for day labourers, small coffee farmers, and basic grain producers in 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. Damage to seeds during the first planting season and high probabilities of damaged seeds during the second planting season mean that the people affected by food insecurity are likely to continue to experience Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of food insecurity from October to December (FEWSNET, 30/07/2014).

Damage to planted seeds have occurred principally in the ‘dry corridor’, a region stretching across Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador (FEWSNET, 30/07/2014). As of 5 August, the government declared a state of emergency in the ‘dry corridor’ of Honduras due to the drought conditions (Government, 05/08/2014).

Prices for red beans have increased by 132% since June 2013 and by 68% in the last five years. The losses in seeds in the south of the country are likely to extend to other geographical areas and high prices for basic grains are likely too (FEWSNET, 30/07/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Dengue

11,921 cases of dengue have been recorded so far this year, 997 of which are suspected of being haemorrhagic dengue (Government 05/08/2014). Over 1,000 new cases were recorded 12-29 July. Severe cases have also increased: by 19 July, 947 suspected cases were recorded- an increase of 53 over the previous week. Two deaths have been recorded so far (La Prensa, 29/07/2014).

WASH

The recent drought has affected access to safe drinking water in the most affected areas (La Prensa, 10/08/2014).

Updated: 13/08/2014

SOUTHERN 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 (Health 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: 13/08/2014

PARAGUAY FLOODS

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new developments this week. Last update: 08/08/2014.

KEY CONCERNS
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: 13/08/2014
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 ongoing crisis which triggers a change of prioritisation, the Global Overview will be updated on an ad-hoc basis.

Disclaimer

While ACAPS has defined a methodology striving to ensure accuracy, the information provided is indicative and should not be used in isolation from 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.