Central African Republic: About 20,000 displaced people are seeking refuge in isolated rural areas in Ouham province following the arrival of armed groups in Boguila, Kouki and Nana Bakassa on 25 October. Nearly 1,000 people have been displaced since July in Bambari following violence in Batobadja and Matchika, and 4,000 have been displaced since January to Berberati town in Mambere province.

Ukraine: Over the night of 30-31 October, Ukraine claimed pro-Russian separatists violated the ceasefire 45 times. However, some IDPs area reportedly returning to opposition-held areas despite insecurity, due to exhausted coping mechanisms and inadequate assistance. Ukrainian authorities have imposed obligatory passport controls on movements in and out of opposition-held areas.

The Gambia: Aggregate cereal production over 2014 is predicted to be 75% lower than in 2013, falling to about 57,000 metric tons. Groundnut, the main cash crop, is predicted to fall 80%. Growing conditions have been poor in several parts of the country, mostly in central and western regions, due to irregular rains at the beginning of the cropping season in May/June, which delayed planting, and subsequent erratic precipitation in July and August. The Ebola epidemic in

Severe humanitarian crisis
Afghanistan
CAR
Chad
DRC
Djibouti
Gambia
Guinea
Iraq
Liberia
Nigeria
oPt
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Sudan
Syria
Ukraine
Yemen

Humanitarian crisis
Cameroon
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Haiti
Honduras
Kenya
Lebanon
Lesotho
Libya
Mauritania
Myanmar
Nicaragua
Niger
Pakistan
Senegal
Ukraine

Situation of concern
Bangladesh
Bolivia
Burundi
Côte d'Ivoire
Guatemala
India
Jordan
Namibia
Nepal
Philippines
Rwanda
Sri Lanka
Uganda

Watch list
DPRK
Eritrea
neighbouring countries is further aggravating food insecurity, as the crisis has affected tourism, a significant source of income (Reuters, 01/10/2014).

AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC  CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

6 November: About 20,000 displaced people in Ouham province are seeking refuge in isolated rural areas following the arrival of armed groups in Boguila, Kouki and Nana Bakassa on 25 October; no relief has reached the population (OCHA).

6 November: Since January, more than 1,120 security incidents have been recorded, of which 109 (10%), were direct violence against humanitarians (OCHA).

3 November: The start of the 2014–2015 school year, scheduled for 3 November, was delayed due to insecurity (Finn Church Aid).

KEY CONCERNS
- Communal violence surged across the country in 2014, with attacks reported in nearly all prefectures. 5,186 people have died since December 2013 (Government, 16/09/2014). A new wave of violence began on 7 October in Bangui has left thousands people displaced, 20 dead and 159 wounded.
- As of 20 August, 2.5 million people require immediate humanitarian assistance. The entire CAR population of 4.6 million people, half of whom are children, are affected by the conflict (UNICEF, 09/2014).
- 1.7 million people are in Crisis and Emergency phases of food insecurity (FAO, 17/09/2014).
- 174,000 IDPs in displacement sites, including 63,250 in the capital Bangui (OCHA, 15/10/2014).
- 424,200 mostly long-term CAR refugees are registered in neighbouring countries (OCHA, 15/10/2014).

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 ex-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 24 September, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court announced the opening of an investigation in CAR for crimes allegedly committed since August 2012 (OCHA, 28/09/2014). On 9 May, the UN Security Council voted to impose sanctions on an anti-balaka leader, an ex-Seleka leader, and former CAR President Bozize.

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).

National Political Context

Ex-Seleka had rejected the Government formed in August, and excluded those of its members nominated to the cabinet (IRIN 23/09/2014). On 6 October, anti-balaka demanded that the President resign and two of their members quit the transitional Government (AFP, 06/10/2014).

The head of the CAR National Elections Authority declared in September that elections could not be organised before late 2015 at the earliest (Missionary International Service News Agency, 01/09/2014). The UN Special Representative warned that a lengthy postponement of elections risks further worsening the crisis (UNHCR, 03/10/2014).

The ex-Seleka proclaimed a free, independent, and secular state in northeastern CAR in August (UNHCR, 22/08/2014). Ex-Seleka had proposed the division of the country during peace talks in July (US State Department, 24/07/2014). Muslim residents of Bambari, Ouaka prefecture, also made demands for partition in late April, according to international media (25/04/2014).

Security Context

As of 12 September, at least 5,186 people have died from the violence in CAR (Government, 16/09/2014).
Despite a peace agreement, disarmament operations are increasing tensions across the country, particularly in Bambari, Ouaka. The CAR Government is currently prohibited from rearming by the UN Security Council arms embargo (international media, 12/06/2014). On 26 October, the President of the Transitional National Council issued a call to international forces for help in protecting the population (AFP, 26/10/2014).

**Ex-Seleka**

Seleka ("alliance" in Sango) is a coalition of mostly Muslim opposition movements founded in September 2012, which brought Michael Djotodia to the presidency in a coup in 2013. Djotodia announced Seleka’s dissolution on 14 September 2013, however, the alliance’s fighters were not disarmed and remained active. Djotodia resigned from the presidency in January 2014, after which a few thousand ex-Seleka took control of the northern part of CAR. Bambari, Ouaka, was reported to have become their headquarters in May, according to international media. Numbering an estimated 10,000 fighters, the ex-Seleka are roughly composed of 5,000 core fighters from the largely Muslim northeast and 5,000 foreigners, mainly Sudanese and Chadian (international media 30/09/2014). Rival ex-Seleka groups have clashed on several occasions. Ouaka has experienced violent clashes among rival militias since July (Jeune Afrique, 27/10/2014).

On 28 October, an assembly of all ex-Seleka officials is supposed to have taken place in Kaga Bandoro, Nana-Grebizi. Noureddine Adam, thought to be the second-in-command, sought to reaffirm his control over the Peul branch of ex-Seleka. This branch, led by General Ali Darassa, had organised its own meeting in Bambari days earlier and created a new group, Unity for CAR (UCP) (Jeune Afrique, 27/10/2014).

**International Military Presence**

**UN Peacekeeping Mission (MINUSCA)**

The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) began operations on 14 September. MINUSCA has a one-year mandate and numbers 6,500 troops and 1,000 police, an increase on the 4,800-strong AU peacekeeping force previously active in CAR (UN, 14/09/2014). MINUSCA is expected to expand to 12,000 by February 2015 (Government 16/09/2014).

**French Peacekeeping Forces**

Half of the 2,000-strong French peacekeeping mission Sangaris is deployed in Bangui, half in the regions. Its mandate expires in April 2015, but President Catherine Samba-Panza has asked France to extend its military presence until the presidential election.

**EU Military Intervention**

On 21 October, the UN Security Council extended the timeline of the EU military operation in CAR to March 2015. Comprising 700 troops, EUFOR-RCA is authorised to protect civilians and provide security for humanitarian operations in the Bangui area (Government, 07/11/2014).

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**

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 ex-Seleka and anti-balaka activism, and the increased targeting of international peacekeepers.

In late April, renewed ex-Seleka offensives were particularly affecting Ouaham and Ouham-Pende. There was fighting between anti-balaka and ex-Seleka in Dekoa, Kemo, and Sangaris was reportedly deployed in Grimari, Ouaka. Further clashes occurred in Nana-Mambere and Nana-Grebizi, and Muslim convoys were attacked in Nana-Grebizi and Ouham-Pende.

Since May, Ouaka has seen intense fighting and increased insecurity. In June and July, violence between anti-balaka and ex-Seleka fighters, and against civilians, caused displacement. Sangaris soldiers failed to put an end to the clashes.

At least 146 people have been killed in Kémo, Nana-Grebizi, and Ouaka prefectures since June (government, 16/09/2014). In July, attacks and clashes between anti-balaka and ex-Seleka were reported in Kouki and Batafango, Ouham, which led to displacement (OCHA, AFP, 01/08/2014). Elsewhere, violence has been less intense. A grenade attack was reported in Paoua, Ouham-Pende, in early July (OCHA, 10/07/2014), and ex-Seleka were involved in clashes with Ugandan troops in Mbomou, according to an INGO.

In the capital Bangui, the security situation is fragile. A deterioration in May saw dozens killed in clashes, and conflict has left a number of people dead since end August.

**Incidents**

More than 890 security incidents were recorded between January and September (WHO, 30/09/2014).

**Bangui:** Fighting between international forces and armed groups was reported on 31 October in northern Bangui (AFP, 31/10/2014). A wave of violence had begun on 7 October, leaving at least 13 dead and 252 injured. The security situation remains highly volatile, and thousands of people have been displaced, mostly from Bimbo. Serious violations of human rights, including kidnapping, murder, child recruitment, and sexual violence have been reported (OCHA, 23/10/2014).

**Kemo:** Clashes were reported 13–20 October (ICRC, 16/10/2014). On 22 September, five Muslims were killed by anti-balaka in the Sibut area; international forces were criticised for not intervening. More ex-Seleka fighters are reported in Sibut, resulting in a slower return of IDPs (UNICEF, 09/2014). In Dekoa, on 11 October, ex-Seleka attacked the market. 15 civilians were wounded and four killed (PI, 11/10/2014).

**Ouaka:** The security situation remains highly volatile due to splits among the ex-Seleka...
and the presence of other armed groups (AFP, 02/10/2014). On 21–22 October, ex-Seleka attacked Bambari, resulting in 30 dead and dozens of wounded. On 24 October, Peul ex-Seleka attacked the villages of Tchimanguere and Gbakimalekpa, killing dozens and displaced hundreds of people (AFP, 26/10/2014; Jeune Afrique 23/10/2014). Clashes between armed groups in Bambari on 2 October led to the intervention of French forces and at least 16 deaths. At least five civilians were publicly executed by gunmen linked to the anti-balaka, between 13–21 October in the villages of Bangao and Bomballa, after being accused of collaboration with the ex-Seleka. Near Kouango, two young men were executed by ex-Seleka rebels for “treason” and “belonging” to anti-balaka militias (INGO, 21/10/2014).

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. 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).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Organizations warned about the significant risk of another humanitarian catastrophe in CAR since the few organizations remaining cannot have access to the population following renewed violent clashes (OCHA, 23/10/2014). As of August, 2.5 million people need immediate assistance (half of whom are children), of an estimated population of 4.6 million (OCHA, 06/08/2014).

Access

The spike in attacks on humanitarian aid workers affects the capacity to provide support to people in need. Since January, more than 1,120 security incidents have been recorded, of which 109 were direct violence against humanitarians (OCHA, 06/11/2014).

The rainy season, from July to November, has made operations more difficult as road conditions have deteriorated. In addition, it is impossible to find fuel outside Bangui (OCHA, 23/10/2014).

Bangui: There is an increasing trend of attacks against humanitarian workers. Between 7 and 19 October, two peacekeepers were killed and 13 wounded, and six direct incidents against humanitarian workers were reported (OCHA, 20/10/2014). Violence and obstructions by armed groups all impact humanitarian access (OCHA, 23/10/2014). WFP has temporarily suspended its operations in Bangui since 8 September because of renewed hostilities (WFP, 24/10/2014). The delivery of humanitarian supplies from Bangui to Paoua became impossible in October following the surge in violence in the capital. Distributions in Ndimb and Gaoundaye (Ouham Pende prefecture) were also delayed (UNHCR, 24/10/2014).

Bamingui-Bangoran: Humanitarian actors suspended activities due to security incidents in September (Premiere Urgence-Aide Medicale Internationale, Danish Refugee Council, 23/09/2014). In August, humanitarian access was impeded in most areas in Ndele (OCHA, 13/08/2014). The delivery of aid has reportedly been obstructed by local authorities (OCHA, 16/07/2014).

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).

Ouaka: The FAO warehouse in Bambari was robbed (OCHA, 20/08/2014). Shooting near WFP distribution sites and intrusion by armed people have also been reported (UNHCR, 22/08/2014). As of 25 June, UNHCR reported that clashes in Bambari have hampered access to the area.

Ouham: As of 22 August, humanitarian operations have reportedly been suspended in Batafango for a week due to insecurity (UNHCR, 22/08/2014).

Trapped Communities

On 9 June, an estimated 21,000 people, mostly but not exclusively Muslim, were trapped in 12 locations. Very high-risk locations include Boda (Lobaye prefecture), Yaloke (Ombella Mpoko), Berberati (Mambere-Kadéi), Bozoum (Ouham-Pende), Boganangone (Lobaye), and the PKS district of Bangui, while Bouar and Baoro were considered as high risk (UNHCR). The Protection Cluster defines populations as ‘at risk’ when insecurity, restrictions on freedom of movement, and lack of access to humanitarian aid threaten their lives or physical integrity.

Security Incidents Affecting Aid Workers

As of 15 September, 987 security incidents involving aid workers have been recorded in 2014, mostly in Bangui and Bambari. Incidents have increased by 60% since May (OCHA, 17/09/2014). Staff abduction, vehicle theft, death threats and physical attacks have all been reported.

On 8 October, Red Cross volunteers were threatened by unidentified men in Bangui (ICRC, 09/10/2014).

Displacement

On 5 March, OCHA estimated that 80–85% of Bangui’s minority population had fled. Most of the Muslim population has fled or been evacuated from Yaloke (previously home to 10,000 Muslims), Baoro in Nana-Mambere (4,000 evacuees), Mbaiki in Lobaye, and Boali and Bossemptele, Ouham-Pende, (OCHA).

IDPs

At end October, there are approximately 410,000 IDPs in CAR, including 174,000 in displacement sites and 62,326 in 37 sites in Bangui (UNHCR, 31/10/2014; OCHA, 26/10/2014). The number of IDPs living outside of camps with host families remains unclear due to lack of systematic data collection and tracking of return movements (IDMC, 15/10/2014).
Bangui: 7,160 people were displaced between 7 and 19 October, of whom 3,000 remain displaced (OCHA, 23/10/2014; PI, 22/10/2014). Health, WASH, and food are reported to be the most urgent needs (OCHA, 21/10/2014). Much of the newly displaced population originates from Bangui’s 3rd and 5th districts, with additional displacement taking place in and around Bimbo (IOM, 21/10/2014). The largest camps are Aéroport Mpoko (20,900 IDPs), Séminaire St Marc (8,000), and Mission Carmel (6,775) (CCCM, 29/10/2014). The number of IDPs at sites in Bangui has fallen by 78% since December 2013 (OCHA, 30/09/2014). Before the renewed violence in October in Bangui, 91% of IDPs interviewed in Bangui said they intend to leave their site within the next month. 77% of them expressed their will to return to their place of origin, stressing the need for assistance with shelter reconstruction (OCHA, 23/09/2014; IOM, 26/09/2014).

Bambari: Nearly 1,000 people (194 households) displaced since July following violence in Batobadj and Matchika, along the Bambari-Alindao axis, to the Notre Dame des Victoires site, need shelter, NFIs, food and WASH support (INGO, 07/10/2014).

Nana-Mambere: 3,000 newly displaced people have been reported in Bouar, at the border with Cameroon. Need assessments are under way (PI, 16/10/2014). 4,000 people displaced since January to Berberati town, need urgent NFI support and food, shelter and displacement protection (Aide Médicale Internationale, 05/11/2014).

Haute-Kotto: 13,000 IDPs from Bangui and Bambari have been reported in Bria (ICRC, 16/10/2014).

Nana-Grebizi: The number of displaced in the Kaga Bandoro area doubled in a month to reach 23,000 in early May (UNHCR). Violence in M’Bres in mid-August reportedly forced 1,000 people to flee their homes (OCHA, 20/08/2014).

Ouaka: As of 30 September, 14,605 people had been displaced in Bambari since June, and another 15,000 were displaced across the prefecture (OCHA, 05/08/2014; UNHCR, 03/10/2014). Another 4,000 people displaced between June and September in Bambari remained displaced in October. Urgent needs include NFI, WASH, and food assistance (Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, 29/10/2014). As of 19 October, 6,600 people (1,320 families) had been displaced in Ngakobo since September; priority needs include supporting access to appropriate WASH facilities, food, and mosquito nets (ACTED, 29/10/2014).

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

Ouham: About 20,000 displaced people are seeking refuge in isolated rural areas following the arrival of armed groups in Boguila, Kouki and Nana Bakassa on 25 October; no relief has reached the population (OCHA, 06/11/2014). An estimated 14,830 people are estimated to have been displaced in Batafango; 20,000 people are estimated to be displaced in the region (UNHCR, 03/10/2014). 2,000 people had been displaced in Kabo and Moyen-Sido in August as a result of clashes in Batafango (IOM, 25/08/2014). 8,047 refugees and asylum seekers are living in CAR (OCHA, 27/10/2014); 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 interrupted a number of humanitarian programmes for the 1,900 Sudanese refugees residing in the Pladama Ouaka camp.

CAR Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

There are 420,240 CAR refugees in neighbouring countries, 183,450 having arrived since December 2013. 239,110 are registered in Cameroon, 92,610 in Chad, 68,160 in DRC, and 20,370 in Congo (UNHCR, 31/10/2014). 1,600 new CAR refugees were registered in DRC as of 16 October due to renewed violence (OCHA, 20/10/2014).

Although the Chad–CAR border remains officially closed, refugees continue to arrive at a number of border points and are in a very vulnerable condition: malnourished, dehydrated, and traumatised (UNHCR, 07/2014).

Third-country Nationals Fleeing CAR

As of 15 October, 132,400 people had been evacuated from CAR. Reports indicated that these include CAR nationals, third-country nationals, and returning migrants (OCHA, 15/10/2014).

Food Security

According to the April IPC classification, 45% of the population, i.e. 1.7 million people, remain at Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity: 26%, around 442,000 people, are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), and 19%, around 323,000 people, are in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) (FAO, 16/10/2014). At 30 September, food insecurity was expected to remain at Crisis level until December in the most conflict-affected areas, due to below-average harvests, lack of income sources, and insecurity limiting access to markets and humanitarian assistance. Between May and June, a shift in coping mechanisms was observed among IDPs. Before, tools and belongings were sold to buy food, and now the majority of people are reducing the number of meals per day to feed their children. Adults have reported spending entire days without eating (IOM, 26/09/2014).

Ouham and Ouham-Pende are most affected and expected to be in Crisis until March 2015 due to lack of food access and consumption (FEWSNET, 31/10/2014). All other prefectures are at Crisis level, except Mambere-Kadei (Stressed). Bamingui-Bangoran, Ouham and Ouham-Pende are most affected and expected to be in Crisis until March 2015 due to lack of food access and consumption (FEWSNET, 31/10/2014). 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 (FAO, 25/08/2014). In Nana-Bakassa, there are concerns about food insecurity since the population has resorted to negative coping mechanisms (INGO, 07/10/2014).

In Basse-Kotto and Sangha Mbaere, food security is improving but will still remain at a...
Stressed level until December (IPC Phase 2) (FEWSNET, 30/09/2014).

Crisis levels in conflict areas are also projected between March and August 2015 (FEWSNET, 28/10/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

Food crop production in 2014 is estimated to be 58% below average due to the impact of insecurity and displacement (FAO, 09/10/2014).

Food stocks in rural areas are 40–50% below average due to recurring raids. Cattle-breeding has fallen by 77% compared to pre-crisis levels, and insecurity and poor road conditions have disrupted market linkages and led to significant increases in food prices (prices from March to August increased 30–70%) (FAO, 29/10/2014).

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 without access to basic healthcare, a figure that still stands today (OCHA, 23/09/2014). While access to basic services has improved, mainly in Bangui and surrounding districts, 45% of health facilities, mainly outside Bangui, still cannot provide basic health services, according to WHO's Health Resource Availability Mapping System, completed in May 2014 (WHO, 30/09/2014).

The rainy season and poor living conditions for IDPs increase risks of water and vector-borne diseases (WHO, 30/09/2014).

HIV/AIDS

Thousands of people with HIV no longer have access to antiretroviral treatment.

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.

Malnutrition

The nutritional situation in remote villages is of serious concern, 28,800 children are estimated to suffer from SAM (UNICEF, 04/09/2014). 75,000 are expected to be moderately malnourished in 2014 (WFP, 17/07/2014).

According to the preliminary results of the SMART survey in Bangui, there has been a reduction in GAM, from 8% in 2012 to around 5% currently, likely due to the concentration of humanitarian activities in Bangui (WFP, 23/09/2014).

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). 550,000 children, about 45% of the children affected by the conflict, need psychosocial support (OCHA, 23/09/2014).

WASH

2.6 million people do not have access to improved safe water or improved sanitation (OCHA, 23/09/2014). Western areas of CAR as well as Mbomou are most affected (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

At 13 August, 35,000 IDPs and returnees in Bossangoa, Ouham, needed WASH assistance (OCHA).

Education

The start of the 2014-2015 school-year scheduled for 3 November has been delayed due to insecurity (Finn Church Aid, 03/11/2014).

About 330,000 children in displacement sites do not have access to education (OCHA, 23/09/2014).

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 reported open in Kemo and Nana-Grebizi (UNICEF, 17/06/2014). According to the Education Cluster, violence in Bambari since June has caused the suspension of all education activities (Education Cluster, 07/2014).

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, 278,000 children, had reportedly dropped out in 2013/2014.

Several schools were either attacked or occupied by armed groups or by international forces in August (UNICEF, 04/09/2014).

Protection

Sudanese refugees in Bembere camp were beaten and robbed of a large sum of money and livestock by a large group of gunmen on 3 November (Radio Dabanga, 04/11/2014).

Areas in Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, Ouham, Ouaka, and Lobaye prefectures are most affected by protection issues (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

On 24 June, a human rights group reported that crimes against humanity and war crimes had been, and continued to be, committed in CAR. In late October 2013, attacks, executions and torture of civilians, indiscriminate shelling, sexual and gender-based violence, and forceful recruitment of children were all documented in a report by Amnesty International.
Ex-Seleka and associated armed groups are listed for child recruitment, killing, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals. Anti-balaka are listed for child recruitment and use, and killing and maiming (Watchlist on children and Armed Conflict, 04/11/2014).

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. At 19 August, 100 children had been released from armed groups over the last week (UNICEF, 18/08/2014). On 10 June, OCHA reported that 42% of a targeted 2,000 children had been released from armed groups.

SGBV

In Bangui, women in IDP centres cannot leave their tents after dark, because of the risk of attack and rape (international media, 09/2014).

Shelter and NFIs

Shortages of mosquito nets and jerrycans are significantly hindering the humanitarian response (OCHA, 23/09/2014). The rainy season has worsened living conditions in camps (IOM, 26/09/2014).

Updated: 11/11/2014

CHAD FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 03/11/2014. Last update: 29/10/2014.

KEY CONCERNS

- 92,600 CAR refugees as of 28 October (UNHCR, 28/10/2014), 18,700 of whom have arrived since January 2014 (OCHA, 15/10/2014).
- 462,700 refugees in Chad as of 12 October (UNHCR, 14/10/2014).
- 2.6 million Chadians are living in food insecurity. Nearly 449,000 people are at Crisis or Emergency levels (IPC Phases 3 and 4) and 2.2 million were at Stressed level (IPC Phase 2) of food insecurity as of 31 August (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

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. 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

3.2 million people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian aid (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

Access

Heavy rainfall in mid-August has impeded the movement of humanitarian personnel towards areas where assistance is required (UNHCR, 19/08/2014).

Disaster: Floods

Heavy rains in Salamat region mid-August resulted in floods that made 1,000 people homeless and displaced 7,000, according to local authorities (IOM, 25/08/2014).

Displacement

IDPs

An estimated 90,000 IDPs are living in protracted displacement in the east (OCHA, 19/11/2013). They are experiencing difficulties accessing shelter, land, and income-generating activities, and the arrival of newly displaced people since December 2013 due to the CAR crisis is increasing competition for scarce resources (IDMC, 24/10/2014). 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 do not yet allow a durable solution.

Refugees

CHAD FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

Updated: 11/11/2014

Political Context

Central African Republic Crisis

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

3.2 million people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian aid (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

Access

Heavy rainfall in mid-August has impeded the movement of humanitarian personnel towards areas where assistance is required (UNHCR, 19/08/2014).

Disaster: Floods

Heavy rains in Salamat region mid-August resulted in floods that made 1,000 people homeless and displaced 7,000, according to local authorities (IOM, 25/08/2014).

Displacement

IDPs

An estimated 90,000 IDPs are living in protracted displacement in the east (OCHA, 19/11/2013). They are experiencing difficulties accessing shelter, land, and income-generating activities, and the arrival of newly displaced people since December 2013 due to the CAR crisis is increasing competition for scarce resources (IDMC, 24/10/2014). 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 do not yet allow a durable solution.

Refugees
As of 12 October, Chad is host to 462,700 refugees; 364,300 are from Sudan and 95,900 from CAR (UNHCR, 14/10/2014). 1,899 Nigerian refugees are registered as of 12 October (UNHCR, 14/10/2014). There are 150,000 returnees from Libya as of 15 October (OCHA, 15/10/2014). These arrivals have placed additional burdens on host communities.

156,500 are in Wadi Fira (34%), 113,800 are in Ouaddai (25%), 84,178 are in Sila (18%), and 50,423 are in Logone Oriental (10%) (UNHCR, 16/09/2014). 21,807 refugees are in Dosseye camp, 60km from the CAR border, and 28,474 in Belom camp, Moyen Chari.

In Tissi, which is mainly hosting Sudanese refugees, basic services are non-existent (UNICEF, 04/2013).

**Refugees, Returnees and Third-country Nationals from CAR**

Although the Chad–CAR border remains officially closed, refugees continue to arrive at a number of border points and are in a very vulnerable condition: malnourished, dehydrated, and traumatised (UNHCR, 07/2014). Many people are arriving without being registered (OCHA, 16/07/2014). 92% of arrivals lack any form of identity documentation.

As of 2 October, the cumulative total of evacuees from CAR without refugee status, including returnees and third-country nationals, stands at 113,086 (IOM, 06/10/2014). As of 28 October, there are 92,600 CAR refugees in Chad (UNHCR, 28/10/2014), 18,717 of whom have arrived since January and are predominantly in the south of the country (OCHA, 15/10/2014). 90% of CAR refugees are located in camps (OCHA, 15/10/2014). Many returnees cannot count on family networks and depend on humanitarian assistance in camps (OCHA, 30/09/2014). 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.

**Transit sites:** The situation in southern transit sites remains critical. 41,547 people remain in the transit sites of Sido and Doyaba (Moyen Chari), Kobitey and Mbitoye (Logone Oriental) and Djako (Logone Occidental) (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

7,599 people are estimated to be in Kobitey transit site, in Logone Oriental, 3,358 of whom were relocated from Doba transit site in August (IOM, 06/10/2014). Urgent humanitarian needs are reported in all sectors. 1,200 shelters need to be built (OCHA, 15/10/2014). There are 17,300 returnees in Sido transit site, Moyen Chari (OCHA, 15/10/2014). Sanitation and hygiene are major concerns (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

As of 15 October, over 12,752 returnees were still in the transit site in Doyaba, Moyen Chari; Chadian authorities want to close the site by the end of October (OCHA, 15/10/2014).

**Temporary sites:** 21,231 people are in temporary sites in Chad (OCHA, 30/09/2014). The Maingama temporary camp, in Moyen Chari, to which people from Doyaba are being transferred, currently cannot absorb the entire population of the site in addition to the people living in Sido transit site (OCHA, 18/09/2014). It holds 5,786 returnees as of 15 October (OCHA, 15/10/2014). Work is under way to increase the hosting capacity to 30,000 people and resume transfer from transit sites (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

The temporary site of Danamadja, Logone Oriental, 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 authorities to prepare a new site, a few kilometres from Goré and Danamadja, as an extension (OCHA, 16/07/2014). 30% extra shelters are needed in Gouï display, in Zafaye, close to N'Djamena (OCHA, 30/09/2014). 4,252 returnees are hosted there as 15 October (OCHA, 15/10/2014).

**Host communities:** Over 25,000 people who entered Chad following the CAR crisis are outside of sites – living in small villages and remote communities throughout the south (OCHA, 30/09/2014). 18,150 returnees live in host communities (OCHA, 30/09/2014), including 15,000 CAR returnees living in host families in Mandoul and Logone-Oriental (OCHA, 15/10/2014). 22 villages host around 11,800 CAR returnees and about 4,500 CAR evacuees. The assistance provided to returnees outside transit sites and temporary camps is very limited, the humanitarian needs exist, particularly in WASH (OCHA, 30/09/2014). 3,700 returnees in Baibokoum and Mbitoye have been identified as very vulnerable. Shelters are urgently needed. The arrival of about 2,000 cattle with the returnees could lead to conflict, especially with the harvest in October (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

In Moyen-Chari region, an assessment of the humanitarian situation in Kouno and surrounding villages, where 1,091 returnees are living, identified urgent needs in terms of shelter, food and NFI, medical care including vaccination, water and sanitation facilities, and establishing or reinforcing community coping mechanisms (IOM, 22/08/2014).

In Am Timan, Salamat region, shelter and NFI such as tarps, sleeping mats and mosquito nets are needed, as many individuals are currently living in makeshift shelters and are exposed to the rain. Food, water, sanitation and hygiene services, as well as health services are urgently needed (IOM, 22/09/2014).

**Chadians in Congo**

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

**Food Security**

2.6 million Chadians are food insecure, representing 18% of the total population; half are in the Sahel strip. The number has increased 9% since the beginning of this year (OCHA, 15/10/2014, 30/09/2014). Nearly 449,000 people were at Crisis or Emergency levels (IPC Phases 3 and 4) and 2.2 million at Stressed level (IPC Phase 2) of food insecurity as of 31 August (OCHA, 31/08/2014). The harvest was improving food security in most of the country as of the end of September (WFP, 30/09/2014). Deficit pockets have been identified in Wadi Fira, Guera, east Batha, Kanem, and Bahri El Ghazel in the Sahel strip, and early exhaustion of food stocks is likely to put poor households in these areas Stressed conditions (IPC Phase 2) from February...
Refugees: Funding difficulties and cuts to transport budgets have forced WFP and UNHCR to severely cut food rations for refugees since 1 July (international media, 12/09/2014; WFP, 14/08/2014). Some 300,000 refugees, primarily from Darfur and CAR, are reported to be among the worst affected. Cereal rations for Sudanese and CAR refugees in Chad have since been increased from 850 to 1,161 kilocalories per refugee per day, still below the normal ration of 2,100 (WFP, 09/10/2014).

The additional cost of refugees and returnees in Logone Oriental, Moyen Chari, Mandoul, and Salamat, in border areas with CAR, is putting pressure on household demand, consumption, and spending (WFP, 07/2014). Staple food prices increased throughout the country in July. In northern Chad, insecurity has influenced negatively the price of cattle and put additional pressure on farmer livelihoods (FEWSNET, 10/10/2014).

Regional Outlook: Sahel

24.7 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) are suffering from food insecurity as of 30 September (OCHA, 07/10/2014). Food insecurity in 2014 has risen dramatically compared to 2013, when food consumption was inadequate for 11.3 million people (OCHA, 03/02/2014). As of 29 October, some 6.5 million people have crossed the emergency threshold from being moderately food insecure to facing an acute food and livelihood crisis; this is an increase of four million people since January, due in large part to ongoing conflict and instability in CAR, northern Mali and northeast Nigeria (IRIN, 29/10/2014).

Health and Nutrition

2.5 million people need healthcare (OCHA, 31/08/2014). Access to quality healthcare for over 330,000 people living in Kanem region is a particular concern. 30 of the 102 health districts are considered non-functional by the Ministry of Health due to lack of resources (OCHA, 19/09/2014).

Cholera

In the first week of September, 21 cholera cases were reported in Bipare and Guegou, in Mayo-Kebbi (UNICEF, 17/09/2014).

Malaria

Malaria cases have increased in the south as rains have intensified (OCHA, 25/08/2014). In Moyen Chari, IRC has warned about risks of malaria drug shortages (OCHA, 15/09/2014). In Djako, Doyaba, Kobitey and Maingama, a resurgence of malaria in sites and temporary camps continues, with a 50% mortality rate (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

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

Malnutrition

152,000 children are severely malnourished as of 15 October (OCHA, 15/10/2014). Kanem, Bahr-El-Gazel, Gera, and Wadi Fira report GAM above the emergency threshold of 15% (OCHA, 19/09/2014).

WASH

1.3 million are in need of WASH assistance: only 50% of the population have access to safe water and 12% to adequate sanitation at the national level (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

In the camps for people coming from CAR, new arrivals are impacting on the quantity and quality of available water (UNHCR, 31/08/2014). Access to WASH facilities for host communities has also been affected by the presence of refugees (UNHCR, 31/07/2014).

Protection

UNICEF has reported over 600 unaccompanied minors and separated children and 44 children associated with armed groups since December 2013 (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

Legal Status

Many second and third-generation Chadian returnees are at risk of statelessness, without family links or identity documents, entering Chad for the first time and holding CAR citizenship (UNHCR, 07/2014). 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.

Updated: 03/11/2014

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

7 November: The former leader of M23 threatened that the armed group might resume activities if the Government does not respect its commitment regarding amnesty and release of prisoners (AFP).

6 November: Over one thousand people displaced following fighting between self-defence groups and Mayi-Mayi Mahoro in Uvira are in need of shelter and food (Radio Okapi).

4 November: Over 2,500 people from Basoko, Tshopo territory, Orientale province, are left without shelter after the Aruwimi River overflowed. WASH and food security are of concern (Radio Okapi).
KEY CONCERNS
- Internal conflict in the eastern provinces.
- 6.3 million people need humanitarian assistance (UN, 02/10/2014).
- 2.6 million IDPs (UNHCR, 30/09/2014). Katanga is of particular concern, with 580,000 people displaced across the province (OCHA, 30/10/2014).
- 121,900 refugees, mainly from CAR and Rwanda (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).
- 6.7 million people are at crisis and emergency levels as of September (ECHO, 09/2014). Over 2 million children under 5 are suffering from acute malnutrition and 6 million are affected by stunting (Radio Okapi, 04/11/2014).

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.

Political Context
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 concerns about DRC’s commitment to the Framework, as implementation is not progressing.

On 18 October, the High Representative of the UN human rights mission in DRC was declared “persona non grata” by the Government and was expelled of the country (AFP, 18/10/2014).

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 27 September, over 2,000 people took to the streets of Kinshasa to protest a bid by President Kabila to modify the constitution to be able to stay in power in 2016, beyond his two-term limit (AFP, 27/09/2014).

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 of 3,000 soldiers (RFI, 20/10/2014).

On 25 September, the mandate of the EU mission providing assistance to security sector reform (EUSEC) was extended until 30 June 2015 (European Union, 25/09/2014).

Regional Security Context
On 2 July, Angola, Burundi, CAR, 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. On 23 October, an African Union official estimated that, halfway through the disarmament period, FDLR is not abiding by its commitment (Radio Okapi, 23/10/2014).

Counter-insurgency and Insecurity in the East
A new wave of violence by opposition armed groups intensified in eastern provinces in October, after a period of counterinsurgency operations by DRC armed forces (FARDC) and MONUSCO. The Hutu-dominated militia Nyatura, the Hunde-dominated Alliance for a Free and Sovereign Congo, and the Nduma Defence of Congo had surrendered after Government and UN troops defeated M23 at the end of 2013, once the strongest army in the Kivu regions. As of 7 November, the former leader of M23 threatened that the armed group might resume activities if the Government does not respect its commitment regarding amnesty and release of prisoners (AFP, 07/11/2014).

As of end October, there are at least 40 armed groups operating in the east (ECHO, 22/10/2014).

North Kivu
Following strategic gains by FARDC-MONUSCO in July, North Kivu is experiencing a resurgence of violence in Beni, Walikale, and Lubero territories, namely from Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF-NALU), Nduma Defence of Congo (NDC), Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), and Nyatura (OCHA, 15/10/2014; 16/10/2014; AFO, 30/07/2014). The insecurity has resulted in widespread displacement, and rape, kidnapping, and looting are reported (OCHA, 16/10/2014).

Beni territory: Since early October, repeated attacks on villages in Beni territory, reportedly committed by ADF-NALU, after they assaulted FARDC positions in May-Moya. 120 civilians have been reported killed (AFP, 05/11/2014). Civil unrest and violence from the local population towards MONUSCO assets and official buildings have been recorded (AFP, 02/11/2014).

Walikale: Violence – including SGBV, kidnappings, and looting – by Nduma Defence of Congo was reported in September and October in Walikale territory (OCHA, 08/10/2014).

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Walikale: Violence – including SGBV, kidnappings, and looting – by Nduma Defence of Congo was reported in September and October in Walikale territory (OCHA, 08/10/2014).
NDC activity and its clashes with FDLR, who are allied with Mayi-Mayi LaFontaine, triggered the displacement of several thousand people between 1 August and 30 September (UNICEF, 30/09/2014). In August and September, FARDC launched operations against NDC on the Walikale–Masisi axis, and against Raiya Mutomboki on the Walikale–Hombo axis, causing further displacement (UNICEF, 30/09/2014).

**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:** Since mid-August, clashes have been ongoing between FARDC and Raiya Mutomboki in Shabunda (OCHA, 03/09/2014). Fighting in Mulungu and Kolula areas have displaced 31,550 people to Shabunda territory since March (OCHA and Commission on Population Movements, 06/2014).

**Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba:** Since 19 August, Mayi-Mayi attacks have been reported against the villages of Penekusu and Nyalukungu, causing inhabitants to flee to Kama, Pangi territory, in Maniema (Radio Okapi, 21/08/2014).

**Mayi-Mayi Mahoro:** Over one thousand people displaced following fighting between self-defence groups and Mayi-Mayi Mahoro group in Uvira are in need of shelter and food (Radio Okapi, 06/11/2014).

**Katanga**

Katanga is experiencing a relative respite since FARDC military offensives against dozens of Mayi-Mayi movements in Manono, Mitwaba, and Pweto territories (the ‘Triangle of Death’) in July. Nonetheless, interethnic conflict between Luba and pygmy nations and Mayi-Mayi attacks persist (OCHA, 30/10/2014).

Interethnic conflict between Luba and pygmy populations is affecting five of the six territories of Tanganyika district since July and led to displacement, particularly in Manono and Kabolo territories (OCHA, 30/10/2014; UNICEF, 30/09/2014). Half of protection incidents recorded in Tanganyika district have been committed by Luba militia, who are often linked with Mayi-Mayi Bakata Katanga (OCHA, 22/10/2014).

**Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba:** Repeated attacks against villages by Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba, originating from South-Kivu, have been reported in Northeast Kalemie despite the presence of FARDC along Tanganyika Lake since August (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

**Mayi-Mayi Bakata Katanga:** Ten attacks were reported over 23–30 October in Moero sector of Pweto territory (Radio Okapi, 30/10/2014). FARDC offensives against Mayi-Mayi Bakata Katanga of Musumari had made gains as of 5 November (Radio Okapi, 05/11/2014).

**Oriental**

Attacks and incidents are increasingly being reported in Bakaiko, southwest Mambasa, and Irumu, in Ituri district. The Front of Patriotic Resistance in Ituri (FRPI), the Ugandan Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and Mayi-Mayi Simba are reportedly responsible (OCHA, 15/10/2014; Radio Okapi, 17/10/2014).

**LRA:** The Ugandan Lord’s Resistance Army is increasing activities in Haut and Bas Uele according to a MONUSCO statement on 8 October, operating in small groups against the civilian population (AFP, 08/10/2014). 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. 92% of the 113,000 IDPs in Bas Uele and Haut Uele are displaced due to LRA activities (OCHA, 30/07/2014).

**FRPI:** The Front for Patriotic Resistance in Ituri is reported to have resumed violent activities in South Irumu since the beginning of October (MONUSCO, 24/09/2014). Human rights violations and SGBV against civilians have been reported (OCHA, 01/10/2014).

**Mayi-Mayi Morgan:** On 22 October, hundreds of civilians were kidnapped in Mambasa territory and forced to work in Pangoyi goldmine, according to local sources (OCHA, 30/10/2014). On 14 October, eight civilians were kidnapped and one killed in an attack allegedly committed by Mayi-Mayi Morgan in Elota, Mambasa territory. The population fled, mainly to Biakato (OCHA, 22/10/2014).

**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–May 2014 throughout the country (OCHA, 05/2014).

**Katanga:** Insecurity and logistical constraints continue to challenge humanitarian access to civilians, especially in the region covering Pweto, Manono, and Mitwaba territories (OCHA, 06/2014). Growing insecurity is hindering 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:** Access to some 42,000 people in Fizi territory has been hampered by insecurity since June. Since the beginning of the year, a dozen security incidents against humanitarian workers has been reported in Fizi territory, which accounts for about 20% of incidents in the province (OCHA, 11/09/2014).

FARDC–Raiya Mutomboki clashes have been hindering access to 120,000 people in Penekusu area, south Shabunda, since mid-August (OCHA, 03/09/2014). The rainy season has rendered 60% of roads in south Shabunda impracticable (OCHA, 15/10/2014).

**North Kivu:** Renewed fighting between the Union of Congolese Patriots for Peace (UPCP), FDLR, and Nduma Defence of Congo have hampered humanitarian access in Bumyatenge and Kasugho areas and forced several organisations to withdraw their staff.
Seasonal rains are deteriorating road conditions and risk hampering assistance in Masisi and Walikale territories (OCHA, 04/11/2014). The IDP population in Burora, North Masisi, might result cut off from aid (OCHA, 22/10/2014). In Beni territory, heavy rains along with insecurity, intercommunal tensions, and civil unrest hamper an accurate evaluation of needs of the population displaced in October (OCHA, 04/11/2014).

Lack of funding forced several health zones in south Masisi territory to interrupt activities, severely limiting access to healthcare for 20,000 IDPs (OCHA, 04/11/2014).

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, with the most recent withdrawal in September. Several humanitarian organisations have suspended activities in South Irumu as FRPI has resumed activities (OCHA, 01/10/2014).

In Opiege, Bawasende territory, humanitarian actors were having difficulties at the end of September assisting some 15,000 people displaced by FARDC operations against Mayi-Mayi Simba (UNICEF, 30/09/2014)

Disasters

Floods

As of 4 November, over 2,500 people from Basoko, Tshopo territory, Oriental province, are left without shelter after overflow of Aruwimi River. WASH and food security are concerning (Radio Okapi, 04/11/2014).

On 25–28 October, heavy rains caused floods and landslides in Kahele territory, South Kivu, causing major infrastructure damage (ECHO, 29/10/2014). The bridge linking Kahele to Goma and Bukavu and several power plants were destroyed. About 700 houses suffered severe damage, leaving thousands homeless (Radio Okapi, 27/10/2014). Bushushi, Chishenyi, Luzira, Nyambasha and Nyamukubi villages are most affected (OCHA, 30/10/2014).

On 30 September, heavy rains and strong winds in Fizi territory, South Kivu, destroyed 1,800 people’s houses. On 2–3 October, a violent storm in Bukama territory, Katanga, left another 4,500 people homeless (OCHA, 08/10/2014). On 4 October, heavy rains affected 2,000 people in five localities of Masisi territory, North Kivu (ECHO, 07/10/2014).

Displacement

Population displacement is frequent and often repeated in the eastern part of DRC.

IDPs

2.6 million people are estimated internally displaced at end September, an increase of 100,000 since June (UNHCR, 30/09/2014). 492,000 newly displaced people have been recorded in 2014, 125,000 of whom are in North Kivu and 140,000 in Katanga (UN Security Council, 24/09/2014).

North Kivu: At 861,000, North Kivu has the highest number of IDPs in the country (OCHA, 30/10/2014), even though this constitutes a slight decrease from 900,210 in August. IDPs are mainly located in Masisi (28%), Walikale (24%), and Lubero (18%). 71% of IDPs live with host families and the rest are estimated to be located in camps. In October, 40,500 new IDPs found shelter with host families in Walikale, Lubero and Beni territories, and 10,400 IDPs have returned in Masisi, Rutshuru and Nyiragongo (OCHA, 25/10/2014; DRC Commission on Population Movements and UNHCR, 25/08/2014). From May 2013 to October 2014, a total of 557,200 IDPs returned to their homes in North Kivu (OCHA, 25/10/2014).

In July, Masisi territory hosted 280,900 IDPs, and over August and September, 23,200 people returned home following improved security. However, in Walikale, Pinga, and South Lubero 31,400 people were newly displaced due to clashes between NDC and FARDC (UNICEF, 30/09/2014). As of 4 October, 16,000 IDPs have recently been registered in South Lubero territory (OCHA, 08/10/2014). They have been displaced by NDC–FARDC clashes, and by fighting between NDC and FDLR allied with the Mayi-Mayi LaFontaine (UNICEF, 30/09/2014). In total, 50,000 IDPs in South Lubero were in need of health and food assistance on 22 October. The recent arrival of IDPs from Bunyatenge and Walikale and seasonal rains both risk increasing vulnerabilities (OCHA, 22/10/2014).

Since 5 October, repeated attacks attributed to ADF-NALU have triggered back and forth displacement patterns in Beni territory. As of 13 October, 100,000 people were estimated to have been displaced in less than a week, while 90,000 people displaced by fighting in the second half of 2013 are still in need of multi-sectoral assistance (Radio Okapi, 13/10/2014; UNICEF, 30/09/2014). 3,800 newly displaced are reported to be living in precarious conditions in public spaces in Beni and Oicha (OCHA, 15/10/2014). Half the population of Eringeti, an estimated 6,500 people, has fled to Orientale province (OCHA, 22/10/2014).

South Kivu: 618,300 IDPs are in South Kivu. The rate of displacement is increasing, with 31,500 reported in the second quarter of the year, and 68,200 in the third. The latest displacements are due to Raiya Mutomboki activities and fighting with FARDC in Shabunda, Kalehe, Kabare, and Mwenga, and to Mayi-Mayi Yakatumba attacks in Fizi territory (OCHA, 14/10/2014; 27/10/2014). 22,500 recently displaced in Kalonge are in dire need of food assistance (WFP, 27/10/2014).

Raiya Mutomboki are said to be hampering movement, while preventive displacement for fear of further fighting is occurring between Katchungu and Byangama (OCHA, 08/10/2014).

Katanga: Katanga has had the highest relative increase in IDPs, from 50,000 in March 2011 to 580,000 IDPs as of 30 September, about half of whom have been displaced since December 2013 (OCHA, 30/10/2014).

47,600 IDPs are located between Manono, Nyiruzu and Kabalo territories (WFP, 27/10/2014), which is a significant decrease; Manono territory hosted the second highest IDP population in August, with 111,920 people recorded. Pweto territory recorded 200,780 IDPs and Mitwaba 64,560 IDPs in August (DRC Commission on Population Movements, 08/2014). The presence of FARDC forces, the upcoming harvest season, and the start of
In Mutabi, 15,000 IDPs remain of the 46,000 who have fled their homes due to Mayi-Mayi Kata Katanga activism since January (OCHA, 25/09/2014). 48,000 people who fled clashes between Luba and pygmies into Tanganyika district between July and August remain in dire need of assistance (OCHA, 26/09/2014).

There are no IDP camps in Katanga: 81% of the displaced live with host families, while 19% live in informal settlements or occupy public buildings in Kalemie, Manono, Pweto, and Moba.

Oriental: As of 19 August, over 400,000 IDPs were hosted in Oriental and living in poor conditions, a 20% increase since April (OCHA quoted by local media, 19/08/2014) Clashes between FARDC and FRPI in Irumu territory, Ituri, displaced 274,200 people in the second quarter of 2014 compared to 173,800 in the first quarter. Another 145,900 people returned home (DRC Commission on Population Movements, 06/2014). 18,000 IDPs have been recorded in Irumu district, having fled violence in Beni territory, North Kivu. Humanitarian partners estimate that the number of IDPs could reach 30,000. Most are living with host families or in public buildings. WASH is the most pressing need (OCHA, 22/10/2014).

An estimated 20,000 people remain displaced since April in Opienge, Betwasede territory due to fighting between FARDC and the Major Luc militia, and access is difficult (OCHA, 01/10/2014).

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, 90% due to LRA activities (OCHA, 16/10/2014).

Maniema: Between January and June, an estimated 85,000 people returned to their homes after FARDC took control of Kabambare and Punia territories (Commission on Population Movements, 06/2014).

In May, over 37,000 people remained displaced in Maniema following clashes between Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba and FARDC in Fizi territory, South Kivu, over March–April. 9,500 displaced people are in dire need of food assistance in Kama (WFP, 27/10/2014).

Refugees in DRC

DRC hosts an estimated 121,900 refugees, mainly from CAR and Rwanda (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).

From CAR: As of 30 September, there are 22,210 CAR refugees registered since December 2013 despite the closure of the border, predominantly located in Equateur. Registration of CAR refugees in and out of sites is ongoing, but hampered by deteriorated road conditions (UNHCR, 31/10/2014). The overall number of CAR refugees in DRC is 68,156 as of 10 October (UNHCR, 10/10/2014).

DRC provincial authorities insist that assistance should only be delivered within camps, making it difficult to support refugees in host communities. By the end of June, 31,500 CAR refugees had relocated to the four camps in Equateur and Orientale provinces (31,028 in Equateur and 478 in Orientale) (UNHCR, 30/06/2014).

If no new contribution is received for CAR refugees, assistance to nearly 40,000 camps-based refugees will halt at the beginning of November (WFP, 28/10/2014).

From Rwanda: DRC is hosting 40,700 Rwandan refugees (UNHCR, 31/08/2014). At 30 September, 4,495 Rwandan refugees have been repatriated in 2014 (UNHCR, 30/09/2014). Previously unrecorded Rwandan refugees were identified in camps in North Kivu on 28 October; as arms were found on site (Radio Okapi, 28/10/2014).

From Angola: 71,750 former Angolan refugees live in DRC: 30,000 people have registered for voluntary assisted repatriation, while some 18,000 have opted for local integration (UNHCR, 31/08/2014). By the end of September, 3,900 had returned to Angola (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).

Returnees

As of late August, 159,000 DRC refugees had returned to their homes (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).

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 Uganda: The repatriation of an estimated 184,000 Congolese returnees and refugees from Uganda was to initiate in September 2014 (World Bulletin, 01/05/2014).

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).

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. The largest group can be found in Uganda, with 184,500 refugees (UNHCR, 30/09/2014). There are 72,000 in Rwanda, 64,000 in Tanzania, and 46,000 in Burundi (UNHCR, 31/06/2014).
Food Security

7.3 million people are estimated to be food insecure as of 14 October (WFP, 14/10/2014). 6.7 million people are at crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity as of September (ECHO, 09/2014). As of June, the most acutely affected areas (IPC Phase 4) were Punia (Maniema Babira and Bakwame sectors) in Maniema province, and Manono, Mitwaba, and Pweto in Katanga. Other areas facing Crisis conditions (IPC Phase 3) were 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. Systematic looting of health structures has been reported in various areas of North Kivu (OCHA, 01/2014).

Cholera

In Katanga, there is a lack of humanitarian personnel to respond to the consequences of the cholera outbreak (Radio Okapi, 07/11/2014). Health workers and medical capacities are insufficient for a new cholera outbreak in Haut Lomami district, Orientale province, where 200 cases and eight deaths were registered between 6 and 12 October, of 243 cases and 11 deaths across the province (OCHA, 22/10/2014).

As of 8 October, the situation is improving in several health zones of Fizi territory, South Kivu, even though Uvira and Fizi remain above epidemic level with 57 and 89 cases registered 29 September–5 October (OCHA, 08/10/2014). On 18 August, national authorities declared cholera in Uvira health zone had reached epidemic levels, following the interruption of the water supply by the water distribution company due to power cuts (OCHA, 08/2014).

As of July, 10,170 cholera cases, including 205 deaths, have been recorded (WHO). Cholera outbreaks persist in four provinces: North and South Kivu, Katanga, and Orientale (WHO). As of early October, over 7,000 cases including 300 deaths have been recorded in Katanga in 2014 (OCHA, 30/10/2014), a significant decrease compared to 13,726 cases and 348 deaths in 2013 (OCHA, 30/06/2014).

Local health authorities recorded 27,000 cases in 2013 including 491 deaths (case fatality rate 1.8%), a decrease from 30,753 cholera cases and 709 deaths in 2012.

Ebola

As of 7 November, no new Ebola case had been reported since 4 October potentially leading to the end of the outbreak in DRC (UNICEF, 27/10/2014; WHO, 07/11/2014). As of 9 October, following a retrospective laboratory review of cases, there have been 66 Ebola cases since the beginning of the outbreak, 49 of which have been fatal, including eight among health workers. 852 contacts have completed the 21-day follow-up (WHO, 15/10/2014; 07/11/2014).

While the outbreak is located far from urban centres, reducing the risk of contagion, the remoteness of the affected population has challenged aid delivery (AFP, 06/09/2014). The epidemic is not related to the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

Marburg Virus Disease

Health surveillance has been increased in Boga, Ituri district, Orientale province, and Mutwanga, Kyondo, Binza and Rwanguba in North Kivu after a person died of Marburg virus disease in Uganda at the end of September (OCHA, 23/10/2014).

Measles

Between January and 12 October, 11,098 measles cases, including 89 deaths, were reported in Orientale province (OCHA, 22/10/2014).

As of early October, 11,000 measles cases had been reported in Katanga province in 2014. (OCHA, 30/10/2014). An increase in cases has recently been reported in Bukama, Butumba, Kiwia and Mutunga Sampwe health zones of the region (OCHA, 22/10/2014).

In 2013, DRC recorded 89,000 cases, including 1,392 deaths.

Malnutrition

Over 2 million children under five are suffering from acute malnutrition (Radio Okapi, 04/11/2014). About 8% of children under five are suffering from malnutrition, a third of whom from severe acute malnutrition, according the last Demographic and Health Survey 2013-2014. Three provinces are above the 10% emergency threshold regarding acute malnutrition rates: Maniema province has the highest rate of malnutrition with 22.7% GAM, representing 553,300 children, and SAM at 8.6%; Bas-Congo experiences 11% GAM, that is 397,600 children, and Bandundu a 10% GAM, with 722,500 children affected (Government EDS-RDC, 05/2014).

WASH

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

As of July, access to water is below the emergency standard of 15L/person/day for most CAR refugees in Equateur and Orientale provinces. It was 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).

Education

In South Kivu, insecurity in Shabunda and Fizi territories prevents children from attending school (Radio Okapi, 25/09/2014).

In northern Beni territory, North Kivu, 48 schools have been damaged, occupied, or destroyed during FARDC operations against ADF-NALU militants in Kamango, Ruwenzori, and Mbau (OCHA, 11/09/2014).

70% of the 34,000 school-age IDP children in Pweto territory, Katanga province, do not
Provision

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.

14,000 protection incidents have been recorded in Katanga so far in 2014, including forced marriage, SGBV, looting, torture and inhumane treatment, perpetrated by all parties to conflict in the province (OCHA, 22/10/2014).

SGBV

Rape is used as a weapon of war to intimidate local communities, and to punish civilians. It is also an opportunistic crime. 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).

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

Updated: 10/11/2014

DJIBOUTI  DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 10/11/2014. Last update: 06/10/2014.

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 targeting 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.

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).

Reviewed: 10/11/2014

GAMBIA  FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 29/10/2014. Last update: 25/07/2014.

KEY CONCERNS

- Almost 290,000 people are in need of healthcare (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

- 202,500 people are food insecure and in need of food assistance. 49,000 children are acutely malnourished (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

289,200 people are in need of humanitarian assistance, given increasing commodity prices, resurgence of epidemics, and limited access to basic social services (OCHA,
Displacement

Refugees in the Gambia

As of September 2014, around 9,500 refugees, mostly Senegalese from the Casamance region, live in the Gambia (OCHA, 31/08/2014). Smaller numbers of refugees come from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, and Togo.

Food Security

202,500 people are food insecure (OCHA, 31/08/2014). Agencies are warning about the increase in food and fuel prices, which may constitute a high food security risk to rural and urban households (OCHA, 31/08/2014). Late and erratic rains may affect agricultural production in the western parts of the country (OCHA, 29/09/2014).

The Ebola epidemic in neighbouring countries is further aggravating food insecurity, as the crisis has affected tourism, a significant source of income (Reuters, 01/10/2014).

Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview

24.7 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) are suffering from food insecurity as of 30 September (OCHA, 07/10/2014). 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

Around 290,000 people are in need of healthcare, over 15% of the population. The supply of essential drugs is low, as is laboratory capacity. Staff and equipment are not sufficient to meet the most urgent needs (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

There have been sporadic outbreaks of meningitis in all regions, but particularly in the east of the country; in the Upper, Lower, and Central River regions (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

Malnutrition

Around 49,000 children are reported to be acutely malnourished, of whom 7,800 children suffer SAM (OCHA 31/08/2014). This represents 3,000 more SAM cases than in July 2013 (OCHA 25/07/2014). The nutrition situation is particularly dire in Central and Upper River regions, with GAM rates above the 10% serious threshold (OCHA, 31/0809/2014).

WASH

287,000 people are in need of WASH assistance. Inadequate access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation, and poor hygiene practices continue to be an issue. 20% of deaths among under-fives are WASH-related (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

Political Context

The opposition Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea (UFDG) figure Amadou Oury Diallo was murdered on 15 September in Conakry; UFDG has claimed a political assassination (International Crisis Group, 01/10/2014).

After pro-opposition rumours about President Condé’s health, Condé accused the opposition of fuelling tension in an attempt to push for a military coup (International Crisis Group, 01/10/2014). President Condé suggested to delayed elections over EVD crisis (International Crisis Group, 01/11/2014).

The trial of 55 people arrested after violent demonstrations in Nzerekore on 28 August has begun. OHCHR has noted that the trial is not “in full compliance with international due process and human rights standards” (UNMEER, 14/10/2014).

International Response
On 18 September, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution establishing a special mission to lead the global response to contain Ebola. It called on countries to lift border restrictions on the affected countries and on all actors to scale up their efforts (UN, 18/09/2014).

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa has been declared a Grade 3 Emergency under WHO’s Emergency Response Framework (ECHO, 29/07/2014). WHO declared the epidemic a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). On 1 August, West African Ebola-hit nations agreed to impose a cross-border isolation zone at the epicentre of the outbreak (AFP).

Security Context

Tensions between President Conde’s ethnic group, the Malinke, who make up about 35% of the population, and the Peul ethnic group, about 40% of the population, have started to rise over the Ebola response (local media, 18/10/2014).

Mistrust has led to attacks on people involved in the Ebola response. On 4 November, in Dandayah, Forecariah prefecture, a team of contact tracers was chased away by residents (UNMEER, 04/11/2014). In Wonkifong, Coyah prefecture, there were demonstrations against the establishment of an EVD treatment centre. Security forces intervened (UNMEER, 05/11/2014).

On 23 September, six Red Cross volunteers were attacked in Forecariah, southwest Guinea, while trying to collect the body of a person suspected to have died from Ebola (AFP, 25/09/2014). On 18 September, eight people were found dead in Wome, Nzerekore. They were part of a delegation sent to raise awareness about Ebola, and had been killed by villagers. At least 21 people were wounded (AFP, 18/09/2014). Officials reported that many villagers were suspicious of official attempts to combat the disease (BBC, 19/09/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

11 million people – almost the entire population of Guinea – are affected by the consequences of the Ebola outbreak as of 25 October (IFRC, 25/10/2014).

Access

Poor road infrastructure means many communities outside the capital are inaccessible (OCHA, 16/09/2014).

Food Security

1.7 million people are estimated to be currently food insecure in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, of whom 200,000 are because of Ebola (WFP, 05/11/2014).

In October, WFP distributed food assistance to 145,250 people. In November, food distributions will be extended to 65,000 people (WFP, 05/11/2014). In the Forest region, households are using severe coping strategies – such as the reduction of the quality and frequency of meals, substitution of rice consumption with cassava – leading to a precarious food security situation. In Conakry, a large proportion of households reported incurring debt to purchase food.

57% of Guinean households were already at risk of food insecurity or food insecure before the EVD outbreak (WFP, 29/10/2014).

Livelihoods

In Kankan district, the price of palm oil has increased 34%. The price for local rice was at alert level at Marche central (WFP, 27/10/2014). Monthly prices remained stable between August and September, except in Labé market, where rice prices fell by 21% (WFP, 29/09/2014). Since the outbreak, food prices have risen in Guinea and Senegal border areas: palm oil prices have increased 40% and coffee prices have increased 50% in less than four weeks. Traders also indicate a 50% drop in market activities (WFP, 15/09/2014).

Health and Nutrition

The Ebola epidemic has outstripped the health system’s capacity, leading to an increase in non-Ebola related child morbidity and mortality (OCHA, 16/09/2014; UNICEF, 26/08/2014). Hospital visits have decreased by 53%, medical appointments by 59%, and vaccinations by 30% (UNMEER, 31/10/2014).

As of 3 November, 1,760 Ebola cases, including 1,054 deaths, have been reported in Guinea (WHO, 07/11/2014). However, the utility of case numbers has been questioned; statistics are reported to be highly unreliable due to a lack of a comprehensive contact tracing, timely case investigation, and rapid Ebola testing (UNICEF, 06/09/2014).

While the incidence of EVD appears to be stable at a national level, transmission remains intense. 93 new confirmed cases were reported between 29 October and 4 November, more than half of them in Macenta. However, Oueckedou did not report a single confirmed case during that period. Transmission persisted in Conakry, with 12 new confirmed cases reported in the past week, and in Nzerekore (WHO, 05/11/2014).

Containment measures: On 15 October, the President recalled retired physicians and health workers to join the EVD response (AFP, 15/10/2014). Guinea declared the Ebola outbreak a “health emergency” on 13 August. President Alpha Conde announced a series of measures including strict controls at border points, travel restrictions, and a ban on moving bodies from one town to another until the end of the epidemic. All suspected victims will automatically be hospitalised until they are cleared of infection (AFP, 14/08/2014).

Regional Outbreak

The total cumulative number of reported cases across the region had reached 13,241, including 4,950 deaths (Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone each reported over 3-4 November) (WHO, 07/11/2014). One case was confirmed in Mali on 23 October; the patient died on 24 October. WHO warned the situation in Mali was an emergency, since multiple opportunities for exposure occurred when the patient was symptomatic. Four cases in the USA and one case in Spain have been confirmed (WHO, 31/10/2014). The
outbreak in Senegal is officially over, with no new case reported for 21 days (WHO, 17/10/2014). Nigeria is now free of EVD transmission, with no new case reported for 42 days (WHO, 20/10/2014).

Maternal Health

Women in the three most-affected countries are no longer giving birth in health facilities (UNMEER, 03/11/2014). In addition, Ebola-infected pregnant women are often not permitted in the Ebola treatment centres because of the high risk of contamination during delivery, likely resulting in a higher maternal death rate in the three most affected countries (UNFPA, international media 29/10/2014).

Nutrition

According to the severity of the Ebola crisis, between at least 2.126 and 2.407 million people will be exposed to undernourishment (ACF, 31/10/2014).

Protection

At least 3,700 children in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone have lost one or both parents to Ebola since the start of the outbreak, and many are being rejected by their relatives for fear of infection (UNICEF, 30/09/2014). Updated: 10/11/2014

LIBERIA FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

7 November: As of 4 November, 6,619 Ebola cases, including 2,766 deaths, have been reported in Liberia (WHO).

November: Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVam) indicates that, as of October, all areas of Liberia are affected by food insecurity. Households most frequently using severe coping strategies are in a central zone that includes the counties of Nimba, Bong, and Margibi (WFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- 3.37 million people are in need of assistance (OCHA, 16/09/2014). The Ebola outbreak have completely outstripped the Government’s and international actors’ capacity to respond and control the epidemic (WHO, 08/09/2014).

- 13,241 cases of Ebola and 4,950 deaths have been reported in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone each reported over 3-4 November) (WHO, 07/11/2014). The numbers of registered cases and deaths in all three majorly affected countries seem to underestimate the real magnitude of the outbreak (WHO, 16/08/2014).

- Non-Ebola medical needs cannot be met (OCHA, 16/09/2014), leading to an increase in non-Ebola related child morbidity and mortality (UNICEF, 26/08/2014).

Political Context

The Liberian Parliament did not grant President Sirleaf emergency powers to suspend several provisions of the Constitution, including the right to free movement, free speech, and the prohibition of forced labour (UNMEER, 13/10/2014). Liberia’s National Election Commission has announced plans to conduct the postponed senatorial elections on 16 December, 139 candidates have qualified (international media, 21/10/2014).

On 30 September, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare released an order requiring journalists wanting to visit an Ebola healthcare facility first to get written permission from the health ministry. On 30 September, the Ministry of Information announced that it will take charge of the accreditation of journalists (international media, 06/10/2014). The Press Union of Liberia had already raised concerns about violations of freedom of information on 4 September: national newspapers have been repeatedly obstructed since the start of the Ebola outbreak (Reporters Sans Frontières, 08/09/2014).

International Response

On 18 September, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution establishing a special mission to lead the global response to Ebola. It called on countries to lift border restrictions on the affected countries and on all actors to scale up their efforts (UN, 18/09/2014).

On 16 September, Barack Obama announced the deployment of 3,000 personnel to West Africa to contribute to the Ebola response (international media, 16/09/2014). On 9 October, about 90 additional army troops arrived in Liberia, bringing the total number already there to an estimated 430 (USAID, 15/10/2014). Cuba has sent 165 health workers to West Africa and 300 more medical workers will be sent (international media, 20/10/2014).

The outbreak in West Africa has been declared a Grade 3 Emergency under WHO’s Emergency Response Framework (ECHO, 29/07/2014). WHO declared the epidemic a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). On 1 August, West African Ebola-hit nations agreed at an emergency summit to impose a cross-border isolation zone at the epicentre of the outbreak (AFP).

Security Context

Generalised Insecurity

Security forces have been weakened by the epidemic. On 14 October, the Philippine military announced the withdrawal of over 100 peacekeepers from Liberia next month due to the risk posed by EVD (UNMEER, 15/10/2014). Several police stations in Monrovia have closed after officers died of Ebola (AFP, 30/09/2014).
In the poorest parts of Monrovia, armed attacks and opportunistic crime have increased (DRC, 24/09/2014). In Nimba county, the crime rate has increased significantly, and several violent attacks have been recorded (DRC, 24/09/2014). Rising inter-ethnic tensions were observed in late August in Ganta, Nimba county (DRC 24/09/2014).

The Liberian National Police has allegedly seized belongings from people breaking the curfew. Cases of extortion at Liberian armed forces’ checkpoints at the border between Grand Gedeh and Nimba counties have also been reported. Arbitrary arrests continue to increase (DRC, 24/09/2014).

**Resistance to the Ebola Response**

Community resistance against health workers and treatment remains high (WHO, 06/08/2014). On 23 October, humanitarian personnel were attacked in Boegeezay town in River Cess (government, 24/10/2014). On 15 October, in Cinta township, Marbini county, residents chased an Ebola awareness team from the town (local media, 21/10/2014). There have been frequent spontaneous demonstrations protesting the presence of Ebola treatment units in neighbourhoods and bodies in the street (PI, 05/10/2014). On 20 August, soldiers opened fire and used tear gas on crowds protesting at the quarantine of West Point slum, Monrovia (AFP, 21/08/2014). On 17 August, a quarantine centre was attacked and looted. Seventeen Ebola patients fled (AFP, 19/08/2014).

People are frustrated because of the delays in provision of lab results and removal of sick patients and dead bodies (Government, 08/08/2014). In Monrovia, many have complained that bodies have been left on the streets and in homes for days (AFP, 04/08/2014). Some families are refusing the removal of deceased relatives’ bodies without a laboratory test or result (UN, 01/10/2014).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

The Ebola crisis is having dramatic indirect consequences: 3.37 million people are in need of assistance, almost the entire population of Liberia (OCHA, 16/09/2014).

**Access**

Medical and other relief items are being stored for too long in Monrovia. 63 container have been in store for over 17 days (UNMEER, 03/11/2014).

Poor road conditions continue to pose challenges for aid distribution (UN, 26/10/2014). The airport can only handle one aircraft at any given time, creating delays and overloading of limited capacity (LogCluster, 19/10/2014).

**Food Security**

1.7 million people are estimated to be currently food insecure in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, 200,000 due to the impact of Ebola (WFP, 05/11/2014). Results of the mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVam) indicate that, as of October 2014, all areas of Liberia are affected by food insecurity.

In Lofa and Nimba counties, according to Mercy Corps’ survey, 55% of households have experienced a reduction in income, 60% have higher expenses, and nearly half are eating fewer meals. Poor households are reported spending a larger proportion – about 50-70% – of their income on food (international media, 23/10/2014).

In October, WFP delivered food for about 297,570 people affected by food shortages and quarantined (WFP, 05/11/2014). According to the mVam, more than 80% of households reported reducing the number of meals and reducing meal portion sizes. Households most frequently using severe coping strategies are in Nimba, Bong and Margibi counties. The impact on employment seems to be eroding food purchasing power in these counties and in Lofa. In Lofa, nine out of ten respondent households are now consuming less preferred foods. In Montserrado, two-thirds reported reducing consumption (WFP, 11/2014).

Tight restrictions to cross-border trade following the Ebola outbreak and currency depreciation have resulted in sharp price increases for imported rice in the most affected districts (WFP, 11/2014), including Bomi (+18%), Lofa (+12%), Maryland (+82%), and Nimba (+36%) (WFP 27/10/2014). Many weekly district markets in border areas remain officially closed, including Foya market in Lofa, Ganta market in Nimba, and Bo-Waterside in Grand Cape Mount. Overall, around 60% of markets outside Monrovia have closed or scaled down (UNMEER, 13/10/2014). In Monrovia, prices of cassava and imported rice, the main staple food, have increased by 30% (WFP, 17/10/2014). By contrast, cassava prices have remained relatively stable over the past few months (WFP, 11/2014). Cross-border trade in palm oil from Nimba has been hampered by the closure of the border crossing-point with Guinea.

Central and northwest regions are normally among the most productive regions, but are the areas with higher Ebola incidence, therefore food supply is being affected (WFP, 29/09/2014). Quarantine and movement restrictions have meant that traders have been unable to travel to buy food and farmers cannot harvest their crops (international media, 10/08/2014; 27/08/2014). Some farmers have abandoned their farms (WFP, 29/09/2014). In Lofa county, rice production decreased by 10% this year, reportedly because farmers abandoned their farms for fear of infection. In Barkedu and Foya counties, rice production fell by 15% (IRIN, 20/10/2014).

**Livelihoods**

According to a World Bank report, rubber exports, the most important agricultural export for Liberia, are expected to drop by 20% in 2014. The exchange rate remains 13% lower than September 2013 levels, which maintains inflationary pressure on domestic prices of imported food commodities (WFP, 29/09/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

Non-Ebola-related child morbidity and mortality has increased, as the national health system is unable to meet either Ebola or non-Ebola medical needs (OCHA, 16/09/2014; UNICEF, 26/08/2014).

**Ebola**

In the poorest parts of Monrovia, armed attacks and opportunistic crime have increased (DRC, 24/09/2014). In Nimba county, the crime rate has increased significantly, and several violent attacks have been recorded (DRC, 24/09/2014). Rising inter-ethnic tensions were observed in late August in Ganta, Nimba county (DRC 24/09/2014).
Liberia continues to be the country most affected by Ebola. As of 4 November, 6,619 Ebola cases, including 2,766 deaths, have been reported (WHO, 07/11/2014). The utility of case numbers has been questioned; statistics are reported to be highly unreliable due to a lack of a comprehensive contact tracing, timely case investigation, and rapid Ebola testing (UNICEF, 06/09/2014). The capacity to capture a true picture of the situation in Liberia remains hampered by underreporting of cases (WHO, 29/10/2014). The CDC estimates that only about 40% of Ebola cases are being reported in Liberia and Sierra Leone (AFP, 28/09/2014).

There appears to be some evidence of a decline at the national level in Liberia, although new case numbers remain high in parts of the country. All districts in Liberia have reported at least one case of EVD since the start of the outbreak, with most intense transmission in Montserrado area, where 50 probable cases were reported between 29 October and 4 November. Transmission also persists in Margibi. Lofa district has shown a gradual decline in incidence in the past six weeks, with no new reported case between end of October and 4 November (WHO, 05/11/2014).

Healthcare provision: Strikes by health workers in more than half of the operating health facilities in River Gee, Bomi, and Grand Cape Mount counties considerably are impairing healthcare. In Bong county, the two largest hospitals have been closed, leaving over 330,000 people without healthcare (international media, 12/09/2014).

A shortage of vehicles for case investigations and ambulances for prompt referral has been reported in Margibi county. In Sinoe county, there are reportedly no ambulances, nor is there a vehicle for the burial team (UN, 01/10/2014).

As of 10 October, almost 80,000 body bags are required to meet needs, and 990,000 personal protective equipment kits, and 590,000 pairs of gloves are urgently needed (Government, 10/10/2014). Laboratory capacity needs strengthening. The only crematorium in the country is overwhelmed (international media, 22/08/2014).

Containment measures: The President declared a state of emergency for a period of 90 days on 6 August (Government, 06/08/2014). In Grand Kru county, the Parluken community is under quarantine following the first reported Ebola cases in the area (WFP, 26/09/2014). On 11 August, Lofa county was put under quarantine, becoming the fourth county in quarantine after Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, and Gbarpolu (international media, 11/08/2014). A quarantine imposed on West Point slum in Monrovia on 19 August was lifted 11 days later (international media, 30/08/2014). A night curfew imposed from 20 August means all entertainment centres and all video centres are to be closed at 18:00 (AFP, 20/08/2014).

On 23 October, the President announced strict checks on Liberia’s borders with neighbouring Guinea and Sierra Leone (AFP, 23/10/2014). Liberia closed its borders on 29 July, with the exception of major entry points and the airport. One commercial airline has suspended all flights 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, 28/07/2014). All markets in border areas are closed until further notice (AFP, 30/07/2014).

On 3 October, Parliament criminalised the deliberate concealment of information about people with contagious diseases such as Ebola and HIV. A similar law was passed in Sierra Leone (UN, 04/10/2014).

Regional Ebola outbreak

The total cumulative number of reported cases across the region has reached 13,241, including 4,950 deaths (Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone each reported over 3-4 November). One case was confirmed in Mali on 23 October; the patient died on 24 October. WHO warned the situation in Mali was an emergency, since multiple opportunities for exposure occurred when the child was symptomatic. Four cases in the USA and one case in Spain have been confirmed (WHO, 31/10/2014). The outbreak in Senegal is officially over, with no new cases reported for 21 days (WHO, 17/10/2014). Nigeria is now free of EVD transmission with no new cases reported for 42 days (WHO, 20/10/2014).

Maternal Health

Women in the three most-affected countries are no longer giving birth in health facilities (UNMEER, 03/11/2014). In addition, Ebola-infected pregnant women are often not permitted in the Ebola treatment centres because of the high risk of contamination during delivery, likely resulting in a higher maternal death rate in the three most affected countries (UNFPA, international media 29/10/2014).

Nutrition

As of September, 325 severely malnourished children under the age of five from seven counties were admitted to acute malnutrition treatment sites (UNICEF, 29/10/2014).

According to the severity of the Ebola crisis, between at least 1.33 and 1.49 million people will be exposed to undernourishment (ACF, 31/10/2014).

Protection

According to Amnesty International, homosexuals have been harassed and physically attacked by people blaming them for Ebola, after religious leaders said Ebola was a punishment from God for homosexuality (Reuters, 23/10/2014).

On 24 October, 43 people quarantined for EVD monitoring in western Liberia were reportedly threatening to break out of an isolation centre because of a lack of food (UNMEER, 24/10/2014).

People who exhibit symptoms of Ebola or are related to sick people are being rejected from communities (CARE, 30/09/2014). Traditional coping mechanisms and social bonds are breaking down, as community members fear each other. Families of victims and survivors are experiencing physical and verbal abuse (DRC, 24/09/2014). The Government has asked Liberians not to reject Ebola survivors (international media, 14/10/2014).

40 children in Margibi county, whose parents have died from Ebola, are considered
Children rejected by the community in Dolo Town are living in a school building (Government, 10/09/2014). According to local media, armed forces have been shooting at people trying to cross the border illegally from neighbouring Sierra Leone (INGO, 18/09/2014).

**Updated: 10/11/2014**

**MALI CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

2 November: Two Malian soldiers were killed and four injured after an improvised explosive device blew up at a checkpoint in northern Mali (Reuters).

31 October: As many as 141 people are estimated to have been in contact with the patient affected with EVD (Reuters). 85 contacts, including ten health workers, are being monitored, and efforts to trace other contacts are ongoing. No new case of the disease had been reported as of 31 October (WHO).

30 October: A French soldier was killed and two others wounded in a clash with jihadist insurgents in northern Mali (RFI).

28 October: The Azawad Movements Coalition (HCUA, MNLA, and MAA), announced united military efforts to stem insecurity in north and agreed to abide by May ceasefire (ICG).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Security, particularly in the north, remains volatile, and access is limited for aid workers. Security in and around the northeastern region of Kidal is of particular concern.
- 4.8 million people are estimated to be food insecure as of 30 September 2014 (OCHA, 07/10/2014). The situation is extremely worrying in northern Mali, following violence in Kidal and Gao region in May (OCHA, 10/09/2014). As of 30 September, 136,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 07/10/2014).
- 2.5 million people are in need of healthcare and one million people are in need of WASH (OCHA, 10/09/2014).
- The increase in the arrival of returnees to the north has increased needs among host communities (IOM, 24/07/2014).

**OVERVIEW**

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

**Political Context: The Tuareg Rebellion and National Reconciliation**

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 second round of negotiations began on 1 September (AFP, 01/09/2014). On 14 September, the MNLA and the MAA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (AFP, 14/09/2014).

However, continued violence has put the peace talks on shaky ground (UN, 07/08/2014). On 28 October, the Azawad Movements Coalition (HCUA, MNLA and MAA), announced united military efforts to stem insecurity in north and agreed to abide by May ceasefire (ICG, 01/11/2014).

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

**Security Context**

The situation in Kidal and Gao remains tense since Tuareg and Arab insurgents took Kidal and the smaller settlement of Menaka in May. With peace talks resuming 19 October, clashes were reported 16 October in Intillit, Gao region, between pro-government militia GATIA and a coalition of MNLA and CPA fighters (ECHO, 19/10/2014).

There has been a series of attacks on MINUSMA vehicles, camps, and peacekeepers, and involving civilians since mid-August; about 16 people have been killed and 36 wounded (AFP, 21/09/2014). Ten peacekeepers have been killed in October (UN Security Council, 07/10/2014; AFP, 08/10/2014).

Al Qaeda-linked militants are also known to operate in Mali; 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.

**International Presence**

The stability of the Sahel region relies on the presence of 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, mainly in Bamako (53% of forces) and in northern cities such as Kidal, Gao, Timbuktu, and Menaka (28%) (OCHA, 31/05/2014). MINUSMA’s mandate expires on 30 June 2015.

Given the recrudescence of violence in northern Mali, MINUSMA is to set up a military headquarters in Kidal, while French forces will increase their presence in northeast Mali near Tessalit and Anguelloc, and set up a military base in Madama at the border near Nigeria, as of 23 October (AFP, 23/10/2014).

On 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).

Security Incidents

Security incidents targeting international and Malian forces have been increasingly reported in October. On 2 November, two Malian soldiers were killed in and four injured after an improvised explosive device blew up at a checkpoint northern Mali (Reuters, 02/11/2014). On 30 October, a French soldier was killed and two others wounded in a clash with jihadist insurgents. He was the tenth French soldier to be killed since France sent troops to Mali in January 2013 (RFI, 30/10/2014). On 25 October, three MINUSMA soldiers were injured by an explosive device in northwest Kidal, on the road to Anefis (AFP, 25/10/2014). Landmines and IEDs are a particular threat.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

The limited deployment of security forces and poor road conditions during the rainy season is restricting access to populations in need (EU, 12/09/2014; OCHA, 23/09/2014).

Several humanitarian organisations have suspended their activities in the Intillit area following violent clashes on 16 October, and six INGOs have preventively evacuated part of their staff from the Timbuktu region fearing the spread of the conflict (ECHO, 19/10/2014; OCHA, 24/10/2014). Certain areas requiring assistance in Mopti region, such as Tenenkou and Youwarou villages, remain inaccessible due to insecurity and poor infrastructure (WFP, 01/10/2014).

Security incidents involving NGOs have almost tripled in the past few months. Since January 2014, 20 violent incidents involving humanitarian personnel have been recorded (Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale, 10/10/2014).

Improvised explosive devices, looting, and rockets continue to threaten civilians and hamper access to vulnerable populations (OCHA, 23/09/2014).

Displacement

IDPs

As of 30 September, about 99,900 people are internally displaced as a consequence of the 2012 conflict, which is a decrease from 101,300 recorded in August. 13,200 IDPs are in northern Mali, including 12,000 in Kidal. As of 31 August, more than 35,200 IDPs were in Bamako and 15,000 in Koulikoro. The overall number of IDPs is 340,000 (EU, 12/09/2014).

Clashes in Intillit, Gao region, on 16 October displaced more than 5,000 people, a quarter of the population, to neighbouring areas and Burkina Faso (OCHA, 24/10/2014). 710 newly displaced from Kidal were recorded in Gao in October (OCHA, 16/10/2014).

In September, around 9,700 IDPs were considered vulnerable (IOM, 10/09/2014). 55% of IDPs in the south are children (IOM, 08/2014).

Refugees in Mali

As of 31 July, Mali hosts over 14,525 refugees from countries including Mauritania (12,900) and Côte d'Ivoire (1,110) (OCHA, 16/09/2014).

Returnees

361,000 IDP returnees have been identified in Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal, and Mopti (IOM, 10/09/2014). 35,800 IDPs went back to their place of origin between June and September (IOM, 10/09/2014). The arrival of returnees in the north has exacerbated existing needs in host communities (OCHA, 10/09/2014). The majority of people displaced within Gao since 2012 have returned, although fighting in October has led to new IDPs (IOM, 16/10/2014).

The number of returning refugees has been decreasing over the past months: 603 returned in August (UNHCR, 19/09/2014). 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).

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 30 September, an estimated 143,200 Malians have taken refuge in neighbouring countries (IOM, 16/10/2014). As of 9 September, 54,000 Malians were recorded in Mauritania, 50,000 in Niger, 33,000 in Burkina Faso, and 1,500 in Algeria (OCHA, 10/09/2014).

Food Security

As of 7 October, 4.8 million people are estimated to be food insecure (OCHA, 07/10/2014). In August, 2.8 million people were in situations of Stressed food insecurity (IPC Phase 2) and 1.9 million people in Severe and Emergency food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and 4) (WFP, 30/08/2014). Mopti and Timbuktu regions were particularly vulnerable during the lean season, as they have been experiencing rain deficits from May to October 2014 (FEWSNET, 14/10/2014). In the Sahel belt, poor households had resorted to negative
The harvest will improve food security conditions from October to March. Provisional early end of stock is expected in Gao, Bourem, Goundam, Niafunké, and in some areas north of Koulikoro, Kayes, and Douentza area, and under-average harvests are expected in some regions of Timbuktu, Gao, Mopti, and Kayes. Poor households from agropastoral areas are likely to remain in IPC Phase 1 (FEWSNET, 25/10/2014).

Livelihoods
Recent rainfall has improved the situation in northeast and central Mali (WFP, 30/09/2014). The lean season had caused local cereal price rises due to early exhaustion of food stock provision (WFP, 30/09/2014).

Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview
24.7 million people in the Sahel are suffering from food insecurity as of 30 September (OCHA, 07/10/2014). Food insecurity in 2014 has risen dramatically compared to 2013, when food consumption was inadequate for 11.3 million people (OCHA, 03/02/2014). As of 29 October, some 6.5 million people have crossed the emergency threshold from being moderately food insecure to facing an acute food and livelihood crisis; this an increase of four million people since January due in large part to ongoing conflict and instability in CAR, northern Mali and northeast Nigeria (IRIN, 29/10/2014).

Health and Nutrition
Almost 2.5 million people are in need of healthcare (OCHA, 10/09/2014).

Ebola
The first Ebola case in Mali was reported and placed in quarantine in Kayes on 23 October. The patient died after having been in contact while contagious with as many as 141 people (Reuters, 31/10/2014). 85 contacts, including ten health workers, are being monitored, 57 in Kayes and 27 in Bamako, and efforts to trace other contacts are ongoing. Controls have increased at the borders. No new case of the disease had been reported as of 31 October (WHO, 31/10/2014). WHO considers the situation an emergency (AFP, 25/10/2014).

Malnutrition
As of 30 September, 136,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition, while 360,000 suffer from moderate acute malnutrition (OCHA, 07/10/2014).

WASH
One million people do not have access to drinking water in their community in Timbuktu, Gao, Kidal, and Mopti as a consequence of conflict (OCHA, 10/09/2014).

Shelter and NFIs
567,000 people are in need of NFIs in the conflict-affected areas of Timbuktu, Kidal, Gao, Mopti, and Segu (OCHA, 10/09/2014).

Protection
Explosive remnants of war have caused 101 casualties from 2012 to June 2014 (OCHA, 30/06/2014).

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

Updated: 03/11/2014

NIGERIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
31 October: A triple bombing at a bus station in the city of Gombe, Gombe state, killed at least eight people and injured 41 others (AFP).

31 October: In a video, Boko Haram denied it had agreed to a ceasefire, and apparently ruled out future talks. The group’s leader, Abubakar Shekau, also claimed the 219 schoolgirls kidnapped in April from the town of Chibok, Borno state, had converted to Islam and been married off (AFP).

30 October: President Goodluck Jonathan formally announced his re-election bid (AFP).

30 October: Boko Haram reportedly attacked and took control of Mubi, northern Adamawa. Preliminary reports indicate some tens of thousands of people are fleeing Mubi for the state capital, Yola (OCHA, 31/10/2014). Boko Haram took control of the cities of Hong and Uba and surroundings areas, and subsequently blocked the main road to Yola, leaving the border with Cameroon the only way out of Mubi (ECHO, 31/10/2014).

KEY CONCERNS
- 9 million people are affected by violence in the northeast, with three million acutely needing humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 10/2014).
- 4.8 million people are food insecure (OCHA, 30/09/2014). Crisis levels of food insecurity are expected in the state of emergency (SoE) states (UNICEF, 06/2014).
- There are 1.5 million IDPs in the northeast due to the insurgency in the three SoE states (NEMA, 09/2014).
The Boko Haram insurgency killed at least 7,000 people between July 2013 and June 2014 (VOA, 08/10/2014).
- 628,000 children under five suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 30/09/2014).
- Nearly half the population does not have access to safe water (UNICEF).
- 32,233 cholera cases and 623 deaths have been reported so far in 2014: lack of WASH and the consequences of violence in the northeast are increasing concern about the outbreak (UNICEF, 09/2014).
- As of 18 September, 21 cases of Ebola were reported in Nigeria, including eight fatalities (WHO).

OVERVIEW

Up to 9.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance across the country, three million are in need in the northeast. 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. Economic decline, growing inequality, and failure to contain Boko Haram have all contributed to growing public distrust in the Government.

Political Context

2015 Elections

On 30 October, President Goodluck Jonathan formally announced his re-election bid (AFP, 30/10/2014). The 2015 election is expected to exacerbate all violence in Nigeria (OCHA, 08/2014). According to the 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. 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.

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

Security Context

The frequency and fatality of attacks are at their highest levels since the state of emergency (SoE) was imposed in 2013. Human Rights Watch estimates that more than 4,000 civilians have been killed in over 192 attacks since May 2013 in northeast Nigeria and in the federal capital, Abuja. At least 2,053 civilians were killed by Boko Haram in the first half of 2014 (Human Rights Watch). More than 7,000 people were killed in the 12 months between July 2013 and June 2014 (VoA, 07/10/2014).

Common targets remain the vast rural communities, schools, and highways of the northeast. The state of emergency placed on Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states will expire in 20 November 2014. The International Criminal Court declared the conflict between government forces and Boko Haram (BH) a civil war in November 2013.

At least 11,000 people have been killed since 1998 as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency.

Truce Announcement

On 31 October, Boko Haram denied that they had agreed to a ceasefire, and apparently ruled out future talks (AFP, 31/10/2014). Nigeria’s chief of defence staff and a senior presidential aide had announced on 17 October that an agreement had been reached with BH to end hostilities and secure the possible release of more than 200 kidnapped schoolgirls. The group’s leader, Abubakar Shekau, also claimed the 219 schoolgirls kidnapped in April from the town of Chibok, Borno state, had converted to Islam and been married off (AFP, 31/10/2014).

International and Regional Involvement

On 22 May, the UN approved the addition of BH to its list of individuals and entities subject to targeted financial sanctions and an arms embargo.

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

Boko Haram

The insurgent group dubbed by outsiders as Boko Haram (Western education is forbidden) refers to itself as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad, which means “People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's Teachings and Jihad”. 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.

The security crisis has continued to worsen, with BH using increasingly aggressive tactics. By the beginning of September, experts were warning that Borno state is on the brink of a takeover. BH has reportedly attacked and laid claim to some 15 towns in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe. Counter-insurgency operations to reclaim these areas are ongoing. As of the first week of September, Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state, with a population estimated at over two million people, was reportedly surrounded by insurgents (OCHA, 09/2014).

Numbers of victims of killings and abductions are growing, as is the destruction of social and economic infrastructure, including the disruption of education services. Since August,
the insurgents have reportedly shifted from attacking villages and then withdrawing, to claiming control of attacked villages (OCHA, 09/2014 and Al Jazeera, 25/08/2014).

Civilians have formed vigilante groups or self-defence militias, reportedly with the tacit backing of the Nigerian Government. For its part, the military has used excessive force, resulting in large-scale destruction in civilian areas. Amnesty International has reported mass extrajudicial executions (Washington Post, 05/08/2014). In August, Nigerian soldiers refused to deploy to Gwoza without better weapons (AFP, 22/08/2014). The state of emergency is feared to have strengthened the recruitment base of Boko Haram.

In 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.

**Incidents**

**Borno state:** On 26 October, according to security officials, the Nigerian military recaptured the town of Abadam, in cooperation with regional forces from Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. BH had seized the town on 16 October (AFP, 26/10/2014). Over 24–26 October, Boko Haram fighters kidnapped at least 30 people in the town of Mafa and killed 17 residents, according to local sources (WSJ, 27/10/2014). On 23 October, 40 women and girls were reportedly kidnapped by suspected Islamist gunmen in Wagga (AFP, 23/10/2014). Another kidnapping of 20 women and girls was reported from Gwarta over 18–19 October (AFP, 23/10/2014). In September, Shaffa, Mainok, Bama and a market outside Maiduguri were all attacked; doyens were killed and thousands misplaced (Reuters, 25/09/2014; Reuters; AFP, 13/09/2014; VOA, 24/10/2014).

**Yobe state:** BH fighters have reportedly taken control of the towns of Buni Yadi, Buni Gari and Goniri, all in Gujba local government area (Sahara Reporters, 10/08/2014).

**Adamawa state:** On 30 October Boko Haram reportedly attacked and assumed control of Mubi, a city of an estimated 100,000 inhabitants (OCHA, 31/10/2014). Media reports indicated in early October that the Nigerian military had re-captured three towns from Boko Haram, which had controlled the area since July (OCHA, 08/10/2014). Tens of thousands of people fled a BH advance on Madagali, Gulak, Michika, Bazza, and Mubi towns in early September (AFP, 08/09/2014).

**Bauchi state:** On 23 October, a bomb blast at a bus terminal in Azare killed five people and injured 12 (AFP, 23/10/2014).

**Gombe:** On 31 October, a triple bombing at a bus station in the city of Gombe killed at least eight people and injured 41 others (AFP, 31/10/2014).

**Kano state:** Attacks on Kano began again in May, after a lull of several months, and have become more frequent. On 17 September, BH was blamed after at least 15 people were killed during a shoot-out between police and suspected suicide bombers at a teacher training college (Al Jazeera, 18/09/2014).

**Plateau state:** According to officials, on 14 October, 27 residents died in an attack by gunmen, suspected to be Boko Haram, on Bachi district. The attack also led to the displacement of at least 3,520 residents (local media, 14/10/2014).

**Inter-communal Violence**

The Middle Belt area is home to a number of minority groups, divided between the Islamic north and the more secular Christian/animist south. Disputes are often over land and water. On 15 April, Human Rights Watch said inter-communal violence had escalated across Benue, Kaduna, Plateau, Nasarawa, and Taraba states since December 2013, killing more than 1,000 people. 40 were killed and more than 3,500 displaced on 4 August in Taraba state (OCHA, 05/08/2014).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

According to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), nine million people in the Northeast have been affected by the conflict in the region, with three million people in acute need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 08/10/2014).

Attacks on health facilities, water points, schools and farms have severely affected local communities, particularly in Borno and Yobe (OCHA, 31/08/2014 and UNICEF, 18/06/2014). Populations are in urgent need of protection, food, and basic medical and WASH services as very few international actors are operating in the northeast (OCHA, 31/08/2014 and 01/07/2014).

**Access**

Updated information on the humanitarian situation in the northeast is minimal because of access constraints. Humanitarian access is impeded by insecurity, poor infrastructure, and limited openings for dialogue with both security forces and non-state actors (OCHA, 05/2014). On 3 October, Yobe and Borno imposed a travel ban through the Muslim holiday weekend until 7 October to guard against BH attacks (AFP, 05/10/2014).

In Borno state, most routes to affected areas are inaccessible. The State of Emergency restricts movement and assembly in parts of Borno state, and Maiduguri Airport is closed until 7 October to guard against BH.

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

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

Following the continued BH attacks in different parts of Borno and Adamawa states, thousands of people have fled to neighbouring states of Gombe, Bauchi, Taraba and the southern parts of Adamawa and Borno states, putting more stress on the already strained resources of host states and communities. Food, health, protection, and WASH are all priority needs in host communities (OCHA, 02/10/2014).
There now are up to 1.5 million IDPs in the six northeast states, according to the Nigerian National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), a significant increase on the 646,700 IDPs reported from an inter-agency assessment in May (OCHA, 24/09/2014).

Preliminary reports from Adamawa indicate tens of thousands of people are fleeing on from Mubi to the state capital, Yola (OCHA, 31/10/2014). Boko Haram also took control of the cities of Hong and Uba and surrounding areas and has subsequently blocked the main road to Yola, leaving the border with Cameroon he only way out of Mubi (ECHO, 31/10/2014).

An estimated 60,000 people had been registered in four IDP camps in Maiduguri, Borno state, and Yola, Adamawa state, due to attacks in September Konduga, Mainok, Madagali, Michika, and Mubi (NEMA cited by OCHA, 09/2014). By October, residents had begun returning to Damboa, as BH had left the town (AFP, 19/10/2014).

In early July, 257,700 IDPs were thought to be in Borno, including 100,000 in Maiduguri. Adamawa and Yobe states hosted 102,560 and 76,360 IDPs, respectively (UNHCR and OCHA, 01/07/2014). 268,200 were displaced in surrounding states including Taraba (108,500), Bauchi (88,570), Benue (37,000), Kaduna (15,000), Gombe (13,000), and Nasarawa (6,340).

Most IDPs reside in about 200 host communities, overstretching already scarce resources and aggravating poverty levels, including food security (OCHA, 06/2014; UNHCR and OCHA, 01/07/2014). IDPs in host communities are in urgent need of shelter and non-food items. The IDPs identified shelter as a priority need in Mubi (OCHA, 02/10/2014). There are 18 camps in Borno, Taraba, Gombe, and Lagos states. Most IDP households are headed by women who have been widowed during attacks.

**Nigerian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries**

As of 16 September, UNHCR reported that 75,000 refugees have fled to Cameroon, Nigeria, or Chad, and 95,000 are expected by the end of the year (OCHA, 17/09/2014). Temporary refugee status has been granted to those Nigerians fleeing the three states under an SoE. UNHCR has advised against forced returns to northern areas.

**Niger:** Some 105,000 Nigerian refugees and returning migrants are estimated to be in Niger. During September, 25,000 Nigerians entered Niger (OCHA, 14/10/2014). On 2 October, some 2,200 people fled the Nigerian village of Gueskhar (located 2km from the border with Niger) after a BH attack. Since the beginning of October thousands of people, mainly from the villages of Malam Fatouri, Metele, and Kangarwa in Borno state fled to the Nigerian villages of Bosso. According to UNHCR, residents fled after being asked to provide men to join BH (UNHCR, 17/10/2014). Concentrated in the Diffa region, most refugees are staying with local communities, and food and water resources are limited (UNHCR, 15/06/2014).

**Cameroon:** 44,000 Nigerians have fled to northern Cameroon so far in 2014, including 26,750 refugees registered by UNHCR (IRIN, 17/09/2014; UNHCR, 17/10/2014). 15,335 Nigerian refugees are in Minawao camp (UNHCR, 17/10/2014). Dozens are arriving every day. Aid and infrastructure projects in the Far North region have been suspended due to high levels of insecurity (AlertNet, 08/07/2014). **Border insecurity hinders relocation of refugees from Minawao camp to safer areas (UNHCR, 31/10/2014).**

**Chad:** As of 17 October, 1,500 Nigerian refugees have been registered in Chad (UNHCR, 17/10/2014). On 8 August, UNHCR reported that over 1,120 people fled attacks in Kolokolia, Borno state, and sought refuge on the uninhabited Chadian island of Choua on Lake Chad. The refugees were mainly women and children in urgent need of food, water, shelter and medical care. The refugees have been relocated to Ngouboua, some 30km from the border, where a number of Nigerian refugees and Chadian returnees already live with host communities (OCHA, 09/2014). Since 2009, 4,000 Nigerian refugees have arrived in Chad (OCHA, 05/08/2014).

**Food Security**

4.8 million people are food insecure (OCHA, 30/09/2014). Crisis levels of food insecurity are expected in the SoE states (UNICEF, 06/2014).

**Poor households worst affected by conflict in central Borno and Yobe and northern Adamawa states will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through March 2015 (FEWSNET 31/10/2014).** In southern Borno and Yobe, northern Adamawa, and the Lake Chad region, Crisis levels of food insecurity will persist until at least December, despite the main harvest beginning in October (FEWSNET, 09/2014). 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).

Humanitarian partners have reported that food prices are on the increase due to insecurity, reducing the coping mechanisms of the IDPs living in host communities (OCHA, 02/10/2014).

**Poor households in north-central Borno and Yobe and southern Adamawa states are less impacted by the conflict.** The harvest in October is expected to improve household food access, but poor households in this area are still expected to face Stressed levels of food insecurity until December (FEWSNET, 09/2014). Seasonal rainfall deficits in northeastern Nigeria make perspectives for agricultural production unfavourable (WFP, 23/10/2014).

Access to households whose livelihoods and markets are significantly impacted by the conflict remains limited for the Government and humanitarian organisations (FEWSNET, 09/2014). 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.

**Health and Nutrition**

Healthcare services have collapsed in the northern part of Nigeria’s Borno state as doctors, nurses and pharmacists have fled the violence (OCHA, 19/08/2014). 3,000 health facilities in the northeast are closed or have been partially destroyed (OCHA, 08/10/2014).

Most of the IDPs in host communities have limited access to health services due to various constraints such as lack of information on services and transportation cost.
(OCHA, 02/10/2014). As of March, a multi-sector assessment covering the three SoE states – Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe – indicated that only 37% of health facilities are functioning, leaving residents to seek medical attention across the border. Mortality rates are increasing and vaccination programmes are severely hit. Polio vaccination campaigns are now limited to the Maiduguri metropolis.

**Cholera**

Since the beginning of the year, 33,239 cholera cases have been reported, including 635 deaths (1.9% case fatality rate). Only 1,221 cases were reported within the same period in 2013 (UNICEF, 10/2014). By mid-June (week 24), 23,324 cases had been reported, including 301 deaths (CFR 1.3%) from 109 LGAs in 18 states (WHO, 14/06/2014).

In Maiduguri, Borno’s state capital, there are 4,536 cases of cholera, including 70 deaths, as of 30 October. The highest number of cases was reported during week 41 (5-11 October), when around 1,500 were reported. Around 260 cases were reported during week 39 (20-27 September) when the outbreak started. The number of cases reported per week has been decreasing since week 41, but there is an increasing number of severe cases (PI, 30/10/2014).

As of 5 August, an outbreak of cholera in two IDP sites hosting 10,000 IDPs in Biu, Borno, had infected 1,543 people and killed 27 (OCHA, 05/08/2014). As of late June, Bauchi, Kaduna, Kano, and Zamfara states accounted for about 92% of reported cases.

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. In Borno state in particular, insecurity has resulted in partial epidemiological surveillance and response (UNICEF, 20/10/2014).

**Ebola**

By 20 October, WHO declared Nigeria free of Ebola transmission; the epidemic has been successfully contained (WHO, 20/10/2014). The most recent case was reported on 8 September (WHO, 20/09/2014). 19 cases were confirmed, with seven deaths, in Lagos and Port Harcourt since the outbreak was declared on 24 July (case fatality rate: 40%) (UNICEF, 24/09/2014).

500 educational institutions in the northeast have been destroyed by the insurgency are girls from poor households (UNICEF cited by OCHA, 07/2014). One in every three primary school children and one in every four secondary school children are out of school in the northeast.

**Polio**

In 2014, more cases due to vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) have been reported (20 cases) than those due to wild poliovirus (WPV) type 1 (six cases). The most recent WPV case was reported on 24 July in Sumaila local government area, southern Kano. Kano is the only state to have reported cases of WPV since April (Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 24/09/2014).

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.

**WASH**

WASH conditions in IDP host communities are of critical concern, with reports of inadequate latrines and lack of access to safe water. The need for hygiene promotion activities and provision of hygiene kits is critical (OCHA, 02/10/2014).

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.

**Education**

10.5 million children are out of school in Nigeria, 60% in the northern part of the country (UNICEF cited by OCHA, 07/2014). One in every three primary school children and one in every four secondary school children are out of school in the northeast.

**Protection**

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. In a new report published on 18 September, Amnesty International said Nigeria’s police and military routinely torture women, men, and children, using a wide range of methods including beatings, shootings and rape (BBC, 18/09/2014).

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.

**Women and girls**
Kidnappings of groups of women and girls by BH continue, and more than 200 schoolgirls are still being held captive (OCHA, 01/07/2014). Young men are being forcibly recruited (ECHO, 20/09/2014). The increase in the number of abductions since mid-2013 appears to mark a change of strategy by Boko Haram. Human Rights Watch estimates that Boko Haram has abducted at least 500 women and girls since 2009 from more than a dozen towns and villages in Borno and Yobe states. Women and girls have reported abuses such as forced labour, including forced participation in military operations; forced marriage to their captors; and sexual abuse including rape. While some women and girls seem to have been taken at random, the majority appeared to have been targeted – notably students and Christians.

Updated: 02/11/2014

SIERRA LEONE FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

7 November: As of 4 November, 4,862 Ebola cases, including 1,130 deaths, have been reported in Sierra Leone (WHO).

4 November: A journalist was arrested in Freetown, under emergency measures introduced to fight against the Ebola epidemic, after a guest on his radio show criticised the President’s handling of the Ebola outbreak (Reuters).

KEY CONCERNS

- The whole population needs assistance as a consequence of the Ebola outbreak (OCHA, 16/09/2014).

- 13,241 cases of Ebola and 4,950 deaths have been reported in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone each reported over 3-4 November) (WHO, 07/11/2014). The numbers of registered cases and deaths are largely inaccurate, underestimating the gravity of the situation on the ground according to the Government.

- The outbreak erupted at a crucial period in the agricultural season for rice and other important food crops. Many farmers were not able to complete key, time-critical agricultural activities. There is a serious risk of acute malnutrition (OCHA, 16/09/2014).

- Women and children are not accessing basic health services, leading to an increase in non-Ebola related child morbidity and mortality (UNICEF, 26/08/2014).

Political Context

Sierra Leone’s President has dissolved the body responsible for managing the country’s fight against Ebola and fired its coordinator. The Defence minister, Alfred Paulo Conte, has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the newly named National Ebola Response Centre, and will have full powers to combat the disease and ensure a more effective use of aid (BBC, 18/10/2014).

On 4 November, a journalist in Freetown was arrested, under emergency measures introduced to fight against the Ebola epidemic, after a guest on his radio show criticised the President’s handling of the Ebola outbreak (Reuters, 04/11/2014).

International Response

On 18 September, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution establishing a special mission to lead the global response to Ebola. It called on countries to lift border restrictions on the affected countries and on all actors to scale up their efforts (UN, 18/09/2014).

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa has been declared a Grade 3 Emergency under WHO’s Emergency Response Framework (ECHO, 29/07/2014). WHO declared the epidemic a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). On 1 August, West African Ebola-hit nations agreed at an emergency summit to impose a cross-border isolation zone at the epicentre of the outbreak (AFP).

Security Context

Fear and anger are taking a stronger hold among the population. Authorities in Sierra Leone imposed a curfew in the eastern district town of Koidu on 21 October after tensions between youth and police over a suspected case of Ebola degenerated into gunfire and rioting. Local sources reported at least two bodies with gunshot wounds, denied by the local police (Reuters, 21/10/2014). At least 200 ex-servicemen will be deployed to help enforce quarantine (international media, 21/10/2014).

On 14 October, in Freetown, security forces clashed with residents protesting over delays in removing the corpse of a suspected Ebola victim. Security forces fired tear gas and live rounds to disperse the crowd that had barricaded the street (Reuters, 14/10/2014). Between 24 and 25 September, several protests took place on the outskirts of the capital. In Devil Hole, between youth and police over a suspected case of Ebola degenerated into gunfire and rioting. Local sources reported at least two bodies with gunshot wounds, denied by the local police (UNICEF, 28/09/2014). The increase in the number of abductions since mid-2013 appears to mark a change of strategy by Boko Haram. Human Rights Watch estimates that Boko Haram has abducted at least 500 women and girls since 2009 from more than a dozen towns and villages in Borno and Yobe states. Women and girls have reported abuses such as forced labour, including forced participation in military operations; forced marriage to their captors; and sexual abuse including rape. While some women and girls seem to have been taken at random, the majority appeared to have been targeted – notably students and Christians.

On 26 September, the hospital of Port Loko town, in the Northern province, was attacked by people protesting at the way Ebola patients were treated and the death toll. Stones and bottles were thrown into the compound. 160 security personnel (military and police) have been deployed in the district to enforce security.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

The whole population is in need of assistance due to the consequences of the Ebola outbreak (OCHA, 16/09/2014).

Access

Delays in getting visas and security clearances for cargo and planes, as well as high customs fees, are hampering humanitarian access and supply distribution (international media, 06/10/2014).
Displacement

The Ebola epidemic is driving migration, according to Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (DWHH). Half of the people who have left Kenema and Kailahun within the past four months did so because of the epidemic. The fear of being infected or quarantined has triggered displacement. Some Ebola survivors have had to relocate because of strong stigmatisation after their return from hospital (DWHH, 06/10/2014).

Food Security

1.7 million people are estimated to be currently food insecure in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, of whom 200,000 are because of Ebola (WFP, 05/11/2014).

Between May and the end of October, WFP has delivered food assistance to 637,000 people in Sierra Leone. 450,000 people are targeted monthly in November and December (WFP, 05/11/2014).

The Ebola outbreak erupted at a crucial period in the agricultural season for rice and other important food crops. Up to 40% of farms have been abandoned in the most affected areas, according to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (UN, 13/10/2014). According to preliminary results, about 47% of the surveyed farmers in Sierra Leone claimed that Ebola is having considerable adverse effects on farming activities (FAO, 22/10/2014). In the epicentres of the Ebola outbreak, 80% of surveyed households expect lower returns than last year. DWHH expects serious food shortages to hit the country in early 2015 (DWHH, 06/10/2014).

The closure of markets, roads, and banks has further reduced food availability and increased prices (OCHA, 16/09/2014). Price increases range from 13% for imported rice to over 40% for fish. Other commodities affected include cassava, groundnuts, and palm oil (FAO, 22/10/2014). The price of rice has, on average, risen by 30% since May. According to a survey conducted by DWHH in Kenema and Kailahun counties, 97% of households indicate that their income dropped between May and August. Three-quarters of people surveyed by WFP have begun to reduce the number of daily meals and portion sizes (IRIN, 20/10/2014). According to the mVAM survey from WFP, results show that food markets, rather than own production, are the main source of food for respondents reflecting the overall dependency on markets, especially in the pre-harvest harvest period (WFP 09/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Women and children are reportedly not accessing basic health services due to the Ebola outbreak, leading to an increase in non-Ebola-related child morbidity and mortality (UNICEF, 26/08/2014).

Ebola

As of 4 November, 4,862 Ebola cases, including 1,130 deaths, have been reported in Sierra Leone (WHO, 07/11/2014). Reliable data collection remains a major challenge, and it is suspected that about 50% of cases are not being reported across the country (UNMEER, 02/11/2014).

EVD transmission remains very concerning in Sierra Leone, with the country reporting 435 confirmed cases between 29 October and 4 November, of whom 115 in Freetown. All districts of Sierra Leone have reported at least one probable or confirmed case since the start of the outbreak (WHO, 22/10/2014). Transmission remains intense in the western districts of Bombali, Port Loko and the western rural area. Transmission persists in Tonkolili and Koinadugu. However, there is evidence of a recent decline in the number of cases reported in Kenema and Kailahun. The districts reported ten and four new confirmed cases respectively between end of October and 4 November (WHO, 05/11/2014).

The collection of corpses from both quarantine and non-quarantined homes continues to prove challenging because of lack of staff, increasing further the risk of transmission (international media, 21/10/2014).

Healthcare provision: Authorities and humanitarian actors have warned about the alarming level of reluctance towards health workers and organisations involved in response activities against Ebola in Macenta (UNICEF, 05/09/2014). Health workers are refusing to work in isolation wards and Ebola treatment hospital (UNICEF, 26/08/2014).

Vaccination rates for measles dropped from 99% in January to 76% in July, since mass vaccination campaigns have been suspended (UNICEF, 03/11/2014).

The National Health Minister has highlighted the country’s failure to clearly separate Ebola treatment centres from regular health facilities, which has fuelled people’s fear of seeking healthcare, and increased the incidence of other diseases.

Containment measures: A three-day nationwide quarantine plan began on 19 September. A 7,000-strong patrol force in Freetown used this window to find patients who have not come forward for treatment (AFP, 06/09/2014). 130 new Ebola cases were found and around 100 corpses had been discovered (BBC, 22/09/2014). An intensive door-to-door campaign was also carried out to educate people on the transmission of the virus and prevention measures (UNDP, 30/09/2014).

On 24 September, Sierra Leone’s President widened the quarantine to include the northern districts of Port Loko and Bombali, and Moyamba in the south. More than a third of Sierra Leone’s 6.1 million population are now unable to move freely (BBC, 25/09/2014).

In August, legislation was passed imposing a jail term of up to two years for anyone concealing an Ebola-infected patient, and of up to six months for anyone entering or leaving Ebola-affected areas without medical authorisation. Any sport involving physical contact has also been prohibited (AFP, 22/08/2014; international media, 30/08/2014).

In June, Sierra Leone closed its borders with Guinea and Liberia, and closed schools, cinemas, and nightclubs in border areas (OCHA, 07/2014).

Regional Outbreak

The total cumulative number of reported cases across the region has reached 13,241,
including 4,950 deaths (Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone each reported over 3-4 November). One case was confirmed in Mali on 23 October; the patient died on 24 October. WHO warned the situation in Mali was an emergency, since multiple opportunities for exposure occurred when the child was symptomatic. Four cases in the USA and one case in Spain have been confirmed (WHO, 31/10/2014). The outbreak in Senegal is officially over, with no new case reported for 21 days (WHO, 17/10/2014). Nigeria is now free of EVD transmission as no new case has been reported for 42 days (WHO, 20/10/2014).

Maternal Health

Women in the three most-affected countries are no longer giving birth in health facilities due to EVD (UNMEER, 03/11/2014). In addition, Ebola-infected pregnant women are often not permitted in the Ebola treatment centres because of the high risk of contamination during delivery, resulting in a probable higher maternal death rate in the three most affected countries (UNFPA, international media 29/10/2014).

Nutrition

There is a serious risk of acute malnutrition for children under five as food security worsens.

Depending on the level of the Ebola crisis, between at least 1.55 and 1.79 million people will be exposed to undernourishment (ACF, 31/10/2014).

Education

Nearly two million children have not been attending school, as they remain closed. According to the Minister of Education, schools are not likely to reopen until March 2015 (UNICEF, 16/10/2014).

Protection

As of 2 November, at least 873 children have been orphaned due to EVD (UNMEER, 02/11/2014). As of 28 October, 2,719 children have been identified as being directly affected by the Ebola crisis in all but one district, the majority in Kenema and Tonkolili (UNICEF, 29/10/2014). With two million children not attending school, UNICEF warns of an increase in vulnerability, leading to a potential increase in child labour, and in teen pregnancy (UNICEF, 16/10/2014).

According to a survey conducted by UNICEF, 96% of Ebola survivors in Sierra Leone have experienced some sort of discrimination. More than three-quarters of respondents said they would not welcome back an Ebola survivor into their community (IRIN, 31/10/2014).

Updated: 10/11/2014

SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

8 November: Local media report that Al Shabaab has retaken control of Kidha Island, off the coast of Kismayo, following violent clashes. The island poses important access to trade routes (local media).

5 November: Continued showers in south-central Somalia are expected to worsen hydrological conditions, causing further floods and damage to crops (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

KEY CONCERNS

- Widespread violence and insecurity, particularly in south-central Somalia.
- Insecurity and bureaucratic impediments continue to hinder humanitarian access.
- 1.1 million IDPs, mainly in the south-central region, with high concentrations in Mogadishu (OCHA, 06/2014).
- More than one million Somali refugees live in neighbouring countries, mostly Kenya, Ethiopia, and Yemen (UNHCR, 03/2014).
- 3.2 million are estimated to need lifesaving or livelihood assistance (OCHA, 19/09/2014).
- 1,025,000 people are at Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity (FEWSNET, 09/2014). 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, 15/06/2014).
Political Context

Somalia suffers from a chronic fragility of state institutions as a result of two decades of civil war. Prime Minister Ahmed was appointed by President Mohamud 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 Gaas was elected President of the self-declared semi-autonomous region Puntland. On 14 October, the federal Government and Puntland state signed an agreement to review and implement the Provisional Federal Constitution and hold democratic elections in 2016 (AU, 14/10/2014). There has recently been an escalation in tensions between Puntland and Somaliland, which included the deployment of military forces to border areas (UNSC 25/09/2014).

Security Context

Over 2,200 conflict incidents with humanitarian impact were reported in the first nine months of the year, including military operations, active hostilities, and other forms of violence against civilians (OCHA, 17/10/2014). Security is said to have deteriorated since March, and the launch of the Somali National Armed Forces (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. Al Shabaab leader Ahmed Abdi Godani was killed on 1 September, Sheikj Ahmad Umar appointed as successor (ICG, 01/140/2014).

On 19 October, armed men and rioters blocked and attacked AMISOM peacekeepers while on a reconciliation mission in Hirran region. There was an exchange of fire in Deefown, about 40 kilometres north of Beletweyne. Several people were injured, although it is unclear if there are any casualties (AU, All Africa, 19/10/2014).

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, and lost Barawe, Lower Shabelle, in October 2014. Following the death of Ahmed Abdi Godane in a US drone attack in September, Al Shabaab has named a new leader, Ahmad Umar (also known as Abu Ubaidah) (AFP, 06/09/2014).

Al Shabaab is reportedly fleeing south and northeast as the SNAF-AMISOM offensive advances. Numbering 7,000–9,000 militants, Al Shabaab typically targets Somali government officials, AMISOM forces, and perceived government allies. Attacks in urban centres, particularly Mogadishu and along transport axes, are common.

SNAF-AMISOM Offensive

In November 2013, the AMISOM force was increased to 22,000 from 17,600. Its mandate has been extended until 30 November 2015 (UNSC, 25/09/2014). The SNAF-AMISOM offensive, dubbed ‘Operation Eagle’ was launched in early March 2014 to recover Al Shabaab-controlled areas of southern and central Somalia: Bakool, Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan, Banadir, and Lower Juba regions (OCHA, 05/2014).

The second phase of the offensive began in late August. About 1.5 million people live in areas that could be directly affected by the offensive (OCHA, 19/09/2014). On 25 August, reports suggested AU and Somali government troops had seized Tyeeqogl in Bakool region (AOV, 25/08/2014). This means the Somali Government now has full control of all major towns in Bakool. On 6 October, international media reported that Somali troops had regained control of Barawe, a port town in Lower Shabelle that had been under Al Shabaab control for more than 20 years (AFP, BBC, 06/10/2014). On 8 November, local media reported Al Shabaab had retaken control of Kidha Island, 70km off the coast of Kismayo, in Lower Juba (Garowe, 08/11/2014) (local media, 09/11/2014). Kidha Island gives Al Shabaab access to trade routes, which will likely increase the group’s depleted finances (All Africa, 07/11/2014).

Militant Attacks

Mogadishu: On 25 October, a car bomb exploded outside a hotel, killing one (AFP, 25/10/2014). Another explosion on 12 October on a road leading to the government district killed 13 people and injured 19 (AFP, 12/10/2014). In September, a suicide car bomb targeting AU troops killed 12 civilians and wounded 27 (BBC, 08/09/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

As of September, a USD 933 million humanitarian appeal for the country remains “severely underfunded” with only 32% having been received (UN, 26/09/2014). The UN issued a second statement urging donors to scale up their response to the most affected regions: Bakool, Bay, Gedio, Hiraan, and Galgaduud (UN, 10/10/2014).

Access

Road access is severely constrained in 28 districts in southern and central Somalia due to insecurity, road blocks and the encirclement of areas recovered by SNAF-AMISOM by non-state armed groups. Even in areas where there has been no active conflict, illegal checkpoints, banditry, and demands for bribes are common (OCHA, 17/10/2014).

So even in those areas in the south where the withdrawal of Al Shabaab has enabled increased international presence, access remains challenging, with supply roads blocked by armed groups or floods, and humanitarian actors on the ground are relying heavily on air services (OCHA, 21/03/2014; UNICEF, 09/09/2014; UNSC, 25/09/2014). Bulo Burde, Hiraan, is one example: the blocking of roads and commercial routes to Mogadishu and Beledweyne have brought an increase in humanitarian needs – the only hospital has closed and prices of basic food commodities have spiked (OCHA, 17/10/2014).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

32 aid workers have been attacked in Somalia so far in 2014 (USAID, 30/09/2014). Aid workers have reportedly been targeted by armed groups for arrest and detention in Bakool,
Bay, Gedo, and Lower and Middle Juba. On 18 May, a 400-strong UN military unit was deployed in Mogadishu with a mandate to protect aid workers (UN).

Displacement

IDPs

An estimated 1.1 million Somalis were IDPs by October 2014, 893,000 in the south-central region, 130,000 in Puntland, and 85,000 in Somaliland (UNHCR, 10/2014). 369,000 IDPs live in makeshift camps in Mogadishu. The total displaced due to the SNAF-AMISOM offensive this year is 80,000 – about 7,000 fled their homes in August and September, largely in Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions (OCHA, 17/10/2014).

In Nugaal, drought has exposed IDPs to serious health risks like acute water diarrhoea, malnutrition, and poor hygiene practices (ACT Alliance, 14/10/2014)

Mogadishu: As of August, a significant and increasing number of rural families were moving to Mogadishu, fleeing conflict or food insecurity (UNICEF, 20/08/2014). However, 34,254 IDPs have been unlawfully evicted since the beginning of the year (UNICEF, 30/09/2014). More than 10,800 IDPs were evicted in Mogadishu in late August and early September, mainly from Daynile and Hodan, according to UNHCR. The evicted have moved to the outskirts of Mogadishu and remote areas, where they lack physical security and access to basic services (OCHA, 19/09/2014).

Returnees

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 (UNHCR 15/08/2014). Three areas have been designated to receive 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, East African, 02/08/2014; UNHCR, 11/08/2014). As of 7 September, 2,500 returnees are set to be relocated to Somalia by the end of October (Kenya Daily Nation, 07/09/2014).

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 have been deported to Somalia (Human Rights Watch, 11/04/2014).

Floods

Heavy rains in south-central Somalia, in upper parts of the Shabelle basin along the Somalia–Ethiopia border, have caused flooding along both the Shabelle and Juba Rivers.

The worst-hit areas are along the Shabelle River: Beledweyne in Hiraan region, and Middle Shabelle region. Along the Juba River, Dolo in Gedo, and Jilib and Jamame in Lower Juba have been affected. Hudur in Bakool region has also experienced heavy rains. Although there are no reports of the total number of people affected, around 2,500 in Beledweyne have been displaced from Koshin and Hawo Tako and are in need of humanitarian assistance (Floodlist 27/10/2014, local media, 29/10/2014, Swalim, 31/10/2014). Food security in riverine areas are likely to deteriorate from Stressed (IPC Phase 2) to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (FEWSNET, 31/10/2014). As of 5 November, continued showers are expected to worsen hydrological conditions in the areas, causing further flooding and damage to crops (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 05/11/2014).

Food Security

Of the total population of 7.5 million, 1,025,000 people face Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3/4) food insecurity, an increase of 20% since January, and an additional 2.1 million people face Stressed conditions (IPC Phase 2) (WFP, 28/10/2014). The primary drivers of food insecurity in these areas are hot and dry conditions during recent seasons, the low supply of locally produced cereals, and disruptions to trade (FEWSNET, 31/10/2014). About 62% of those who face acute food insecurity are IDPs, 27% live in rural areas, and 11% are the urban poor (FEWSNET 30/09/2014). The most food insecure people are in northern Gedo, Bakool, Hiraan, and the coastal areas of the central regions.

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). The situation has continued to deteriorate despite improvements in water and pasture following recent gu rains, due to the severe impact of six consecutive seasons of drought, and high food and non-food prices (ACT Alliance, 14/10/2014).

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). A food security conditions survey indicates food security is deteriorating. 12.9% of respondents in May reported poor or insecure food consumption, while 21.9% of them in August. The increase matches the expected seasonal pattern, as the lean season advances (WFP, 08/10/2014). Regions with significant proportions of the population facing Phases 3 and 4 food insecurity are Sanaag (OCHA, 21/05/2014). In northern Gedo, the gu rains ended early and were below average. Coupled with above-average temperatures since February, high water prices, and low incomes, poor households are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (FEWSNET, 15/10/2014). It is estimated that 70% of the population is affected by drought, and 1,500 people have been displaced from rural to urban areas within Gedo (OCHA, 17/10/2014).

Agriculture and Markets
Parts of Lower Juba, Gedo, and northeastern central regions, and many pastoral areas remain very dry. Water points are depleted and water prices are high. Water availability is unlikely to increase until the deyr rains in mid-October (FEWSNET, 30/09/2014).

Trade restrictions stemming from inter-clan conflicts and obstructions by Al Shabaab in rural areas of the south have impeded market flows in El Barde, Wajid, and Hudur (Bakool region); Luq (Gedo); Bulo Burde and Jalawsi (Hiraan); and Marka and Worryale (Lower Shabelle). This has inflated food prices and increased unemployment (USAID, 30/09/2014). Al Shabaab continues to control key supply routes, hampering commercial activities (USAID, 30/09/2014).

In July, food prices in Hudur, Wajid, Burdhubo, Garbabarey, Bulo Burde, Oryole, and Albuur were 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 increased since the beginning of the year in Bakool, Hiraan, Juba, and Shabelle. Cereal production has fallen 30 percent below the five-year average (FAO, 31/10/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

**Malnutrition**

A recent survey indicates 218,000 children under five are acutely malnourished. Of these, 43,800 are severely malnourished (FEWSNET, 02/09/2014), a 7% increase since January (OCHA, 02/10/2014). 756,000 people are in need of quality nutrition services (OCHA, 02/10/2014).

**IDP populations:** In July, Garrowe IDPs showed very critical levels of acute malnutrition (over 20% GAM), and IDPs in Mogadishu, Dhooley, and Kismayu (south Somalia) and Dhusamareb and Galkayo (central Somalia) were at critical levels (over 15% GAM). IDPs in Beletweyne were in a similar or worse condition (ICRC 31/07/2014). GAM among displaced communities in Mogadishu was at 18.9% and SAM at 5.5% (OCHA 24/07/2014).

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

**Measles**

7,751 measles cases have been recorded in 2014 (UNICEF, 19/09/2014). Only one-third of these children have been vaccinated: 520,000 children under five urgently require measles vaccination in outbreak areas.

**Polio**

The total number of confirmed polio cases in 2014 stands at 198 (WHO, UNICEF 22/07/2014). The first confirmed case of wild polio virus since 2007 was reported in Mogadishu on 9 May 2013. Large, insecure areas of south-central Somalia have not conducted immunisation campaigns since 2009, leaving 600,000 children vulnerable, according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

**WASH**

2.75 million people need safe water (OCHA, 02/10/2014). IDPs living in overcrowded camps have inadequate access to safe water, hygiene, and sanitation facilities (UNICEF, 31/08/2014). Water trucking is urgently required in drought-affected areas, especially Lower Juba, Gedo, northeastern central regions and pastoral areas (OCHA, 02/10/2014).

The population of south-central Somalia has little to no access to clean drinking water. There is a severe water shortage for livestock in the northeast, parts of the northwest, central and north Gedo regions (FEWSNET, 02/09/2014).

**Protection**

A Protection Cluster report states that the major protection issues in Somalia are persons affected by physical insecurity during the first SNAF/AMISOM offensive; GBV, including cases of sexual violence during clan conflict with women from rival clans being targeted; child protection violations; arbitrary arrest of children/youth; killing of civilians (including children); child recruitment; separation of children; and forced/secondary eviction. The areas most affected are Middle and Lower Shabelle and Lower Juba (UNHCR Protection Cluster, 10/2014).

About 1,000 cases of SGBV were reported in Mogadishu in the first six months of the year (OCHA, 17/10/2014). On 8 September, a Human Rights Watch report stated that AU forces have been raping and sexually exploiting women and girls in their bases in Mogadishu, sometimes using humanitarian assistance to coerce them into sexual activities (HRW, 08/09/2014). 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 (IOR, 08/08/2014). Impunity is widespread as traditional laws often discriminate against women and girls (OCHA).

**Updated:** 10/11/2014

**SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**27–29 October:** Heavy fighting between government and opposition forces in Bentiu and Rubkona. Unity state, caused an unconfirmed number of casualties. 340 civilians took shelter with UNMISS, and then were escorted to safety (UN News Centre, 30/10/2014).

**28 October:** Fighting between armed youth killed one person and injured eight at the PoC site in the UNMISS compound in Malakal, Upper Nile (international media, 03/11/2014).

**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).
3.8 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance; 300,000 have not been reached (OCHA, 30/10/2014).

1.5 million people are facing Crisis and Emergency levels (IPC Phases 3 and 4) of food insecurity for October–December 2014 (IPC, 09/2014). From January to March 2015, 2.5 million people are projected to be in Crisis or Emergency Phase, including nearly half of the population of Greater Upper Nile (IPC, 09/2014).

2 of 5.8 million people in need of health assistance have not been reached (WHO, 10/2014).

1.4 million IDPs since December 2013 (OCHA, 09/2014). Almost 100,000 civilians sheltering in UNMISS bases (IOM, 10/2014). 68% of IDPs are estimated to live in flood-prone areas (OCHA, 08/2014).

Over 471,000 South Sudanese refugees moved across borders since December 2013 (UNHCR 10/2014).

Heavy rain since August, but especially the first three weeks of October have caused flooding and displacement in Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria states (FEWSNET, 24/10/2014).

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. In April, Sudan accused that South Sudan of using Sudanese militia groups to fight insurgents. South Sudan made similar accusations in return.

A UN report indicated the presence of 660 SPLA forces and police in Abyei in February and March, 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.

National Context

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

Peace Negotiations

On 20 October, SPLM and SPLM-in-Opposition signed a framework agreement in Arusha, Tanzania to address the root causes of the conflict that erupted in December 2013 (local media, 21/10/2014). On 25 August, the Implementation Matrix for the Cessation of Hostilities was signed by the South Sudanese Government and the SPLM/A-in-Opposition; it requires the immediate freezing of forces’ positions (IGAD, 27/08/2014). Talks, mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an East African regional bloc, had been repeatedly suspended and delayed. On 26 February, both parties accepted, in principle, a proposal from IGAD for an interim government, pending presidential elections.

On 27 September, President Salva Kiir agreed to install a federal system of governance, following calls for a federalist structure from SPLM-in-Opposition (local media).

Security Context

Fighting persists despite a reduction in violence since January. 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.

International Military Presence

In March, South Sudan approved the deployment of a regional force drawn from IGAD member states. The size, mandate, command, and deployment time frame of the contingent are still under discussion. Uganda has announced that it will withdraw its troops supporting the SPLA as soon as the regional force is ready to take over.

The UNMISS command told the UN Security Council in 19 March that it would suspend its 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**

Clashes were reported in Ayod county in August, whereas the situation remained calm in the rest of the state (UNICEF, 26/08/2014). No clashes were reported in September and early October.

**Unity**

Heavy fighting occurred between government and opposition forces in Bentiu and Rubkon, Unity state, between 27 and 29 October. The number of casualties was unconfirmed. 340 civilians took shelter with UNMISS, and then were escorted to safety by UNMISS troops (UN News Centre, 30/10/2014). The security situation had reportedly been calm in September and early October. Violence had flared in Bentiu in mid-July but improved in August (OCHA, 28/08/2014).

**Upper Nile**

On 28 October, fighting between armed youths killed one person and injured eight others at the PoC site in the UNMISS compound in Malakal (International media, 03/11/2014). Clashes were reported in Canal and Dolieb in September. Heavy shelling was reported in Renk. Civilians were fleeing towards Wanthou at the Sudan border (OCHA, 18/09/2014).

**Inter-communal Violence**

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. Inter-clan animosity stems from competition over water resources and grazing land. Deaths from inter-communal fighting have increased since the second Sudanese civil war, as have attacks, abductions, and significant population displacement.

**Lakes**

Intercommunal violence has been increasingly reported in Lakes state since September.

On 27 October seven people were killed in Rumbek North county in retaliation for the killing of two village chiefs in Rumbek East county (local media).

On 23 and 24 October, pastoralist youth fought armed forces at Malek and Aguoc cattle camps. 59 people were reportedly killed, including 35 police and 20 soldiers; however, this figure has been disputed by civilians (local media, 25/10/2014).

On 30 September, 12 people, including women and children, were killed during an attack on a village in Cueibet county (local media, 01/10/2014).

**Central Equatoria**

Communal violence that began on 15 September between communities along the South Sudan–Uganda border, including in Kajo-Keji county, and Moyo district in Uganda, forced 12,000 South Sudanese refugees to return to South Sudan (UNMISS, 25/09/2014). Close to 2,000 people, mainly South Sudanese, have sought shelter in Kajo-Keji (local media, 06/10/2014).

**Eastern Equatoria**

On 7 October, three people were killed following gunfire between SPLA soldiers and a group of armed people in the town of Chukudun, Budi county (local media, 08/10/2014).

**Jonglei**

On 21 October, 200 cattle were raided by unknown attackers in Tibet, about 6km east of Bor. This is the first reported case since David Yau Yau, head of the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army (SSDM/A), signed a permanent peace agreement with Salva Kiir in May (local media, 22/10/2014). SSDM/A was a Murle insurgent group, commonly accused of cattle raiding in Jonglei (Small Arms Survey 02/05/2014).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Access**

As of 30 October, 3.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance; 3.5 million had been reached (OCHA, 30/10/2014). The delivery of aid is restricted by heavy fighting, logistical constraints, and administrative impediments.

74 incidents against humanitarian personnel and assets were reported in September. These incidents included several incidences of assault, harassment and ambush in Central Equatoria, and arrest/detention and threats in Unity and Jonglei. Increased insecurity in Lakes has led to suspension of activities by humanitarian organizations in affected parts of the state for several weeks (OCHA, 20/10/2014).

**Administrative Constraints**

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

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).

**Logistical Constraints**

The establishment of a humanitarian corridor between South Sudan and Sudan has been approved by both Governments and will enable the delivery of food assistance by WFP (UN, 26/08/2014).

The rainy season has eased, but as of 31 October, WFP reported that road access was impossible between Juba (Central Equatoria), Bentiu (Unity), and Rumbek (Lakes); Mayom and Bentiu (Unity); Maiwut (near Pagak) and Guel Guk (Upper Nile State); Wau, Raja
Fuel shortages in Wau and Rumbek pose a challenge to air operations (OCHA, 30/12/2014).

Security Constraints

At least six aid workers were killed in and around Bunj, Maban county, Upper Nile state, on 4–5 August. The attacks were blamed on a local militia, the Mabanese Defence Force, who reportedly targeted the workers based on their ethnicity (UN, 06/08/2014).

On 10 October, three contractors employed by UNMISS, who were working at Malakal airfield, were seized by armed men. Two men have been released, but one worker is still missing (UNMISS, 17/10/2014). On 9 October, a WFP staff member was taken at gunpoint by eight armed men in plain clothes nearby at the Malakal airport (WFP, 17/10/2014).

Displacement

As of 11 September, over 1.4 million South Sudanese had been displaced internally and over 452,000 South Sudanese refugees had moved across borders since December 2013 (OCHA, 18/09/2014). Fluid displacement patterns and limited access to rural areas make numbers difficult to verify (UNHCR 11/07/2014).

IDPs

As of 30 October, 1.4 million people were displaced in South Sudan: 618,800 in Jonglei, 292,300 in Unity, 274,600 in Upper Nile, and 137,400 in Lakes (OCHA, 30/09/2014). An estimated 748,000 IDPs are under 18 (UNICEF, 23/09/2014). Displacement patterns remain fluid, driven by violence, floods, and the search for emergency assistance (IOM, 03/09/2014).

875,000 IDPs live in flood-prone areas (OCHA, 15/08/2014). Flooding has been recorded in the displacement sites in Bentiu, Unity state; Mingkaman, Lakes States; Juba, Central Equatoria state; and Malakal, Upper Nile state (OCHA, 31/08/2014). Heavy rains over a two-week period in mid-October have caused flooding in the displacement sites in Mingkaman, Lakes state, which hosts around 100,000 displaced people (OCHA, 23/10/2014).

100,400 IDPs are sheltering in ten Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites on UNMISS bases: 47,000 in Bentiu, 28,000 in Juba (Tomping and UN House), 18,000 in Malakal, and 2,700 in Bor (UNMISS 16/10/2014).

An influx of displaced people into Akobo area in Jonglei, from Nasir, Upper Nile, was reported in September (OCHA, 18/09/2014).

An assessment found 7,300 people displaced by recent fighting in Renk County, Upper Nile State. Most displaced individuals reported to staying in host communities and abandoned homes, Key needs identified include shelter and household items, food, education, protection and health (OCHA, 09/10/2014).

Flood-related displacement: 900 households were displaced following heavy rains in Bor, Jonglei, on 14 October (local media, 15/10/2014). Thousands of people were displaced and 3,260 houses destroyed following heavy flooding over 3–7 October in Twic East county, Jonglei state. Seven schools and four primary healthcare units were also destroyed (local media, 09/10/2014). Nearly 700 households were displaced by flooding in Rumbek East county, Lakes, in October and are living in the open (local media, 16/10/2014).

Refugees in South Sudan

243,300 refugees are in South Sudan: 221,580 from Sudan, 15,000 from DRC, 4,900 from Ethiopia and 1,900 from CAR. Over 128,000 refugees are based in Upper Nile and around 85,000 in Unity (UNHCR, 01/09/2014). Most of the Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile state reside in four refugee camps in Maban county (OCHA, 03/04/2014).

Returnees

As of 28 August, 186,000 people have returned since the beginning of the crisis: 70,000 in Jonglei, 109,000 in Unity, and 5,000 in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (OCHA, 28/08/2014). This is a downward revision from 227,000 returnees in July (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 471,000 South Sudanese have sought refuge in neighbouring countries since the onset of the conflict (UNHCR, 31/10/2014).

Sudan: 105,000 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since 15 December 2013 (UNHCR, 30/10/2014). An estimated 165,000 are expected to arrive over the course of 2014 (WFP, 16/07/2014). 3,563 South Sudanese new arrivals were reported on 6 October following conflicts in Renk county (UNHCR, 06/10/2014).

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: 193,000 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 23/10/2014). The rate of arrival has seen a sharp decline as a result of rainy season, from an average of 2,000 per day in May to 92 in the first week of October (WFP, 10/10/2014). 1,411 refugees arrived in September (UNHCR, 01/10/2014). Some 300,000 South Sudanese refugees are expected in the Gambella region over the course of 2014 (WFP, 16/07/2014).

Uganda: 129,000 refugees (UNHCR, 30/10/2014). 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: 43,200 refugees (UNHCR, 07/10/2014). 100,000 are expected over 2014 (WFP, 16/07/2014).
Food Security

Food security improved in August and September, and the number of people in Crisis and Emergency phases (Phase 3 and 4) has dropped to 1.5 million from 3.9 million for October through December 2014, following normal rainfall, good conditions for crops and humanitarian response (WFP, 24/09/2014). 245,000 are in Phase 4 and 1.2 million in Phase 3 (IPC, 09/2014). 460,000 people are at Phase 3 or 4 in Jonglei; 365,000 in Unity; 175,000 in Upper Nile; 510,000 in Northern Bahr el Ghazal; 340,000 in Lakes; 45,000 in Warrap; 35,000 in Eastern Equatoria; 20,000 in Western Bahr el Ghazal, 90,000 in Central Equatoria (IPC, 09/2014).

Conditions are expected to continue on a positive trend through December, especially in areas not affected by conflict (FEWSNET, 09/2014). Green harvests of mid-August, as well as the main harvest in October, are projected to improve short-term food security. However, the situation is still much worse compared to a typical year at harvest time (IPC, 09/2014).

Humanitarian organisations have noted that food assistance and malnutrition treatment programmes had improved the food security situation in Unity state counties including Leer, Panyijar and Rubkona, as well as in parts of Mayendit, changing their classification from Emergency to Crisis levels.

Conflict is affecting major supply routes, displacing traders, and leading to a rise in food and fuel prices (FAO, 04/06/2014). The country depends on food imports, and a de facto devaluation of the national currency between 2011 and 2013, the reduction in oil exports, and the increase in imports, all have a negative impact on households’ purchasing power.

Impact of Seasonal Flooding and Dry Spells

In Panyijar county, Unity, the River Nile has inundated low-lying areas and destroyed sorghum crops (FEWSNET, 16/10/2014). Flooding in six out of ten districts is expected to further reduce already below-average harvests (FEWSNET, 01/10/2014). Flooding in Lakes state in September has prevented short-term sorghum harvesting in Awerial county and displaced livestock from cattle camps in Awerial, Rumbek East, North Cuelbet, and Yirol East and Yirol West counties. Livestock migration is likely to threaten crops (FEWSNET, 01/10/2014; FEWSNET, 17/10/2014). In Upper Nile, flooding in Malakal county has hampered access to some farms. Flooding in Akobo county, Jonglei has reduced livestock’s access to pasture (FEWSNET, 17/10/2014). However, heavy rains in Kapoeta county, Eastern Equatoria, have improved pasture and crop performance (FEWSNET, 03/09/2014).

Erratic rainfall and extended dry spells in Pochalla and Pibor counties (Jonglei) will result in crop failure in some areas, reducing seed availability in second-season planting (FEWSNET, 01/10/2014).

Outlook for Food Security

From January to March 2015, 2.5 million people are projected to be in Crisis or Emergency Phase, including nearly half the population of the Greater Upper Nile (Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile) region (IPC, 09/2014). Conflict areas and flooded regions will likely experience more severe food shortages due to reduced harvests. A comparison of 2012 and 2014 imagery indicated that the planted area has declined by roughly 30% throughout the country (OCHA, 31/08/2014; FEWSNET, 29/08/2014).

Health and Nutrition

5.8 million people need health assistance, 3.4 million of whom have been reached since January. Waterborne diseases in flooded areas, as well as kala azar (visceral leishmaniasis) in Jonglei, are the most pressing health concerns (WHO, 10/2014).

Cholera

6,065 cholera cases, including 139 deaths (case fatality rate 2.3%), were reported as of 14 September (WHO, 25/09/2014). Incidence is reported to be decreasing (WHO, 09/2014). Previous reports indicated 2,395 cases and 57 deaths in Eastern Equatoria; 894 cases and 17 deaths in Upper Nile state, and 2,378 cases and 49 deaths in Juba (UNICEF, 12/08/2014).

Hepatitis E

Five hepatitis E cases were reported in Mingkaman (Lakes state) between 18 and 24 August, bringing the cumulative total to 95 (OCHA, 28/08/2014) since the outbreak was detected in early March (Health Cluster, 05/07/2014). 55 cases had been reported in June (local media citing MSF, 15/06/2014).

Three new cases of hepatitis E were reported in Maban refugee camps (one in Doro and two in Gendrassa) in the eight-week period up to 5 October (UNHCR, 26/10/2014).

HIV

Many IDPs living with HIV in South Sudan are unable to keep up with treatment because they have lost access to follow-up care (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

Visceral Leishmaniasis

On 7 September, Jonglei health ministry reported an outbreak of kala azar (visceral leishmaniasis) in Akobo and Nyirol counties, which are controlled by opposition forces. The kala azar rate continues to rise, and is likely to be related to conflict-related displacement. To date, 5,713 cases and 163 deaths have been recorded in 2014, compared to 2,025 cases and 59 deaths for all 2013 (OCHA, 30/10/2014). A majority of these cases are reported in Lankien (3,410), Cui (960) and Walgak (581), Jonglei state (OCHA, 30/10/2014). Kala azar is a chronic and potentially fatal parasitic disease of the internal organs transmitted by the bite of infected sandflies (Sudan Tribune, 07/09/2014).

Malaria

In August, malaria was the leading cause of hospital consultations and deaths in displacement sites and health centres (OCHA, 31/08/2014). Malaria still accounts for a high proportion of disease burden, especially in the flooded areas (OCHA, 16/10/2014).

Malnutrition
The screening of over 600,000 children across the country in 2014 has found an SAM rate of 6.7% and an MAM rate of 12.6% (UNICEF, 19/08/2014). 675,000 children are estimated to be moderately malnourished and 235,000 severely malnourished (OCHA, 29/07/2014). Twice as many will need treatment for SAM this year than in 2013 (UNICEF 15/07/2014).

Overall nutrition situation remains dire from September to December. GAM levels are above the emergency threshold of 15% (IPC, 27/10/2014). 37 counties have critical and very critical GAM rates; 33 are located in Upper Nile, Jonglei, Unity, Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states (OCHA, 04/10/2014). Akobo (Jonglei), Leer (Unity), Panyijar (Unity) and Longochuk counties (Upper Nile) have the highest rates of acute malnutrition (OCHA, 04/10/2014).

According to MSF, malnutrition rates skyrocketed in parts of Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei states after the conflict began in December. MSF admitted more patients 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).

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).

WASH
As of 25 June, access to safe water and sanitation remained a critical gap, particularly for IDPs (UNICEF).

Water supplies were reportedly insufficient in a quarter of displacement sites. In 40% of sites, IDPs rely on unimproved or surface water sources (IOM 15/07/2014). Water access in the Bentiu PoC site was 12.2L/person/ in early October (OCHA, 04/10/2014). Heavy rains flooded 199 latrines, worsening the ratio in the site from 71 to 96 people per latrine, setting back water and sanitation upscaling efforts (OCHA, 09/10/2014).

Shelter and Non-Food Items
Living conditions in the PoC site in Malakal remain dire, with two families (eight people) living in one tent, for lack of space for additional tents (OCHA, 26/10/2014).

Bad road conditions and insecurity in Jalhak (Upper Nile) is delaying the delivery of NFI support to the area (OCHA, 26/10/2014).

Education
Children are not attending school in 70% of IDP sites (CCCM, 17/04/2014). The inability to pay teachers' wages has limited education activities in displacement areas (OCHA, 26/10/2014). As of 30 October, 88 schools were occupied by IDPs or armed groups (38 by armed groups, 48 by IDPs, two by both IDPs and armed forces, and three of unknown status). This leaves children both unable to access education and exposed to abuse

Six schools were closed last week in Rumbek East, Lakes state, due to insecurity (OCHA, 30/10/2014).

Protection
Children
UNICEF has identified over 5,830 unaccompanied and separated children since the conflict began in December 2013 (UNICEF, 02/09/2014).

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

SGBV
According to the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, rape has been used as a weapon of war between government and opposition forces (International Media, 23/10/2014).

Early and forced marriage, rape, and domestic violence have been reported in Maban refugee camps (Batil, Doro, Gendrassa and Kaya) (OCHA, 16/10/2014). In Melut (Upper Nile), firewood collection remains a major safety concern for women and girls, with reports of GBV in the area (OCHA, 26/10/2014).

SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

30–31 October: Shelling by SAF killed ten people in Deribat, East Jebel Marra. The Sudan Liberation Movement, led by Abdel Wahid El Nur (SLM-AW), claimed to have killed 37 government forces and pro-government militia in Deribat (local media).

29 October: A recent review revealed that UNAMID intentionally sought to cover up crimes against civilians and peacekeepers in Darfur (UN News Service).

27 October: A group of militia assaulted more than 20 people on their farms in the area of Liwi, east of Tawila town, North Darfur (local media).

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, 30/10/2014).
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 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 National Umma Party was arrested for treason after allegedly criticising the Government’s abuse of civilians in Darfur.

Eight East Darfur state government officials and 12 members of the state legislative assembly resigned in protest at attacks by Rizeigat gunmen without prompt action from the state and national governments to stop it (local media, 20/09/2014).

In late September, security forces carried out a detention campaign to prevent activists holding commemoration services for victims of September 2013 protests (local media, 28/09/2014). On 26 September, 12 political activists were detained on their way to a memorial service in Shambat neighbourhood in Khartoum North (local media, 28/09/2014).

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.

In 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.

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 Arkoor Minnawi (SLM-MM).

On 8 August, Sudan’s main opposition parties, the SRF and the National Umma Party, announced they had agreed to unite to bring about a transitional government. They announced they would not participate in the upcoming elections, which the Government has announced are scheduled for April 2015. On 4 September, an agreement between the Sudan Revolutionary Front and the National Umma Party was welcomed by the Government as a step towards a comprehensive Sudanese dialogue process (local media).

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

Extensive military operations aimed to end rebellion in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile began at the end of 2013. On 11 April, local media reported that the Sudanese Defence Minister had stated that continued armed opposition would be crushed by a military offensive in 2014.

Armed Conflict and Violence in Darfur

Security in Darfur has reportedly deteriorated significantly since late December, with almost daily air strikes from the Sudanese Air Force (SAF). IDPs in camps across the Darfur region have requested protection (local sources, 12/03/2014). Tribal conflicts have also contributed to insecurity.

Tribal fighting has intensified during the last two years in Darfur and Kordofan regions, leading to thousands of deaths and injuries and forcing over 300,000 people to flee their homes. A reconciliation agreement between Hamar and Maaliya tribes was signed on 27 September in West Kordofan’s state capital Al Foula. Intermittent clashes over land have occurred between the Hamar, from West Kordofan, and the Maaliya, from East Darfur (local media, 27/09/2014).

Air raids have been reported frequently in Mashrou Abu Zeid and East Jebel Marra in August and September. Air raids have killed women and children and scorched vast areas of farmland. Aerial bombing was also reported in March and May.

Over 30–31 October, SAF shelling killed ten people in Deribat, East Jebel Marra (local). The Sudan Liberation Movement, led by Abdel Wahid El Nur (SLM-AW), claimed to have killed 37 government forces and pro-government militia in Deribat (local media).

On 9 October, a woman was shot dead by a soldier in East Jebel Marra (local media, 14/10/2014). On 13 September, four children were killed in a militia attack on a village (local media, 14/09/2014).

North Darfur

On 21 October, reports received by the UN indicated that 31 shelters belonging to displaced people were burned down and four IDP community leaders arrested during a search in Zamzam camp by the Central Reserve Police (CRP), during which a CRP member was killed (OCHA, 26/10/2014).

Attacks on commercial convoys and transportation have been frequently reported in North Darfur. On 10 October, five people were killed and seven people were wounded in an attack by gunmen on a commercial convoy in Um Keddada locality (local media, 13/10/2014).

On 27 October, a group of militia assaulted more than 20 people on their farms in the area of Liwi, east of Tawila town (local media, 29/10/2014).

On 22 October, aerial bombardments by the Sudanese Air Force were reported in Anka, North Darfur. There were reports of livestock killed, and farmland destroyed (local media, 23/10/2014).

On 26 September, militia killed a displaced man and wounded another in the Jely area of Tawila locality (local media, 26/09/2014). On 29 September, one person was killed and two young women raped in Tawila locality (local media, 29/09/2014).

South Darfur

On 13 October, farmers and gunmen clashed near El Salam camp (local media, 14/10/2014). On 5 September, four IDPs, including two children, were killed and 39 people wounded by government troops during a demonstration in Kalma camp. Demonstrators were protesting repeated raids by government forces over preceding weeks (local media, 05/09/2014).

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. On 18 October, government-backed militia opened fire on a woman and her two sons, while they were working on a farm in the area of Bugla, about 2km south of Deleig town
West Darfur

On 29 June, local media reported that clashes between Misseriya clans over pasture in Babanusa locality had left 196 people dead (OCHA, 22/06/2014). On 13 September, militia attacks in Sirba locality left one IDP dead (local media, 14/09/2014).

East Darfur

Inter-communal violence: By 20 August, at least 300 had been killed in clashes between Maaliya and Reizeigat by 20 August (local media, 20/08/2014). Since then, a militia attack against IDPs left one dead and three injured in Yassin locality (local media, 31/08/2014). On 21 August, police were sent to put an end to fighting in Abu Karinka locality (local media, 21/08/2014). On 12 October, clashes between Maaliya and Rizeigat in Abu Dungul, Sheiria locality left one tribesman dead (local media, 14/10/2014).

South Kordofan and Blue Nile

Aerial bombardments by Sudanese security forces occurred in South Kordofan in late September and early October. There are reports of injured civilians, and damaged infrastructure and crops (OCHA, 22/10/2014).

Inter-communal violence: On 6 August, one person was killed in a presumed tribal-based attack in Um Dukhun (local media, 06/08/2014). The Sudanese army was reportedly deployed to Mukjar, Um Dukhun, and Bindisi, after clashes between the Misseriya and the Salamat tribes in June left at least 130 people dead, according to local media.

Information on Blue Nile and South Kordofan states is difficult to obtain as government authorities severely restrict access to the fighting zone. 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. Bombings had reportedly intensified in the region at the end of May, with heavy bombing of Kauda reported by OCHA.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

6.9 million people (20% of the population) are in need of humanitarian assistance; more than half are in Darfur and South Kordofan and Blue Nile states (OCHA 14/08/2014).

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.

Administrative Constraints

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.

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

On 16 October, three military personnel from UNAMID were killed by a group of unidentified armed men in Korma, North Darfur. The attack occurred when a patrol of Ethiopian peacekeepers were guarding a borehole (UNAMID, 16/10/2014).

Several abductions of aid workers were reported in June and July in North and South Darfur (IOM, 25/07/2014; UNICEF, 19/07/2014).

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. Insecurity is hindering the movement of humanitarian supplies by road, especially to the localities of Um Dukhun and Bindisi in Central Darfur.

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.

Blue Nile and South Kordofan: On 19 October, the Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission confirmed that international staff from UN agencies and international NGOs are not permitted to take part in an inter-agency multi-cluster needs assessment in Blue Nile state in November (local media, 19/10/2014). On 23 June, an INGO said that it was operating in parts of South Kordofan despite government denial of access. There has been no humanitarian access from Sudan to opposition-held areas in South Kordofan since October 2013.
White Nile: Heavy rains hamper the delivery of service to Jouri, Al Kashafa, and El Redis refugee relocation sites.

Disasters: Floods

As of 11 September, 277,000 people have been affected by heavy rains and flooding (OCHA, 14/09/2014).

New rains and flooding have affected 20,000 people mainly in Sennar, and South and Central Darfur states (local media, 19/09/2014). On 11 September, an inter-agency mission reported that 368 homes had been destroyed in Hassahissa IDP camp, Central Darfur, affecting an estimated 1,800 people (OCHA, 14/09/2014).

In White Nile state, there are extensive sanitation needs in Al Kashafa, Al Redis, and Al Alagaya relocation sites. Flooding and subsequent poor road conditions have delayed the distribution of emergency household supplies to new arrivals (OCHA, 14/09/2014). Assessments carried out in Kassala (South Kordofan) and White Nile state in August revealed acute needs for emergency food, NFI, and health and WASH services (OCHA, 03/08/2014).

At 4 September, heavy rains had resulted in seven deaths, 17 injured, and four missing in Deleig, Central Darfur. 570 homes in the two Deleig IDP camps were destroyed. In Wadi Salih locality, 356 homes collapsed in the Jeddah and Jebelien camps. Torrential rain in Kass locality, South Darfur, has led to the death of 12 IDPs (local media, 04/09/2014).

70,000 are affected in Blue Nile state, 32,000 in Khartoum, 22,000 in North Darfur, 19,000 in South Kordofan, 19,000 in River Nile, 18,000 in North Kordofan, 18,000 in White Nile, 14,000 in Kassala, 13,000 in Sennar, 11,000 in Al Gezira, 8,000 in Northern, and 6,000 in West Darfur (OCHA, 24/09/2014).

Displacement

IDPs

The first half of 2014 saw more displaced in Darfur than in any year since 2004 (OCHA 20/07/2014). 431,000 people have been displaced in Darfur so far in 2014: 298,000 remain displaced and 132,000 people are reported to have returned (OCHA 31/10/2014). 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.

Overall, 2.4 million IDPs in the five states of Darfur reside in 46 camps and 68 settlements (82,530 orphans, 34,099 widows, and 52,352 sick and elderly), according to a survey conducted by the Darfur Regional Authority from December 2013 to April 2014. 3,324 villages were destroyed December 2013–April 2014 (local media citing DRA official sources 15/07/2014).

North Darfur: 121,000 IDPs; 130,000 returnees in 2014 (OCHA 07/09/2014); 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). 9,000 IDPs have been relocated from Mellit camp to Abassi. On 21 September, it was reported that militia in Kutum locality are imposing protection fees on displaced farmers (local media, 21/09/2014).

South Darfur: 99,000 IDPs (OCHA 07/09/2014); 736 villages were destroyed December 2013–April 2014 (DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014). Accumulated rain water has deteriorated WASH and health conditions in El Batari camp, Kass locality. According to residents, waterborne diseases have broken out, and food prices have risen (local media, 19/09/2014).

Central Darfur: 35,000 IDPs; 5,000 returnees in 2014 (OCHA 07/09/2014); 778 villages were destroyed December 2013–April 2014 (DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014). In July, conditions were reported to be dire, with nearly all IDPs in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 20/07/2014; local media 10/07/2014).

East Darfur: 8,000 IDPs as of early September (OCHA, 07/09/2014); 331 villages destroyed December 2013–April 2014 (DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014).

By 16 September, community leaders reported that fighting between the Maaliya and Rizeigat tribes has led to the displacement of some 55,000 people (11,000 families) in five locations in Adila locality. Many people are taking shelter with host families in the area. Many women widowed by the conflict have reportedly become vulnerable to exploitation (OCHA, 21/09/2014).

West Darfur: 1,300 IDPs were reported by OCHA in September, in stark contrast with earlier local government figure of 373,000 (OCHA, 07/09/2014; DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014).

Jebel Marra: An estimated 100,000 people displaced or severely affected by conflict (OCHA, 14/08/2014).

Blue Nile and South Kordofan: As of 19 October, according to estimates by South Kordofan and Blue Nile Coordination Unit (SKBNCU), 650,000 people are displaced in South Kordofan and 65,000 in Blue Nile (OCHA 22/10/2014). At 18 July, an estimated 170,000 people had been displaced in SPLM-N areas of South Kordofan since April, according to the SKBNCU. With no presence in SPLM-N controlled areas, the UN is unable to verify these figures (OCHA, 19/05/2014).

West Kordofan: An estimated 53,500 people in West Kordofan are in need of humanitarian assistance. Violence has displaced 12,720 people to Babanusa town and El Udaiyat village; 21,000 people to Debab village and Muglad town; and 11,500 people to El Salam locality. There are also 7,400 people in Ghubaysh locality who fled conflict in North Darfur, as well as 873 South Sudanese refugees in the Kharasana area (OCHA, 21/09/2014).

Refugees in Sudan

As of 22 October, 103,000 South Sudanese nationals had arrived in Sudan since 15 December (UNHCR), with over 2,000 new refugees registered in the preceding week. An estimated 49,000 are in White Nile, 14,000 in South Kordofan, 30,000 in Khartoum, and the rest in West Kordofan and Blue Nile (UNHCR, 22/10/2014). A total of 165,000 are expected to arrive in 2014 (WFP, 02/07/2014).
6,000 displaced South Sudanese are living in the disputed area of Abyei (OCHA). An estimated 347,000 people of Southern Sudanese origin are currently hosted in Sudan (OCHA, 30/04/2014).

On 12 October, UNHCR reported 1,700 refugees from CAR in Nyala, South Darfur. These refugees will be relocated to Um Shalaya refugee camp in Central Darfur (OCHA, 15/10/2014).

On 18 June, 31,000 out of 85,000 people who had arrived from South Sudan had not received humanitarian aid (UNHCR). On 16 June, Khartoum state officials issued an order to evacuate informal camps hosting South Sudanese refugees, local media said.

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.

White Nile: In White Nile, arrival rates have increased from 500–600 people per week to around 1,000 (ECHO, 23/09/2014). UNHCR reported that the overcrowding of refugee sites in White Nile is exacerbated by additional new arrivals (OCHA, 26/10/2014). 3,563 South Sudanese arrivals have been reported following recent conflict in Renk county, Upper Nile state, with a majority arriving in Jabalain locality in White Nile state (OCHA, 6/10/2014). The Government has reportedly identified additional sites in anticipation of new refugees: El Khaira Tawakalna and Zalataya (UNHCR, 20/06/2014). All sites in White Nile state are currently beyond capacity. Access for aid workers remains a concern (ECHO, 23/09/2014).

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.

5,000 refugees were reported by SKBNCU to have returned to Blue Nile from Ethiopia and South Sudan in August. Returnees from South Sudan were fleeing violence in Maban. Returning refugees also reported looking for opportunities for cultivation and income generation (OCHA, 22/10/2014).

Food Security

As of 29 September, significant improvements in food security are expected in most parts of Sudan starting in late September, as green and early-maturing crops become available for consumption (FEWSNET, 29/09/2014). 3.5 million people are projected to be in Crisis, or Emergency levels of food insecurity in October and November; most are in Darfur (FEWSNET, 09/2014; GIEWS, 06/2014). IDPs make up 80% of food insecure people (FAO, 10/04/2014). The Food Security Technical Secretariat (FSTS) in Blue Nile State reported that food security has improved in the state during August and September 2014 due to the availability of staple foods in the markets, and significant decline of prices as a result of the production of quick maturing crops (OCHA, 26/10/2014).

On 16 September, FEWSNET forecast that due to continued displacement and insecurity in Darfur and South Kordofan, the country would remain at Crisis level of food insecurity through March 2015.

South Kordofan and Blue Nile

As many as 125,000 people (25,000 families) have been unable to cultivate any essential crops due to fighting (in addition to those who already were severely constrained by lack of seeds, tools, family labour and access to farmland), and will likely face deteriorating food security for the rest of 2014 and through 2015 (OCHA, 22/10/2014). In South Kordofan, the Nuba face critical food security conditions, according to the Nuba Relief and Reconstruction Organisation (local media, 21/09/2014).

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.

On 7 September, a Red Sea state government official reported that food prices in the state had gone up 100% (local media, 07/09/2014).

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. About 90,000 people are living without access to any medical care in Mukjar locality (Central Darfur). 50,000 people from host communities are in need of access to health services in Bielel locality, South Darfur (WHO cited by OCHA, 03/08/2014).

On 12 September, three gunmen in military uniform attacked the medical director of the hospital of Bindisi IDP camp, Central Darfur, demanding medicines. The hospital has been closed (local media, 13/09/2014).

Diarrhoea

283 cases of diarrhoea were reported in North Darfur between 10 and 24 August (OCHA, 24/08/2014). In the Kabkabiya camps, 14 infants died of diarrhoea between 21 August and 4 September (local media, 04/09/2014).

Hepatitis E

return to the top
As of 21 September, 700 cases of hepatitis E have been confirmed in Blue Nile and South Darfur states, with almost half of reported cases (365) identified in South Darfur’s Kalma IDP camp. In Blue Nile state, over 80 cases have been reported. The number of cases in Kalma and El Salam IDP camps are gradually declining, due to response from humanitarian actors, but cases were increasing in El Serif IDP camp in September (OCHA, 21/09/2014). MSF reported an outbreak of hepatitis E in El Sereif camp with more than 400 cases at 21 June (OCHA 06/07/2014).

Malnutrition

Two million children under five are acutely malnourished, an upward revision from 1.4 million at the beginning of August. As of 30 September, the GAM rate for Sudan exceeded the 15% emergency threshold, with a caseload of two million (OCHA, 15/10/2014). Half a million are expected to suffer from SAM in 2014 (OCHA, 24/08/2014). GAM among South Sudanese refugees had reportedly decreased from 20% in March/April to 13.6% as of 16 July (OCHA, 20/07/2014).

Shelter

43,000 houses are reported to have been destroyed by floods since July (OCHA, 24/08/2014). On 3 October, heavy rains and strong winds damaged 700 tents in Kalma IDP camp in South Darfur (local media). On 7 October, heavy rainfall damaged 200 homes (150 shelters and 50 houses) at the Hassahissa camp in Central Darfur (local media, 10/10/2014).

WASH

At 7 September, severe water shortages were reported in Nierteti camps, West Darfur, following the breakdown of all water pumps (local media, 07/09/2014). In July, 17,000 new IDPs faced acute water shortages in sectors 7 and 8 of Kalma camp, South Darfur, with just 2.5 litres per person per day (OCHA 06/07/2014). In June, the 30,000 IDPs in Zamzam camp, North Darfur, were receiving only 6.6 litres of water per person per day (OCHA, 29/06/2014).

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 fees.

According to local media in July, insecurity is affecting the supply of teaching staff, with thousands of teachers in Nyal, Darfur requesting transfers in July.

On 3 October, heavy rains and strong winds damaged caused serious damage to 16 classrooms in Kalma IDP camp in South Darfur (local media).

Protection

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.

A recent review of UNAMID in Darfur has revealed that the peacekeeping force intentionally sought to cover up crimes against civilians and peacekeepers (UN News Service, 29/10/2014).

Mines and ERW

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. On 26 August, 4 children died in 2 separate explosions in Sirba and Jebel Moon localities, West Darfur (local media, 29/08/2014).

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Numerous rapes have been reported by local media in North, South and Central Darfur since March. Between 1 July and mid-August, 45 people, women and girls, were raped in East Jebel Marra (local media, 18/09/2014). On 22 September, militia raped three women of the village of Kuku in East Jebel Marra. Between mid-July and 25 September, at least 30 cases of rape have been reported across Darfur (local media)

Updated: 05/11/2014

CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 31/10/2014. Last update 22/10/2014.

KEY CONCERNS

- 131,000 refugees have arrived from CAR since December 2013, bringing the total to 238,500 (UNHCR, 09/2014).

- Cameroon hosts approximately 43,000 Nigerian refugees (IRIN, 17/09/2014).

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

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

Overview

The spillover from fighting between the Nigerian army and Boko Haram militants
impacts on Cameroon and threatens regional security. Conflict in both Nigeria and CAR continues to displace vulnerable refugees to Cameroon (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

Security Context

Boko Haram

Armed attacks and targeted kidnappings and armed attacks by Boko Haram (BH) are on the rise, especially since May. The number of security incidents has already reached 36 in 2013–2014, up from 20 in 2011–2012 and 23 in 2012–2013 (UNICEF, 08/2014).

Fighting between the Cameroon military and suspected Boko Haram militants took place in towns and villages in the north throughout October, with at least 250 people killed. People have been fleeing Cameroonien conflict-affected border communities, including Amchide, Banki, Fotokol, Makambara, Djokana, Tournou, Dingding, Dombat and Damam (VOA, 27/10/2014).

Cameroun announced its military had killed 107 Boko Haram fighters in several days of cross-border clashes, after militants crossed the border between the towns of Amchide and Limani on 15 October (Reuters, 17/10/2014). In early October, 10 Chinese and 17 Cameroonian hostages held by BH since May were freed in exchange for the release of around 20 imprisoned Islamist and a ransom (AFP, 13/10/2014).

BH has been raiding towns and villages near the border since June. Amchide town has become a significant BH base (AFP, 24/06/2014). Authorities in the Far North region have imposed a curfew and banned vehicle and motorcycle movement at night (IRIN, 15/08/2014). In July, troop levels along the Nigeria border were increased to 4,000 (ICG, 01/08/2014). On 23 February, it was confirmed that Nigeria had closed its northern border with Cameroon to block the movement of BH.

CAR Crisis

The security situation is unstable in East region. Infiltrations of anti-balaka from CAR into Cameroon have been reported, and local authorities have asked UNHCR to expedite the transfer of CAR refugees from the border entry points of Kentzou and Gbiti in order to allow them to undertake search operations in the area (UNHCR, 22/05/2014). The Gbiti site has been closed. UNHCR and Cameroonien security forces are seeking possible locations for security posts at the refugee sites of Lolo, Mbiti, and Timangolo in East region (UNHCR, 04/07/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Logistical Constraints

Congestion at the port in Douala has resulted in extended delays for the arrival of food. This has impacted the effective delivery of food to WFP operations for CAR refugees (WFP, 17/09/2014).

Security Constraints

The escalation of attacks by Boko Haram is restricting aid operations in the Far North region (IRIN, 15/08/2014). UN agencies have only been undertaking priority activities such as assisting refugees and some host communities, according to WFP (IRIN, 15/08/2014).

Disasters

Floods

Flooding in Bibemi, Benoue department, in the North region at the end of August affected nearly 3,500 people displaced over 1,380 people. The floods destroyed 223 houses, washed away farms and crops, and killed livestock and poultry (OCHA, 09/09/2014).

Displacement

As of September, there are 291,000 refugees in Cameroon and 20,000 IDPs and returnees (OCHA, UNHCR, and partners, 09/2014).

Refugees from the Central African Republic

As of 24 October, 241,303 CAR refugees are in Cameroon: 133,344 have arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR, 24/10/2014). At least another 17,670 third-country nationals and returnees have arrived (UNHCR, 07/2014 and IOM, 25/07/2014). The number of new CAR refugees 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).

The refugees are spread across the East (95,075), Adamawa (23,060), Douala (3,820), Yaounde (3,540), and the North (3,540) (UNHCR, 31/08/2014). Close to 60% of newly arrived refugees are children, of whom 20% are under five years of age. 96% of refugees are Muslim.

The number of arrivals has dropped from 10,000 per week to about 8,000 in mid-August (UNHCR). Access is reportedly hindered by militia requesting an ‘exit fee’ to leave CAR. MSF said most new arrivals are in critical need of medical attention (Voice of America, 13/08/2014). ECHO found in May that arrivals at the border were in acute need of almost all services (ECHO, 05/2014).

Security is a concern: local authorities have reported the presence of armed anti-balaka in the village of Diel, and have doubled the number of soldiers guarding the border and patrolling the village (UNHCR, 22/08/2014).

59,160 refugees have been transferred to sites: 44,600 in the East region, including 10,750 in Lolo, 17,540 in Gado, 9,700 in Mbilé, 5,900 in Timangolo, and 760 in Ngari-Singo; and 14,500 in the Adamawa region including 11,380 in Borgop and 3,120 in Ngam. An additional 62,930 refugees are living in host villages (UNHCR, 19/09/2014).

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. In some sites, the rains have created conditions for disease outbreaks. Access to water and sanitation remains below standard. In Gado, Mbilé, and Borgop, the quantity of water provided per day to refugees remains below 15 litres (UNHCR, 07/2014).
Bad road conditions delay the provision of assistance. Moreover, the border is open and extensive, and there are refugees who cross without being registered.

**Refugees from Nigeria**

43,000 Nigerians are estimated to have fled to northern Cameroon over the past year, including 26,700 refugees registered by UNHCR (IRIN, 17/09/2014). As of September, 18,475 Nigerian refugees have been registered in the Far North region, primarily in the districts of Mayo Tsanaga (7,685), Mayo-Sava (1,966), and Logone-et-Chari (8,824). Another 1,530 refugees are in the Southwest region (UNHCR, 09/2014).

Due to cross-border movements by BH, Nigerian refugees are being encouraged by the Cameroonian Government to settle in Minawao camp, whose population has risen from 6,000 to 15,335 as of October since August, putting a severe strain on services (UNHCR cited by IRIN 06/10/2014; UNHCR, 17/10/2014). Many have opted to stay in border villages, hoping to return home quickly if the violence subsides. Those living outside the camp do not receive humanitarian assistance and lack of identification is a concern. The needs among the refugees are largely WASH, health, and nutrition-related.

**Food Security**

As of September, 1.8 million people are food insecure (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

Cameroon's Far North and North regions have the highest rates of food insecurity in the country, with 54% of households facing shortages. It is feared that more will not have enough food over the current lean season, before harvesting starts in October–November (WFP cited by IRIN, 15/08/2014).

The arrival of refugees has increased pressure on resources. There will be breaks in food supply at Minawao camp, in Far North region, by November if there is no additional funding, according to WFP.

Growing food shortages are compounded by prolonged water scarcity. The impact of the 2011–2012 drought is still being felt, although 2013 aggregate cereal production was tentatively put at about 3.1 million metric tons, 5% up on the previous year's output, and 10% above the average of the past five years.

In July, more than 20 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) were suffering from food insecurity (Donor, 24/09/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

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

Cameroon's Far North, North, Adamawa, and East regions suffer chronic shortages of health workers. In the Far North region, the ratio is 0.47 doctors for 1,000 people (IRIN, 06/08/2014). The concentration of health staff in wealthier areas leaves around 40% of Cameroonians without access to healthcare. 45.7% of health centres do not have access to electricity and 70% do not have piped water (Inter Press Service, 19/08/2014).

As of September 2014, 6.8 million people are in need of health services (IOM, 09/2014). 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**

A cholera outbreak in Sadje health centre in northern Cameroon has been aggravated by rains and insecurity caused by Boko Haram (UNICEF, 08/2014 and 09/2014). **As of early October, 2,294 cases and 119 deaths** (case fatality rate: 5.2%) have been recorded since the beginning of the year. Only 22 cases were reported within the same period in 2013 (UNICEF, 10/2014). Hardest hit is the locality of Mogodé, in the Far North region (IFRC, 20/10/2014). The first cholera case was in a Nigerian refugee family in April (IRIN, 06/08/2014).

**Ebola**

A Cameroonian government spokesperson announced that all borders between Cameroon and Nigeria had been closed in order to prevent the spread of Ebola (AFP, 19/08/2014).

**Malnutrition**

As of September, there have been 63,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition among children under five in 2014 (OCHA, 30/09/2014). In August, 48,780 children under five were suffering from SAM in Far North, North, Adamawa, and East regions and targeted for assistance. This includes new refugees from CAR and Nigeria (UNICEF, 08/2014).

Between March and early July, more than 1,600 refugee children with severe acute malnutrition were admitted to therapeutic feeding centres. Another 9,000 children and 2,000 mothers received supplementary feeding (UNICEF and WFP, 03/07/2014). In one village, GAM was 25% (the emergency threshold is 15%).

As of June, up to 30% of refugees from CAR under the age of five were suffering from acute malnutrition (UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP): 7–8% of cases were infants under six months and 18% children over five years.

Mortality rates were over 20% at some locations in June, due to dehydration, hypothermia, and severe anaemia. Approximately 15% of all children with SAM required hospitalisation, and it was estimated that inpatient facilities will need to triple their capacity (OCHA, 06/2014).

**Polio**

An epidemic of wild poliovirus centred in Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea is spreading in the region. Since the onset of the outbreak in October 2013, nine cases have been confirmed in Cameroon (UNICEF, 11/09/2014). On 17 March, WHO elevated the risk assessment of international spread of polio from central Africa, particularly Cameroon, to
very high. 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**

As of September, 2 million people were in need of WASH (IOM, 09/2014). Regions affected by the CAR refugee crisis have particularly poor access to drinking water (East: 54% and Adamawa: 70%) and basic sanitation (East: 22% and Adamawa: 64%).

**Education**

Thousands of students and teachers have deserted schools in towns along the border with Nigeria's Borno state as the new academic year begins. With some schools either destroyed or occupied by BH, the Government said it will relocate populations to more secure areas (Voice of America, 08/09/2014).

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

**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 hundreds of children continued to be forcibly recruited (AFP, 06/08/2014).

**ETHIOPIA**

**FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

- **27 October:** Heavy rains in Afar, SNNP, and Somali regions have displaced 50,700 people, who require immediate assistance (OCHA).

- **22 October:** There are signs that the ground in Leitchuor camp is drying, although much of the affected area is still wet and refugees remain where they resettled. Some 2,500 extremely vulnerable refugees are likely to be moved to Pugnido (UNHCR).

**KEY CONCERNS**

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

- There are 643,955 refugees, mainly from Kenya and South Sudan (UNCHR). Over 250,000 South Sudanese refugees are in Gambella region; 90% are women and children, 68% children under 18 (OCHA).

- 2.4 million people need food assistance. The most affected regions are Oromia, Somali, Amhara, Tigray and Afar (FAO).

- A majority of the refugee camps have reached, or are reaching, full capacity. Main concerns include the building of a new refugee camp, malnutrition among refugees, as well as critical shortfalls in humanitarian aid.

**Political Context**

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

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

Protests against projects to expand the boundaries of Addis Ababa into lands currently hosting the Oromo community, which has reportedly been marginalised by successive Governments, began on 25 April. In May, dozens of people were reported killed in violence across the region, according to local sources.

In September, Amnesty International reported violations of civil and political rights. Elections are schedule for May 2015 (Amnesty International, 22/09/2014). 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). Helicopter drops have proved difficult due to poor weather conditions, therefore agencies are opting to move assistance by boat (WFP, 15/10/2014). Humanitarian interventions in Leitchur and Nip Nip were severely affected, but general food distribution has now commenced in Nip Nip (WFP, 10-16/10/2014). By 2 October, only 50km of the road from Gambella to Leitchur was accessible, and the rest was completely under water. This has cancelled any possibility of pumping out the water or opening new bypass roads (IOM, 02/10/2014).

Security conditions have made some camps in Benishangul-Gumuz inaccessible (IOM, 09/09/2014).

Disasters: Floods
Heavy rains flooded 95% of Leitchur and most of Nip Nip IDP camps throughout August and September (UNICEF, 15/08/2014). Flooding affected the border crossings at Matar and Pagak. 171,733 refugees were evacuated from Gambella and 2,439 from Benishangul-Gumuz (IOM, 21/09/2014). The rain has destroyed homes, temporary structures, as well as latrines and sanitation facilities (UNHCR, 03/09/2014). The ground within the camp has not yet dried and refugees have settled in different locations near Nyinyang and along the Nip Nip and Jikaw corridor and Gambella-Matar road (UNHCR, OCHA, 20/10/2014). As of 22 October, there are signs of the ground within the camp drying, although much of the affected area is still wet and refugees remain where they resettled. Some 2,500 extremely vulnerable refugees from Leitchur/Nip Nip camps are likely to be moved to Pugnido (UNHCR, 22/10/2014).

Heavy rains in September caused flooding in areas of Afar, SNNP and Somali regions. 50,700 are displaced and require assistance (OCHA, 27/10/2014). More than 100,000 people were affected in Somali region, particularly in Adadle, Aregale, Berano, Dollo Ado, Dolo Bay, East and West Imy, Ferfer, Koraxe, Kafa and Mustahil woredas. 28,000 people were affected in Afar region, in Amibara and Dulecha woredas, with half of those affected losing their homes and now taking shelter in schools and temporary shelters. Individuals in Dasenech and Benatsemay woredas of South Omo in SNNPR were also affected, with properties damaged and livelihoods lost (OCHA, 20/10/2014).

Displacement
IDPs
As of 31 March, Ethiopia had 328,080 IDPs (OCHA, 11/06/2014).

Refugees in Ethiopia
As of 15 October, Ethiopia hosts up to 643,955 refugees from 13 countries, but mainly Somalis, South Sudanese, Eritreans, and Sudanese (WFP, 16/10/2014). South Sudanese account for the biggest refugee population in the country (UNHCR, 20/10/2014). Ethiopia is now the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa (UNHCR, 19/08/2014).

South Sudanese Refugees
As of 25 September, 191,400 South Sudanese have sought asylum in Ethiopia since December 2013 (OCHA, 25/09/2014). The majority of arrivals come from Upper Nile state and are predominantly from Gajaak, Gajok, and Luo-Nuer tribes (UNHCR, 03/07/2014). They are arriving through Pagak (50%), Akobo (21%), Burubiey (24%), Matar, Pagak, Pugnido and Wanke entry points (UNHCR, 25/07/2014). 46,362 South Sudanese refugees were in Ethiopia before 2013. 90% are women and children, and almost 68% are under 18 years old, and arrive in critical nutritional conditions (WFP, UNICEF, 15/08/2014). Most new arrivals cite insecurity and poor food security as their main reason for flight (UNICEF, 15/08/2014). UNHCR projects that 300,000 new refugees from South Sudan will have arrived by the end of the year (UNHCR, 22/10/2014).

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 102 in the third week of October (UNHCR, 23/10/2014). 787 new arrivals arrived in October, versus 1,411 that arrived in September (UNHCR, 01/10/2014, 23/10/2014).

According to UNHCR, as of 25 September, 157,570 individuals need to be relocated to other camps due to flooding (WFP, 06/10/2014). Leitchur, Nip Nip, and Matar way station have been dismantled due to the continued risk of flooding. The refugees will be relocated to Okugo district in October, at the end of the rainy season, according to the government refugee agency (OCHA, 15/09/2014). A transit centre has been constructed at Geder around Macha (IOM, 02/10/2014). However, Okugo can only absorb 29,000 refugees in addition to the current population of 6,000. Refugees are rejecting the relocation proposals, citing insecurity as their main concern, including attacks by the South Sudanese armed forces from nearby border areas (IOM, 23/09/2014; UNHCR, 01/10/2014). A new proposal has been made by UNHCR for two new campsites, able to accommodate 120,000 refugees, in the vicinity of Okugo (UNHCR, 20/10/2014).

Eritrean Refugees
Northern Ethiopia receives large number of Eritrean refugees, particularly unaccompanied minors. The number of daily arrivals has recently spiked, with more than 200 Eritreans crossing the border each day. This is blamed on congestion at the reception centres, rather than an actual influx. As of 16 October, Ethiopia hosts 104,343 Eritrean refugees (UNHCR, 20/10/2014).

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, and a 31% increase on the number who arrived in May 2013. New arrivals came predominantly from Oromia, Tigray, Amhara, Harar, and Ogaden regions, for economic reasons and risk of persecution. 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 for 2015 (RMMS, 31/05/2014).

**Food Security**

The food security situation was deteriorating in September, with part of the northeast, pockets of central Ethiopia, and the southern and southeastern pastoralist areas the most affected (OCHA, 22/09/2014). Insufficient rainfall is exacerbating food insecurity in eastern parts of the country as well (USAID, 30/09/2014). Poor households in the highlands of the Arsi zone in central Oromia have moved into Crisis conditions (IPC Phase 3). Southern and southeastern pastoral areas and poor households in most areas are Stressed (IPC Phase 2), but only thanks to humanitarian assistance (FEWSNET 12/08/2014). 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.

With a much below-average meher harvest in the Rift Valley in central Oromia, Waghimra Zone in Amhara and Tigray, households will quickly deplete their food stocks, likely becoming more food insecure after December (FEWSNET, 26/09/2014). Similarly, the expected deyr rains will improve water and pasture availability for pastoralist communities (OCHA, 22/09/2014). Despite karan rains, pasture has not fully recovered in most northern pastoral areas (FEWSNET, 26/09/2014).

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. 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).

**Agriculture and Markets**

An early stop of Mar-May seasonal rainfall and a particularly dry July has led to further deterioration of crops and degraded pasture conditions across central and northern areas (FEWSNET 03/09/2014).

In July, the year-to-year general inflation rate increased to 6.9%; food inflation to 5.8% and non-food to 8.2%. The terms of trade between shott and staple cereals has deteriorated for producers and consumers in most areas of the Somali region and Dire Dawa markets (WFP, 31/07/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

Malaria remains the main public health concern in all the refugee camps, followed by respiratory tract infections and diarrheal diseases (OCHA 01/09/2014). A survey carried out among South Sudanese refugees residing in Ethiopia indicate a serious public health emergency (OCHA 15/08/2014). Monitoring in Gambella region has shown “critical gaps” in medical personnel and supplies, as well as funds for public health clusters (OCHA, 11/08/2014).

**Hepatitis E**

Between late May and late August 354 cases of hepatitis E and jaundice were detected among the refugee population (MSF, 04/09/2014). Ten new cases were reported in the last week of September (UNHCR, 01/10/2014).
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: 27/10/2014

KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

10 November: Garissa county, in northeast Kenya, has been experiencing severe drought. Water pans are drying up quickly, livestock has begun to die, and residents are in urgent need of food, water, and medical services (Kenya Daily Nation).

9 November: One person was killed in Mombasa after youths rioted in protest at the killing of an alleged Islamist leader (AFP).

4 November: At least 22 police officers and three civilians were ambushed and killed in Kapedo, Turkana district, allegedly by raiders, and their weapons and ammunition were stolen. On 7 November, Kenya defence forces raided Kapedo in an effort to recover the stolen weapons. More than 30 people were injured and property was destroyed. Residents have reportedly fled (Kenya Red Cross, Kenya Daily Nation).

1 November: Following clashes in Kakuma camp, eight refugees have reportedly died, although local media indicate that the death toll might exceed 20. Kenyan security forces continue to patrol the camp.

KEY CONCERNS

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

- Inter-communal tensions are running high: 491 people were killed and 47,000 displaced by tribal conflict in 2013. Tana River, Mandera, Marsabit, and Moyale counties are the most affected.

- There are over 585,551 refugees in Kenya, including at least 426,500 Somalis and 87,129 South Sudanese (UNHCR 14/10/2104, 07/08/2014).

- 1.5 million people are acutely food insecure (FEWSNET).

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. Kenyan troops began operating against Al Qaeda in Somalia in 2011. On 23 June, Kenyan fighter jets attacked Al Shabaab groups in Somalia, killing at least 80 (23/06/2014, BBC, AFP). One person was killed on 9 November in Mombasa after youths rioted in protest at the killing of an alleged Islamist militant (AFP, 10/11/2014).

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 further. Muslims make up 11% of Kenya's 40 million population, and the increasing radicalisation of the ethnic Somali Muslim population is allegedly fuelled by systematic ethnic profiling and discrimination.

In March, the more than 50,000 refugees living in urban areas were ordered to relocate to two camps: Dadaab and Kakuma. Three bomb blasts in the following weeks killed ten people, according to international media. Throughout April, mass arrests targeting refugees took place in Nairobi and Mombasa: 82 allegedly illegal immigrants were reportedly deported to Mogadishu. 281 refugees were reportedly transported from Nairobi’s Kasarani stadium, where hundreds of refugees had been detained, to Kakuma and Dadaab camps.

Militant Incidents

Seven attacks in Kenya’s coastal region between mid-June and July left 102 dead. Soweto in Mombasa, Mpeketoni, Poromoko, Parganguo the villages of Witu and Kibiboni, and Gamba police station were all targeted. About 500 families reportedly fled the area to nearby camps (Reuters, 06/07/2014). Leaflets were distributed demanding minorities leave Mombasa (AFP, BBC, 19-21/07/2014).

Although 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). Lamu county governor Issa Timamy, is under investigation for terrorism and murder (BBC, 20/07/2014).

Inter-communal Violence

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 insurgent group is also said to have made several deadly incursions into Kenya. In 2013, 491 people were killed and 1,235 were injured in inter-communal violence. 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.

Conflict in Baringo

In Baringo county, drought has pushed pastoralists to take their livestock to new locations, and violence has been reported (ACTED, 08/08/2014). Throughout September, tensions in the area have risen, after raiders shot dead four herders and stole their animals, causing some villagers to flee, limiting their access to water and basic services (Kenya Daily Nation, 24/09/2014).

Conflict in Mandera and Wajir

On 22 August, fighting resumed in Mandera county. Houses have been burned down, schools and dispensaries raided and livestock stolen. By early October, total fatalities had risen to 48, with 68 wounded and 19,000 displaced (Kenya Red Cross, 05/09/2014). On 3 October, leaders from Mandera and Wajir signed an agreement that seeks to end the conflict between the Degodia and Garre clans (Capital News, Red Star, 09/2014). But on 6 October two men from the Degodia clan were attacked by Garre (The Star, 06/10/2014). Rhamu, in Mandera north, has been raided twice. In August, a Red Cross ambulance was attacked and security personnel were unable to access some towns near the border (Kenya Red Cross, 26/08/2014; Kenya Daily Nation 24/08/2014).

Clashes between Garre and Degodia communities along the border between Wajir and Mandera counties caused at least 60 deaths and displaced 75,000 people between May and June (OCHA, 23/06/2014). The Garre and Degodia Somali clans have been feuding over natural resources since March 2012.

Turkana has also seen an increase in frequency of violent attacks by raiders. On 4 November, at least 22 police officers and three civilians were ambushed and killed in Kapeto, Turkana district, allegedly by raiders, and their weapons and ammunition were stolen (Kenya Red Cross, 04/11/2014). On 7 November, Kenya defence forces raided Kapeto in an attempt to recover the stolen weapons. More than 30 people were injured and property was destroyed. Residents have reportedly fled (Kenya Daily Nation, 08/11/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

Drought

According to national authorities, 300,000 famine-stricken people (60,000 families) in drought-hit Wajir South constituency need humanitarian assistance. The National Drought Management Authority said most of the water points in the northeastern constituency had dried up due to the prolonged drought (Kenya Daily Nation, 08/09/2014). Temperatures in arid regions are likely to rise more quickly than in other areas, causing October rains to fail, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Experts warn of a catastrophe for pastoralists in arid and semi-arid areas, who are unable cope with extreme weather changes (Inter Press Service, 20/10/2014).

Floods

Heavy downpours in Nairobi on 17 October caused thousands of kilometres of roads to be washed away, as draining systems in the city failed. Informal settlements in the city were particularly hit since they lack drainage or sewer systems (Kenya Daily Nation, 20/10/2014).

Garissa county, in northeast Kenya, has also been experiencing severe drought. Water pans are drying up quickly, livestock has begun to die, and Garissa residents are urgently appealing for food, water and medical services (Kenya Daily Nation, 10/11/2014).

Displacement

IDPs

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

Mandera: 18,000 were displaced in Mandera over the last week of August. At the end of July 5,574 people were displaced (ACT Alliance, 30/07/2014). At 11 June, 61,000 IDPs had been reported (Kenyan Red Cross). Although specific figures haven’t been issued, local media have reported that the number of displaced has reduced, but those who remain displaced are in dire need of safe drinking water (The Star, 23/09/2014).

Lamu: Local media reported in August that about 1,000 people displaced by the June-July Lamu attacks near the coast are in dire need of food, and are consuming untreated waters from two bore holes. Their livelihoods are also affected, since they will have no harvest this year (Kenya Daily Nation, 24/08/2014).

Refugees

As of 14 October, Kenya is hosting more than 585,551 refugees and asylum-seekers (UNHCR, 14/10/2014). 178,580 are located in Kakuma, 356,879 between Dabaab and Alinjugur and 50,092 in Nairobi. Somalis make up 75% of the refugees, South Sudanese 13% (UNHCR, 30/07/2014). As of 21 September, humanitarian actors have registered a decline in the number of refugees entering the country (IOM, 21/09/2014).

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. About 2,500 refugees living in Dadaab camp are set to be relocated to Somalia by the end of October. This first batch of refugees will be used to test the viability of returning the 337,500 Somali refugees still registered at the camp (Kenya Daily Nation, 07/09/2014). 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, East African, 02/08/2014).

**From South Sudan:** As of 23 October, more than 43,940 South Sudanese refugees have crossed into Kenya through Nadapal border since mid-December, bringing the total to 87,584 (UNHCR, 23/09/2014). 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, 15/10, 15). 75,038 South Sudanese refugees are in Kakuma camp, Turkana county (UNHCR, 07/07/2014). UNHCR’s ‘most likely’ scenario projects that 100,000 new refugees from South Sudan will have arrived in Kenya by the end of the year (UNHCR, 22/10/2014).

Kakuma camp is hosting 178,922 refugees, surpassing its capacity of 150,000 (UNHCR, 23/10/2014). Flooding from heavy rains on 25 August and 3 September has caused further displacement, and hampered access by humanitarian actors (OCHA, 27/08/2014; UNHCR, 17/09/2014). The need for land is critical. Regular relocations from the reception centre have stalled as a result of the rains, and the need for dry, safe areas is urgent (UNHCR, 17/09/2014). Government officials have authorised the construction of a new camp in Turkana, although as of 15 October, no land had been granted to settle new arrivals (UNHCR, 15/10/2014).

Clashes between Nuer and Dinka communities in Kakuma camp erupted on 26 October after a girl was raped. Eight refugees are reportedly dead, although local media have indicated that the death toll exceeds 20 (Sudan Tribune, 01/11/2014). Some members of the Dinka community have fled from various sections of the camp and are seeking refuge in UN-run schools. Kenyan security forces are patrolling the camp (UNHCR, 04/11/2014).

**Food Security**

As of 19 August, 1.5 million are in need of food aid, in a survey carried out by national and county governments (FEWSNET, 27/08/2014). These households are concentrated in pastoral areas of Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Samburu, Isiolo, and Baringo (FEWSNET, 26/08/2014). August reports indicated that some areas of East Pokot subcounty are facing a severe drought, and food is either unavailable or inaccessible (ACTED, 08/08/2014).

Households in parts of Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera, Samburu, Wajir, Baringo and West Pokot are entering Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity. The food security situation in Mandera and Wajir is deteriorating, with the recent drought further weakening the situation. The biggest challenge is water scarcity (Kenya Red Cross, 05/09/2014). Schools have been forced to shut down in Basuba Ward, in East Lamu, because students have joined their parents in search of food (Kenya Daily Nation, 06/10/2014).

WFP has reported that resource constraints will cause significant pipeline break in refugee operation in December, worsening an already critical nutrition situation among children (WFP, 15/10/2014).

**Health**

**Ebola**

On 13 August, due to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, the Ministry of Health and WHO have reported that Kenya is a Category 2 country, at high risk of transmission because of movement of people between affected countries or because they are near the affected countries. Kenya has blocked all flights coming from Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria (WHO 13/08/2014).

**Malnutrition**

In August, GAM of up to 28.7% was reported in Turkana Central, 27.3% in Mandera North, and 29.2% Marsabit North/Loiyangalani (Kenya Red Cross 16/08/2014). GAM rates in East Pokot subcounty (Baringo) have reached 21.1% due to severe drought and food insecurity. The food security situation in Mandera and Wajir is deteriorating, with the recent drought further weakening the situation. The biggest challenge is water scarcity (Kenya Red Cross, 05/09/2014). Schools have been forced to shut down in Basuba Ward, in East Lamu, because students have joined their parents in search of food (Kenya Daily Nation, 06/10/2014).

**Agriculture and Markets**

Poor rains have affected pasture and water availability in most pastoral and agro-pastoral areas (GIWES, 19/09/2014). Peste des Petits Ruminantes, a contagious disease that affects goats and sheep, and East Coast Fever, which affects cattle, sheep and goats are also currently affecting the livelihoods of pastoralist communities in arid and semi-arid regions (Inter Press Service, 20/10/2014).

Maize lethal necrosis disease has damaged more than 260,000 hectares of crops in the Rift Valley and 10,000 hectares in Nakuru (Kenya Daily Nation, 06/09/2014, 21/09/2014). Small-scale farmers are most affected, who depend on the crops for food and livelihood, forcing some to revert to negative coping mechanisms (Kenya Daily Nation, 30/09/2014).

**WASH**

There is a critical need for clean water nationwide. 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).

Heavy rains on 25 August and 3 September caused pit latrines to collapse in Kakuma.
camp, overflowing and affecting about 400 latrines (UNHCR, 17/09/2014). The per capita distribution of water is at 16/L/p/d against UNHCR standards of 20L/p/d (UNHCR, 01/10/2014).

Protection

South Sudanese refugees face high levels of insecurity on their journey to Kenya: three were killed on their way to the border in mid-July (IOM, 20/07/2014).

Since December 2013, 6,197 unaccompanied children have arrived in Kakuma camp, bringing the total to 12,174 (UNHCR, 01/10/2014).

Updated: 10/11/2014

LESOTHO FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant new developments this week, 31/10/2014. Last update, 17/10/2014.

KEY CONCERNS

- The number of food insecure people, estimated at 30%, has doubled since February 2014. Around 450,000 people in all districts will require humanitarian assistance for a period of 4–5 months from October–November 2014 (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

After weeks of crisis, King Letsie III reopened parliament on 17 October (Mail&Guardian, 18/10/2014). It has been agreed that elections will be held two years early, in February 2015. Prime Minister Thabane has announced that he will contest the elections (BBC, 03/10/2014; Reuters, 02/10/2014). Thabane returned to Lesotho in September following an alleged coup.

In June, the leading party, the All Basotho Convention (ABC), suspended Parliament for nine months, following the opposition’s attempt to pass a motion of no confidence on the governing coalition. Tensions escalated between the Lesotho Defence Force and the Lesotho police, which side with different political parties (Institute for Security Studies, 29/07/2014; 03/07/2014). At the end of August, Prime Minister Thomas Thabane fled the country, alleging a military coup (UN, African Union, 31/08/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Food Security

The number of food insecure doubled to 447,760 people, or 30% of the population, between February and July. These people will require humanitarian assistance for a period of 4–5 months from October/November 2014 to February/March 2015 (OCHA, 31/07/2014; FAO 09/10/2014). Staple food prices have started to increase in line with seasonal trends. Combined with poor production and reduced income opportunities, this will result in poor households facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity outcomes between October and December (FEWSNET, 27/08/2014).

The highest concentration of food insecure people is located in the western districts of Maseru, Mafeteng, and Mohale’s Hoek (FAO, 01/08/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

In southern Lesotho livelihood zones – namely in the lowlands, the Senqu river valley and the foothills between the lowlands and the highlands – the areas most affected by reduced production, prices for maize, a staple, are 220–290% above prices at the same time in 2010, the reference year (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014).

Despite a significant 26% increase in the area planted with maize this year, heavy rain and frost damage contributed to a reduction in yields (FAO, 01/08/2014). Maize accounts for almost all of the cereal harvest (83%). The 2014 cereal crop, which was harvested in May–June, is estimated at a comparable level to the previous year’s near-average output. Sorgum production is estimated to be 29–75% lower than in 2013 (FEWSNET, 14/08/2014; FAO, 01/08/2014).

Health and Nutrition

HIV

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. HIV prevalence is 23.5% among adults, and more than 25,000 new HIV infections occur every year. Lesotho also has particularly high HIV–tuberculosis co-infection rates (ICAP, 01/07/2014).

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).

Reviewed: 31/10/2014

LIBYA CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT, POLITICAL UNREST

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 October: Heavy fighting flared between Libya’s army and Ansar al Sharia militias apparently trying retake one of the militia’s largest camps from which Operation Dignity
had expelled them earlier in October. At least 130 people have been killed in the battle since 16 October (Reuters, 26/10/2014).

KEY CONCERNS

- The conflict has affected more than two million people (UN, 03/09/2014), with 1,000 people killed and 4,000 injured
- 290,000 people are internally displaced, and more than 150,000 people have sought refuge abroad (OCHA, 03/09/2014; UNHCR 10/10/2014).
- Over 331,000 people are at risk and in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 08/10/2014).
- Indiscriminate shelling and targeting of civilian areas (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).
- Access is a major concern (OCHA, 03/09/2014).

Overview

The rapidly deteriorating security situation in Libya continues to cause new waves of displacement, particularly in the western outskirts of Tripoli and in the eastern city of Benghazi. The renewed fighting is deepening the humanitarian needs of IDPs and communities affected by the fighting. The price of food and basic items such as cooking fuel and wheat flour, have doubled.

Most displaced people are living in schools and host communities under growing strain from the influx. Access is difficult, with blocked roads preventing the delivery of food and medical supplies to areas most affected by conflict.

Political Context

On 23 September, Prime Minister Al Thani won the blessing of parliament for his proposed cabinet of 13 ministers, an earlier proposal having been rejected (AFP, 23/09/2014). The Government was sworn in on 28 September. The previous Government had resigned on 1 September, admitting it had lost control over Tripoli to Islamist armed militias.

The political crisis has led to worsening armed conflict over the course of the year. Without a minimum of consensus, Libya is likely to have two ineffectual governments with militias exerting real control on the ground (International Crisis Group, 01/09/2014). The House of Representatives, elected in June, moved to Tobruk in early August. On 25 August, the Islamist-dominated General National Congress, which had preceded the House of Representatives and never stood down, reconvened and voted to replace the House.

On 21 October, Libya's elected parliament officially endorsed former General Haftar and his Operation Dignity against Islamist militias.

Despite hostilities, a referendum on a new constitution has been scheduled for December (Reuters, 11/09/2014).

Peace Talks

On 29 September, UN-brokered talks began between Libya's House of Representatives and elected members who have boycotted the assembly and have links to the General National Congress (Reuters, 01/10/201). The Libya Dawn coalition in Tripoli denounced the dialogue and declared that it was continuing with its military operations. The Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries (SCBR) issued its own statement rejecting the initiative, and the country's highest religious authority called for the suspension of the talks (AFP, 30/09/2014). In what may signal a rift in Libya Dawn, Libya Shield Central has said it remains open to involvement in potential peace talks (Libya Herald, 02/10/2014). Further talks are planned in Algeria later this month, with Algeria planning to invite only elected officials (Libya Herald, 04/10/2014; 5/10/2014). The UN has announced it plans to hold talks with militias (Reuters, 01/10/2014).

Security Context

The surge in violence since mid-July has affected more than two million people (UN, 03/09/2014). Current estimates from Libya's Emergency Crisis Committee and local partners suggest that 1,000 people had been killed and 4,000 injured, and 107,028 displaced by 3 September.

Egypt warned on 27 October that Islamist militias are poised to take control over Libya's oil fields (National Post; the Telegraph, 27/10/2014). On 17 September, heavy fighting broke out on the coast road towards Zawia from Tripoli, with heavy artillery shelling (IOM, 17/09/2014). On 8 October, Prime Minister Al Thani announced that Egypt would help to train the Libyan army and called on Libyans to fight Islamist-led militias that have overrun the capital.

Ansar al Sharia has declared an Islamic emirate in the eastern city of Derna and pledged allegiance to Islamic State (Al Arabiya, 06/10/2014).

An abundance of weapons from the NATO-backed uprising against Gaddafi are sustaining warring factions (AFP, 14/07/2014). Frequent air strikes have taken place on populated areas in Benghazi since May, while in Tripoli there have been two air strikes (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). The United Nations Stabilization Mission for Libya left the country in mid-July.

According to intelligence sources, Islamist groups operating in northern Africa have set up three secret training camps in southern Libya. Jihadists pushed out of Mali following French intervention are also said to be hiding in Libya's south. Experts see links between these groups and Islamist militias in northern and eastern Libya (AFP, 26/10/2014).

Main Stakeholders

The Libya Shield brigades, tied to the city of Misrata, are allied to Islamist political forces, as are the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries (SCBR), a Benghazi-based alliance including Ansar al Sharia, Libya Shield units and other armed groups. Together with insurgents from Tripoli and other towns including al Zawiya and Gheryan, these groups
make up the Libya Dawn.

The Al Qa’qa’ and Al Sawai’q brigades, allied with the city of Zintan, and fighters from the Warshefana region west of Tripoli, back the House of Representatives, as does former General Khalifa Haftar, supported by units of Libya’s regular armed forces.

Tripoli

Tripoli has witnessed continuous violence since 13 July, when Tripoli-based armed groups allied with others, primarily from the city of Misrata but also from other towns including al Zawiya and Ghryan, launched Operation Dawn

Over 11–12 October, militias from Zintan attacked the neighbouring town of Kekla, which supports Libya Dawn. The clashes left 21 people dead and more than 60 wounded (AFP, 13/10/2014).

On 16 September, fighter jets from an unknown country have reportedly carried out at least four attacks near Tripoli, targeting ammunition warehouses and weapons depots under the control of Operation Dawn. Egypt and the United Arab Emirates were believed to have carried out air strikes against armed groups in Libya in August, but neither state has admitted responsibility for the attacks (Al Jazeera, 16/09/2014).

On 24 August, Operation Dawn fighters seized control of the airport and other areas of Tripoli, and Zintan-affiliated armed groups withdrew. Fighting was still ongoing in the Warshefana region (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).

Benghazi

On 15 October, former General Haftar launched an offensive to recapture Benghazi, which appears to have been mostly under SCBR control since mid-July (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). Previously, Haftar’s forces had been forced to retreat to Benghazi airport, which has been under attack by Islamists since mid-September. By 19 October, 75 people had been killed in the clashes (AFP, 17/10/2014; 19/10/2014). On 26 October, heavy fighting flared between Libya’s army and Ansar al Sharia militias apparently trying retake one of the militia’s largest camps from which Operation Dignity had expelled them earlier in October. At least 130 people have been killed in the battle since 16 October (Reuters, 26/10/2014).

Over 2–9 October, at least 17 people, mostly soldiers, were killed in fighting (AFP, 09/10/2014). The Islamist militias have not disclosed their casualties. Reports indicated warplanes and military helicopters over the city, as well as anti-aircraft fire (AFP, 09/10/2014). Ansar al Sharia has announced it aims to seize the airport, but does not plan to capture other cities (Reuters, 10/10/2014). Military planes and helicopters have bombarded the 17 February Brigade’s headquarters, those of SCBR in Hawari, and SCBR facilities in Gwarsha (Libya Herald, 04/10/2014). Several residential areas have been subjected to regular shelling. Some areas have been subject to air attacks (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).

On 24 September, an air strike on a port in Benghazi was claimed by forces loyal to Haftar. Haftar’s forces claim Islamists were using the port to bring in supplies and weapons; the port is the main gateway for wheat and fuel imports into eastern Libya (Reuters, 24/09/2014).

Inter-communal Violence

By 28 September, clashes in Sabha, southern Libya, between Awlad Suleiman and Gaddadfa tribes had killed at least two people (AFP, 28/09/2014). A ceasefire for Eid celebrations was agreed on 1 October (Libya Herald, 02/10/2014).

Obari, Wadi Al Haya municipality in western Libya, has seen armed clashes between the Tebu and Tuareg communities since mid-September. They began when Tuaregs supportive of Libya Dawn, and reportedly from another region, tried to take over Obari’s main fuel station (Reporters sans Frontieres, 14/10/2014).

Regional Involvement

Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria are all concerned that the violence will spill into their territories (Reuters, 11/10/2014). In August, the United States said Egypt and the United Arab Emirates secretly bombed Islamist militia positions near Tripoli’s airport (AFP, 08/10/2014).

Libya lacks the staff and equipment to effectively control border movements. In late September, 15 members of Islamic State crossed from Egypt into Libya (Reuters, 13/10/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Indiscriminate fighting has led to restrictions of movement for people trying to flee conflict areas. Violence and checkpoints along the route to Zawia from Tripoli are preventing people from reaching the Tunisian border.

Most humanitarian agencies have left, owing to the deterioration of the security context. Even before the worsening security situation prompted aid organisations to withdraw, there were few humanitarian agencies with staff on the ground in Libya. The lack of available cooperating partners is a major challenge for planned aid deliveries (IRIN, 30/09/2014).

National capacity is very limited. The agency tasked with leading the humanitarian response reports that it has not received funds in over a year, and evaluates its own response capacity as almost non-existent (IRIN 07/08/2014).

Armed groups lack knowledge of humanitarian organisations and restrict their access to people in need.

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

On 4 June, an ICRC staff member was assassinated in Sirte, prompting the ICRC to suspend its work in the country (UN Security Council, 05/09/2014).

Infrastructure

Regionally, Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria are all concerned that the violence will spill into their territories (Reuters, 11/10/2014). In August, the United States said Egypt and the United Arab Emirates secretly bombed Islamist militia positions near Tripoli’s airport (AFP, 08/10/2014).

Libya lacks the staff and equipment to effectively control border movements. In late September, 15 members of Islamic State crossed from Egypt into Libya (Reuters, 13/10/2014).
Power outages of up to 19 hours a day in Tripoli impede communications (IRIN, 01/10/2014).

The battle for Tripoli airport resulted in the damage or destruction of numerous civilian aircraft and the ignition of a large fuel storage facility on airport road that burned for days. Bridge 27, linking Tripoli and western Libyan cities, has also been damaged (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). Significant damage and destruction has been reported to public installations in Tripoli’s southern and western suburbs (UN Security Council, 05/09/2014).

### Displacement

**IDPs**

As of 10 October, there are 290,000 IDPs from 29 cities and towns in Libya, including 100,000 displaced from the area around Warshefana since mid-September (UNHCR, 10/10/2014). Additionally, at least 56,544 IDPs still displaced since the 2011 armed conflict (IDMC, 23/09/2014). Between mid-May and late September, at least 165,968 people were displaced in eastern and western Libya; approximately 4,800 IDPs because of clashes in southern Libya in January. Approximately 33,650 IDPs are located in Benghazi (IRIN, 01/10/2014).

Most displaced people are living with local families who, in some cases, have opened their homes to several families. People unable to stay with relatives or host families sleep in schools, parks, or non-residential buildings (UNHCR, 10/10/2014). Many of those displaced in Benghazi have found shelter in schools (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).

The west of the country has been most affected, such as the districts of Az Zawiyah and Yafran. Displaced families are currently being hosted by relatives and local communities or living in public buildings or shelters (OCHA, 03/09/2014).

In Tripoli, many internally displaced Tawerghans reportedly left their camps at the beginning of the fighting because of the shelling and fear of abduction. Following the victory of Operation Dawn, al Falah camp, in an area under the control of Operation Dawn, was raided on 30 August. One person was reportedly killed and three injured. Many Tawerghans also left the camp at the Janzour Marine Academy for fear of abduction, moving to a number of locations including Bani Walid and Tarhouna to the east of Tripoli, and al Zawiya, Surman, and Ajaylat to the west (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).

**Migrants, Refugees and Asylum-seekers in Libya**

Prior to the crisis, in addition to IDPs from the 2011 conflict, Libya was supporting an increasing population of refugees and asylum seekers using the country as an exit point to Europe. Some of these have been further displaced by the current unrest (UNHCR, 12/07/2014).

There are approximately 200,000 migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in Tripoli, Misrata and Benghazi. Among them, 7,000 are deemed particularly vulnerable and need immediate evacuation assistance (IOM, 05/09/2014). Detention of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees in Libya is widespread and prolonged; conditions, which were poor prior to the current fighting, have worsened (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). Third-country nationals face extreme difficulties in leaving the country as passage through Libya’s borders with Egypt and Tunisia is restricted (IOM, 14/09/2014).

While some migrants were displaced towards the south of the country, others opted to attempt leaving Libya by sea (IOM, 05/09/2014). Main departure points to Europe have shifted from Tripoli towards Benghazi, from where the journey is longer and more dangerous (IRIN, 06/08/2014). More than 3,000 migrants have died trying to cross the Mediterranean so far this year, more than double the previous peak in 2011 (IOM, cited in AFP 02/10/2014). 2,200 died between the beginning of June and 15 September (AI, 30/09/2014). The vast majority of refugees and migrants who arrived in Italy in 2014 had departed from Libya (AI, 30/09/2014).

**Refugees and Third-country Nationals in Neighbouring Countries**

More than 150,000 people, including third-country nationals (estimated at 15,000) have sought refuge abroad (OCHA, 03/09/2014). Since mid-July, a steady flow of Libyans and migrants have crossed to Tunisia through the two main land crossing points. After Eid al Fitr (28 July) the normal flows of migrants increased from 4,000 to about 16,000 per day for several days (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). In August, 6,000 people were crossing from Libya into Tunisia every day; most were Third Country Nationals (TCNs) (ICRC, 22/09/2014).

Since 2011, approximately 1.8 million people have fled to Tunisia (NYT, 09/09/2014).

**Food Security**

Shortages of basic food supplies have been reported in all areas of Tripoli and food prices have risen drastically (IOM, 12/08/2014). Warehouses (both public and private) are situated in conflict areas, and fuel shortages are aggravating the situation. Food prices have doubled (UNHCR, 10/10/2014).

Farms have been shelled and livestock killed in Qasr Ben Ghashir, according to local authorities (Amnesty International, 08/08/2014).

Libya largely depends on imports (up to 90%) for its cereal consumption requirements and the country’s increasing isolation could impede food imports (FAO, 28/01/2014).

**Livelihoods**

People in Benghazi and Tripoli specifically, and in other cities in general, have been facing regular electricity cuts, plus interruptions to the internet and wider communications. In Tripoli, fuel shortages and water cuts have affected livelihoods (IFRC, 12/08/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

Large numbers of expatriate medical personnel have left Libya, and such staff make up 80% of all medical personnel, according to the Ministry of Health. According to the Libyan Ministry of Health, the health system could collapse if the trend continues.

The hospitals that remain operating in Tripoli and Benghazi have been overstretched dealing with casualties. Many national medical personnel could not report to work due to insecurity. Al Afya hospital near the airport in Tripoli had to close on 17 July, after it was
hit by several shells. The Tripoli Medical Centre was also hit by shells on 13 August. Hospitals in the Al Hawari area of Tripoli have had to suspend operations due to shelling. In Benghazi, Al Jala hospital was occupied for several weeks by Ansar al Shari’a. On 28 August five newly equipped ambulances were stolen (IRIN, 02/09/2014).

Hospital staff in Tripoli and Al Zawiya reported that medical supplies could not be retrieved from storage facilities, which were inaccessible or had been destroyed (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). Vaccines have been stolen from warehouses (IOM, 12/08/2014). The Libyan Red Crescent Society branches in Zawia, Khoms, Eljmail, and Zware have reported difficulties in accessing and transporting medicines and medical supplies for people with chronic diseases and nursing mothers (IFRC, 12/08/2014). In Warshafana, fighting has disrupted health services and Zahra hospital reported severe shortages of medicines and medical supplies (ICRC, 17/09/2014).

Benghazi’s Jalaa Hospital was closed on 4 October, following fighting which broke out as locals attempted to evict Ansar-Al Sharia forces. Ansar and SCBR fighters wounded during the fighting for Benina airport had been treated at the hospital (Libya Herald, 04/10/2014).

Shelter

Increased shelling on residential areas has been observed mainly in Tripoli and Benghazi (IFRC, 28/07/2014). Alongside civilian properties, factories, mosques, and shops have also been destroyed in the residential areas of Qasr Ben Ghashir, Al Akwash, Kremiya, and along the main airport road in Tripoli (Amnesty International, 08/08/2014).

Protection

In Benghazi and nearby Derna, there have been at least 250 politically motivated killings in 2014 (HRW, 24/09/2014). Peace activists as well as senior army officers and journalists were killed in a string of 10 coordinated assassinations on 19 September (The Guardian, 20/09/2014).

In Tripoli, a number of activists and other public figures have been abducted, received threats or had their homes looted or burned since July (UNHCR, 14/10/2014).

Abductions, looting, burning of homes and other acts of revenge have all been frequently reported in relation to ongoing hostilities (UN Security Council, 05/09/2014).

According to the UN, threats and intimidation have been used by people claiming affiliation with Libya Dawn against Libya’s national human rights institution in Tripoli, the National Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights (NCCLHR) (UN, 24/10/2014).

With some exceptions, civilians have not been given the chance to evacuate before hostilities commenced and severe fighting has taken place in and around houses and other places of refuge (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).

Abduction and Detention

In addition to the detention of fighters or suspected fighters, dozens of civilians have been abducted and remain missing solely for their actual or suspected tribal, family, or religious affiliation (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). Fighters from Operation Dawn have reportedly continued to search for and abduct people following their takeover of Tripoli (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). In eastern Libya, soon after mid-May, Operation Dignity detained dozens of men in areas under their control based on their political or religious affiliation or nationality, in addition to fighters of the SCBR (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).

Third-country refugees and asylum-seekers, including unaccompanied children, face arbitrary arrest and indefinite detention for migration control purposes by both state and non-state actors. Torture and ill-treatment has also been reported (AI, 30/09/2014).

**Mauritania** **Food insecurity, displacement**

**Latest Developments**

No significant developments this week 29/10/2014. Last update: 07/10/2014

**Key Concerns**

- 384,000 people estimated to needing humanitarian assistance in 2014 (OCHA, 08/2014).
- 800,000 people are estimated to be food insecure, of whom 190,000 are severely food insecure (OCHA, 02/2014).
- 31,000 SAM cases up to March 2014 mean that acute malnutrition level has already surpassed the estimated caseload for the year (UNICEF, 03/2014).
- Security challenges continue to be a problem in Mbéra refugee camp on the border with Mali. Mauritania is the largest recipient of refugees fleeing the conflict in Mali (UNHCR, 06/2014 and OCHA, 04/2014).

**Political Context**

**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. Most opposition parties boycotted the poll, citing a lack of electoral reform.

The first legislative elections since 2006 were held in 2013, 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.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement

**Malian Refugees**

Mauritania hosts almost 55,000 Malian refugees as of 1 September (OCHA, 08/09/2014). Almost all refugees live in Mbera camp, a remote desert location on the border 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 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. A tripartite agreement is being prepared between UNHCR, Mali, and Mauritania to facilitate the safe return of refugees.

**Food Security**

The improvement in rainfall in the first three weeks of August were insufficient to cover deficits earlier in the season. Poor households in northwestern areas of the agropastoral zone will continue to have difficulty maintaining regular food access and will remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through December (FEWSNET, 09/2014).

In February, nearly 800,000 people, a fifth of the total population, were food insecure, including 190,000 severely food insecure (OCHA, 02/2014).

**Agriculture**

Delays in replanting have been recorded as a result of delayed and below-average rainfall in some parts of the country (FEWSNET, 14/10/2014).

Small-scale desert locust breeding is likely to continue during October in the south. Locust numbers are expected to increase in the west and northwest as vegetation dries out (FAO, 02/10/2014).

**Food Security in the Sahel Region**

24.7 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) are suffering from food insecurity as of 30 September (OCHA, 07/10/2014). 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 acutely malnourished in 2014, including 30,740 children with severe acute malnutrition; an increase of almost 30% compared to the 2013 caseload.

Preliminary results of an August survey indicate that the national GAM rate has decreased from 13.1% to 9.8%, with SAM at 1%. Guidimakha region is reported to have GAM of 16%, exceeding the emergency threshold. GAM is over 10% in Gorgol, Assaba, Tagant, Hod El Chargui and Hod El Garbi (UNICEF, 10/2014).

Reviewed: 28/10/2014

**NIGER FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No significant developments this week, 30/10/2014. Last update: 21/10/2014

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 5.3 million people are estimated to be food insecure (OCHA, 09/2014).
- 1.6 million acutely malnourished children, 356,320 of whom are severely malnourished. 13.3% GAM among children 6–59 months (OCHA, 31/07/2014).
- 156,250 people have fled to Niger: 51,250 from Mali (UNHCR, 31/08/2014) and 105,000 from Nigeria (OCHA, 24/09/2014).
- 1,365 cases and 51 deaths have been recorded since January in a cholera epidemic, reportedly linked to the one in neighbouring Nigeria (UNICEF, 09/2014).

**Security Context**

Insecurity has been rising in Niger and across the region due to crises in Libya, Mali, and Nigeria. Terrorist threats from Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram, 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.

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

Niger is also facing communal tensions connected to a 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

As of October, over 68,000 people have been affected and 36 killed by flooding due to heavy seasonal rainfall that started in August. 18,000 are affected in Tillabery, 12,000 in Maradi, 9,000 in Zinder, and 9,400 in Tahoua. More than 8,100 houses and almost 2,817 hectares of crops have been destroyed (OCHA, 13/10/2014).

Displacement

Mali Crisis

51,250 Malian refugees are in Niger (UNHCR, 31/08/2014). 3,400 Malians crossed to Niger between May and July (INGO, 13/08/2014). As of March, 80% of refugees were women and children. Most live in three camps in Tillabery region: Abala, Mangaize, and Tabareybarey. Two refugee hosting areas have been established in Intikane and Tazalit, Tahoua, for refugees from nomadic communities.

In 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 for the promotion of massive returns. As of 31 August, over 12,000 Malians have returned to their homes (UNHCR, 31/08/2014).

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

Nigeria Crisis

105,000 people have arrived from Nigeria since May 2013. The rate of arrival is increasing: 27,000 arrived between August and September, more than arrived between January and May (UNHCR and IRC). Approximately 70% are Niger returnees and 30% are Nigerian refugees (UNHCR, 09/2014). The majority of refugees are women and children.

The newly displaced are in a critical situation, and have shelter, food, water, and health needs (OCHA, 24/09/2014). Refugees who arrived earlier in the year are becoming host families for new arrivals, adding to the burden on families with very limited resources (IFRC, 03/10/2014).

The economic opportunities of fishing mean most new arrivals are settling around Lake Chad.

Internal displacement within Diffa region is increasing, driven by the search for means of subsistence and pasture: Diffa is vulnerable to both flooding and drought, and has long faced serious gaps in the provision of food staples, healthcare and potable water. The refugees and returnees add 10% to the region’s population (UNHCR, 09/2014; IFRC, 08/08/2014; OCHA, 26/07/2014). The Government has decided not to set up camps in Diffa.

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. As of September, only 18% of newly arrived people had identity documents (UNHCR, 09/2014).

CAR Crisis: Returnees

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

Food Security

5.3 million people are estimated to be food insecure, compared to 2.9 million in 2013 (OCHA, 31/07/2014 and 30/09/2014).

In Diffa region, almost 161,200 people are suffering from food insecurity (OCHA, 10/08/2014). According to a joint assessment mission conducted in early September, poor rainfall in Diffa will affect the 2014–2015 agricultural and pastoral campaign, and is expected to cause a serious food deficit in most communities (IFRC, 03/10/2014). Acute food insecurity will remain at Stressed levels for households in north Nguigmi department until December. In agricultural and pastoral areas of Maine-Soroa and Diffa departments, households will experience Minimal food insecurity until December (FEWSNET, 26/09/2014). In agricultural and pastoral areas of Ouallam in Tillabery, and Mayahi in Maradi, households will experience Minimal food insecurity until December. The situation could change depending on the harvest of October–December (FEWSNET, 28/08/2014 and 26/09/2014).

Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview

24.7 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) are suffering from food insecurity as of 30 September (OCHA, 07/10/2014). 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 seasonal rainfall deficit is expected to continue in eastern Niger (WFP, 22/10/2014). Disruptions in rainfall have destroyed seedlings in some areas, and farmers face serious challenges accessing seed. In Nguigmi department, Diffa region, not one 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 parts of Tillabery, poor seasonal rainfall since the middle of August, including prolonged dry spells, has led to late-season moisture deficits that have negatively impacted crop development (FEWSNET, 14/10/2014).
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 towards Maradi and Konni are at normal levels (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014)

**Health and Nutrition**

**Cholera**

As of 7 October, 1,365 cholera cases have been registered in 2014, including 51 deaths (representing a fatality rate of 3.4%). 641 of these cases and 38 deaths were registered in September, in the regions of Tahoua, Maradi, Diffa, and Zinder (OCHA, 09/2014).

**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 14.8% nationwide as per the SMART nutrition survey conducted between July and August, and exceeds the 15% emergency threshold in Maradi region (OCHA, 09/2014). In September, GAM was at critical levels in Agadez (14.0%), Tahoua (14.7%), Tillabery (13.4%), and Diffa (13.8%), according to OCHA.

**WASH**

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

Reviewed: 30/10/2014

**SENegal  FOOD  INSECURITY**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No significant developments this week, 29/10/2014. Last update 15/10/2014.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 2.6 million people are food insecure as of 30 September (OCHA).
- 340,000 children suffering 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, with confidence-building measures agreed. On 30 April, Salif Sadio, leader of the separatist movement, declared a unilateral ceasefire as proof of engagement in the peace process.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Displacement**

As of 30 September, there were 14,000 refugees in Senegal, as well as 2,000 IDPs and returnees (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

**Food Security**

An estimated 2.6 million people are food insecure as of 30 September (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

Rural households in the country are in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity conditions between October and March (FEWSNET, 25/10/2014). Poor households in northeastern and central parts of the country will see their situation deteriorate to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) from March, because cereal and groundnut production is expected to drop 20% in the second half of 2014, and food prices are rising due to border closures with Guinea (FEWSNET, 25/10/2014).

**Agriculture and Markets**

In the northern and central parts of Senegal, lack of rains over May–September has negatively impacted cultivation. Cereal production decreased by 17%, resulting in high food prices (OCHA, 30/09/2014). Despite improved weather prospects for October, crop development is likely to remain strained (FEWSNET, 30/09/2014).

As a result of the closure of borders and markets due to Ebola containment measures, trade volumes have fallen 50% below last year’s levels, leading to a 40% and 50% increase in the prices of palm oil and coffee, respectively, in less than four weeks. The slowdown in economic activity is likely to have a significant impact on food security in all Ebola-affected countries (WFP, 15/09/2014).

**Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview**

24.7 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) are suffering from food insecurity as of 30 September (OCHA, 07/10/2014). 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**

**Ebola**

The Ebola outbreak in Senegal is officially over, as the 42-day active surveillance period has passed without new cases detected (WHO, 14/10/2014).

Nonetheless, the porous borders between Senegal and Guinea and trade flows via regular
weekly markets constitute a serious risk to the spread of Ebola to the country (Red Cross, 29/09/2014).

**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. These figures are an increase on 2013, when 63,323 SAM and 255,675 MAM cases were reported (2014 Humanitarian Needs Overview).

**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).

**Returnees**

By end September, 850 Burundian refugees in the DRC had returned to their homeland in 2014 (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).

43,000 Burundians living in Tanzania have been forcibly repatriated. 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).

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.

**Burundian Refugees in Neighbouring countries**

As of 1 September, 13,400 Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers were residing in Uganda, corresponding to 3% of the total refugee population in Uganda. Most Burundian refugees are located in Nakivale and Oruchinga (UNHCR, 23/09/2014).

As of 30 September, 9,233 Burundian refugees were residing in the DRC (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).

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

**WASH**

Nearly 4.3 million people in Burundi (43% of the population) do not have access to improved sanitation facilities. This facilitates the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks, and is also a major cause of dropping out of school (Belgian Technical Cooperation, 10/10/2014).

**Food Security**

As of August, 78,958 people were food insecure (OCHA, 05/08/2014). Poor households in northeastern livelihood zones are expected to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity until December, when food availability and access to harvests will improve (FEWSNET, 20/09/2014). Production deficits in Kirundo have led to atypical migration (FEWSNET, 30/06/2014).
Households in Burundi are expected to face Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food security at worst in April 2015 (FEWSNET, 27/10/2014).

**Agriculture and Markets**

Dry spells since mid-April – only 50–80% of average seasonal rainfall – have led to a rapid deterioration in ground conditions across Burundi. Production in the northeast was estimated to be 40–60% below average. In September, early seasonal rainfall enabled land preparation and planting for Season A. Above average rainfall is expected from October to December (FEWSNET, 20/09/2014).

Due to production deficits in Season B, prices remained higher than the five-year average but stabilised from June to July (FEWSNET, 31/08/2014), and staple food prices stabilised from July to August (FEWSNET, 20/09/2014). Variability in some areas has caused poor households to reduce non-food expenditures in order to cover food requirements. The most affected households are in the northeast (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014).

**Health**

**Cholera**

At least 36 cases of cholera were reported 15–25 September in Cibitoke province. Access to clean water remains a problem in this part of the country, with much drinking water drawn from the Nyakagunda River (international media, 25/09/2014).

Reviewed: 29/10/2014

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**CÔTE D’IVOIRE FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**29 October:** On 5-22 October, 22 cases of cholera including five deaths were reported in Abidjan (UNICEF).

**27 October:** 26,000 arms have been collected in the two years as part of the disarmament process following the 2010-2011 post-electoral crisis (AFP, 27/10/2014).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 3.13 million people in Côte d’Ivoire do not have access to potable water and sanitation (OCHA 12/2013).

- In the region of Zanzan, on the eastern border with Burkina Faso and Ghana, 60% of the population live below the poverty line and 75% lack access to safe drinking water (UNICEF).

- Agricultural production is still impacted by over a decade of civil unrest.

- Côte d’Ivoire is considered as one the countries at greatest risk of getting Ebola (WHO, 16/10/2014).

**Political Context**

On 11 August, the new Electoral Commission, responsible for the election scheduled for October 2015, was officially established (AFP, 11/08/2014).

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

A framework of direct dialogue was initiated over a year ago between the 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 that the current President Ouattara is not eligible to put himself forward for the 2015 election.

**National Reconciliation Process**

As of 27 October, 26,000 arms have been collected in the two years as part of the disarmament process following the 2010-2011 post-electoral crisis (AFP, 27/10/2014).

On 30 September, public testimonies to the truth and reconciliation commission have ended after three weeks of hearings. However, insufficient broadcasting meant they did not have the expected impact on the national peacebuilding process (AFP, 30/09/2014). The Commission was created in 2011, and its initial two-year mandate was extended to early 2015. Investigations are yet to be carried out.

In February, the Ivorian Government released 70 senior army officers and politicians who had been detained for crimes including murder, kidnapping, and corruption. Critics of President Ouattara’s Government have expressed concern that such political compromises undermine the authority and independence of the judiciary.

**Security Context**

A UN human rights report indicated in January the security situation remains fragile. A large number of ex-fighters have not yet benefited from disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programmes. In addition, large quantities of illicit arms are still circulating in the country.

Several violent incidents have taken place on the border with Liberia, with the UN and the Government often blaming allies of former President Gbagbo.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

The situation is slowly improving following the destruction and displacement of the 2010 election crisis. Needs are higher in the west, which was most affected. And 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.
UNICEF reports that the most pressing needs include child protection, access to water and health facilities, nutrition, education, and provision of birth certificates.

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

Humanitarian needs are pressing for 45,000 IDPs, and their host communities, in the west.

**Ivorian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries**

An estimated 70,730 Ivorian refugees still reside in neighbouring countries: 52,785 in Liberia, 8,461 in Ghana, and 6,170 in Guinea at end December 2013, according to UNHCR. This figure represents a significant decrease from 2011 (250,000) and 2012 (85,000).

The majority of Ivorian refugees are unwilling to return until after the 2015 presidential election.

Voluntary repatriation program for 15,000 potential returnees from Liberia to Côte d’Ivoire has been suspended due to the EVD outbreak in these countries (UNHCR, 30/09/2014). On 11 July, about 400 Ivorian refugees were turned back by the Ivorian authorities, as they prepared to return home in a convoy (IRIN, 19/09/2014).

**Disasters**

At least 23 people have been killed and over 7,000 people displaced by floods since the start of the rainy season in June. 5,000 people are 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 repatriation/late return of farmer households, insecurity and population movements, delay/early end of rains, and crop loss due to flooding.

**Health**

**Ebola**

The risk of spread of the Ebola virus disease in Côte d’Ivoire is high and preparedness activities are a priority according to WHO (WHO, 16/10/2014).

Six returnees from Liberia and Guinea are kept under strict surveillance in a centre in Tiassale district, south of Abidjan, as part of measures to prevent the spread of EVD (international media, 14/10/2014).

**Cholera**

On 5-22 October, 22 cases of cholera including five deaths were reported in Abidjan (UNICEF, 29/10/2014).

**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**

Using Ivorian government statistics, UNHCR estimates that 700,000 people are stateless or of undetermined nationality. As of 3 October, only about 25,000 had started a legal process to obtain Ivorian nationality. UNICEF estimates that there are another 2.8 million unregistered minors, which stands for one-quarter of under 18s in the country (AFP, 03/10/2014). Abandoned children are not covered by national legislation and do not have Ivorian citizenship.

Access to basic rights remains problematic for people who lack proper documentation. Vital records and documents were lost and destroyed during the 2002 civil war and the post-election crisis of 2010–2011.

**Updated: 03/11/2014**

NAMIBIA FOOD INSECURITY

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No significant developments this week, 30/10/2014. Last update 01/09/2014.

**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**

**Food Security**

As of July, 117,600 people were affected by a food security crisis and around 557,900 people in rural areas were at risk of food insecurity (Food and Nutrition Security Working Group 22/07/2014).

The northern regions have been worst affected by the 2013 drought, with the largest number of food insecure in Kavango and Ohangwena. Households have employed negative coping strategies, including reducing the numbers of meals and increasing consumption of wild foods.

**Agriculture and Markets**
National cereal production was 136,680 metric tons over the 2013-2014 season, a
significant increase from the 2012-2013 season’s harvest but still below the five-year
average (OCHA, 26/09/2014). However, crop harvests as of 22 September were 20–50% lower than in the same period in 2013, and agricultural employment opportunities had been reduced by 40–65%. Agricultural assistance is needed for the areas most affected by the 2013 drought (OCHA, 22/09/2014).

Reviewed: 30/10/2014

RWANDA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 30/10/2014. Last update: 28/08/2014.

KEY CONCERNS

- 260,650 people are food insecure (OCHA 05/08/2014).

Security Context

The Rwandan Hutu Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), mostly active in DRC, are a source of insecurity in the region. The UN has denounced FDLR as being behind forced labour, harassment, beatings, and torture in eastern DRC (AFP, 06/08/2014).

On 30 May, a voluntary disarmament process for FDLR started under the auspices of MONUSCO, the African Union and the Southern African Development Community. On 2 July, several states from the region agreed to suspend military operations against the FDLR for six months in order to give them more time to lay down their arms. 305 former FDLR, now unarmed, have been living in DRC’s Kanyabayonga’s transit camp for the past three months, while 20 others were relocated in August due to space constraints (Radio Okapi, 05/09/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement

Refugees in Rwanda

Rwanda currently hosts 73,336 refugees, mainly from DRC (OCHA, 16/06/2014), located in Nyabiheke, Gihembe, Kiziba, and Kigeme (American Refugee Committee, 01/2014). There has been an influx of refugees from DRC since last year, prompting humanitarian actors to prepare a fifth refugee camp in Mugombwa. The monthly arrival rate is 2,600 (UNHCR 20/08/2004).

Returnees

By September, 4,495 Rwandan refugees had returned from DRC in 2014 (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).

Rwandan Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 30 September, there were 40,244 Rwandan refugees in the DRC (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).

As of 1 September, there are 16,050 Rwandan refugees in Uganda, corresponding to 4% of the total refugee population in Uganda. Most Rwandan refugees are in Nakivale and Kampala (UNHCR, 23/09/2014).

As of 1 August, there are 1,395 Rwandan refugees in Kenya (UNHCR, 31/07/2014).

Food Security

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

The areas hardest hit by poor food availability are the eastern Semi-Arid Agro-Pastoral zone, the Bugesera Cassava zone, and the Eastern Congo Nile Highland Subsistence Farming zone. Poor households in these areas continue to experience the impact of Season B production deficits and earlier-than-normal food stock depletion, and will remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) level of food security for the October–December main lean season (FEWSNET, 02/10/2014). These households are relying entirely on market purchases to meet their food needs, with the frequent adoption of negative coping strategies such as above-average sales of livestock (FAO, 29/10/2014).

Minimal (IPC phase 1) food security levels are reported in most areas of the country (FAO, 29/10/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

Since the beginning of September, poor rains have led to deteriorating crops and compromised planting activities throughout Rwanda (Government, 08/10/2014). A reduction in the area planted with maize and beans is reported in some eastern agro-pastoral areas, where 2014 season B crops have been affected by severe moisture deficits, leading to a shortage of seeds (FAO, 29/10/2014).

2014 cereal production is projected to be 21% below 2013 output and 4% below the last five-year average due to unfavourable weather conditions.

In some eastern agro-pastoral areas, especially in southern areas of the East and South provinces, maize and bean outputs were 50% below average in July due to below-average cumulative rainfall over March-May and deteriorated livestock conditions (FAO, 15/09/2014; 25/08/2014).

A recent outbreak of disease affected more than 15,000 hectares of cassava crops in Kamonyi and Ruhango districts in Southern province. A fall in area planted due to the disease outbreak has caused a decline in demand for agricultural labour in food insecure areas, leading to migration (FEWSNET, 02/10/2014).

Reviewed: 30/10/2014
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
No significant developments this week, 29/10/2014. Last update 16/10/2014.

KEY CONCERNS
- 128,816 South Sudanese refugees have fled to Uganda since December 2013. 150,000 are expected by the end of 2014 (IOM, 26/10/2014).
- Cholera is endemic in the region, with an ongoing outbreak in Arua and Moyo districts (25/08/2014).
- 19.9% GAM among South Sudanese refugees. GAM is above 10% in Karamoja (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 13 September, the Ugandan police foiled an alleged Al Shabaab attack in Kampala, seizing large amounts of explosives and suicide vests. Uganda had been warned of possible revenge attacks against US targets in response to the 2 September US air strike that killed Al Shabaab’s leader, Ahmed Abdi Godane. Ten militants were charged on 24 September with terror-related offenses (BBC News, 14/09/2014).

Early July, a series of attacks in Kasese, Bundibugyo, and Ntoroko districts along the Uganda–DRC border left around 90 people dead, as a result of inter-ethnic wrangling between two tribes (UNHCR, 08/07/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs
Displacement
IDPs
As of July, Uganda has 30,196 IDPs (OCHA, 05/08/2014).

Clashes between Ugandan and South Sudanese communities in mid-September had displaced 200 people from Moyo district to Adjumani town by mid-October. Some had taken refuge in schools (ACT, 13/10/2014).

Refugees in Uganda
As of 2 September, there were 400,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda, mainly from DRC (46%), South Sudan (37%), Somalia (6%), Rwanda (3%) and Burundi (3%) (UNHCR, 23/09/2014).

As of 26 October, 128,816 South Sudanese refugees had fled to Uganda since December 2013. They are hosted in refugee settlements in Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Koboko and Arua districts (IOM, 26/10/2014). 150,000 refugees are expected to arrive by the end of 2014 (WFP, 01/10/2014). The Ugandan Government has secured additional land in Moyo district in order to settle newly arrived refugees (UNICEF, 20/08/2014).

Women and children account for 87% of arriving refugees and nearly 365 unaccompanied minors have been reported. At 13 October, 80,740 South Sudanese refugees were in Adjumani, the majority in Nyumanzi and Ayilo settlements (ACT, 13/10/2014). 3,750 people with special needs are in 176 adapted shelters (IOM, 26/10/2014).

Arua, Adjumani, and Kyriandongo are stretched far beyond capacity, and there is an urgent need to improve shelter, WASH, health, food, and psychological support (Red Cross, 17/09/2014). Hygiene practices and behaviours are lacking due to limited awareness among refugees and very poor available latrine utilization (Red Cross, 30/09/2014). The onset of the rainy season in May has brought new challenges, as heavy rains damaged shelter and WASH facilities in camps (ACT, 13/10/2014).

Returnees to South Sudan
Clashes that began on 15 September between the Kuku and Ma’di communities in Moyo district, northern Uganda, have displaced nearly 8,000 South Sudanese refugees in Uganda back into Kajo-Keji county in South Sudan as of 3 October. Food, shelter, non-food items and social services are required (IOM, 05/10/2014). Voluntary repatriation of the South Sudanese to Uganda began on 3 October (UNHCR, 03/10/2014).

Ugandan Refugees in Neighbouring Countries
At 31 July, there were 1,263 Ugandan refugees in Kenya (UNHCR, 31/07/2014). At 30 June, there were 1,211 Ugandan refugees in DRC (UNHCR, 30/06/2014).

Protection
Land disputes in western Uganda have allegedly led to the eviction and brutalization of nearly 700 residents in Hoima. They have no access to medical aid and are suffering from malnutrition and SGBV (VOA, 24/09/2014).

Food Security
At 5 August, 560,000 people were food insecure (OCHA 05/08/2014).

Some localised areas in Karamoja remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity due to the lack of green harvests. In these areas, food access through firewood and charcoal sales, wild food collection, and safety nets provided for the poorest is inadequate (FEWSNET, 30/09/2014). Households in eastern Karamoja are projected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from April 2015 (FEWSNET, 27/10/2014).
Northern and central districts including Amudat, Nakapiripirit, Moroto, Kotido, Napak, Abim and Kaabong are also of concern (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014). 20% of households in the region are only marginally able to meet minimum food needs, with continued erosion of livelihoods through sales of livestock. As of end July, levels of humanitarian assistance were not meeting the needs of vulnerable households (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014).

**Agricultural Outlook**

Below-average pasture conditions are reported at the start of the second rainy season in Apac and Lira, parts of northern Gulu and Kitgum, and parts of Kaabong, Moroto, and Nakapiripirit districts in Karamoja region (FAO, 15/09/2014).

In Karamoja, the September–October harvest is expected to be only 20–30% of average (FEWSNET, 01/08/2014). Cereal crop production by November is forecast to be below-average as unfavourable rains in April reduced planting (FAO, 15/09/2014). For the second year in a row, a well below-average harvest will lead to an early lean season in eastern Karamoja (FEWSNET, 27/10/2014).

A small reduction in income from livestock sales is expected across northern Uganda as a result of the quarantine imposed on cattle markets following an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in May (FEWSNET, 30/09/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

One person died from Marburg virus disease in Kampala on 28 September (AFP, 05/10/2014). 146 contacts have been identified and isolated for a 21-day incubation period (WHO, 10/10/2014).

Health centres in Arua, Adjumani, and Kyriandongo require additional staff, space and supplies to respond to refugee needs (UNICEF, 20/08/2014).

**Cholera**

Cholera outbreaks have been identified in the northwestern districts of Arua and Moyo (UNICEF, 20/08/2014).

**Malnutrition**

Blanket feeding programmes are required to address increased GAM among South Sudanese refugees in West Nile (WFP, 01/10/2014). GAM among South Sudanese refugees in Uganda had reached 19.9% as of August (OCHA, 05/08/2014).

**WASH**

There are concerns over lack of water supply in Alere, Boroli and Olua I and II refugee settlements in Adjumani district, where the average supply is 9.7 litres of water per person per day, far below the minimum standard of 15 (ACT, 13/10/2014).

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

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**ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

29 October: 200 Eritreans are crossing into Ethiopia every day (Al Jazeera).

No accurate or verified data relating to the food security situation or food price levels in Eritrea is available, therefore Eritrea is not included in the Global Overview prioritisation.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Torture, arbitrary detention, and severe restrictions on freedom of expression, association, and religion are common in Eritrea (UN, HRW).

- Ongoing human rights abuses prompt thousands of Eritreans to flee the country every year. In December 2013, Ethiopia was hosting an estimated 84,200 Eritrean refugees (UNHCR).

- Over 60% of the Eritrean population was reported as being undernourished between 2011 and 2013 (WFP).

**Political Context**

Human rights abuses, including torture, arbitrary detention, and severe restrictions on freedom of expression, association, and religion are common in Eritrea, according to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea and 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). In September, the UN Human Rights Council set up a Commission of Inquiry to investigate human rights abuses in Eritrea (Human Rights Watch, 24/09/2014).

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. President Isaias Afwerki, who has ruled for over 20 years, uses the pretext of the border conflict with Ethiopia to justify tight control over its people (New York Times, 03/10/2014).
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 in partnership with the UN and the government commenced (IFRC, 30/05/2104).

As reported in ECHO’s Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) released in October 2013, providing direct humanitarian assistance remains a challenge due to limited access, 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). One in every 3,411 Eritreans have fled their country (All Africa, 21/10/2014)

Ethiopia: International media reported on 29 October that 200 Eritrean refugees are crossing into Ethiopia per day (Al Jazeera, 29/10/2014). The high proportion of unaccompanied minors who cross from Eritrea to Ethiopia is a priority problem (UNHCR). At 31 December 2013, 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). 3.043 refugees crossed into Ethiopia in 2013, more than in 2012.

Sudan: Eastern Sudan received an average of 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: Djibouti 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 on the Yemeni authorities to stop deporting Eritrean political refugees (UNHCR). Reports indicate hundreds of Eritrean refugees are scattered across the streets of Al Safeyah in Sana’a, without proper shelter or livelihood. Refugees have informed UNHCR that most are imprisoned upon arrival in Yemen, who state security concerns (Yemen Times, 19/08/2014).

Kenya: As of 31 July, there are 1,641 Eritrean refugees in Kenya, most of them located in Nairobi (UNHCR 31/07/2014).

Food Security

Good kiremti rains have had favourable effects on the main 2014 cropping season as satellite-based monitoring shows above-average vegetation conditions in Debub, Maekel, Gash Barka, and Anseba zobas (FEWSNET, 02/09/2014). Harvesting is expected to start in the beginning of November (GIEWS, 28/10/2014). The Red Sea coastal area, however, has seen low precipitations and moisture deficits, showing significant deterioration of grazing resources (FEWSNET, 02/09/2014).

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 indicated in ECHO’s October HIP, as a result of access restrictions imposed by the authorities, very little 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.

Malaria

According to a Government report, malaria infections have visibly declined thanks to higher community awareness and regard for environmental hygiene (Government of Eritrea, 24/09/2014). No figures are available to confirm this information.

Protection

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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).

Updated: 29/10/2014

On 29 September, Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah were sworn in as Afghanistan’s new President and Prime Minister, respectively (Reuters, 29/09/2014). The election had been disputed, as was an audit supervised by the UN, which released its results on 26 September, indicating that that Ghani won, with 55% of the votes (AFP, 26/09/2014).

Peace Talks with the Taliban

Although various official and informal sources have evoked renewed preliminary contacts between Kabul and the Taliban, no substantial talks have yet been launched. Peace talks with the Afghan Taliban have been stalled since mid-2013.

Security Context

Harassment and intimidation by anti-government forces, inter-tribal disputes, cross-border shilling in Kunar province, and clashes between state and anti-government forces in Farah, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Badghis, Maidan Wardak, Parwan, Kunduz, Logar, Helmand and Kapisa provinces in 2014, are major causes of insecurity and displacement. Conflicts are on-going in the four latter provinces (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).

Nearly 5,000 civilians were killed or injured in the first six months of 2014, 25% more than the year before (UNAMA, 04/07/2014). 5,456 security-related incidents recorded 1 June–15 August, a 10.7% increase on 2013 (UN, 09/09/2014).

- Nearly 5,000 civilians killed or injured in the first six months of the year – 25% more than the year before (UNAMA, 04/07/2014). 5,456 security-related incidents recorded 1 June–15 August, a 10.7% increase on 2013 (UN, 09/09/2014).
- Nearly nine million (29% of the population) have required humanitarian assistance so far in 2014 (Government, 20/10/2014).
- 2.4 million people need safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services, as a result of the landslides and flash floods (UNICEF, 30/07/2014).
- Nearly 245,000 Pakistanis and Afghan returnees in Khost and Paktika provinces need food, WASH, shelter, winterisation preparation and non-food items (UNHCR, 15/10/2014).

OVERVIEW

Natural disasters and armed conflicts in Afghanistan have caused humanitarian crisis. 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 the 2014 presidential election will have implications for the country’s internal cohesion. The security environment is highly volatile and expected to deteriorate as international troops gradually withdraw from the country.

Political Context

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Nearly 5,000 civilians were killed or injured in the first six months of 2014, 25% more than in the same period of 2013. Mortars and rockets caused almost 1,000 civilian casualties, a 160% increase on 2013 (UNAMA, 04/07/2014). Between 1 June and 15 August, the UN recorded 5,456 security-related incidents across Afghanistan, a 10% increase on 2013.

Ten journalists and five media workers have been killed in 2014, compared to three in 2013 (UN, 02/11/2014). 68 cases of violence against journalists were recorded between January and June, a 60% increase on 2013 (UN, 26/08/2014).
International Military Presence

NATO troops officially handed over security in Helmand to Afghan troops on 26 October (Le Monde, 26/10/2014).

On 30 September, the US-Afghanistan Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) was signed. After 2014, NATO’s Resolute Support mission will be made up of 9,800 US troops and 3,000 soldiers from other member states. The mission will focus on supporting Afghan forces’ fight against the Taliban, along with US counter-terrorism operations. There are currently about 41,000 NATO troops in Afghanistan, down from a peak of 130,000 in 2012 (AFP, 30/09/2014).

There is widespread concern regarding the capacity of the 352,000 Afghan security forces to deal with intensified Taliban attacks as international forces slowly withdraw.

Taliban

In October, Kabul witnessed six suicide attacks, two roadside bomb explosions, and two rocket attacks, while southern and eastern provinces saw increased Taliban activity and assassinations of district officials. On 2 October, Taliban leader Mullah Omar claimed victory against NATO and urged Taliban fighters to continue their fight against the Afghan Government (British Agencies Afghanistan Group, 05/11/2014).

The Taliban has been intensifying activities as international forces withdraw from the country, targeting foreign military, humanitarian personnel, and civilians. Remote parts of southern and south eastern Afghanistan, near the border with Pakistan, remain under insurgent control. Taliban numbers have increased by 15% since the beginning of 2013.

In August the Taliban intensified attacks in Kunduz (the Taliban’s last stronghold before the US-backed Northern Alliance drove them out in 2001), engaging the army, police forces and local militias in combat (AFP 24/08/2014). Khanabad district is one of the most vulnerable areas in Kunduz; it hosts more than 1,500 militants, most of them rivals. As foreign forces withdraw, the Afghan Government now has less support to control the Taliban expansion across Khanabad and other districts in Kunduz (AAN, 28/10/2014).

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

Incidents

Two Taliban bombings in Logar and Jalalabad killed 10 policemen on 10 November. Another bombing in Kabul on the same day injured two civilians, while a suicide attack in Kabul’s police headquarters on 9 November killed an officer and injured six other people (Le Monde, 10/11/2014).

A suicide car bomb killed at least nine security personnel and wounded 20 civilians in Azra district, Logar province, on 1 November (Radio Liberty, 01/11/2014).

A Taliban attack on a court in Kunduz killed at least seven people, including prosecutors, and wounded eight on 27 October (AFP, 27/10/2014). Another Taliban attack in Khogyani district of Nangahar province on 24 October killed five and wounded two (international media, 24/10/2014).

A major Taliban offensive in Ajristan district of Ghazni province over 20–26 September killed up to 100 civilians and security personnel (AFP, 26/09/2014).

A Taliban suicide bombing targeting a NATO convoy in Kabul on 13 October killed an Afghan civilian (AFP, 13/10/2014). On 1 October, a day after the BSA was signed, two Taliban suicide attacks targeting army buses in Kabul killed seven people, including one civilian, and injured 15 (AFP, 01/10/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

As a result of conflict between state and anti-government forces, natural disasters, and other contributing factors, nearly 9 million people in Afghanistan required humanitarian assistance in 2014 (Government, 20/10/2014).

Access

The fluctuating security situation is continually changing the operating environment and access (WFP 22/05/2014). Movement restrictions are increasingly being applied to aid workers.

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

26 incidents against aid workers were recorded in September. Two aid workers were killed, four wounded, and ten abducted, and there were four incidents targeting deminers (OCHA, 15/10/2014).

By 15 August, there had been 117 cases of violence against aid personnel, assets, and facilities in 2014, resulting in 37 deaths and 35 injuries, 114 abductions and attempted abductions and the arrest and detention of five personnel (UN, 09/09/2014).

Disasters

Nearly 3,250 people were affected by flooding in four districts across Laghman, Khost, Paktika and Wardak provinces in August (IOM/USAID 11/08/2014). 210,530 people, mainly in northern and central Afghanistan, were affected by natural disasters between January and July, primarily by floods and heavy rainfall (OCHA, 19/08/2014).

Displacement

IDPs

As of 30 September, there were nearly 755,000 IDPs in Afghanistan, mainly in southern, western, and eastern areas, including 142,800 displaced during the last 12 months. 33,200 were displaced in September alone (FEWSNET, 01/11/2014). About 73,000 IDPs were living in urban areas in Kabul Hirat, Mazar-e-Sharif and in settlements outside Hirat early November (OCHA, 06/11/2014).
Priority needs are for food and NFIs, shelter, cash, and livelihood opportunities (UNHCR, 30/09/2014). Displaced households living in IDP camps have started leaving the camps the shelters were inadequate for the coming winter (FEWSNET, 01/11/2014).

Clashes between state and anti-government forces in 2014 displaced 11,722 people to Kabul from Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Logar, Kunar, and Helmand; 3,811 people in Kunduz, 2,761 in Helmand, 2,706 in Ghazni, 2,297 in Farah, 1,647 in Maidan Wardak, 1,602 in Logar, and 1,324 in Badghis. Cross-border shelling and harassment in Kunduz displaced 1,633 between June and September, while recent clashes in Kunduz and Kapisa have displaced 14,000 people in each province. Further displacement is expected (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).

In Helmand, Sangin, Musa Qala and Nehr-e-Saraj districts remain insecure, and humanitarian access is limited (FEWSNET, 30/09/2014). Most IDPs are with host families, in rented accommodation or in emergency shelters.

Flood-related displacement: As of October, 3,805 houses remain completely destroyed in the north by floods earlier in the year. Families require support for winterisation (OCHA, 15/10/2014). Most people displaced in Badakhshan and Takhar provinces are still living in camps with insufficient WASH facilities, requiring emergency shelter, NFIs, basic health services, and psychosocial support. The situation is constrained by poor access and security issues (Red Cross, 09/10/2014).

Refugees in Afghanistan

By 15 October, nearly 244,200 refugees (33,481 families) from North Waziristan agency in Pakistan had arrived in Afghanistan’s Khost (25,578) and Paktika (7,903) provinces (mainly Gurbuz, Bermei, and Spera districts) since mid-June (UNHCR, 15/10/2014). Nearly 181,000 (27,000 families) are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 30/10/2014).

September saw an increase of arrivals at Gulan camp and in Gurbuz, Alisher, and Spera districts (UNHCR, 02/10/2014). More than 80% of refugees live in host communities, which are often remote and difficult to access, and stretched beyond capacity (OCHA, 15/10/2014). The ability of host communities to support the high number of refugees is expected to decrease over winter months as resources are exhausted and available shelter is limited. Host communities have already started asking for food and nutrition support (UNHCR, 23/10/2014; 15/10/2014).

Health, WASH, food, shelter and mine clearance are priorities; additional needs include winterisation, education and livelihood support (UNHCR, 02/10/2014).

As of 30 September, 32,000 people were in 53 informal settlements in Kabul (OCHA, 30/09/2014). The most populated are Charahi Qamber (4,570 individuals), Tape Qasaba (2,533), and Puli Campany (2,166), Puli Shina Bagrami (1,836), and Nasaji Bagrami (1,790) (Danish Refugee Council, 20/10/2014).

Returnees

As of 1 October, 4,430 Afghans (797 families) have returned from Pakistan’s North Waziristan to Khost, Paktika, and Kabul provinces. All families from Paktika and Kabul returned to their province of origin (IOM, 07/10/14). Returnees are in need of income-generating activities, vocational training, and technical education (IMC, 31/08/2014).

At 30 September, 13,845 Afghan refugees had voluntarily repatriated in 2014, a 59% decrease on 2013, partly due to the extension of Proof of Registration cards in Pakistan until 31 December 2015 and security concerns in Afghanistan. Most are in Kabul, Nangarhar, Kunduz, Kandahar, and Hirat (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).

Afghan Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 30 September, there were 2.5 million Afghan refugees in neighbouring countries (USAID, 01/10/2014).

Food Security

About 7 million people (23.4% of the population) are severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or higher). Badakhshan is the only province classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4); 15 provinces are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), mainly in northern and central parts of the country, and 17 are Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (IPC, 01/11/2014).

IDPs inaccessible to humanitarian agencies, particularly in insecure districts in Helmand, are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security, having lost much of their access to income and not received assistance. Displaced households from North Waziristan Agency in Khost and Paktika provinces will move from Stressed (IPC Phase 2) to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) if additional food and non-food assistance is not delivered beyond November 2014 (FEWSNET, 01/11/2014).

Households affected by April-June floods in the north may enter Crisis phase if they do not receive additional humanitarian assistance October–December (FEWSNET, 30/09/2014).

Below-average precipitation in Badghis province during March and April and cold weather during crop vegetative stage led to a below-average harvest. Poor households will be Stressed (IPC Phase 2) from November through March 2015 (FEWSNET, 01/11/2014).

54 districts in central Afghanistan will be impossible to access in winter, affecting around 750,000 conflict-displaced WFP beneficiaries (OCHA, 15/10/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

Wheat grain and flour prices in Afghanistan have increased 17% on average due to decreased flow of imported food commodities during the prolonged presidential election dispute (FEWSNET, 01/11/2014).

An estimated 30,000 hectares of agriculture land and perennial crops have been affected by flooding this year (OCHA 15/05/2014). During recent conflicts in Helmand province, locals reported that markets did not function for several days, and farmers had difficulties harvesting their crops (FEWSNET, 01/11/2014).

Livelihoods

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Livelihoods
Political uncertainty led to decreased investment in many sectors including construction and trade, which are key employers of casual labour. Faryab province saw the largest decline in casual labour wages: rates were 43% lower in September than in 2013 and the five-year average. They were 23% and 14% lower than 2013 in Badakhshan and Balkh provinces, respectively (FEWSNET, 01/11/2014).

**WASH**

Sanitation, water quality and hygiene remain public health concerns in Khost and Paktika. Health and hygiene risk awareness must be raised in the international response (WHO, 03/11/2014).

In July, around 2.4 million people were in need of WASH services as a result of landslides and flash floods during the first quarter of 2014 (UNICEF, 30/07/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

Pneumonia and acute respiratory infections are major concerns for the upcoming winter season as many provinces and districts face extremely cold weather. Access to health facilities may also be hampered (WHO, 03/11/2014).

The number of people in need of access to health services has increased from 3.3 to 5.4 million (OCHA). Conflict is causing widespread disruption to health services (WHO 24/07/2014).

**Malnutrition**

Over 853,000 children under five are severely malnourished (OCHA, 28/10/2014). Provinces in need of urgent attention are Uruzgan, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Khost, Paktia, Wardak, Kunar, and Laghman, where GAM rates are breaching WHO’s 15% threshold for an emergency (National Nutrition Survey, OCHA 31/07/2014).

As of 31 March, 53,000 people had died from acute malnutrition, and 45% of 420,000 deaths among under-fives were attributable to under-nutrition (OCHA).

**Polio**

As of 11 October, 12 polio cases had been confirmed, mostly in conflict-affected areas, compared to 14 in 2013 (Government, 11/10/2014). Extensive cross-border movement is a major challenge. Afghan and Pakistani authorities agreed in July to cooperate in an anti-polio campaign in the border areas of their countries (DAWN, UNICEF 12/07/2014).

**Protection**

Around 1.7 million people are in need of protection assistance, mainly IDPs and people otherwise affected by conflict. IDPs need durable solutions for their protracted displacement (OCHA).

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

The Afghan National and Local Police and three armed groups (Taliban, Haqqani Network, and Hezb-e-Islami) have been listed for recruitment and use of children. The Taliban has been listed for attacks on schools and hospitals (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict 02/06/2014).

Updated: 11/11/2014

**IRAQ CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST, DISPLACEMENT**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

2–3 November: Eight bombs and a mortar attack hit various districts of Baghdad, killing at least 35 and wounding dozens of others. Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for two attacks on Shia areas, which killed 23 (Al Jazeera).

2 November: Over ten days, IS has executed scores of members of an Iraqi tribe which took up arms against the group in Anbar governorate. Women and children were said to be among the victims (AFP/BBC).

31 October: The number of IDPs from January to 26 October has been revised upwards from 1.8 million to 1.9 million people across 1,928 sites. The recent displacements in October largely occurred in Anbar, Ninewa, and Diyala governorates. About 47% of all IDPs are located in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) and the disputed regions of Akre and Shikhan, in Ninewa Governorate, and in Kifri and Khanaqin, in Diyala governorate (OCHA).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Approximately 1,120 Iraqis were killed in September and an estimated 1,950 others were injured. Violence killed at least 1,420 in August, 1,737 people in July, and 2,400 in June (Reuters 01/09/2014).

- According to OCHA, the number of IDPs across Iraq has reached a total of 1.9 million (OCHA 31/10/2014). There were 1.13 to 1.3 million displaced before 2014 (UN, IOM, 12/2013). IDPs are dispersed across 17 of Iraq’s 18 governorates (07/2014).

- 5.2 million Iraqis, including IDPs, host communities, and vulnerable populations in besieged areas, require some form of humanitarian assistance. An estimated 2.2 million individuals requiring emergency assistance remain beyond the reach of aid agencies (UN 25/09/2014).

- 17 of 31.7 million Iraqis (53.7% of the total population) are affected by the current crisis. The UN estimates that approximately 1.5 million individuals are in need of humanitarian aid (UNICEF 28/08/2014)
- 223,923 Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration. 41% are children (UNHCR 31/10/2014).
- Large numbers of severely food insecure due to loss of assets and income opportunities, and disruptions of supply routes (FAO/FEWSNET, 25/06/2014).
- Only one of three official border crossings with Syria is still in the hands of the central Government. Another is controlled by Kurdish forces. IS controls the third (AFP, 21/06/2014).
- A severe fuel shortage and recent cuts to electricity and water services are exacerbating the humanitarian crisis (Mercy Corps, 03/07/2014).

OVERVIEW

Priority humanitarian needs are food, water, and fuel. Protection and the risk of disease outbreak are also concerns. Four massive waves of internal displacement have taken place: Anbar in January, Mosul in June, Sinjar in August and Hit in October. Iraq now hosts one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world. Host communities are being increasingly stretched.

Political Context

National Political Context

On 11 August, Haider al Abadi – former Deputy Speaker of the Iraqi parliament – was appointed the new Prime Minister by President Fuad Masum. Abadi was nominated by the Shia National Alliance parliamentary bloc. The parliament has accepted a new government. Abadi named three deputies: Hoshyar Zebari, the Kurdish outgoing foreign minister, Saleh al Mutlak, a secular Sunni, and Baha Arraji, a Shia Islamist (ISW, BBC 09/09/2014). On 18 October, Mohammed Salem al Ghabban, a Shia, was appointed interior minister, while Khaled al Obeidi, a Sunni, was confirmed as defence minister, completing the unity government. It has taken more than a month for these two key posts to be agreed (BBC).

Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Masoud Barzani’s Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) came first in September 2013’s elections in the autonomous Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). 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

Security Context

Approximately 1,120 Iraqis were killed in September and an estimated 1,950 were injured (UN). Baghdad and Salah Al Din governorates were the most affected, collectively incurring more than 58% of the total deaths in September. The conflict has resulted in more than 9,300 civilian deaths countrywide since January. At least 1,420 people were killed in August. The UN said the casualty figures could be far higher but it could not get independent verification of reports of hundreds of incidents in areas under IS control (Reuters 01/09/2014).

Conflict Developments

Bombings and attacks continues in Baghdad. 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 Nineawa, Salah Al Din and Diyala.

The Iraqi army launched an offensive to retake towns held by IS south of Baghdad in October, as it seeks to secure the Shia religious sites of Najaf and Karbala. About 100 IS fighters surrendered on 24 October. The Iraqi army, backed by US air power, is also fighting north of Baghdad to retake the oil-rich area of Baiji and Tikrit, though IS has gained more ground west of Baghdad (Al Jazeera, AFP). A Kurdish intelligence officer announced that his forces launched an advance on Zumar, near Mosul, from five directions on 25 October after air strikes struck IS positions (Al Jazeera).

On 30 September, Peshmerga forces launched an operation clearing IS from the Iraq –Syria border town of Rabia’a (ISW). Cooperation between the Iraqi army, Iraqi special forces, Peshmerga and anti-IS militias continues.

International 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 (UN, 15/08/2014).

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. The CIA estimates that Islamic State has between 20,000 and 31,000 fighters in Iraq and Syria (BBC 15/09/2014).

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

In early August, Kurdish forces from Iraq, Syria, and Turkey joined forces in north Iraq to launch an offensive against the Islamic State (IS) in order to reclaim areas lost to the armed group. 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).

International Involvement

Thirty countries pledged on 15 September to help Iraq fight Islamic State (IS) militants by all means necessary (BBC 15/09/2014). US warplanes began air strikes against IS in August.

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).

Access

5.2 million Iraqis, including IDPs, host communities, and vulnerable populations residing in besieged areas, require some form of humanitarian assistance. An estimated 2.2 million individuals requiring emergency assistance remain beyond the reach of aid agencies (UN 25/09/2014). The overall number and geographical spread of the displaced population pose a major challenge.

Insecurity is constraining health access to Anbar, Kirkuk, Salah al Din and Diyala governorates (OCHA 31/10/2014). Security restrictions and delays in security clearances are affecting WASH assistance to IDPs, particularly in Anbar (OCHA 31/10/2014).

Several international NGOs have suspended activities in besieged areas, particularly those controlled by IS. However, many relief organisations continue to provide emergency assistance to affected populations via local implementing partners (USAID 26/09/2013). Some airlines have cancelled flights to Iraq, and delays in deliveries will have negative consequences on health services for IDPs, refugees, and host populations (WHO 09/09/2014).

Access to areas that had been controlled by IS and its affiliates is hindered by booby-traps and landmines. An estimated 3,000 mines and explosive remnants of war were found in Jurf al Sakhr, 50km south of Baghdad (OCHA 31/10/2014).

Peshkapur-Semalka border: Semalka has been closed since 10 April for Syrian arrivals. However, since 10 June, it remains open for the return of Syrians to Syria. UNHCR successfully advocated for admission into KR-I of child refugees under the family reunification criterion (UNHCR 01/09/2014).

Al Qa’im border: This border remains under the control of armed groups. Syrians and Iraqis are moving back and forth between the two sides of the borders freely. Clashes, however, are a deterrent (UNHCR 09/08/2014).

Rabia’a border crossing: As of 15 June, Peshmerga forces controlling the Rabia’a border crossing, kept it closed in both directions, except to humanitarian aid convoys (UNHCR).

Anbar governorate: Thousands of people are reportedly trapped in siege-like conditions in Falluja and Ramadi. Fighting makes main roads impassable, and several bridges, including one linking Falluja 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. IS and its affiliates are laying siege to Al Bagdadi and its population of about 37,000, which is hosting about 30,000 IDPs, as well as another 100,000 residents of Haditha district hosting about 42,000 IDPs (OCHA 31/10/2014).

Diyala: 75% of key informants assessed in Diyala stated that nobody in their community had received any kind of assistance since being displaced (REACH 18/08/2014, CSM 28/08/2014).

Salah al Din: On 1 September, the siege of Amerli was broken. 35 villages had been under control of IS for more than 80 days, and an estimated 10,000–14,000 people were in need of immediate assistance, particularly food, water, and medical care (UNICEF 01/09/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

The number of IDPs from January to 26 October 2014 has been revised upwards from 1.8 million to 1.9 million across 1,928 sites. The recent displacements in October largely occurred in Anbar, Ninewa, and Diyala governorates. About 47% of all Iraq’s IDPs (146,313 families, about 889,878 individuals) are located in KR-I and the disputed regions of Akre and Shikhan in Ninewa Governorate, and in Kifri and Khanaqin, Diyala governorate (OCHA 31/10/2014).

Displacement has primarily occurred from the north and central governorates. The governorates with the largest populations fleeing their homes since January are Ninewa, with 156,246 families (49% of total displacement) and Anbar, with 87,160 families (28%). Of Iraq. 63% of all IDPs have left their governorate of origin (OCHA 31/10/2014).

Local authorities are overstretched and under-resourced, unable to deal effectively with the crisis. (IOM, 17/08/2014). There is increasing concern that central governorates are reaching saturation point (OCHA 23/08/2014).

Kurdistan Region of Iraq: 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 18/08/2014). The KR-I’s Dohuk governorate has received 24% of IDPs, with more than 450,000 displaced across its four districts of Sumel, Zarko,
The Ministry of Displacement and Migration estimates that 330,000 IDPs are in and around Kirkuk city.

Refugees in Iraq

As of 31 October, Iraq hosts 223,923 Syrian refugees. Around 98,000 reside in Dohuk, 93,500 in Erbil, and 24,000 in Sulaymaniya (UNHCR 31/10/2014).

KR-I 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. All three KR-I governorates (Dohuk, Erbil, and Sulaymaniya) have different policies towards Syrian refugees, leading to challenges in coordinating the humanitarian response.

Around 42% of registered refugees are in camps, and the remaining 58% are predominantly scattered in and around urban centres. Information on their humanitarian situation is limited (UNHCR, 24/08/2014). 41% of refugees in KR-I are under the age of 18. It is unclear to what extent the influx of IDPs has affected refugee needs and response.

Domiz camp is overcrowded. However, up to one-third of refugees receiving assistance in the camp reported that they are living outside the camp. 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% 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). The trend of Syrian refugees from urban areas moving to camps in Erbil governorate is ongoing, while capacity limitations are a challenge to registering relocating refugees in camps (UNHCR 16/10/2014).

Syrian refugees from Turkey: Close to 15,000 of the 190,000 Syrians from Kobane who escaped to Turkey since September, have arrived in KR-I since 10 October (UNHCR 29/10/2014, OCHA 31/10/2014). Findings suggest that an additional 15,000 individuals in the Turkish town of Silopi are waiting to cross into Iraq.

Gawilan camp in Dohuk reached full capacity on 13 October. Since then destinations have included Arbat camp in Sulaymaniya, and Gawar Gusik camp and Basirma camp in Erbil. On 15 October, the Ministry of Interior decided to transfer all new arrivals to Kawergosk refugee camp in Erbil, which can accommodate 500 families.

95% of newly arrived Syrian refugees in Gawilan camp reported emergency food assistance as one of their priority needs, and 43% required urgent medical assistance. 20% of households were sharing a tent with other families (IOM/UNHCR 17/10/2014, REACH 20/10/2014). Approximately 20% of households had been previously internally displaced within Syria (REACH 20/10/2014).

Returnees to Syria: 1–15 September, 2,368 Syrians returned to Syria from KR-I via the Peshkapour crossing point, bringing the total number since the beginning of January to 25,501 (UNHCR 23/09/2014).

Anbar: 247 Syrian refugee families are in Al Obaidy camp. UNHCR has no direct access to Al Obaidy (UNHCR 23/09/2014).

Non-Syrian Refugees

During the first quarter of 2014, the number of registered protracted (non-Syrian) refugees and asylum seekers was 39,480.

Iraqi Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

Jordan: Between 1 January and 23 September, UNHCR registered more than 10,600 Iraqi refugees in Jordan. UNHCR has reported an 85% increase in arrivals during August and September, compared to June and July, with an average of 120 Iraqis registering daily (USAID 26/09/2014).

Lebanon: Lebanon hosts nearly 7,500 registered Iraqi refugees and a further 1,200 are awaiting registration (USAID 19/09/2014).

Syria: An estimated 15,000 Yazidis are seeking refuge in Al Hasakeh. Most are in the Newroz camp near Qamishli, run by local NGOs.

Turkey: As of 23 September, UNHCR and local partners in Turkey had registered or pre-registered more than 103,000 Iraqi refugees during 2014, including an estimated 64,000 who have fled northern Iraq since early June. Estimates of actual numbers, including unregistered refugees, reach more than 200,000 (USAID 26/09/2014).

Food Security

Approximately 1.5 million individuals have become highly food insecure and are in need of emergency food assistance (OCHA 25/09/2014).

Based on assessment data from September, 73% of IDPs surveyed have stated that food is their primary concern. According to WFP, food is expected to be a priority for more than 1.8 million people. This includes IDPs, host communities, and vulnerable groups.

As a result of major funding constraints, WFP is scaling back its assistance to Syrian refugees in October, decreasing its voucher value in Domiz camp by 20%. WFP vouchers for some 1.5 million individuals in Iraq are already due to expire. As a result of major funding constraints, WFP is scaling back its assistance to Syrian refugees in October, decreasing its voucher value in Domiz camp by 20%. WFP vouchers for some 1.5 million individuals in Iraq are already due to expire. School feeding for some 12,000 children has already been halted (UNHCR 23/09/2014). Food assistance to non-camp refugees is currently prohibited (UNHCR 09/07/2014).

Reports indicate that the Public Distribution System is compromised and food might not be available to the most vulnerable (FAO 22/10/2014). 17% of the 3.4 million metric tons of cereal purchased by the Government in 2014 is located in silos in areas of Nineva and Salah al Din controlled by IS.

KR-I: 12% of households settled outside camps across KR-I reported lack of food. 13% of households were found to have borderline food consumption in Sulaymaniya, compared to 4% in Erbil 1% in Dohuk (UNHCR/REACH 14/09/2014). Data collected in May shows that 18% of all camp residents in the KR-I reported selling food assistance (UNHCR...
14/10/2014). Host communities in Sulaymaniyyah and Najaf are under tremendous strain, according to OCHA.

**Livelihoods**

Data collected in May found that 12% of Syrian households in KR-I refugee camps reported having no source of income in the 30 days preceding the assessment, with the number reaching 21% in Gawilan. 5% of refugee households across KR-I were unable to meet their basic needs. Household items and shelter improvement were most commonly reported as priority needs (UNHCR/REACH 17/09/2014).

**Agriculture**

October was the beginning of the winter cropping season, which is expected to be affected by conflict. Large numbers of farmers have fled their fields, particularly in Ninevah and Salah al Din governorates, which together contribute approximately one-third of total annual national wheat and barley production (FAO 22/10/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

The influx of refugees from the Syrian area of Kobane has raised the threat of the import of the wild polio virus and other vaccine-preventable diseases (OCHA 31/10/2014).

Shortages of essential drugs have become an increasing concern in urban health facilities since supply routes from Baghdad are disrupted (UNHCR 30/09/2014). While humanitarian actors are able to mobilise resources to cover gaps in medicines in refugee camps, people in urban settings increasingly have to purchase medication in public or private pharmacies (UNHCR 23/09/2014).

There are severe medicine shortages in the IS-controlled city of Mosul, including for the treatment of chronic disease, such as diabetes and hypertension, for chemotherapy and for kidney dialysis, as well as an increasing pressure on vaccine supplies (OCHA 31/10/2014).

In Sinjar district, the General Hospital and 16 of 19 primary health centres are non-functional.

In Salah al Din, only three out of nine public health facilities are functioning, according to WHO. Patients from from Tikrit, Baiji, and Sharqat are referred to already overwhelmed hospitals in Mosul and Kirkuk, although violence, fuel shortages and road access difficulties are affecting ambulance services.

All hospitals and health centres are dependent on generators, and fuel supply is a major problem. Critical shortages of essential medicines, vaccines and supplies are reported in areas of Salah al Din, and Anbar. The embargo on cargo flights has stopped the medical supply chain at a time when additional provisions are urgently needed (OCHA 18/07/2014). Health facilities in conflict-affected areas also report a shortage of medical staff (OCHA 01/08/2014).

**Refugees:**

KR-I: The KR-I Ministry of Health has reported critical shortages in medicines and medical supplies and overcrowded health facilities (PI 17/06/2014). Since mid-June, frequent power cuts are endangering health service provision in refugee camp health centres (UNHCR 22/07/2014).

Data collected in May found that 24% of camp-based Syrian refugee households across KR-I had one or more sick members of the household in the two weeks preceding the assessment, with the highest incidence of illness reported in Domiz II (36%) and Domiz (26%). The most common ailments were respiratory tract infections and diarrhoea. Of the households who reported having required health assistance since arriving in the KR-I, 24% reported difficulties accessing care, notably due to lack of availability of treatment at the public health clinic, followed by insufficient funds to purchase medicine (UNHCR/REACH 17/09/2014).

An estimated 20% of the non-camp refugee population encounters difficulties in accessing health services. Key obstacles include financial costs as well as perceived availability of services (UNHCR 09/07/2014). Health services have restarted in Gawilan and Bardarash refugee camps, which had closed in June/July for security reasons (WHO 09/09/2014).

**Diarrhoea**

The number of diarrhoea cases is increasing in all camps in KR-I (UNHCR 31/07/2014).

**Measles**

The WHO reports an increase in measles cases, with over 800 cases documented since January in the areas covered by the EWARS (Early Warning and Reporting System), and primarily in KR-I (WHO 06/07/2014). Measles is endemic in Mosul and could spread in overcrowded areas (WHO, 16/06/2014).

**WASH**

Access to clean water is a critical, life-threatening problem in conflict-affected areas and among populations under the control of armed groups. Power cuts, fuel shortages, disruption to supply routes, and the seizure of municipal water facilities has left communities without clean water (OCHA, 15/08/2014). There is concern of the risk of waterborne diseases due to poor sanitation conditions, especially in the extreme heat (UN, 18/08/2014).

The lack of water treatment technology, specifically water treatment plants, on the local market in KR-I is a challenge for WASH operations in the Syrian refugee camps (UNHCR 23/09/2014).

In KR-I, 6% of refugee households settled in host communities reported not having sufficient water to meet household needs; with the highest proportion found in Dohuk (14%). 36% of households in KR-I reported that their drinking water was unsafe. Of these, 59% stated that they did not treat it in any way (UNHCR/REACH 14/09/2014).

IS is reported to have disrupted water supply to the Balad Ruz area (Diyala governorate) by manipulating the Sudur mini-dam (ISW 02/09/14).
Shelter and NFIs

Throughout Iraq, 1.26 million IDPs are in need of shelter and NFI assistance. An estimated 600,000 people are in need of immediate winterisation assistance (OCHA 31/10/2014).

28% of IDPs are staying with host families, 21% are in rented accommodation, such as hotels or apartments, and 31% (98,071 families) are in alternative shelters, such as schools, religious buildings, and unfinished and abandoned buildings (OCHA 31/10/2014).

Kawergosk refugee camp in Erbil governorate is already at capacity. It was built for 10,000 residents but currently houses more than 13,000, due to the recent arrival of refugees from Syria. The new families are temporarily housed in UN offices while new tents are prepared for them (ECHO 30/10/2014). Harsham camp in Erbil governorate has reached its capacity of 1,600 IDPs. 40 families are on the waiting list (OCHA 31/10/2014).

In Deyla governorate’s Aiden camp in Khanaqin district, 903 tents require replacement (OCHA 31/10/2014). 467 tents have been damaged or destroyed by winter weather. 200 replacement tents leaked because they are designed for summer conditions (OCHA 26/10/2014).

A September assessment in Erbil found that for families living in individual housing, the average number of families per unit in urban settings was 1.54 and 2.69 for Syrians and IDPs, respectively. The average family size was 4.68 members for Syrians and 5.75 for IDPs. The refugees and IDPs interviewed lack many of the most essential winterisation items. The majority of respondents reported heaters and fuel as their most urgent need, followed by clothes and blankets (NRC 26/10/2014).

NFIs: The latest wave of displaced could only bring few belongings. It is estimated that at least 800,000 people are lacking basic NFIs. Approximately 10% most vulnerable non-camp population will be targeted for winterisation assistance in 2014 (UNHCR 30/10/2014). Winter clothing kits will reach only about half of the children who need protection in the KR-I, which experiences the country’s coldest temperatures. Unless additional funds are secured, nearly 250,000 displaced children will likely go without warm clothes this winter (UNICEF 30/10/2014).

Education

The delayed 2014/2015 academic year, originally scheduled for September, started on 22 October for many children in Iraq, except for schools in the Dohuk governorate, where the start of the year has been postponed to 1 December (OCHA 26/10/2014). Displacement has increased Dohuk governorate’s student population by 50% from 400,000 to 600,000 (OCHA 26/10/2014).

In Anbar governorate, 25,000 IDPs are occupying 435 of the 1,122 schools. Furthermore, 38 schools have either been destroyed or damaged by shells and bombing. 386 of Dohuk’s 1,288 schools remain occupied by IDPs, mainly in the cities of Zakho, Dohuk and Sumel. In Deyla, 33 schools have recently been evacuated, leaving 140 schools occupied by both military and displaced people. In Wassit governorate, two schools remain occupied by IDPs as ten have been evacuated. 28 schools in Missan governorate are occupied by IDPs (OCHA 31/10/2014). In Baghdad, 69 of the 16,000 schools are providing shelter for 5,484 IDPs, while 16% of Kirkuk’s schools host 9,000 displaced people. In Deyla governorate, 21% of the 1,000 schools are in use, but this includes 94 schools occupied by IS and their affiliates, and 10 schools occupied by Peshmerga forces (OCHA 26/10/2014).

Over half of the country’s 95,666 teachers are also affected by the displacement (UNHCR 24/08/2014). Over 500,000 IDPs are estimated to be of school age (UNICEF 02/09/2014).

Refugees: 65% of the 57,000 school-aged refugee children in Iraq are out of school. The current rate of enrolment in 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 support for second-language speakers; lack of textbooks and other education materials; and lack of teachers (UNHCR 09/07/2014). Only 39% of school-aged children of non-camp-based Syrian refugee households attend school across the region.

Erbil had significantly higher rates of households reporting having no child attending school (76%) than Dohuk (45%) and Sulaymaniyah (39%). The main reason was lack of funds (UNHCR/REACH 14/09/2014). Access to education has reportedly been compromised in Erbil by delays in the issuing of residency cards (UNHCR 30/09/2014).

Protection

An estimated 49% of newly arrived Syrian refugees in Gawilan camp are under 18, and 25% of assessed households were headed by single or widowed women. 4% of households reported having separated minors with them (REACH 20/10/2014).

A UNHCHR/UNAMI report details substantial humanitarian law violations and human rights abuses by armed actors in conflict areas between 6 July and 10 September, including targeted attacks, abductions, forced conscription, human trafficking, and sexual assault against Iraqi civilians, particularly women and individuals from ethnic and religious minority groups. International media sources report that armed actors are also attacking civilian infrastructure, such as health facilities and schools (USAID 03/10/2014).

Legal Status

19% of refugee households across KR-I did not know where to obtain either birth, marriage and death certificates or residency cards. The proportion was far higher in Erbil, at 49% (UNHCR/REACH 14/09/2014).

Many IDPs have fled without proper identification, and the numerous Peshmerga checkpoints at KR-I borders and in disputed neighbouring areas significantly limit freedom of movement (PI, SNAP 04/09/2014).

Many IDPs have fled without proper identification, and the numerous Peshmerga
checkpoints at KR-I borders and in the disputed areas of neighbouring governorates significantly limit their freedom of movement (SNAP 04/09/2014).

The Residency Department in Sulaymaniyah has stopped issuing residence permits to Syrian asylum seekers who have been registered in Erbil (UNHCR 25/08/2014).

Children

More reports have emerged with evidence that IS militants are providing military training to schoolchildren in Syria and Iraq. IS are using children as young as 13 as fighters. In Mosul, IS has replaced physical education classes in local schools with martial arts classes (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty 30/10/2014).

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

Updated: 04/11/2014

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

OVERVIEW

The 50-day war with Israel has caused high civilian casualties in Gaza and large-scale destruction affecting all humanitarian sectors. Movement and access restrictions are aggravating the situation. The number of attacks on Palestinians by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank has increased every year for the past eight years; attacks by Israeli security forces have also increased.

Political Context

On 9 October, the reconciliation Government made up of members of both Hamas and Fatah convened its first cabinet session (UNICEF, 09/10/2014). The Government was sworn in before President Abbas in June, ending seven years of division (AFP; UN, 02/06/2014).

At the end of August, members of the Palestinian parliament from the West Bank and East Jerusalem accused Israel of an anti-democratic crackdown, with dozens of elected officials detained, placed under investigation, or restricted in their movements. As of 22 August, of the 84 MPs, 36 are in Israeli jails, two-thirds of them under administrative detention (Reuters, 22/08/2014).

Donors have pledged over USD 5.4 billion, half of which will go towards rebuilding Gaza (Reuters, 12/10/2014; 14/10/2014). The Palestinian Authority estimates it will cost USD 7.8 billion to reconstruct bombed areas (ACT Alliance, 10/10/2014).

Israeli–Palestinian Peace Talks

Israel withdrew from the US-sponsored peace talks on 25 April, after the deal between Hamas and Fatah convened its first cabinet session (UNICEF, 09/10/2014). The Government was sworn in before President Abbas in June, ending seven years of division (AFP; UN, 02/06/2014).

Israel has announced a series of measures affecting occupied territory since August, beginning with the appropriation of some 400 hectares in the occupied West Bank, which an anti-settlement group termed the biggest in 30 years (Reuters, 31/08/2014). This was followed by tenders for 283 new homes in Elkana settlement in the West Bank, and the approval of 2,610 housing units in East Jerusalem, planned in 2012 (AFP, 05/09/2014; AFP, 01/10/2014). On 27 October, the Israeli Government approved plans to build another over 1,000 housing units in east Jerusalem, roughly 400 in Har Homa and about 600 in Ramat Shlomo settlements (AFP, 27/10/2014). Israel’s measures have drawn international condemnation.
Security Context

Gaza: Operation Protective Edge

On 31 October, a rocket was fired from Gaza and hit southern Israel, the Israeli army said. There were no reports of casualties or damage. It was the first rocket to hit Israel since 16 September (AFP, 31/10/2014).

On 26 August, a permanent ceasefire was agreed between Hamas and the Israeli Government, after almost two months of intense violence (AFP). Israel launched Operation Protective Edge on 8 July, striking Gaza with intensive aerial bombing, aimed at ending cross-border rocket fire.

At least 2,205 people were reported killed, including 538 children (UNWRA, 09/10/2014; UNICEF, 23/10/2014). As of 4 September, 1,473 victims were considered to be civilians (OCHA, 04/09/2014). 11,231 people have been injured, including 3,436 children (OCHA, 29/08/2014). On the Israeli side, 66 soldiers, and five civilians, including one child, were killed (OCHA, 29/08/2014). Over 485,000 people were displaced, almost a third of the population of the Gaza Strip.

Twelve Palestinian journalists and one media worker were killed 8 July–5 August, seven of them in connection with their work (RsF, 05/08/2014).

Earlier Conflict Incidents

Prior to the current crisis, the number of violent incidents in and around Gaza had already been rising. Israeli raids, Palestinian rocket attacks, and border incidents have all built up tensions.

West Bank and East Jerusalem

As of 27 October, 44 people have been killed and 4,464 injured by Israeli forces in 2014 (OCHA). Clashes and casualties have been increasing since the end of April. Violent incidents regularly occur in the context of search operations and protests at restricted access for Muslims to the Al Aqsa mosque compound, as well as settler-related violence. The Israeli security forces have frequently been reported to use live ammunition, including against children.

On 30 October, Israeli police shot dead a Palestinian accused of attempting to kill hardline activist Yehuda Glick, who has lobbied for Jewish prayer rights at the Al Aqsa compound. The incident was followed by the closure of Al Aqsa mosque compound for the first time in decades and clashes in east Jerusalem (AFP, 30/10/2014). Israel reopened the compound on 31 October, but restricted entry for Muslim men to those over 50. Clashes erupted in the West Bank after Friday prayers. About 300 Palestinians threw stones at Israeli security forces, who responded with live fire and rubber bullets, and wounded around a dozen people (AFP, 31/10/2014).

Since 2013, the frequency of Israeli settler visits to the Al Aqsa mosque compound has increased from weekly to half of every day (OCHA, 29/09/2014).

Settler-related Violence

In 2014, 276 incidents of settler-related violence have resulted in Palestinian casualties or property damage in the West Bank, and 154 incidents resulted in Israeli casualties or property damage. The demolition of 436 structures has displaced 821 people this year, compared to 549 demolished structures during the same time period in 2013 (OCHA, 27/10/2014). Since June, there have been five attempts by settlers to kidnap Palestinian children, and one 16-year-old boy was kidnapped and killed in July 2014 (OCHA, 13/10/2014). The number of attacks on Palestinians by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank has increased every year for the past eight years, from 115 in 2006 to 399 in 2013 (OCHA). In comparison to the equivalent time period in 2013, when there had been 356 incidents of settler-violence, the number of incidents has decreased in 2014 (OCHA, 27/10/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Since the UN reconstruction mechanism agreement with Israel and Palestinian Authorities on 16 September, there has been an increase in cement and aggregate material bought in for the recovery and rehabilitation effort in the Gaza Strip (Logistics Cluster, 26/09/2014). However, the entry of construction materials for the Qatari projects through Rafah Crossing with Egypt has been blocked since July (OCHA, 29/09/2014).

In late October, Egypt announced it will set up a 500m-wide buffer zone along about 10km of the border with Gaza to prevent militant infiltration and arms smuggling; on 24 October, a bombing killed at least 30 Egyptian soldiers. Egypt imposed a three-month state of emergency in parts of northern Sinai and closed the Rafah crossing into Gaza (AFP, 29/10/2014).

On 1 November, Israel had closed its crossings with Gaza (Kuwait News Agency, 02/11/2014).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

Nine UNRWA staff members have been killed since 20 July (UNRWA, 03/08/2014).

Critical Infrastructure

Critical infrastructure was targeted directly during the military offensive. At least 14 electricity, water, and wastewater technicians employed by local utilities have been killed by Israeli attacks and at least ten others injured.

Service providers, including water and health providers, are relying on emergency fuel donations to run a select number of facilities (OCHA, 29/09/2014).

Israeli authorities will reopen partially Karam Abu Salem crossing with the Gaza Strip on 3 November only for fuel delivering for Gaza residents.

On 28 October, following two days of partial operation, the Gaza power plant shut
disasters due to lack of fuel (OCHA, 27/10/2014).

Displacement

As of 11 October, more than 100,000 people remain displaced due to the recent conflict. 18 UNWRA and two government school buildings continue to serve as shelters for approximately 57,000 IDPs, and an estimated 47,000 people are living with host families (NRC, 11/10/2014). Alternative accommodation has not been arranged before the start of winter, and the living conditions of the IDPs continues to deteriorate with many in need of additional humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 13/10/2014). On 28 August, there were 475,000 IDPs (OCHA, 28/08/2014).

No organisation or mechanism systematically monitors the number of IDPs in oPt (IDMC, 23/09/2014).

Food Security

72% of the population of Gaza are food insecure (OCHA, 12/09/2104). 1.15 million people are reached by regular food assistance (Food Security Cluster. 15/08/2014). 570,000 of 730,000 people not usually reached by UNRWA/WFP food distribution have received food parcels (Food Security Cluster, 28/08/2014).

Electricity shortages have impacted bread production and refrigeration. Delays at crossings are complicating food delivery and have resulted in waste. Destruction of tunnels bringing inexpensive goods has also impacted access to food and supplies.

Vegetable prices increased by 139% between June and August although staple food prices have remained stable due to the distribution of humanitarian supplies (WFP, 14/10/2014).

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 – were food insecure (UNRWA, FAO, WFP, Government, 12/08/2014).

Agriculture

Losses to the farming sector are estimated at USD 450 million (Ministry of Agriculture cited by OCHA, 18/08/2014).

Up to 720 fishers have lost their livelihoods (Food Security Cluster, 28/08/2014). As of October, detention or shooting at fishers, as well as confiscation of boats and equipment, continue to be reported (Palestinian Centre for Human Rights. 20/10/2014).

Around 7,500 olive trees belonging to Palestinian farmers have been uprooted so far this year. Some 85% of Israel’s separation barrier’s route runs inside the West Bank, rather than along the internationally recognised Green Line, cutting off Palestinians from 30% of their land (AFP, 29/10/2014).

Livelihoods

The majority of the Gaza population has lost its productive assets. The livelihoods of 28,600 households, including farmers, breeders, herders and fishers have been severely affected or totally lost through damaged lands and infrastructure (Food Security Cluster, 28/08/2014). Losses to the farming sector are estimated at USD 450 million (Ministry of Agriculture cited by OCHA, 18/08/2014). According to the Palestinian Federation of Industries, 419 businesses and workshops were damaged, including 128 completely destroyed (OCHA, 04/09/2014).

It is expected that labour market conditions in Gaza will further deteriorate, exacerbating the impact of the blockade and the long-standing movement restrictions (OCHA, 04/09/2014). A quarter of the Palestinian workforce remains unemployed – 16% in the West Bank and 45% in Gaza (World Bank, 10/09/2014).

In the West Bank, Israeli forces delivered requisition orders for around 12 dunum (1.2 hectares) of land planted with olive trees, for reasons of security (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Several health facilities that had been closed throughout the hostilities have re-opened, however, longstanding problems of electricity, equipment and drug supplies persist. As of 3 September, three out of 32 hospitals remain closed, and another three have limited operational capacity. 24 out of 97 primary health centres remain closed, overburdening neighbouring facilities (OCHA, 04/09/2014).

Fifty primary health centres and 17 hospitals reported damage to their infrastructure; one hospital and seven clinics were totally destroyed (OCHA, 04/09/2014 WHO, 05/09/2014).

The health system was already overstretched before the conflict (WHO, 30/09/2014). In the West Bank, stocks of 150 (of 525) essential medicines were at zero in May; the main government pharmacy in the Gaza Strip reported stocks of 118 (of 481) essential medicines were at zero (OCHA, 31/05/2014).

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 (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

WASH

As of early September, 450,000 people are unable to access municipal water due to infrastructure damage and/or low pressure (OCHA, 12/09/2014). Although extensive repairs have restored 70–80% of the water and sanitation network to pre-conflict conditions, significant constraints still impair the delivery of these services (OCHA, 29/10/2014).

63 water facilities have been damaged; of which 23 were completely destroyed (Gisha, 20/08/2014). As of 2 October, 20–30% of water and wastewater networks in Gaza are still significantly damaged. Some 30–50% of water storage capacity at the household level is damaged, putting particular strain on host families (ECHO, 02/10/2014). Additionally, households without electricity and/or supplementary pumps cannot fill rooftop storage tanks when water is available (OCHA, 04/09/2014).
Only 50% of wastewater in Gaza is treated, and treatment is currently of low quality, leaving about 100,000 million cubic metres of raw sewage to be discharged directly to the sea (World Bank, 10/09/2014). Although solid waste is being collected in most areas, it is being left in temporary sites rather than dumped in designated landfills.

Gaza’s only water reserve is the coastal aquifer, which it shares with Israel and Egypt, and which is 55 million cubic metres; Gaza needs 190 million cubic metres every year, according to senior officials. The aquifer could be unusable by 2016 and the damage it has suffered may be irreversible by 2020 (AFP, 05/09/2014).

**Shelter**

6% of housing stock has become uninhabitable; an estimated 20,000 housing units have been either destroyed or severely damaged, leaving about 120,000 people homeless. Current estimates indicate that 29% of the housing stock in Gaza Strip has been affected. This is in addition to the pre-crisis housing deficit of 80,000 units (NRC, 11/10/2014).

The Shelter Cluster estimates that under current conditions it will take approximately 20 years to import the materials required to complete the housing reconstruction. This timeframe is based on the current operational capacity of Kerem Shalom border crossing for materials (100 truckloads daily), and the estimated 97,334 housing units required in the Gaza Strip. This calculation does not include public infrastructure (e.g. schools, utilities, etc.) (Shelter Cluster, 29/08/2014).

**Education**

22 schools were completely destroyed and 118 schools damaged by conflict. UNRWA has reported at least 75 damaged school buildings. Many higher education facilities, including the Islamic University in Gaza, have also been (OCHA, 04/09/2014).

The school year delayed by three weeks, started 14 September (UNRWA, 01/09/2014; UNICEF 14/09/2014). As schools open, children face even more acute overcrowding and suffering from a shortage of almost 200 schools (OCHA, 04/09/2014).

**Protection**

Palestinian Bedouin families are at risk of forcible transfer, as Israeli authorities continue to make eviction and demolition orders from an area designated as a ‘closed military zone’.

Bedouin communities east of Jerusalem and in the central West Bank are at risk of forcible transfer due to a relocation plan by the Israeli authorities. Around 7,000 Palestinian Bedouins and herdsmen, some 60% of them children, reside in 46 residential areas. Most of the families have demolition orders pending against their homes and over 85% lack connection to the electricity and water networks. Two-thirds of the communities reported facing settler violence during the past three years, as authorities failed to protect communities from intimidation and attacks (OCHA, 23/09/2014).

At the end of August, 473 Palestinians were under administrative detention Israel without trial, compared to 250 in June–July. It is the highest number since April 2009 (Israel Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, 07/10/2014).

**Children**

501 have been killed and at least 3,436 injured, and 54,000 are homeless (OCHA, 04/09/2014; UNICEF 16/08/2014).

Up to 1,500 orphaned children will need sustained support from the child protection and welfare sectors (OCHA, 04/09/2014).

201 Palestinian children were imprisoned and prosecuted in the Israeli military court system at the end of August (Defence for Children International, 10/10/2014).

**Mines and ERW**

It is estimated that more than 1,900 ERW have yet to be secured, including tank shells, missiles, aircraft bombs and shrapnel (UNRWA, 23/09/2014). These are a major threat, especially to children and people working on repair and reconstruction (UNICEF, 28/08/2014; OCHA 04/09/2014).

In 2014, ERW has killed 31 civilians and injured ten in Gaza. This figure includes 12 children, the highest number affected by ERW in the last six years (UNICEF, 23/10/2014; 27/10/2014).

**Updated:** 03/11/2014

**SYRIA CIVIL WAR**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**2 November:** 1,917 people have died in Syrian prisons this year from torture, starvation, and lack of medical treatment, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, among them 27 children. Some 200,000 people are being detained by the Government (AFP).

**2 November:** In less than a fortnight, warplanes dropped at least 401 barrel bombs on opposition areas in eight governorates, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (AFP). On 29 October Government helicopters dropped four barrel bombs on a camp for displaced people in Idleb, killing at least ten people and wounding dozens (AFP).

**29 October:** The Islamic State (IS) freed 25 Kurdish schoolchildren, the last of 153 kidnapped in northern Syria in May (AFP).

**29 October:** A car bomb wounded at least 37 people, including children, in the government-controlled, Alawite Al-Zahraa district of Homs, state television reported (AFP).
**KEY CONCERNS**

- 191,369 deaths documented between March 2011 and the end of April 2014 (Human Rights Council 22/08/2014). At least 200–300 people are dying in Syria every day. There are an average of 25,000 new injuries each month (WHO 25/09/2014).

- 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).

- 3,204,417 Syrians are registered or waiting to register as refugees outside Syria as of 2 November. Lebanon: 1,132,500; Turkey: 1,066,000; Jordan: 618,500; Iraq: 224,000; Egypt: 140,000. 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).

- The number of displaced living in camps grew from 108,000 to approximately 165,000 between January and September (OCHA/REACH 30/10/2014).

- Expected wheat production for 2014 is 1.97 million metric tons, 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. Governorates such as Dar’a, Aleppo, Al-Hasakah and Deir-ez-Zor stand out as the most affected governorates. Severe access issues contribute to making Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hasakah a high concern (OCHA/REACH 30/10/2014).

**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 of the 15.8 million people called on to vote.

The Syrian Government announced on 25 August that it will work with the international community, including the United States, to fight terrorism and implement UN Security Council resolution 2170, targeting IS and Al Nusra Front (AFP 25/08/2014). The Syrian Foreign Minister told the UN on 29 September that Syria will not begin peace talks to end the conflict “while terrorism is still rampant” (AFP 30/09/2014).

**Security Context**

Since 20 October, government forces have dropped at least 401 barrel bombs on opposition areas in eight governorates, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. At least 232 civilians have been killed in government air strikes since then (AFP 02/11/2014).

Ongoing air strikes are affecting Ar-Raqqa, Al Hasakeh, Deir-ez-Zor, and Idlib governorates (UNICEF 21/10/2014).

In Aleppo, US officials have stated that the bid by Islamic State (IS) to seize Kobane has stalled. Kurds say their fighters are exhausted and anxious for promised reinforcements from the Kurdish Region of Iraq, where authorities agreed on 23 October to send Peshmerga fighters. Turkey said it would allow 200 Peshmerga to travel through its territory to Kobane, where IS has an estimated 1,000 fighters (AFP).

**Islamic State**

On 30 June, Islamic State (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 the weapons pillaged in Iraq to Syria.

IS’s stronghold in Syria is in Ar-Raqqa. It also holds large swathes of land in Deir-ez-Zor and strings of towns and villages in Al Hasakeh and Aleppo governorates.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

The UN estimates that the number of people in need of assistance has grown to 10.8 million, including 6.4 million IDPs, of which 50% are children. 1.65 million people in Rural Damascus are affected by the crisis. Approximately 1,117,000 people need humanitarian assistance in Idlib. In Al Hasakeh, approximately 582,000 people are estimated to be in dire need of emergency humanitarian support; 711,000 are in need in Deir-ez-Zor. Approximately 800,000 are affected by the crisis in Damascus, another 800,000 in Dar’a, and 748,000 in Homs. About 500,000 people are affected by the crisis in Ar-Raqqa – more than half the governorate’s population. 533,000 people are in need in Hama, mainly in rural areas, with lower numbers in the other governorates (OCHA 28/08/2014).

**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, according to UN figures (UN Security Council 31/07/2014).
The UN’s response efforts are chronically underfunded: only 38% of the Syria component of OCHA’s appeal for the crisis is funded. Only 5.3% of the regional component has been funded; only 27% of the Iraq component has been funded (UN News service 30/10/2014). In October, the UN started cutting food aid to 4.2 million Syrians because of the shortfall. Food will continue to be provided in the same caseload, but it has been cut to 60% of the normal food basket (AFP 13/10/2014). For December, WFP has no funding for programmes in Syria (WFP 18/09/2014). WFP anticipates the cuts will lead to families being forced to move, which in turn will increase protection concerns (WFP 21/10/2014).

The dispatch of non-food items (NFIs) has fallen significantly since April. August was the second-worst month after May, when the introduction of the new procedures created tremendous challenges in dispatching NFIs from warehouses to partners for distribution as well as importing NFIs (UNHCR 16/09/2014).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

13 UNRWA staff have died in Syria (UNRWA 26/08/2014). As of the end of July, 59 humanitarian workers had been killed since March 2011 (UN Security Council 31/07/2014, SARC 20/08/2014). 27 UNRWA staff are detained or presumed missing and one UNDP staff is in detention.

Trapped and Hard-to-Reach Communities

Aleppo: September deliveries across lines of active conflict almost halved in rural Aleppo as compared to the previous cycle (WFP 22/10/2014). Five trucks departing from government-controlled Aleppo reached the suburb of Afrin in September; the city had not received any assistance for at least 12 months (UN News Service 21/10/2014). During the last week of September, three convoys from Turkey allowed the delivery of rations to the eastern side of Aleppo city for the first time in over one year, with enough support for 75,000 people. Some 350,000 people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance (WFP 06/10/2014). UNOSAT imagery of 15 October of Kobane town has shown hundreds of vehicles clustered around border crossing points, on the Syrian side of the border (UNOSAT 17/10/2014).

Al Hasakeh: On 23 September the Turkish authorities granted approval of UN humanitarian deliveries from Nusaybin to Qamishli. Shipment began on 30 September and the rations will support some 225,000 people in the governorate (WFP 06/10/2014).

Ar-Raqqa: Volatile security conditions and the presence of armed groups along the access routes have prevented deliveries since July, while assistance was intermittent and well below planned levels during the first half of 2014. Since 23 September, military action has further restricted access options (WFP 06/10/2014).

Damascus: Access to Yarmouk Palestinian camp is frequently disrupted. Since the end of July, there has been a significant decline in the quantity of food and other essentials that UNRWA has been able to deliver. Food deliveries are meeting just 20% of needs. In several instances, the distribution of aid in Yarmouk has been interrupted or proved impossible on account of insecurity (UNRWA 18/10/2014). Around 200 people have died because of shortages in the camp, according to NGOs (AFP 29/10/2014).

Deir-ez-Zor: Volatile security conditions and the presence of armed groups along the access routes have prevented deliveries since May. Since 23 September, military action has further restricted access (WFP 06/10/2014).

Homs: The western Homs City neighbourhood of Al Wa’er has seen security conditions deteriorate following a failed truce, severely undermining living conditions of the 350,000 people estimated to be living in the area. Under partial siege for the past 12 months, over half of Al Waer’s residents are IDPs, and who are now mostly living in unfinished buildings, schools and makeshift accommodation (WFP 22/10/2014).

Rural Damascus: A joint humanitarian convoy was cancelled due to the insecurity in the periphery of Damascus city, Harasta, and Ein Terma (WFP 22/10/2014).

IDPs

The number of displaced living in camps grew from 108,000 to approximately 165,000 between January and September. Multiple displacement is typical, because of violence, the depleted capacity of host families, running out of savings and seeking better access to livelihoods (OCHA/REACH 30/10/2014).

Aleppo: The most populous governorate in Syria, Aleppo has 1,787,000 IDPs. The largest number of people in need (1,222,000) and IDPs (625,000) are mainly concentrated on the western side of Aleppo city (OCHA 28/08/2014). More than 200,000 people have fled Kobane to Turkey. At 10 October, 10,000–13,000 people were thought to be trapped between the border of Turkey and Syria near Kobane. 500–700 mostly elderly people and civilians are estimated to be in the centre of the city (UN 10/10/2014). Around 5,000 people (1,000 families) people have reportedly entered Meidan Ekbis, northwest of Afrin, in Aleppo (UNICEF 21/10/2014).

Al Hasakeh: Around 600 Syrian Kurds from Kobane have made their way through the Turkey border and arrived in Newroz camp, already hosting over 4,000 Iraqi Yazidi refugees (UNICEF 21/10/2014). Over the last two weeks of September, large-scale displacement continued in the areas of Tal Hamis, Ya’rhibiyah and Gweran. Escalating violence between government forces and armed opposition groups forced some 30,000 individuals to seek refuge in the safer neighbourhoods of Al Hasakeh city, Qamishli, and surrounding villages (WFP 06/10/2014).

Ar-Raqqa: Since late September, fears over airstrikes have forced thousands of families to flee Ar-Raqqa city, Al Tabqaq and Ein Issa. Most IDPs relocated to surrounding rural areas as well as to Tell Abiad, close to the Turkish border (WFP 06/10/2014).
As-Sweida: 69,000 IDPs; most are sheltering in host communities, tents, and collective shelters across the governorate (OCHA 28/08/2014).

Damascus: 410,000 IDPs. Most are hosted by the local community and 24 official collective shelters host about 50,000 IDPs (OCHA 28/08/2014).

Dar’a: Large-scale military operations in Dar’a displaced thousands of civilians to safer areas of Dar’a and Quneitra governorates (WFP 22/10/2014).

Deir-ez-Zor: Heavy fighting between IS and opposition factions displaced approximately 76,000 people in August (WHO 09/09/2014).

Hama: Families continue to flee Hafaya, Aziziye, Rasif and Jid in northwestern rural Hama after fighting broke out in early September. IDPs are mainly seeking shelter in the neighbouring towns of As Suqaylabiyah and Muhrada (WFP 06/10/2014).

Homs: On 1 October, UNOSAT located 132 probable IDP shelters in the open desert along the border with Jordan, about 25km southwest of the Al Waleed border crossing. This is a 47% increase in apparent IDP shelters visible compared to 25 July (UNOSAT 01/10/2014).

Idlib: 708,000 IDPs from neighbouring governorates or within Idlib are in need of assistance (OCHA 28/08/2014).

Lattakia: 300,000 IDPs; the majority reside in Lattakia city. Of the six shelters, the Sport City hosts around 1,400 families from rural Idlib and rural Aleppo (OCHA 28/08/2014).

Quneitra: Escalating fighting has pushed people to flee towards opposition-controlled areas in southwest Dar’a and southeast Quneitra, where access constraints prevent any food distribution from taking place (WFP 24/09/2014).

Rural Damascus: In the first two weeks of October, violence continued in the periphery of Damascus city and spread to other areas, including Harasta and Ein Terma. Thousands of civilians reportedly fled to Ghouta, where access has been severely restricted for the past two years. Clashes escalated in the Qalamoun region, forcing displacement towards Jobbeh, Jurud, and Yabroud (WFP 22/10/2014).

Tartous: About 200,000 of some 452,000 IDPs are in need of humanitarian assistance, mainly in Tartous city, Mashita Hellou and Banyas. Around 1,600 families reside in 21 collective shelters; 14 are in Tartous city.

Refugees in Syria

An estimated 6,000 Iraqi families are in Newroz camp in Malkia area, while others moved to villages in Malkia, Qamishli, Amuda and Derbasia. Newroz camp is overcrowded and sanitation is very poor. Many of the residents are temporary, staying for short periods and leaving in the morning, when the Peshakapour-Semalka border is opened, as others arrive (UNHCR 07/09/2014).

Returnees

Estimates indicate that hundreds of Syrians are returning to Syria on a daily basis; an estimated 1,000 Syrians previously seeking refuge in Iraq have crossed back into Syria. (UN Security Council 31/07/2014).

Syrian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

3,204,417 Syrians are registered or waiting to register as refugees outside Syria as of 2 November. Lebanon: 1,132,500; Turkey: 1,066,000; Jordan: 618,500; Iraq: 224,000; Egypt: 140,000.

Palestinians: Of approximately 540,000 Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA in Syria, over 50% are estimated to have been displaced within Syria, and a further 12% to neighbouring countries. In Lebanon, 45,000 Palestine refugees from Syria have been recorded with UNRWA; in Jordan 14,642 and in Gaza 860 have approached UNRWA for assistance. The Agency has reports of around 4,000 Palestine refugees in Egypt and smaller numbers in Libya, Turkey, and East Asia (UNRWA 28/10/2014).

Food Security

If the conflict continues in 2015, it is expected that 90% of Syrians will be poor and 60% will not be able to secure their own food requirements (WHO 30/10/2014).

Bread shortages are threatening food security in many areas. Production has plummeted as wheat flour, yeast, or fuel are either not available or sold at prohibitive prices, particularly in the north, where commercial routes are continually disrupted by clashes and most bakeries have been destroyed or damaged. Government subsidies have brought down inflation in some parts of the country. However, prices have risen over 75% in just over three months in parts of opposition-held Dar’a, Deir-ez-Zor, and Rural Damascus (WFP 06/10/2014).

54% of the labour force, 3.39 million people, are without work (UNDP 19/10/2014). 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).

Agriculture and Markets

Ar-Raqqa is part of the so called “cereal belt” of Syria (including Aleppo, Al Hasakeh, Deir-Ez-Zor, Hama, and Idlib), which produces more than 80% of the country’s wheat. This year, cereal crop production in Ar-Raqqa has been particularly affected by conflict, drought conditions and limited access to essential production inputs. According to FAO estimates, Syria’s overall cereal production in 2014 amounted to around 2.4 million metric tons, approximately 18% below total production in 2013 and 38% below the five-year average (2009–13) (FAO 14/10/2014).

Health and Nutrition

By the end of June, 24% of hospitals were not functioning, and 46% were reported damaged; 12% fully damaged and 34% partially damaged. Five governorates (Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Homs, Dar’a and Deir-er-Zor) had the highest number of non-
functional public hospitals. Local drug production has fallen by 70% (WHO 30/10/2014).

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

In August, the deaths of 21 medical personnel were documented. 16 were targeted killings, and 20 were killed by government forces (Physicians for Human Rights, or PHR, 25/09/2014). In total, PHR has documented the deaths of 561 medical personnel since the start of the conflict, of which 252 were targeted killings. 553 deaths were caused by government forces and eight by non-state armed groups (PHR 25/09/2014).

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 supplies and frequent power cuts. An increasing number of complications such as septicaemia, gangrene, organ failure are being reported (WHO 25/07/2014).

**Attacks on health staff and facilities:** In August, PHR documented nine new attacks on medical facilities, all of which were committed by government forces. In total, PHR has documented 195 attacks on 155 separate medical facilities since the start of the conflict. Of these, 176 were committed by government forces, 13 by non-state armed groups, and six by unknown forces (PHR 25/09/2014).

35% of Syria’s 97 public hospitals are partially functioning and 24% are completely out of service; 22% of public health centres are partially functioning and 17% are completely out of service (Health Resources Availability Mapping System cited by WHO 22/08/2014).

**Aleppo city:** Four primary healthcare centres and five trauma clinics are functioning; seven of 17 ambulances are operational. As of March, 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.

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

**Dar’a:** Five of Dar’a’s nine public hospitals 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 of 44 private hospitals, three of six public hospitals, and 54 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). The number of acute diarrhoea cases continues to increase with 60,012 cases reported by mid-September, up from 22,169 cases reported across the country in July (WHO 22/08/2014, WHO 30/10/2014).

**Hepatitis A**

2,173 cases of hepatitis A were reported in July (WHO 22/08/2014). 82 cases were reported between 1 and 14 June, 85% of which were in Deir-ez-Zor, where access to safe drinking water is particularly reduced (EWARS).

**Leishmaniasis**

Leishmaniasis is particularly common among people living in communal shelters and is spreading to more areas; the worst cases are being reported from Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, and Ar-Raqq governorates (IFRC 24/07/2014).

**Malnutrition**

Preliminary results of the 2014 Nutrition Assessment, carried out in areas of IDP concentration in Syria show 2.3% SAM and 7.2% GAM. Al Hasakeh, Hama, and Tartous had the highest SAM rates above 3%, while Aleppo, Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, Quneitra, and Rural Damascus had SAM rates above 2.5%. The assessment also showed high rates of stunting among IDP children at 22.3%, with 7.9% of children severely stunted (UNICEF 21/10/2014).

**Maternal Health**

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.

The ability to provide basic reproductive health services and safe delivery in contested or besieged areas is further constrained by the low number of accredited health partners. The same is true for treating victims of gender-based violence (UNFPA 02/09/2014).

**Measles**

As of mid-September, 610 cases of suspected measles had been reported (WHO 30/10/2014).

**Mental Health**

It is estimated that more than 350,000 individuals in Syria suffer from severe forms of mental illness, over 2,000,000 suffer from mild to moderate problems such as anxiety and depression disorders, and a large percentage have moderate to severe psychological/social distress (WHO, UNHCR 19/10/2014).

**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%. The first case of polio since 1999 was reported in October 2013 (WHO).

**Typhoid**

As of mid-September, 2,976 cases of typhoid fever had been reported (WHO 30/10/2014).

**Measles**

WASH

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.

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).

Polluted water supplies and serious water shortages are heightening the risk of disease, especially among IDPs living in communal shelters.

Since the first week of September, the mains water supply in Yarmouk Palestinian camp has been disrupted, apparently as a result of damage to pipes in a contested area inside Yarmouk. Drought conditions have forced Yarmouk’s 18,000 civilian residents to rely on untreated groundwater and a single well. These water sources are unsafe and insufficient to meet minimum water and sanitation needs (UNRWA 03/10/2014).

**Shelter**

1.2 million houses have been damaged, 400,000 of which have been totally destroyed (UNHCR 30/10/2014).

Education

4,000 Syrian schools have been destroyed, damaged, or used to house IDPs, leaving the educational system on the verge of collapse. Nationwide, 51.8% of school age children were not going to school (Syrian Centre for Policy Research 05/2014, AFP 12/09/2014).

Reports indicate most schools in Ar-Raqqa are closed (UNICEF 21/10/2014).

**Protection**

In areas under IS control, particularly in the north and northeast, Fridays are regularly marked by executions, amputations, and lashings in public squares, according to a UN report in August. Women have been lashed for not abiding by IS’s dress code. Journalists and other media workers are systematically targeted.

Other non-state armed groups continue to commit violations, including summary executions.

**Indiscriminate Weapons**

US missile strikes reportedly killed at least seven civilians in Kafr Deryan in Idleb on 25 September (AFP/HRW 28/09/2014).

At least 188 civilians have been killed by government forces’ aerial bombing in Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and Rural Damascus in August and September (UN Security Council 30/09/2014).

**Chemical Weapons**

There was a spate of new allegations of chlorine attacks in August. The most recent reported attack was on the town of Kafr Zeta on 28 August (OPCW 10/09/2014). A commission from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has found confirmation that a toxic chemical was used in three villages of northern Syria earlier in the year.

**Detention**

1,917 people have died in Syrian prisons so far this year, from torture, starvation, and lack of medical treatment, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, among them 27 children under the age of 18. The monitor said some 200,000 people are being detained by the Government in jails and other facilities (AFP 2/11/2014).

On 14 August, Human Rights Watch released a report corroborating allegations of mass deaths in government custody (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 IS, other opposition, and Kurdish fighters have been kidnapped during battles in recent months (AFP 10/07/2014).

**Child Recruitment**

Children are increasingly recruited by non-state armed groups and by the Government’s Popular Committees to participate in and support hostilities. In Ar-Raqqa, children as young as ten are being recruited by IS (Human Rights Council 27/08/2014). Over 120 cases of the recruitment and use of children have been documented between 1 January and 19 August, including girls, and some as young as eight. More than half the cases have been attributed to the Free Syrian Army (UN Security Council 28/08/2014).

Updated: 03/11/2014

YEMEN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**
2 November: Suspected Al Qaeda militants killed 18 Yemeni troops and captured 15 others in an attack on security headquarters in Hudaydah, which Houthi insurgents seized in mid-October. Three of the militants were also killed (AFP).

2 November: Houthi insurgents attacked the headquarters of Yemen's Sunni Al Islah party in Ibb city; three people died in the violence (AFP).

1 November: Houthi representatives, and their rivals, including the Al-Islah party agreed on the formation of a government of technocrats to resolve the crisis (AFP). The day before, a Houthi leader had warned President Hadi to form a new government within ten days or a “national salvation council” would take its place (AFP).

27 October: The Southern Movement announced that the movement’s two existing councils have been merged into one, representing all southerners (Yemen Times, 28/10/2014).

KEY CONCERNS

- 14.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 09/10/2014).
- Over 10 million are food insecure, including 5 million severely food insecure (Comprehensive Food Security Survey 2014). Levels of food insecurity have doubled since 2009 (FAO, 06/2014).
- 8.6 million have no access to healthcare (OCHA, 09/10/2014).
- One million children under five are acutely malnourished; 280,000 are severely malnourished (OCHA, UNICEF 06/2014).
- 13.1 million do not have access to safe water and improved sanitation; 4.4 million lack access to adequate sanitation (OCHA, 09/10/2014). Open defecation remains the practice for more than 20% of the population (UNICEF 2014).
- There are 335,000 internally displaced people (IDPs), 227,000 returnees and 245,000 refugees in the country (OCHA, 09/10/2014).

OVERVIEW

Nearly 15 million people, over half the population, are in need of some form of humanitarian assistance (UN, 09/10/2014). 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.

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: Houthi insurgents in the north; southern secessionists; and Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) throughout the country.

Political Context

Despite interim President Hadi overseeing a US-supported political transition, instability and violence continue across Yemen. Shia Houthi insurgents from the far north, who already have de facto control over Sa’ada and neighbouring Amran, and parts of Al Jawf, and Hajjah governorates, have rejected the proposed division of the country, claiming it is unequal in terms of wealth distribution. In the south, a large portion of leaders are still aiming for a fully independent, unified south, according to local sources.

Yemen’s economic difficulties are adding to the political crisis. Oil revenues declined almost 30% between January 2013 and January 2014 (Yemen Central Bank, 02/2014). In July, the Government increased the price of petrol by 60% and diesel by 95%.

Southern Movement (Al Hirak)

Rallies in the south calling for secession have gained momentum since 14 October due to the developments in Sanaa and other northern governorates (Yemen Times, 19/10/2014). The separatists pitched tents in Aden and announced an indefinite sit-in (AFP, 14/10/2014). Separatist leaders pledged to intensify protests. They urged southerners working for the state, especially those in the armed forces and police, to abandon their jobs and join the protests. Around 120 tents have been set up in Aden (AFP, 23/10/2014). On 27 October, 33 members of parliament formed the Southern Parliamentary Bloc, in support of protestors arguing for secession (The Daily Star, 27/10/2014).

On 27 October, the Southern Movement announced that the movement’s two existing councils have been merged into one, representing all southerners. The new council is called The Supreme Council of the Revolutionary and Peaceful Southern Movement (SCRPSM). The SCRPSM called for the south’s full independence and the establishment of a federal and parliamentary political system in the south. The council further demands the restoration of the legitimacy of Ali Salem Al Beidh, president of South Yemen before 1990, and his appointment as president of the south. The Southern Movement called on Houthis to support the southerners’ struggle for independence (Yemen Times, 28/10/2014).

Security Context

Between the end of January and August, around 2,980 people have been killed in violence, including military and security personnel, Houthi insurgents, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) militants, armed Sunni tribesmen, and civilians (Yemen Times, 12/08/2014). 274 people have been killed and 470 injured in Sanaa since Houthis began taking control of the city in mid-September (OCHA, 02/10/2014).
President Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi’s weak Sunni-led central Government has failed to stop the Houthi insurgents. AQAP, Al Qaeda’s powerful Yemeni branch, backed by Sunni tribesmen, have instead fought to halt the insurgents’ advance (AFP, 20/10/2014).

Various forces use the country’s oil resources to pressure the Government, and observers have warned that the economy will continue to decline if the Government cannot protect pipelines. Attacks on oil pipelines were reported in May and July (Al Jazeera). In July, tribes from Marib and Shabwah clashed over the ownership of an oil-rich desert.

Houthi Insurgency

The Houthis, also referred to as Ansarullah, are based in Sa’ada governorate, but have advanced to other majority Shi’ite areas near Sanaa, and in 2014 there has been fighting in to Al Jawf, Amran, Al Bayda, Dhamar, Ibb, Marib, and Hajjah governorates, as well as Sanaa and Al Hudaydah. The Houthi have taken up arms before, citing political, economic, and religious marginalisation by a Saudi and Western-backed administration (Al Jazeera, 16/11/2009).

In September, after a series of mass protests in the capital and fighting between Houthis and soldiers loyal to the Sunni Al Islah party, Houthis took control of much of Sanaa. A Peace and National Partnership Agreement was signed on 21 September. A week later, hundreds of demonstrators demanded the withdrawal of all militias from Sanaa and the return of security forces, in the first protest against the Shi’ite insurgents since they overran the capital (AFP, 28/09/2014).

Houthis began dismantling protest camps on 16 October, although they were reportedly still in control of the city, operating checkpoints and keeping guard outside key ministries, commercial districts and diplomatic missions (Reuters, 19/10/2014). On 31 October, a Houthi leader warned President Hadi to form a new Government within 10 days or a "national salvation council" would take its place (AFP 31/10/2014). The next day, Houthi representatives and their rivals agreed on the formation of a government of technocrats (AFP, 01/11/2014).

Despite the signing of an annex to the 21 September agreement, which covers security and military conditions in Amran, Al Jawf, Marib, and Sanaa governorates, as well as other governorates witnessing violence, violence continues (Yemen Times, 29/09/2014). In October, Houthis seized the Red Sea port city of Hudaydah. A movement representing the Tehama people launched protests over 16–19 October calling for Houthis to withdraw from Al Hudaydah governorate (Yemen Times, 21/10/2014). Military sources have previously warned that Houthis are seeking to extend their presence to the Bab al Mandab strait, which leads to the Suez canal (AFP, 14/10/2014). In Ibb, on 2 November, Houthi insurgents attacked the headquarters of the Sunni Al Islah party, triggering violence in which three people died. Al Islah has lost influence in the city since it was seized by Shi’ites in late October (AFP, 02/11/2014). In Al Jawf, fighting was particularly fierce in September in Al Ghail district, through which a road linking the capital to the oil regions passes. An agreement calling for all parties to withdraw from Al Ghail district came into force on 18 September. Amran governorate has been under de facto Houthi control since August, after fierce fighting between Houthi and pro-government tribesman in June (Middle East Monitor, 30/08/2014).

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and Ansar al Sharia

Despite the Government’s efforts, supported by the US, to destroy AQAP, based in the south and east of the country, the group has expanded its presence in Hadramaut. AQAP regularly targets army and security forces, oil pipelines, and foreigners for abduction. In mid-September, a regional leader of Ansar al Sharia, an AQAP offshoot, announced that the group was increasing its presence in Sanaa in preparation for a fight with the Houthis (IRIN, 23/09/2014, 23/09/2014).

AQAP is based in the south and east. In April and May, government forces and tribal militias captured Al Mahfad, in Abyan governorate, which had been the main base of Al Qaeda since 2012, when a military offensive largely drove Al Qaeda from their strongholds (AFP). But the Government’s offensives have not been able to weaken the group significantly (23/09/2014). At the end of June, suspected AQAP briefly seized Sayun airport (Gulf News). The Wadi border crossing to Saudi Arabia was attacked (Reuters).

Security Incidents

Sanaa: On 2 November, the secretary general of the liberal party Union of Popular Forces party Mohammed Abdulmalik al Mutawakil was shot dead (AFP, 02/11/2014). On 29 October, an explosive device planted close to a Houthi office killed nine people and wounded several others (AFP, 29/10/2014). On 11 October, three Houthis were killed in explosion at Al Azaraqain checkpoint on the Sanaa–Amran road (Yemen Times, 14/10/2014). On 9 October, a suicide bomb on the capital’s Al Tahrir square targeted a gathering for Houthis supporters, killing 47 and wounding dozens more. Al Qaeda claimed responsibility (AFP, 09/10/2014). On 27 September, Al Qaeda claimed to have fired a rocket that struck near the US embassy, wounding at least two Yemeni guards (AFP, 27/09/2014; Reuters, 27/09/2014).

Al Bayda: Over 24–27 October, fighting between Houthis and the Qifa tribe, as well as AQAP members, aiming to force the Houthis out of the Al Manasseh area of Rada, killed 250 people (The Daily Star, 28/10/2014; Yemen Times, 22/10/2014). On 24 October, a US drone strike near Rada killed at least ten suspected Al Qaeda fighters (Al Jazeera, 25/10/2014). Fighting began in the governorate on 14 October (AFP, 17/10/2014). Clashes between AQAP and Houthis have involved the use of rocket-propelled grenades and artillery by both sides (AFP, 20/10/2014). Rada is a mixed Sunni-Shi’ite area that has frequently been the scene of clashes.

Al Hudaydah: On 2 November, suspected Al Qaeda killed 18 Yemeni troops and captured 15 others in an attack on security headquarters in Hudaydah, which Houthi insurgents had seized in mid-October. The assailants seized the building but three of the militants were also killed. Army reinforcements were sent and tribal mediations launched with the assailants to withdraw from the building (AFP, 02/11/2014).

Dhamar: Ten Houthi insurgents were killed during clashes on 20 October in the Anns district of Dhamar, taken last week by the insurgents (AFP, 20/10/2014).

Ibb: Houthi insurgents captured Radmah, on a road linking Sanaa with the main southern city Aden, after 24 hours of fighting against local tribesmen. With the fall of...
Radmdah, the Houthis now virtually control Ibb province, with the exception of Udain (29/10/2014). AQAP backed by Sunni tribesmen recaptured the town of Udain on 20 October. On 17 October, 12 Houthis and eight tribesmen died in a battle for control of Ibb city (AFP, 17/10/2014).

Marib: On 28 September, a suicide bomber linked to Al Qaeda drove a car laden with explosives into Al Jafra hospital in the town of Majzar, used as a base by the Houthis movement, killing at least 15 people and wounding over 50 (Reuters, 28/09/2014).

Shabwah: On 14 October, suspected Al Qaeda killed an army officer (AFP, 14/10/2014).

Hadramaut: On 9 October, 20 Yemeni soldiers were killed in a suspected Al Qaeda bombing of an army post on the western outskirts of the city of Mukalla. On 11 October, two Yemeni soldiers were killed and three wounded when a roadside bomb exploded targeting a military vehicle in the town of Shibam (AFP, 09/10/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

On 25 and 30 September, denial of access prevented a coordinated multi-sector needs assessment in Sanaa. The recently signed peace agreement specifically calls on all parties to facilitate humanitarian access (OCHA, 02/10/2014).

The ongoing fuel crisis and insecurity are slowing humanitarian operations and access. Road closures further hamper aid deliveries.

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

The last kidnapping cases reported took place in Sanaa 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). In 2014, 80,000 people fled their homes due to conflict (OCHA, 09/10/2014).

Several waves of conflict, lack of access, and the fluidity of displacement all make it extremely difficult to estimate new displacements and needs.

IDPs

At the end of August, there were 335,000 IDPs in Yemen (OCHA, 28/08/2014). As of August, OCHA reported that the vast majority were hosted in five governorates: Sa’ada (103,014 people); Hajjah (89,136 people); Amran (79,136 people); Sanaa (46,228 people); and Al Jawf (24,700), with 8,000 newly displaced from Al Ghail (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

Amran and the North: Persistent insecurity makes humanitarian presence and access to Al Jawf governorate extremely limited (OCHA, 14/08/2014). On 25 August, 90% of residents from Al Ghail (around 8,000 people) were reported displaced, many to Al Hazm district (Islamic Help, 25/08/2014; Yemen Times, 23/07/2014). IDPs are with host communities or relatives.

90% of the population of Al Ghail, in Al Jawf is thought to have fled (Islamic Help, 25/08/2014). Despite a ceasefire, IDPs have reportedly not returned home in significant numbers due to concerns that fighting could resume (OCHA, 02/10/2014).

Refugees

As of end of August, 48,456 refugees and migrants had arrived in Yemen in 2014 (OCHA, 30/09/2014). Around 800,000 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants require humanitarian assistance. More than 243,000 Somali refugees are living in precarious conditions either in the only refugee camp, Kharaz, or in urban areas. One million undocumented Ethiopian migrants also live in Yemen (ECHO, 27/08/2014).

January-August, 48,485 refugees and migrants arrived in Yemen. There has been a marked increase in arrivals of refugees and migrants from Africa, in excess of 10,500 people in August. Border controls have been relaxed between Ethiopia and Somalia since early 2014, which may have contributed to the increase in arrivals (OCHA 29/09/2014).

A group of around 200 Eritreans have been detained for several months upon crossing into Yemen and were confronted with homelessness after being released in January 2014. Most refugees spent between three and 20 months in a prison in Hudaydah governorate (Yemen Times, 19/08/2014).

Returnees

At the end of August, 227,000 IDPs had returned home (OCHA, 28/08/2014). In August, returnees were located in Abyan (150,671), Sa’ada (67,977) and Al Bayda and Dhamar (8,155) (OCHA, 31/09/2014).

Between January 2013 and July 2014, 685,000 Yemenis returned from Saudi Arabia, as the Saudi Government restricted the activities of foreign workers (OCHA, 31/08/2014). Most returnees have acute humanitarian needs, and the returns place a burden on Yemen’s fragile political transition. An estimated 400,000 Yemeni nationals may return from Saudi Arabia in 2014.

Amran: As of 10 August, most of the at least 35,000 IDPs who had fled Amran governorate since the end of April had reportedly returned (IRIN, 31/08/2014); opponents of Houthis and those whose properties were damaged or destroyed may face difficulties (OCHA, 04/08/2014). Access to lifesaving primary healthcare is a priority (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

South: 155,000 people have returned. Improved security facilitates returns, however, sporadic outbreaks of violence continue to result in small-scale displacement (USAID, 09/2014). Living conditions are difficult: reconstruction has not yet started, basic services are hardly available, and landmines are still a threat (ECHO, 27/08/2014).

Food Security

Around 10.6 million people are food insecure, five million of whom are severely food
The combination of poor purchasing power and continued conflict is likely to limit food access for displaced households, resulting in a continuation of Crisis conditions (IPC Phase 3) through December 2014 for households in conflict-affected areas (FEWSNET, 27/08/2014). 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).

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). The increase in the cost of fuel since July exacerbates the crisis (ECHO, 27/08/2014; FEWSNET, 27/08/2014).

Hajjah is the third most food insecure governorate in Yemen, according to the 2014 Comprehensive Food Security Survey. More than 32% of the population are severely food insecure compared to 31% in 2011 (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

**Agriculture and Markets**

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.

As of October, seasonally adjusted wheat prices had risen by 15%, and the retail prices for fuel had increased by 48%. WFP indicated that the impact of staple food price changes on the cost of the basic food basket have been moderate compared to the previous year (WFP, 27/10/2014).

Despite declining international wheat prices and stable international rice prices (FEWSNET, 01/08/2014), Yemen's continued instability, currency depreciation, and low foreign reserve levels contributed to costlier food imports and higher local commodity prices (WFP, 31/07/2014).

Insecurity is hampering agricultural activity as well as agricultural assistance programmes (FAO cited in OCHA, 08/10/2014). Farmers affected by the Amran conflict are in need of support to avoid losing the next harvest (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

Crop production levels will be lower due to drought and locust infestation in the northwest. (FAO, 03/08/2014).

**Livelihoods**

The loss of remittances due to the expulsion of Yemeni migrant workers from Saudi Arabia is likely to have a severe impact on the lives of thousands of families (ECHO, 27/08/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

An estimated 8.6 million people have limited access to health services (OCHA, 09/09/2014). Qualified medical staff are in short supply, as is medical equipment.

As of 2 October, all health facilities in Sanaa are back in operation (OCHA, 02/10/2014).

**Malnutrition**

An estimated 1.06 million children under five are acutely malnourished in 2014, approximately 290,000 of whom are severely malnourished (ECHO, 27/08/2014).

Preliminary results of the CFSS show that GAM has improved considerably in Al Hudaydah, Aden, Lahj, Marib, Al Dhale’e, Hadramaut and Al Bayda; but severely deteriorated in Taizz, Ibb, Dhamar and Al Maharah. The net result is that national GAM has slightly improved: 12.7% of under 5 children are malnourished compared to 13 per cent in 2011 (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

**WASH**

An estimated 13.1 million people do not have access to safe water (OCHA, 09/09/2014), 12.1 million are without access to improved sanitation, and 4.4 million lack access to adequate sanitation (OCHA, 28/02/2014). Open defecation remains standard practice for more than 20% of the population and appears to be higher for young children (UNICEF 2014).

Displaced families in Amran district transit camp require WASH assistance (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

IDPs in Al Ghail district have to walk up to 17 km to fetch water (Islamic Help, 25/08/2014).

Among the Muhamasheen population, constituting 10% of the country’s population.

**Shelter**

750 houses have been damaged due to fighting in Sanaa (Yemeni Red Crescent cited by IRIN, 29/09/2014).

Unverified reports estimate that between 200 and 500 houses were damaged in the Amran conflict (OCHA, 04/08/2014).

**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, affecting some 72,000 children.

Four of the 51 schools affected by conflict in Sanaa were extensively damaged. Five schools remained occupied by fighters as of 30 September (OCHA, 02/10/2014).
In September, education was disrupted for around 75,000 children in Sanaa as their schools were in or around conflict zones (UNICEF, 09/2014).

**Protection**

Conflict in Sanaa has raised critical protection concerns regarding systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. There are also reports that parties to the conflict commandeered civilian residences for military purposes, including the storage of weapons and munitions (OCHA, 08/10/2014).

In a survey, around 72% of Yemenis returning from Saudi Arabia said they suffered deprivation of food or water, detention, or physical and psychosocial abuse (OCHA, 12/05/2014).

**Children**

Violations of child rights were reported in Amran, Al Dhale‘e, and Sa‘ada during the Amran conflict in July (UNICEF, 31/07/2014).

The Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict has reported that Houthis, Ansar al Sharia, AQAP and state forces are all recruiting children (01/10/2014). Child recruitment by armed forces and armed groups was also reported during the Amran conflict (UNICEF, 31/07/2014). Armed children guarding checkpoints indicates the prevalence of recruitment of children by armed groups (OCHA, 08/10/2014).

According to reports, refugee children attempting journeys from the Horn of Africa to Saudi Arabia via Yemen face serious risks of trafficking and exploitation— with girls sometimes forced into “marriage” and otherwise subject to sexual violence and exploitation by older men during the journey (UNHCR, 21/10/2014).

**SGBV**

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). Women and children in Al Dhale‘e face harassment from soldiers (Protection Cluster, 28/04/2014).

**Mines and ERW**

Landmines and explosive remnants of war are a major concern in the northern governorates. On 29 September, three children in Sanaa were wounded by unexploded ordnance (OCHA, 08/10/2014).

Updated: 02/11/2014

**LEBANON CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

6 November: Two masked gunmen shot and wounded a Lebanese Army soldier in Arsal. In Tripoli, a stun grenade was tossed towards a Lebanese Army post; no casualties were reported (Daily Star).

5 November: Stating elections would currently pose too much of a security risk, the Lebanese parliament extended its mandate until 2017, possibly paving the way for dialogue between rival blocs over the five-month presidential vacuum (Daily Star, AFP).

5 November: As part of a military crackdown, the Lebanese Army stated it arrested seven men suspected of links with terrorist organisations (Daily Star).

1 November: The Al Nusra Front handed a mediator a list of names of prisoners it wants released in exchange for the Lebanese soldiers and police it holds (Daily Star).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 1,124,896 Syrians are registered as refugees in Lebanon and 8,412 are awaiting registration, as of 4 November. 39% are persons with specific needs, 25% of children are at risk (UNHCR 22/10/2014). 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; 16% of refugees are aged 15–24 (UNHCR 06/2014, UNFPA 06/08/2014)

- Shelter is a critical problem: as of 1 September, 1,392 informal settlements house 186,243 refugees (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 – due to high insecurity, disrupted trade, and a steady decline in consumer and investor confidence – and threatens to push 170,000 Lebanese into poverty by the end of 2014.

**Political Context**

On the ground that elections would currently present too much of a security risk, the Lebanese parliament extended its mandate until 2017: 95 lawmakers voted in favour of the extension, two opposed, and 31 boycotted the session, including the Change
and Reform bloc. Many protesters gathered in Beirut to denounce the vote.

Already the second extension, this vote allows lawmakers – elected in 2009 – to sit in office for an additional two years and seven months. Observers state the extension might pave the way for dialogue between the rival blocs, March 8 and March 14, regarding the five-month presidential vacuum. (Daily Star 06/11/2014; 05/11/2014). Former president Michel Sleiman’s term expired on 25 May. The March 8 bloc, which includes Hezbollah, has boycotted numerous rounds of voting, arguing that the sessions are futile until rival groups agree on a consensus candidate.

A new Government was formed in February after ten months of political stalemate. The new Government brings together the Hezbollah movement and its allies, and the Future Movement bloc, who back opposing sides in the Syria war. Neither side has veto power over the other.

Security Context

Due to the ongoing conflict in neighbouring Syria, the security situation in Lebanon has deteriorated and sectarian tensions have been exacerbated. An increase in raids and arrests are reported following security incidents in the eastern border area and in Tripoli.

Tripoli: The Lebanese army launched an assault against armed fighters in Tripoli on 24 October, successfully driving militants out of the city within a few days (Reuters 27/10/2014). Clashes erupted after an incident in an outlying village the day before, in which three militants allegedly linked to Islamic State (IS) were killed. There have been several bouts of fighting in Tripoli since war broke out in Syria, but this was the first time fighters had occupied the Old City. At least five soldiers and two civilians died in (BBC/Al Jazeera 26/10/2014).

A military crackdown began during the clashes, and the Lebanese army has detained hundreds of Syrians, Lebanese, and Palestinians in Tripoli and the north (Daily Star 05/11/2014). On 31 October the army seized large quantities of weapons during a raid in Abi Samra neighbourhood of the city, while explosive experts defused six bombs (Daily Star). On 6 November, a stun grenade was tossed towards a Lebanese Army post, near the Mankoubeen-Beddawi neighbourhood. No casualties were reported (Daily Star).

Bekaa Valley/ Arsal: Heavy fighting took place between the Lebanese army and armed groups in Arsal in the first week of August, with renewed fighting on 27 August, as well as reports of air raids along the border. In September, bomb attacks targeting military and Hezbollah in Arsal and Bekaa Valley killed five people (Al Jazeera 21/09/2014). On 25 September, Lebanese troops raided a Syrian refugee camp in Arsal, with the army saying unknown assailants had set fire to several tents. Local residents disputed the army's story, saying troops set fire to the camp (AFP 25/09/2014). Two gunmen were shot and wounded a Lebanese Army soldier in Arsal (Daily Star 05/11/2014).

In early November, the leader of the Al Nusra Front, threatened Hezbollah leader, Nasrallah, hinting at attacks on Hezbollah strongholds (Daily Star 05/11/2014). Hezbollah’s involvement in Syria, and the alleged presence of Al Nusra Front in Lebanon, is raising concerns regarding destabilisation in Lebanon. Observers perceive these latest statements as part of Al Nusra Front’s strategy to force Hezbollah to refocus on Lebanon.

Prisoner swap: Since clashes in early August, IS and Al Nusra Front are believed to be holding about 30 Lebanese soldiers and members of security forces. IS has asked for the release of Islamists, while Al Nusra Front are demanding protection for Syrian refugees and the opening of a safe passage for civilians into and out of Arsal. Several Lebanese Ministers have stated since that the Government is not opposed to a prisoner swap. On 1 November, the Al Nusra Front handed a Qatari-appointed mediator a list of names of prisoners it wants released. Three captives have already been killed by the armed groups, two by IS and one by Al Nusra Front, in a bid to pressure the Lebanese Army to ease its activities in Tripoli (Daily Star 01/11/2014).

Refugee–Host Community Violence

Recent months have seen an increase in acts targeting Syrian refugees (UNHCR 26/09/2014). Human Rights Watch has documented 11 violent attacks in August and September against unarmed Syrians or those perceived to be Syrian by private Lebanese citizens. In at least four cases, witnesses reported that the attacks took place in full view of Lebanese security forces, who did not intervene (HRW, 30/09/2014).

The armed clashes in Arsal in early August and the latest clashes in Tripoli have had an important impact on social cohesion, particularly in the Bekaa (AFP 09/09/2014). In addition to a rise in evictions, incidents, and restrictive measures imposed on refugees, local NGOs and partners are reporting increasing opposition from local institutions and communities to the international response and assistance (UNHCR 26/09/2014).

86% of Syrian refugees are living in Lebanon’s 242 most vulnerable locations. Competition for scarce income-generating opportunities, more expensive goods and services, and less affordable accommodation, are all creating tension (REACH 05/08/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

The UN estimates that Lebanon will need USD 1.6 billion in funding to cope with the humanitarian situation this year; as of 9 August, only 36% has been raised (UNHCR 03/07/2014, 10/9/2014)

Access

Access to refugees in Arsal has been constrained since August, preventing WFP from distributing e-cards and food parcels to new arrivals (WFP 03/10/2014). Insecurity in parts of Bekaa, especially North Bekaa, where many refugees are living, has at times challenged humanitarian access (OCHA 28/08/2014). In Southern Lebanon, access and movement have at times been affected by the security measures implemented by local authorities,
Refugees live in 1,700 different locations in Lebanon, making the delivery of humanitarian assistance challenging (UNHCR 13/09/2014).

Displacement

Refugees in Lebanon

1,124,896 Syrians are registered as refugees in Lebanon, an increase of almost 1,500 since 22 October. 8,412 are awaiting registration (UNHCR 04/11/2014). 79% are women and children. The number of Syrians in Lebanon who are not registered with UNHCR is unknown. Bekaa is hosting the largest number of refugees. More than half of refugees coming to Lebanon have moved at least once before crossing the border; one in ten have moved more than three times (UNHCR 01/09/2014).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: An August assessment indicates the presence of 42,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) in Lebanon (UNRWA cited by OCHA 01/09/2014).

Iraqi Refugees: Lebanon hosts nearly 7,500 registered Iraqi refugees and a further 1,200 are awaiting registration (USAID 19/09/2014).

Internal displacement

Taking advantage of an informal truce after three days of heavy clashes between the army and Islamist militants, thousands of civilians fled their homes in Bab al-Tebbaneh, Tripoli. Many went to stay with relatives; others were put up in schools (AFP 26/10/2014).

Reported raids by the Lebanese Armed Forces in search of suspected terrorists in Arsal on 25 September caused small-scale movements of refugees to the Bekaa area. Further displacements could follow (WFP 03/10/2014).

Returnees

Around 13% of Lebanese returnees from Syria have specific needs due to injury, serious medical conditions, or disability. 27% live in single-room structures, warehouses, garages, or unfinished buildings; 4% live in informal settlements and collective shelters; 4% are classified as homeless. Half of those surveyed had experienced lack of food or money to buy food within the last 30 days (IOM/OCHA 01/09/2014).

Host Communities

Following a survey in August, all 446 host communities reported inadequate or insufficient access to water, waste water management systems, affordable housing, and employment opportunities. Conditions in more developed urban locations are better than in rural communities.

In Akkar, main concerns expressed were inadequate access to water, wastewater management, and electricity. In Bekaa, health services and livelihoods were additional concerns. Water supply and availability of affordable housing were high priorities in Mount Lebanon and Beirut. In Tripoli governorate, water, wastewater management, and affordable housing topped the list of priorities, along with livelihoods. In southern Lebanon, communities also mentioned the lack of electricity (OCHA 01/09/2014).

Food Security

Current funding shortfalls are forcing WFP to reduce the October voucher value from USD 30 to USD 20, affecting 918,792 people (WFP 03/10/2014). Food parcels for new arrivals and vouchers for Palestinian refugees will be discontinued (WFP 18/09/2014).

Monitoring in August indicates that 27% of new Syrian refugees have poor to borderline food consumption scores (UNHCR 14/08/2014).

As of August, almost 13% of households were classified as moderately or severely food insecure. Nearly 68% of households reported having reduced the number of meals (VASyR 10/08/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

Aggregate cereal consumption has increased from 0.9 million metric tons a year (2004–2008) to 1.2 million, but national grain production has remained stagnant at just under 200,000 metric tons over the past decade (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

77% of refugee households were found to rely on non-agricultural casual labour and debts or loans. Approximately 80% of households borrowed money or received credit and/or money to buy food (VASyR 10/08/2014). In assessments carried out between January and March, 68% of refugee households reported that WFP vouchers were their main source of income (WFP 07/09/2014). 28% of Syrian refugee households resorted to emergency coping strategies in 2014, up from 22% in 2013 (VASyR 2014).

UNHCR reports that newcomers arriving in 2014 are in general more vulnerable: 39% of refugees surveyed in July were unemployed for over 12 months in Syria before fleeing to Lebanon; 65% stated their standard of living in Lebanon were worse than in Syria (UNHCR 13/09/2014).

Unemployment in border areas hosting Syrian refugees has doubled since the refugee influx (Reuters 03/07/2014). 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).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: More than 37% of PRS have 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.
Health and Nutrition

An estimated 12.1% of refugees surveyed 18–25 July needed health services in the month before the survey. Difficulties reported in accessing antenatal care include not being able to afford cost of care (84.2%), and transportation (28.9%) (UNHCR 01/10/2014). 56.1% of people with chronic conditions were unable to access care, because they were unable to afford fees (78.9%), faced a long wait at the clinic (13.3%), or did not know where to go (11.6%) (UNHCR 01/10/2014).

72% of primary health centres assessed by UNICEF lack sufficient essential drugs, 67% lack sufficient medication for chronic diseases, and 49% lack sufficient antibiotics for children (UNICEF 22/08/2014).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: Almost 75% of PRS children aged between six months and five years were sick in the two weeks prior to an UNRWA survey in March. 42% of surveyed households had at least one member who required hospitalisation. Households living outside the refugee camps access UNRWA’s health services less frequently than households in the camps (UNRWA, 03/2014).

Mental Health

A UNFPA assessment on Syrian youth (aged 15–24) showed that 89% described themselves as depressed, anxious, or afraid most of the time. Youth considered unemployment and security conditions as negatively affecting their psychological status and their propensity to violence, as well as gender relations within households (UNHCR 15/10/2014).

Around 300,000 displaced Syrians are estimated to be most vulnerable to mental health concerns, 60% are women and children (WHO 16/07/2014).

WASH

Further displacements of refugees mean WASH services are needed in new locations. In some areas, especially in north Bekaa, the security situation is significant delaying the provision of assistance (UNHCR 26/09/2014). WASH conditions are worse for Syrian refugees living in 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).

Demand for water has increased 7% due to the refugee influx (UNHCR 01/07/2014). 33% of refugee households do not have drinking water, compared to 28% in 2013 (VASyR 10/08/2014). An estimated 55.4% of households reported storing water in containers at home compared to 33.1% in September 2013. Storing water for consumption can increase the risk of infectious disease transmission (UNHCR 01/10/2014). 70% of refugees need assistance adapting to hygiene conditions in displacement (UNHCR 16/10/2014).

Approximately 12% of households (twice the percentage in 2013) do not have access to a place for washing/bathing, and of those who had access, over 7% were sharing bathrooms and latrines with 15 people or more (VASyR 10/08/2014).

In Arsal, 544 latrines in informal settlements and communal shelters were destroyed during recent fighting, as was 623,000 litres of water storage capacity in informal settlements (UNHCR 19/08/2014).

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).

Waste management: Waste management remains poor in most places where refugees live, and municipalities do not have the capacity to collect. Diminishing funding reduced waste management activities in Bekaa and the north (UNHCR 26/09/2014).

Shelter

Over 60% of Syrian refugees live in the north or the Bekaa Valley, where winter conditions are more severe than in the rest of the country. Also, over 40% of refugees live in sub-standard accommodation, and are especially vulnerable to cold temperatures. Challenges for the winter response mainly centre on the fact that refugees are scattered across 1,700 locations (SNAP 03/10/2014).

Heavy rainstorms hit Lebanon on 18–19 October, severely damaging informal settlements, makeshift shelters, and household items in Akkar (27/10/2014).

Shelter is the primary reason for widespread secondary displacement (MSNA 05/2014). 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).

41% of refugees live in tents, collective shelters, unfinished constructions, and garages; 14% live in tented settlements. Only 10% of registered Syrian refugees possess a written rental agreement. The Government agreed on 11 September to establish camps along the Syria–Lebanon border to accommodate approximately 20,000 Syrians (UNHCR 19/09/2014).

As of 1 September, 1,392 informal settlements house 186,243 refugees. In June 2012, there were 282 informal settlements (UNHCR 03/09/2014, UNHCR 27/07/2014). Akkar has over 300 settlements of four or more tents, and the Bekaa 700. The multi-sectoral assessment of informal settlements in Bekaa indicates congestion, poor drainage, and great need for repairs.

Arsal: According to initial assessments, the shelters of 822 Syrian families in 14 informal settlements and seven families from a collective shelter were affected by fighting in August (UNHCR 21/08/2014). General rehabilitation of damaged shelters in informal settlements, and especially in residential areas, was not advised by the municipality as the delivery of shelter materials could aggravate social tensions (UNHCR 26/08/2014).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: An assessment of all 42 unofficial Palestinian communities in Lebanon, or ‘gatherings’, found the population to have increased from 110,000 to 140,000 since 2011: 26,000 are Palestinian refugees from Syria. Pressure on already inadequate basic services has increased, with shelter needs a priority: many housing units in need of intervention (OCHA 01/09/2014).
PRS households are residing in alarmingly crowded dwellings, with an average of 4.6 persons per bedroom; 8.4 people on average share one bathroom. Most households (71%) reported paying rent for shelter. Slightly over a quarter of households (27%) were hosted free of charge.

**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**

It is estimated more than 300,000 school-aged Syrians in Lebanon are out of school (UNHCR 27/10/2014). The biggest barrier to schooling is the lack of space in public schools, with other obstacles including the cost of transportation and the cost of tuition fees. Language barriers and safety concerns contribute to a high drop-out rate among refugee children (UNHCR 26/09/2014).

At the end of the school year 2013–14, dropout rates stood at 8.5% for second shifts (children starting school later in the day). While there was not sufficient data available for first shifts, dropout rates are reportedly higher among second shifts. School pass rates for second shift stood at 60% (UNHCR 16/10/2014).

**Palestinian refugees from Syria:** School enrolment rates have doubled since the last academic year, to 64%. Most PRS children are enrolled in UNRWA schools. Enrolment rates are lower for PRS living outside camps, and decrease as children grow older (even within the same household): children aged 13 years and older are facing difficulties adjusting to UNRWA’s Lebanese curriculum, taught in English or French.

**Protection**

Between 19 and 24 September, more than 200 Syrian refugees, including minors, were arrested in Arsal by the Lebanese army. There were also reports that the army evicted a large number of refugees from private homes. On 25 September the Lebanese army launched a crackdown in the area of Ras al Jafar. More than 30% of the refugees left the area for Syria or areas within Lebanon. More than 20 informal settlements received eviction orders. Preliminary estimates indicate 40 communities are threatened with eviction, bringing the number of refugees affected by army operations in the region to around 12,000. Serious violations were committed by members of the Lebanese army against detained refugees (Al Akhbar 11/10/2014, UNFPA 09/10/2014).

53.4% of the Syrian refugee population are children and 32% of registered families are headed by women. Over 38% of households include at least one person with specific needs (UNHCR 26/09/2014).

Restrictions on freedom of movement due to security checkpoints, curfews, and lack of identification expose refugees to many vulnerabilities (UNHCR 13/09/2014). Human Rights Watch reported that at least 45 Lebanese municipalities have imposed curfews on Syrian refugees since the August Arsal clashes. Such curfews violate international human rights law and appear to be illegal under Lebanese law (03/10/2014).

**Refugee Status**

The Government formally agreed to stop welcoming displaced people, barring exceptional cases, and to ask the UN refugee agency to stop registering the displaced. The plan calls for the restriction of the entry of Syrian refugees to Lebanon. Now in effect for several weeks, the policy has resulted in a substantive reduction in Syrian refugees registering with UNHCR (UNHCR, AFP 24/10/2014).

An average of 13% of registered refugees have entered through unofficial border crossings and are not able to pay the prohibitive regularisation fees. Those who entered through official crossings often have difficulties meeting the residency renewal fees (UNHCR 13/09/2014).

On 21 August, the Government announced that all Syrians without legal residency status would be exempted from overstay fines until the end of 2014. Most individuals who returned to Syria expecting to re-enter Lebanon received bans on re-entry for periods up to 6 months. In some instances, this resulted in family separation (UNHCR).

Since May, PRS entry to Lebanon has been almost entirely limited to those transiting to a third country. Restrictions on entry and visa renewal cause an increasing number of PRS to remain in Lebanon without legal stay. They face an array of protection concerns, including limits on their freedom of movement and ability to complete essential civil registration procedures such as birth registration (OCHA 01/09/2014).

**Statelessness:** Stateless refugees in Lebanon include Syrian Kurds who were denaturalised in Syria in 1962. Between March 2011 and August 2014, 34,272 Syrian refugees have been born in Lebanon and, according to a January survey, 72% do not possess an official birth certificate (UNHCR 16/10/2014).

**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).

**SGBV**

Unaccompanied girls and adolescents, single heads of households, child mothers and spouses, and women and girls living with disabilities are the most at risk of SGBV. 25% of survivors of reported SGBV cases are under 18 years of age. Overcrowding and lack of privacy in shared accommodation places refugees at heightened risk of SGBV (UNHCR 16/10/2014).

Scarc economic opportunities coupled with high costs of living have some families resort to negative coping mechanisms including early marriage, child labour, survival sex. Mobility of refugee women in Lebanon is reportedly restricted due to fear of sexual harassment and exploitation (UNFPA 13/08/2014).

A weak legal framework, limited resources, and social barriers prevent refugees at risk of...
SGBV, or victims, from seeking and receiving adequate protection. Other challenges include lack of documentation, overcrowding, and growing tension between refugees and host communities.

Child Protection

There are no official statistics on child marriage, which exists in some areas; but the rate has risen with the influx of Syrian refugees (UNICEF, AFP 28/08/2014). Child labour is also reported to be increasing across the country, and 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. The impact on children of increased restrictions on visa renewals and entry into Lebanon – particularly of Palestinian refugees from Syria – is also raising concerns (UNHCR 18/07/2014).

Updated: 06/11/2014

MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

28 October: Reports indicate that as many as 10,500 Rohingya have fled Myanmar since mid-October and there are concerns about those who departed. At 28 October, it had not been possible to contact refugees in Thailand (VOA).

24 October: A United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) leader has warned that the military’s refusal to give up its parliamentary veto to any amendment to the country’s constitution and the failure to provide more powers to ethnic states would make current efforts to forge a nationwide ceasefire meaningless (local media).

KEY CONCERNS

- Repeated bloodshed between Buddhists and Muslims in Rakhine state since 2012, with human rights abuses against the Muslim minority reported (UN).
- 640,000 IDPs, resulting from years of internal conflict, including 137,400 IDPs, mainly Rohingya Muslims, in Rakhine state (OCHA, 08/2014).

Political Context

The military-led authoritarian regime in Myanmar (Burma) has made moves to improve its record on human rights over recent years, with the release of the opposition activist Aung San Suu Kyi in November 2010 being a turning point. Since 2013, several amnesties have been granted to political prisoners.

While recent efforts by the authorities to improve the country’s human rights record have been welcomed, local activists report that the prosecution of dissidents is continuing.

In October, civil society representatives stated that there has been no progress on a more comprehensive political settlement with ethnic groups and political reform has stalled (HRW, 17/10/2014).

Myanmar’s first democratic elections in 25 years are scheduled for the last week of October or the first week of November 2015, the Union Election Commission has announced (local media, 21/10/2014).

Peace Negotiations

Minority groups make up some 30% of the 51.4 million population, and ethnic and political groups have conducted protracted insurrections mainly in remote and economically marginalised areas such as Kachin, Kayin (Karen ethnic group), Kayah (Karenni), Rakhine, and Shan states (Government, 28/08/2014).

In 2013, authorities signed several separate peace deals with various insurgent movements, with the exception of the Kachin Independence Army (the armed wing of the Kachin Independence Organisation, or KIO), and the ethnic Ta’ang army (TNLA). In July, the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT), the most comprehensive alliance of ethnic actors to assemble in recent history, established guidelines for pursuing peace talks with the Myanmar Government (local media 31/07/2014). The most notable exclusions from the NCCT are the Shan State Army-South and the United Wa State Party. But as of late September, the NCCT is unable to reach agreement with the Government on the proposed nationwide ceasefire (local media, 25/09/2014).

In October, a United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) leader warned that the military’s refusal to give up its parliamentary veto to any amendment to the constitution, and the failure to provide more powers to ethnic states would make current efforts to forge a nationwide ceasefire meaningless. The Government has agreed to hold political negotiations with armed ethnic groups on prospects of giving more powers to ethnic states if a nationwide ceasefire is forged (local media, 24/10/2014). In mid-August, leaders of the ethnic groups announced that the Government had agreed to include one of their longstanding demands, a pledge to adopt a federal system, in a draft agreement (Center for International and Strategic Studies, 22/10/2014).

The Government has come under criticism in October for what has been perceived as a series of offensives against ethnic armed groups in Kachin, Karen, Mon and Shan states. The country’s main ethnic coalition, the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC), warned that attacks against minorities risks undermining the precarious progress toward a nationwide peace agreement (local media, 20/10/2014).

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. In the west, massive human rights infringements against the Rohingya Muslim minority in Rakhine state, continue to be reported. Myanmar has so far signed ceasefires with 14 of the 16 major armed ethnic groups (AFP, 12/10/2014). The Ta’ang National Liberation Army...
(TNLA), a rebel force of an estimated 800 fighters in Shan and Kachin State and the Kachin Independence Army have not struck bilateral agreements with the Government (IRIN, 08/10/2014).

**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 in 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. The Government denies the incident, a though it acknowledges that clashes took place. The UN is calling for an investigation. Tensions remain high, with authorities imposing restrictions on the displaced Muslim minority.

**Kachin State**

At 18 October, tensions continued to rise between insurgents and the army, forcing schools and businesses to close (local media, 18/10/2014). On 15 October, the Myanmar Army ordered more than 1,000 Kachin residents to leave the villages of Kanzihall, Aung Bar Lay and Tang Kaw, located about 16 km from the jade mining town of Hpakant, Kachin State, warning civilians of possible fighting between the army and KIA rebels (local media, 16/10/2014).

A week of conflict between the Myanmar army and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in April affected several villages and IDP camps on the borders between Kachin state, northern Shan state, and China. Over 2,700 people were displaced and are being hosted in four camps around Man Win Gy and Nam Kham. Clashes between the KIA and state army have been intermittent since the termination of a 17-year ceasefire in June 2011. Subsequent ceasefire negotiations have repeatedly failed. The Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), the military wing of the KIA, still has administrative control over several key areas of Kachin (local media, 06/10/2014).

**Kayin and Mon States**

On 14 October, the commanders of units of different Karen rebel groups, including the Democratic Karen Buddhist Association (DKBA) and parts of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), the armed wing of the Karen National Union, announced they would begin a military cooperation in order to confront the increase of army operations in their areas over several months (local media, 14/10/2014).

On 11 October, an explosion killed four people, including a child, and wounded ten more in a mortar bomb explosion on a road between the towns of Kawkareik and Myawaddy. Residents suspect the attack was linked to the recent fighting between troops and rebels from the DKBA (AFP, 12/10/2014).

On 26 September, tensions and occasional incidents escalated into full-scale clashes between government forces and the DKBA, a group of primarily Buddhist soldiers that broke away from the Kayin National Liberation Army in 1994. In some of the worst fighting since 2012, fighting involving mortar fire and rocket-propelled grenades was reported in Mon state’s Kyakmayaw township and near Kayin state’s Myawaddy town (local media, 29/09/2014). Two civilians were injured on 29 September when a bus was hit by an explosive device in Myaing Gyi Ngu village during a DKBA ambush of a Myanmar soldiers near Thananya Hill, about 40km southeast of Kayin state capital Hpa-an (local media, 01/10/2014). Over 100 villagers were displaced in central Mon state (local media, 29/09/2014). The Kayin militia’s leadership has been negotiating with Burmese military officers to prevent further clashes from breaking out (local media, 26/09/2014). The Karen National Union has joined the peace talks and a new round is scheduled to begin in late October (AFP, 12/10/2014).

**Shan State**

Fighting continues in eastern Shan state, and hundreds of people have fled insecurity since June.

On 21 October, two soldiers died in a rocket-propelled grenade attack during clashes with armed Ta’ang rebels in Loilen district’s Namsang township, Shan state, and two were injured, according to opposition groups (local media, 24/1/2014). Over 15–17 October, fighting occurred in northern Shan state between allied forces of TNLA, KIA and Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) groups and the Myanmar Army (local media, 17/10/2014). In July, two civilians were killed and at least ten children wounded after fighting between government troops and opposition fighters. Fighting between the regular army and the Shan State Army-North (SSA-N) has continued despite agreeing a ceasefire in January 2012.

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Access**

According to local NGOs, the delivery of aid to conflict-affected communities in remote areas within Shan and Kachin State is hampered by the fact that some areas are categorized as “black zones” by the Myanmar army and foreign groups’ access is therefore restricted (IRIN, 08/10/2014).

The restriction of the movement for hundreds of thousands of people in Myanmar’s Rakhine state is severely compromising their basic right to food, health, education and livelihoods (UNDP and OCHA in VOA, 28/10/2014). In Rakhine state, 50,000 people in isolated villages targeted for humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

International media reports from the end of July indicate that access to northern Rakhine state along the Myanmar–Bangladesh border is tightly restricted. The Government has designated a specific area of Sittwe – the Southern Quarter – for relief organisations to establish offices and accommodation. NGOs and UN 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).

As of September, WFP expected that funding shortfalls would limit the ability of humanitarian actors to address food needs in Myanmar beginning in November (USAID, 30/09/2014).

**Disasters: Floods**
More than 100 homes, farms, and plantations in Magwe division’s Kanyin village were flooded after heavy rains on 17 October. Residents who were most affected were evacuated to a temporary shelter (local media, 20/10/2014).

Approximately 11,500 people were displaced by floods in September, according to the Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD). One of the worst affected areas was Tachileik township, Shan state. Over 5–6 September, overflowing rivers forced the evacuation of over 4,000 people. Days later, Typhoon Kalmaegi caused flooding in four states, including Tachileik in Shan state, Katha in Sagaing, Singu in Mandalay region and Ingapu in Ayeyarwaddy region. The floods and strong winds affected some 1,250 households in these areas and resulted in six deaths. Over 4,600 people were temporarily displaced to evacuation centres and 1,273 houses were damaged, according to RRD (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

Over 36,000 people were displaced by floods or strong winds during August. Most have returned home.

Displacement

**IDPs**

As of 1 August, there are 639,502 IDPS in Myanmar, of whom 400,000 are in the southeast (OCHA, 08/2014). An estimated 236,000 IDP’s require humanitarian assistance in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states (USAID, 20/10/2014).

**Rakhine**: 137,400 people, mainly Rohingya Muslims, continue to be displaced as of end of July, since inter-communal violence erupted between Rakhine Buddhists and the Muslim minority in June and October 2012 (OCHA, 08/2014). An estimated 50,000 people live in host communities and 50,000 in isolated villages. 70,000 are said to be food insecure (OCHA 31/07/2014). 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.

On 11 September, the Government lifted a curfew in the city of Sittwe, which had been imposed more than two years ago (INGO, 12/09/2014).

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. Many Rohingyas cannot travel, get married, or even seek medical treatment without official permission, which is costly and difficult to obtain.

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.

**Kachin**: 99,070 people are displaced in Kachin and Shan states, with almost half of the IDPs living in areas where Government services are not available (OCHA, 09/2014). Over 50% of 5,000 IDPs in southern Kachin are in areas beyond government control, which are difficult to access (IRIN 05/2014). An estimated 20,000 IDPs 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. Many shelters and water systems in IDP camps need repair or replacement and families lack the means to generate income (OCHA, 30/09/2014). As of 6 October, 5,000 people fled Tanaing township in the capital Myitkyina amid concerns over possible renewed fighting between local armed opposition and government forces following a KIA recruitment drive (local media, 06/10/2014).

**Shan**: Tensions remain high in Man Pu village despite the return of most of the 800 people displaced by fighting between government forces and TNLA (Ta’ang Liberation Army) over 19–21 July (local media, 19/08/2014). 400 people abandoned another village in fear of Myanmar army reprisals after the death of two army officials (local media 01/08/2014). Almost 4,000 people have been displaced from Palaung (Ta’ang) villages (local media 25/07/2014). Fighting in northern and eastern Shan is disrupting humanitarian access to some areas and people are in urgent need of livelihood support (local media 21/07/2014; OCHA 08/2014).

**Returnees**

Land taken by the military, the state, and companies close to the Government impede the orderly future return of refugees, particularly from Thailand, and the resettlement of IDPs to their home communities or new sites (Center for International and Strategic Studies, 22/10/2014).

**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.

**Malaysia**: As of late October, an estimated 37,000 Rohingya are in Malaysia, with another 15,000 awaiting UN recognition as refugees (VOA, 28/10/2014).

**Thailand**: Reports indicate that as many as 10,500 Rohingya have fled to Thailand from Myanmar since mid-October (VOA, 28/10/2014).

In July, the Thai junta pledged to send back to Myanmar about 100,000 of the 120,000 refugees living in the border camps (UNHCR has registered 76,000 refugees). Since June, movement restrictions have been more strictly enforced; Myanmar refugees are banned from leaving the camps, confined to their homes from 1800-0600, and threatened with...
deportation if they don’t comply (Refugees International 29/08/2014). Rohingya Muslims are reportedly subject to human trafficking in Thailand (international human rights organisations, 12/2013).

Food Security

Overall, the food security situation has improved. However, recurrent inter-communal tensions since June 2012 have negatively impacted the food security situation of the vulnerable population, mainly the IDPs (FAO, 24/09/2014).

Health and Nutrition

The biggest challenge in Rakhine is access to healthcare (OCHA, 30/09/2014). If Rohingya camp residents wish to leave their camp to see a doctor, they must first obtain a referral by a government doctor and reportedly must also often bribe the security guards (Center for International and Strategic Studies, 22/10/2014). Only patients in the most critical condition tend to reach a hospital. Since September, the number of hospitals accepting referral patients grew from one to two accept (OCHA, 30/09/2014). Access to health services in Rakhine state remains significantly the levels before February, when a Médecins Sans Frontières office and Malteser suspended activities, according to the World Health Organization (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

Malnutrition

In June, 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).

WASH

In Rakhine state, a general deterioration in the WASH situation in camps is aggravating health problems and increasing the risk of waterborne disease (OCHA, 11/09/2014).

Protection

On 7 October, the Government began the release of 3,000 amnestied prisoners, citing humanitarian grounds. The prisoners released include one political prisoner and former military intelligence figures (AFP, 07/10/2014).

Legal Status of Rohingya Muslims

The Government has drafted a plan which would force Rohingya Muslims either to register as Bengalis or be detained. The plan proposes Rakhine authorities construct temporary camps for people who refuse to be registered or who are without adequate documents. Rights advocates say it could potentially put thousands of Rohingya, including those living in long-settled villages, at risk of indefinite detention. Accepting the term Bengali could leave the Rohingya vulnerable should authorities class them as illegal immigrants and attempt to send them to Bangladesh (Reuters, 27/09/2014).

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.

New census figures indicated 1.1 million people in Rakhine state, most of them Rohingya Muslims. This is the first time some Rohingyas have been included in the census. In the past the Government refused to acknowledge their existence and excluded them from any official publication (UNFPA, 30/08/2014).

Children

91 children have been 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).

In Rakhine state, 28,000 vulnerable children require education support. 60,000 adolescents in isolated communities are without any education opportunities (OCHA, 08/2014).

SGBV

Adolescent girls in camps in Kachin and Rakhine states face increasing violence and abuse, including SGBV (OCHA, 02/2014).

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 Myanmar army since Thein Sein’s government took power (local media 24/07/2014).

Mines and ERW

Around five million people in Myanmar live in mine-contaminated areas, according to a 2011 report by Geneva Call (IRIN 25/07/2014). Around 15–20 people are injured annually by landmines in Kayah but the number of fatalities is unknown. More than 34,000 IDPs are at greatest risk due to their movement in unfamiliar areas. Mine clearance has not begun in Kayah state, despite a ceasefire since 2012.

On 18 October, a landmine exploded outside a school in Kachin state, injuring three people including two young students (local media, 20/10/2014).

Updated: 29/10/2014
23 October: Three attacks against the Shi'ite minority in Quetta, Balochistan, killed eleven people and injured 30 (France24).

22 October: An attack on a polio team in Bajaur Tribal Agency in FATA injured three (DAWN).

21 October: Mortar shells fired from across the border in Afghanistan hit a house in Bajaur Agency, killing one and injuring two (DAWN).

20 October: 6,000 people were displaced following a Zarb-e-Azb operation begun on 18 October in Tirah Valley, Khyber Agency (Government).

KEY CONCERNS
- September floods have affected more than 2.53 million people, caused 367 deaths and injured 673 in Azad Kashmir, Punjab and Gilgit-Baltistan. Priority needs are health, food, shelter and access to safe drinking water (Government, 11/10/2014).
- Nearly 6,000 people were killed and 5,500 injured in militant, sectarian, terrorist, and politically motivated attacks in 2013, making it one of the deadliest years in the last decade (Center for Research and Security Studies).
- Over one million displaced by military operations in North Waziristan. There were already 930,000 IDPs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA as of mid-December 2013.

OVERVIEW
Priority humanitarian needs are for health, nutrition, and food assistance. An estimated 4.2 million people were in need of humanitarian support in November 2013 (OCHA). The security situation remains volatile due to militant attacks in urban centres and military operations against the Taliban in the tribal areas. Peace talks with an increasingly fragmented Taliban are stop-start. Pakistan’s relations with neighbouring countries, and with the US, remain tense.

Political Context
A year after Nawaz Sharif became Prime Minister, Pakistan is in a political crisis. Observers state the chaos can be blamed on the military undermining Sharif’s authority.

There are continued signs that the military is exploiting protests by Imran Khan’s Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Tahirul Qadri’s Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) to influence politics. Government negotiations with PTI and PAT were suspended on 12 September, after police arrested over 500 protestors in Islamabad and Lahore; a joint session at the parliament on 19 September condemned the protests (ICG, 01/10/2014).

Security Context
As of 5 October, 1,332 civilians have been killed in terrorist violence in Pakistan in 2014 (SATP, 05/10/2014). Over 1,400 people were killed in more than 850 incidents of violence between June 2013 and January 2014.

Operation Zarb-e-Azb
The Government launched operation Zarb-e-Azb on 15 June, after the Taliban declared war and attacked Karachi airport, and the army began ground assaults and air strikes against suspected Taliban hideouts. The Pakistan armed forces have intensified their military offensive against armed groups with strongholds in the North Waziristan Agency (NWA) of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The area is off-limits to journalists.

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)
On 10 June, the Taliban vowed to start all-out war. A ceasefire had expired on 23 April, and both militant and security sources have stated that the ceasefire was used by the Taliban to preserve militant bases.

Al Qaeda in South Asia
Early September, Ayman al Zawahiri, the Al Qaeda leader, announced a new branch, Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, covering Myanmar and Bangladesh, the Indian states of Assam and Gujarat, and the disputed territory of Kashmir (Financial Times, 03/09/2014).

Security Incidents
Mortar shells fired across the border in Afghanistan on 21 October hit a house in Bajaur Agency, killing one and injuring two (DAWN, 21/10/2014).

Bombing at an IDP camp in the northwestern town of Hangu killed seven civilians and injured ten on 28 September (AFP, 28/09/2014). A car bomb suicide attack targeting a senior military officer killed at least four people and wounded 24 in Peshawar on 23 September (AFP, 23/09/2014).

At least five people were killed and seven wounded by a suicide bomb attack in Pir Mela in Khyber Agency on 15 October (AFP, 15/10/2014). At least six people were killed and 17 others wounded when a bomb exploded in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on 4 October (AFP, 04/10/2014). Another bomb blast in the northwest had killed seven people and wounded another six in suspected sectarian violence on 1 October (AFP, 02/10/2014), while militant attacks targeting police on 15 September had killed three (AFP, 15/09/2014).

Balochistan
The United Baloch Front (UBF) has been running against the alleged annexation of Balochistan since 1948. 2014 saw a sharp rise in acts of violence. Attacks by Islamist armed groups are also a problem.

Suspected separatist insurgents killed nine Punjabis in an ethnically motivated attack in
Hub on 19 October (AFP, 19/10/2014). At least three people were killed and two others injured on 6 October in the Khuzdar area of Balochistan (DAWN, 06/10/2014). On 1 October, two UBF grenade attacks in Quetta killed four people and injured nine (DAWN, 02/10/2014).

Three attacks against the Shi’ite minority in Quetta, Balochistan, killed eleven people and injured 30 on 23 October (France24, 23/10/2014). A suicide bomb in a Shi’ite colony in southwest Balochistan killed five people and wounded another 25 on 4 October (AFP, 05/10/2014).

Tensions in the Disputed Kashmir Region
Fighting along the border between Pakistan and India that began on 6 October had resulted in an estimated 20 casualties and thousands displaced by 9 October (UN, 09/10/2014). On 27–28 August, 15,000 people fled gunfire and shelling near the LoC between India and Pakistan (The Guardian, 28/08/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs
Access
Access in Balochistan remains challenging due to on-going hostilities between the Government and militants, separatist movements, and sectarian violence (ECHO, 20/10/2014).

People affected by military operations in NWA face problems obtaining assistance, mostly due to lack of documentation. Within the IDP population female-headed households (7%), children-headed households (4%), older persons and persons with disabilities (5%) are excluded from distribution. Access to information, particularly on the registration process, available services, and support is lacking (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers
Between January and August, 60 aid workers, including 12 polio workers, have been killed, 10 injured and 19 abducted. The highest number of incidents occurred in KP and FATA (23 each), followed by Sindh (13) (OCHA, 31/08/2014). In 2013, 155 aid workers were killed, 171 seriously wounded, and 134 kidnapped – a 66% increase in the number killed from 2012 (OCHA, 19/08/2014).

A bomb targeting a polio team in Bajaur Tribal Agency in FATA on 22 October injured three people (DAWN, 22/10/2014). A roadside bomb exploded along the Afghan border in northwest Pakistan on 8 October, killing two civilians, including a polio vaccinator, and wounding one (AFP, 08/10/2014).

Disasters: Floods
As of 11 October, monsoon rains and floods have affected more than 2.53 million people, caused 367 deaths, and injured 673 people in Punjab (2.47 million affected), Azad Kashmir (47,000 affected) and Gilgit-Baltistan (13,270 affected). More than 107,000 houses have been damaged and 971,000 hectares of cropped areas affected.

684,000 people have been evacuated, 3,720 of whom are residing in seven camps (Government, 11/10/2014). Access has been hampered by stagnant water, fresh rains, and blocked roads. Priority needs are health, food, shelter, and access to safe drinking water (WHO, 23/09/2014). Waterborne diseases have broken out in Bajwat, Head Marala, Chaprar, and Pasrur (DAWN, 11/09/2014).

On 4 October, Pakistan barred activists from taking relief goods to the border with India-administered Kashmir, where delays in aid have created widespread anger among residents (AFP, 04/10/2014).

In August, Peshawar and tribal areas of KP were hit by severe rain and hailstorms, inundating low-lying areas. 31 people were killed and 130 injured (Government; DAWN, 22/08/2014).

Over the past three years, the monsoon region has shifted 100km west. As a result, heavy and unpredicted rainfall has occurred in Pakistan, especially in KP, causing massive destruction (Government, 20/08/2014).

Displacement
IDPs
At 20 October, a Zarb-e-Azb operation that began on 18 October in Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency had displaced more than 6,000 people (900 families); 4,000 to Jamrud Tehsil and 2,000 to Orakzai Agency (Government, 20/10/2014).

As of 20 October, 993,000 people (90,809 families; 74% women and children) have been displaced by conflict in NWA to FATA, KP, and other areas of Pakistan. Adding to the 930,000 pre-existing IDPs in FATA and KP (ECHO, 20/10/2014; OCHA, 12/09/2014). 40% of the population in NWA remain, despite army operations, and limited access leaves them far from basic services and humanitarian support (IRIN, 25/09/2014).

Most IDPs from NWA have taken refuge in overcrowded public buildings in KP (UNDP, 14/07/2014; ECHO, 01/08/2014).

58% of IDPs from NWA need food assistance, 95% lack income, and many require emergency livestock support (USAID, 04/10/2014). Temporary shelter construction assistance in overcrowded host communities, better protection monitoring, and emergency education services for 82,000 displaced children are also required (OCHA, 12/09/2014). As of October, as schools re-opened, 940 schools across Bannu, Barat and Lakki Marwat in KP had been vacated. IDPs have moved to host families, unused schools, or to Baka Khel camp in Bannu (USAID, 04/10/2014).

186,000 IDPs do not have access to safe drinking water, more than 128,000 remain in need of improved sanitation facilities, and approximately 256,000 people require critical hygiene services (USAID, 04/10/2014).

Refugees in Pakistan
At 20 October, there were 1.6 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan; the exact number is

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Returnees
As of 20 October, nearly 59,200 IDPs (8,837 families) have returned to their place of origin in 2014, including 27,780 to Kurram Agency and 31,425 to KP. In total, 165,603 families had returned to FATA between 2010 and 2014 (UNHCR, 20/10/2014).

Pakistani Refugees in Neighbouring Countries
By 15 October, nearly 244,200 Pakistanis and Afghan returnees (33,000 families) had fled conflict in NWA to Khost and Paktika provinces in Afghanistan (UNHCR, 15/10/2014).

Food Security
Most conflict-related IDPs rely on negative coping mechanisms and need food and NFI support (ECHO, 20/10/2014).

Increasing demand for food and NFIs has resulted in massive inflation: nominal prices increased between July and September for oil (+8%) and sugar (9%), following the trend of previous quarters (WFP, 27/10/2014).

Health and Nutrition
An estimated 1.21 million people are in need of basic health services and quality maternal and child health services. The influx of IDPs has severely strained health facilities and the lack of medical staff to provide care for displaced women is a critical challenge (UN Population Fund, 03/10/2014).

Stagnant waters from the September floods, as well as overcrowding and high temperatures, have increased the risk of waterborne disease (PI, 01/10/2014, WHO, 08/07/2014).

Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)
At August, 68 cases of CCHF, including 20 deaths, had been reported, 31 in Balochistan and 21 in KP (WHO, 13/08/2014). CCHF is endemic in Pakistan but the virus is most active between June and September (WHO, 25/07/2014).

Dengue
455 dengue cases have been reported in Punjab in 2014, with 29 new cases diagnosed on 19 October. The most affected districts are Rawalpindi, Sheikhpura, and Lahore (USAID, 19/10/2014). In Rawalpindi, four union councils have been declared high-risk, with 75 new cases during the first week of October (DAWN, 05/10/2014).

Diarrhoea
Over 1.8 million cases of acute diarrhoea were reported 29 December–9 August. Another 29,573 cases of bloody diarrhoea were reported in the same period (WHO, 13/08/2014).

Malnutrition
In Sindh, there remain serious unmet emergency needs from previous flood years in the sectors of food assistance and livelihood recovery, nutrition, WASH, health and shelter, while new needs arose from the 2014 floods. 1.1 million children under five are acutely malnourished; 400,000 of them are suffering from SAM (ECHO, 20/10/2014).

In April, an estimated 17,000 children had SAM and 55,000 MAM (04/2014). By May, more than 200 people had died from malnutrition-related causes in 2014 (OCHA, 09/05/2014). In the remote Neelum Valley, an estimated 21% of children are acutely malnourished, well above the national average of 15%, which is already at the emergency threshold (WFP, 12/2013).

Polio
As of 23 October, 212 wild polio cases had been reported in 2014 in Pakistan, from FATA, KP, Sindh, Balochistan, and Punjab, surpassing the previous record of 199 in 2000 (DAWN, 23/10/2014).

A 2012 Taliban-imposed ban on polio vaccination has prevented over 800,000 children from being immunised in the last two years in Pakistan (IPS, 27/10/2014). On 27 October, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government deferred anti-polio vaccination in 16 districts because police security was not available (DAWN, 27/10/2014). Attacks on polio vaccination teams have killed 59 people since December 2012, including health workers and police providing security (AFP, 02/10/2014).

WASH
In August, 87% of displaced families were not treating water at home (OCHA, 15/08/2014). An estimated 690,000 people – largely IDPs and returnees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and FATA – urgently need 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). 40% of displaced families in Bannu are not using latrine facilities and practise open defecation (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

Shelter
Inadequate shelter services, overcrowding, harsh weather conditions, and high rental charges are key challenges for displaced families (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

Education
Educational supplies are a major gap in education response, such as school tents, stationery, and other teaching and learning materials.

At least 86,000 students from government schools in NWA are affected by the current military operations. The number of students enrolled in private schools is unknown. 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 awareness-raising protection activities. This group largely consists of IDPs and returnees in KP and FATA. Women, children, the disabled, and the elderly need referral assistance and specialised protection in displacement and returnee areas (OCHA, 20/02/2014).

SGBV
421 incidents of violence involving 534 women and girls were reported in Karachi province during the third quarter of the year (DAWN, 11/10/2014).

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: 27/10/2014

INDIA FLOODS, LANDSLIDES

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

29 October: Cyclone Nilofar is expected to hit the western state of Gujarat on 1 November. 30,000–50,000 people are to be evacuated in Kutch district (AFP).

28 October: Flooding in Assam and Meghalaya affected 1.2 million people. Over 163,000 are still living in camps and temporary shelters (Islamic Relief).

KEY CONCERNS
- Landslides and floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains in Jammu and Kashmir have left 281 dead. 1,949,790 have been affected and 67,934 left homeless (Times of India, 30/09/2014).

- Cyclone HudHud has affected 920,000 people (IFRC, ECDM).

- The floods have caused extensive damage to livestock, water supply, livelihood, telecommunications and road accessibility, which has hampered relief and rescue operations (IFRC)

Political Context

Kashmir is a disputed between the Government of India, the Government of Pakistan and Kashmiri insurgent groups, who since the Indo-Pakistan War have fought over control of the area. Pakistan controls the northwest portion, India controls the central and southern portion and Ladakh, and China controls the northeastern portion (Aksai Chin and Trans-Karakoram Tract). Although thousands have died as a result of this conflict, the situation has become less deadly in recent years. UNHCR-supported elections in 2008 resulted in the creation of a pro-India Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, which has now formed a state government.

Security Context

Kashmir
As of 8 October, cross-border fire that began in August had claimed 12 lives, most of them civilians, and displaced thousands (AFP, 08/10/2014). Fighting at night has steadily reduced and confined to a smaller area (AFP, 10/10/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

Cyclone Nilofar
Listed as a ‘very severe cyclonic storm’, Cyclone Nilofar is expected to hit the western state of Gujarat on 1 November. 30,000–50,000 people are to be evacuated in Kutch district (AFP, 29/10/2014). Evacuations are expected to start on 30 October, particularly in coastal areas (AFP, 27/10/2014).

Cyclone HudHud
Severe cyclonic storm HudHud made landfall on 12 October on India’s east coast, around the city of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Hudhud affected north coastal Andhra Pradesh, south Odisha, and Chattisgarh with strong winds, heavy rainfall and storm surge along the coasts (IFRC, ECDM, 13/10/2014).

As of 20 October, the cyclone had left 45 dead (OCHA, 20/10/2014), including 21 in the state of Andhra Pradesh and three in Odisha. Thousands are still at risk due to flooding (ACT Alliance, 14/10/2014). 920,000 people have been affected so far. 135,000 people are in 223 relief camps. 41,200 houses and buildings have been damaged, and about 180,000 hectares of agricultural land has been inundated. (OCHA, 20/10/2014). Electricity lines and communication systems have now been restored (Government, 19/10/2014). Community kitchens are providing food for about 685,000 people. Airfields have been cleared for civil flights (Government, 19/10/2014).

This has been the most costly cyclone to have ever hit India, with total damage estimated to cost between USD 9.7 and 11 billion (OCHA, 20/10/2014). Large-scale precautionary measures and the evacuation of around 350,000 people before the onset helped avert a large humanitarian tragedy (AFP, 13–14/10/2014).

Floods in Assam and Meghalaya
Over 20 September–7 October, flash floods and landslides killed up to 95 people. Thousands remain stranded by floodwaters. Over 164,000 people are currently in 227 camps and temporary shelters; 130,000 houses have been destroyed and over 87,000 hectares of crops damaged (OCHA, 07/10/2014, Islamic Relief, 28/10/2014). At 26
September, the Brahmaputra River and its tributaries were still flowing above danger levels, and many areas remained inaccessible (ECHO, 26/09/2014). Experts calculate that about 1.2 million people might have been affected by the flooding (Islamic Relief, 28/10/2014).

**Floods in Jammu and Kashmir**

1,949,790 people have been directly affected by flooding, including 543,379 displaced, 67,934 left homeless and 110,000 evacuated (Caritas India, 25/09/2014). As of 30 September, landslides and floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains have left close to 281 dead and 29 missing (OCHA, 15/09/2014; Times of India, 30/09/2014). On 10 October, reports suggest a huge mudslide destroyed hundreds of households in Udhampur (Reuters, 10/10/2014).

The most affected areas are Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Pulwama, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Budgam, Rajouri, Poona and Reasi (Corporate Disaster Resource Network, 09/09/2014). Around 137 camps in the Kashmir valley are assisting over 100,000 people (OCHA, 15/09/2014). The water has now started to recede, and work is concentrating on pumping the stagnant water to prevent the spread of disease (AFP, 17/09/2014). The Prime Minister declared a national emergency on 7 September (Sphere India, 12/09/2014).

Major parts of Srinagar were completely submerged (IFRC, 08/09/2014). The floods have swept away the houses of more than 30% of the population living along the river’s path. (SEEDS 08/09/2014). Except for connectivity between Srinagar and north Kashmir’s Ganderbal district, all other districts of the valley – including Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam, Shopian, Badgam, Baramulla, and Bandipora – were cut off (Sphere India, 23/09/2014).

On 4 October, Pakistani authorities barred actors from delivering goods intended for flood victims in India-administered Kashmir (AFP, 04/10/2014).

**Access**

Late September, around 10–15 villages were still inaccessible in Assam and Meghalaya, including Lilehar, Goripura and Bandarpore (Caritas India, 25/09/2014).

**Food Security**

People in flooded areas are receiving limited food from neighbouring villages and community groups (Caritas India, 25/09/2014).

**Health**

Many people affected by flooding are reporting severe gastroenteritis, and fear of an outbreak is high, as the population is vulnerable to waterborne disease (Times of India, 19/09/2014). Medicine and medical supplies are lacking (Times of India, 18/09/2014).

**WASH**

90% of hand pumps in flood-affected villages of Jammu and Kashmir are submerged, non-functional and have muddy water, and piped water is not functional due to electricity failure (Caritas India, 25/09/2014).

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**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**4 November:** WFP confirmed that refugees will be receiving full assistance in the four camps, and those living outside camps will receive a 21% cut in the cash value of assistance (WFP 04/11/2014).

**25-31 October:** The number of refugees returning from urban areas to Zaatari camp continues to increase. 1,081 of 1,136 people transferred to Zaatari camp in the last week of October were from urban areas (UNHCR 4/11/2014). The food assistance cuts in urban areas may mean more refugees will return to camps.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 618,500 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR (28/10/2014); another 35,000 Iraqi refugees (UNHCR, 09/2014). The influx of refugees has placed enormous pressure on scarce water resources and public services, which has increased tensions between host communities and refugees.

- Operational and protection concerns are growing as the Government of Jordan is increasingly restricting the approval process for humanitarian projects, and infringing the basic protection of refugees, including their right to seek asylum and freedom of movement.

**Political Context**

Jordan has remained politically stable despite spiralling crises in neighbouring Iraq and Syria and fears of infiltration by extremist groups, particularly Islamic State (IS). These concerns have increased since Jordan joined the US-led airstrikes against Islamic State (formerly known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL) in late September. Thousands of Jordanians are reportedly fighting for opposition groups with links to Al-Qaeda, particularly Al-Nusra Front, as well as IS, despite the military’s tight control of cross-border movements.

In Jordan, the extremist movement in Jordan is generally dominated by groups supporting Al-Qaeda and there are significant division among Jordanians who support IS (Al Jazeera 10/07/2014, AFP, 23/06/2014). In June, however, a small group demonstrated in Ma’an, southern Jordan, praising IS victories in Iraq and arrests of alleged IS supporters have increased (Petra News 22/09/2014).

Tensions between refugees and host communities remain a key concern and have manifested in localised protests, particularly around Za’atari refugee camp and the neighbouring town of Mafraq, as well as regular reports of discrimination and harassment of refugees. Key sources of tension include access to affordable housing and employment...
Humanitarian Context and Needs

The influx of Syrian refugees has overwhelmed public services, particularly health and education, and placed major stress on Jordan’s scarce water supplies.

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. More recently, aid agency projects have faced pressure to increase the proportion of Jordanians targeted for assistance to 50%. (PI 06/2014). The requirement is viewed as an attempt to pressure international donors to channel more resources through government systems and institutions.

Displacement

Throughout most of its history, Jordan has been host to vast numbers of refugees, beginning with the 1948 influx of Palestinian refugees and again in 1967. Today over 600,000 Syrian refugees are in Jordan.

Syrian Refugees

Jordan hosts the third largest number of Syrian refugees, after Lebanon and Turkey. As of 8 October, about 618,500 Syrian refugees were registered with UNHCR in Jordan. Over 80% live in local communities, with the remainder in camps. (UNHCR 28/10/2014)

The Syrian refugee influx peaked with about 1,700 arriving each day in early 2013, but have since decreased significantly to less than 200 new arrivals, due to the Government’s border management policies.

According to trusted sources, in early October an estimated 4,000–5,000 Syrians are waiting to enter Jordan on the eastern border with Syria. Women, children, and the elderly are thought to make up around 80%. Some refugees who were allowed to enter reported that conditions on the Syrian side of the border were poor, with hot weather and sandstorms. Due to a lack of food availability, a black market has developed, with extremely high prices. Lack of latrines is forcing women to walk into the desert. There have been protests to be allowed to enter Jordan. (PI 08/10/2014)

Non-Syrian Refugees

The number of Iraqi refugees continues to grow, with about 35,000 registered with UNHCR as of September, stretching registration and assistance capacities. UNHCR estimates that it is seeing about 100–150 new refugees each day, nearly matching the number of Syrian arrivals. As of 6 September, about 10,000 Iraqis have registered with UNHCR in 2014, about double the number registered throughout 2013. Like the earlier refugees, the majority of arrivals originate from Baghdad, although an increasing number are coming from IS-controlled areas of northern Iraq. Over 2,000 refugees and asylum seekers from Sudan, Somalia and other countries currently live in Jordan.

Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)
About 14,500 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 in Jordan. About 200 PRS are held in the Cyber City facility, a former industrial complex, and are subject to heavy restrictions on movement (UNRWA 03/10/2014, HRW 04/07/2012).

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 (HRW 05/2014, HRW 04/07/2012).

Food Security

36,000 Syrian refugees (or 6.5% of all registered refugees) are no longer receiving food assistance, as WFP has started targeting assistance based on a July assessment. The voucher value in host communities will be cut by 21% (WFP 4/11/2014). In the July assessment, 74% of households cited WFP vouchers as their main source of income and 85% said they would not have sufficient access to food if WFP ceased assistance. An unpublished assessment has found that 30-40% of refugees reported that they would return to Syria if food assistance was cut off, and about 10% would return to camps (PI 22/10/2014).

WASH

Jordan is the fourth most water-scarce country in the world and was already struggling to cope with the demands of its growing population prior to the Syrian crisis. 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. The situation is expected to result in increased stress on existing water resources (UNICEF/REACH, 31/04/2014).

Protection

Trusted sources reported that there was an increase in refoulements of Syrian refugees in September by Jordanian authorities. Those with invalid documentation appeared to be targeted, including those found to be working without legal permission in host communities. The re-verification process conducted in Za‘atari camp in early 2013, which aimed to ensure that complete biometric data is recorded for all registered refugees, also led to cases of refoulement by Jordanian authorities (PI 09/2014).

Evictions and Encampment

Since early 2014, the Government appears to be implementing a more rigorous approach to its encampment policy of Syrian refugees. On 14 July, Jordanian authorities notified UNHCR that it is not permitted to register refugees in urban areas if they have left camps unofficially, outside of the ‘bailout’ process. An estimated 200,000 Syrian refugees have left the camps unofficially, and without official documentation, refugees are unable to access public services or receive WFP food vouchers. In recent months, UNHCR has reported an increase in the number of refugees forcibly returned to Za‘atari camp from host communities (CCCM 16/09/2014).

Women and Girls

The proportion of early marriages of Syrian girls (between 15 and 17 years of age) among all registered Syrian marriages increased from 12% in 2011 to 25% in 2013, according to Jordan’s sharia courts, which are responsible for legally registering marriages. In the first quarter of 2014, about 32% of all registered Syrian marriages were classified as early marriages. Both UNICEF and SCI reports found that early marriage was perceived as a form of security among Syrian refugees, given financial difficulties and the general sense of insecurity. Both agencies also reported that some Syrians used early marriage to circumnavigate government restrictions, such as the bailout rules in the camps (which require a close relative for sponsorship), as well as those which bar single males from entering Jordan. (UNICEF 07/2014)

An estimated 3,800 defectors from the Syrian armed forces are being held at military premises in Mafraq with no freedom of movement. The Government has not permitted UNHCR to conduct status determination for these people, although the ICRC has had access. (Al Monitor 08/2013)

Updated: 06/11/2014

NEPAL FLOODS, LANDSLIDES

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 29/10/2014. Last update: 22/08/2014.

KEY CONCERNS

- 125,000 people affected by landslides and massive flooding in August caused by heavy monsoon rains in 21 districts (IFRC, 08/09/2014)

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

Avalanche

Floods

The monsoon season had a normal start until early August, when heavy rains created massive landslides in Jure, Mankhaa village, Sindhupalchowk district, killing 134 people. Mid-August rains caused further flooding and several landslides in 21 districts, the majority of the in the mid-west. 225,000 people were affected, but the number decreased to 125,000 as waters receded (IFRC, 08/09/2014). As of 11 September, the death toll had risen to 180, with 17,000 still displaced (GDACS).
A two-kilometre dam created by August's landslides in Sindhupalchowk district, which blocked the Sunkhosi River, burst on 7 September, damaging homes as far as 6km downstream (National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 18/09/2014).

**Tropical Cyclone Hud Hud**

As of 13 October, the Category 3 Tropical Cyclone Hudhud has led to the evacuation of 400,000 people. Widespread destruction has been recorded (Nepal News, 13/10/2014). 17 people died in the Himalayan region and more than 100 are reported missing (International Business Times, 15/10/2014).

**Access**

Damage from the landslide interrupted power supply in several hydropower plants in the valley, which led to a 9% decrease in electricity generating capacity and caused power shortages across the country, according to media reports (National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 18/09/2014; International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, 04/08/2014; Nepali Times, 16/10/2014).

**Political Context**

The disarmament process for Philippine Muslim opposition groups started on 27 September, with the decommissioning of a first batch of firearms expected by end of 2014. An independent body that will oversee the process has yet to be nominated (AFP, 28/09/2014).

Since October 2012, the Government has been engaged in finalising a lengthy peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the country’s largest Muslim separatist group. Draft legislation for the 2014 March Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro, which gives MILF ruling of a new autonomous region to replace the current Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) as a political group, was submitted to Congress in September (AFP, 10/09/2014). The deal excludes important stakeholders, including the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), Abu Sayyaf and Khalifa Islmiyah Mindanao.

**Security Context**

Splinter groups on Mindanao and smaller neighbouring islands continue their violent opposition against the Government. MILF has condemned extremist jihadists in Iraq and Syria, while Abu Sayyaf and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) have recently vowed allegiance to Islamic State (AFP, 28/08/2014).

**Insurgents and Counterinsurgency Operations**

**Abu Sayyaf**

Abu Sayyaf has about 300 armed fighters, split into several factions. On 28 July, 21 people were killed and 11 wounded by Abu Sayyaf militants in Talipao on Jolo island. Abu Sayyaf holds about ten hostages.

**Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF)**

Four BIFF gunmen attacked a hospital in Sharif Aguak in Maguindanao on 23 October, killing two soldiers guarding the facility (Missionary International Service News Agency). On 11 September, two soldiers and an unknown number of BIFF fighters were killed during clashes in North Cotabato (AFP, 11/09/2014).

BIFF split from MILF in 2008. Thousands have been displaced by fighting between the Philippine army and BIFF in 2014 (IRIN, 22/07/2014; OCHA).

**Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF)**

Following 2013 September-October attacks by the MNLF – led by Nur Misuari – 202 people were killed, including over 160 militants, 324 were injured and 140,000 displaced (UNHCR). The attacks were seen as an attempt to sabotage peace talks between authorities and MILF.

**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 and armed tribesmen (AFP, 15/07/2014).

**Incidents**

On 9 October, two people were killed and three others wounded in a grenade attack on a church in Pikit in North Cotobato (AFP, 09/10/2014).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Access**

Insecurity in parts of Mindanao and nearby areas is limiting humanitarian access. Concurrent natural disasters have hampered further aid delivery to affected populations.

**Disasters**

**October Rains**

Flooding in Capiz province on 19-20 October affected 66 villages and submerged rice fields (Government, 20/10/2014).

At 18 October, rains since 7 October had affected 83,895 people (16,730 families) in Zamboanga city and in Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur provinces, ARMM. 940 people (225 families) are in nine evacuation centres. Four people have died and two are missing (Government, 18/10/2014).

Another 41,400 were affected in Sultan Kudarat municipality in SOCCSKSARGEN (OCHA, 13/10/2014).

**Mayon Volcano**

A hazardous eruption of Mayon Volcano is possible within weeks; alert Level 3 was declared on 15 September. An extended high-risk zone, over a 6–8km radius, affects Legazpi, Ligao, and Tabaco cities (OCHA, 01/10/2014). As of 22 October, 60,986 people (14,315 families) in Albay province had been affected, including 47,622 people still residing in 45 evacuation centres (Government, 24/10/2014). There are concerns over camp management, coordination, WASH, and education (OCHA, 29/09/2014).

**Tropical Storm Fung-Wung**

At 30 September, Tropical Storm Fung-Wong (known locally as Mario) had affected more than two million people (453,190 families; 18 people dead and 16 injured) across 27 provinces, of which 8,293 were still in 35 evacuation centres. 11,590 houses were damaged and some areas in Pangasinan province were still flooded (Government, 02/09/2014).

**Typhoon Kalmaegi**

At 23 September, flash floods and landslides caused by Typhoon Kalmaegi (known locally as Luis) on 14 September had affected more than 300,000 people (IFRC, 23/09/2014), 236,175 of whom were in Dagupan city. On 18 September, five Pangasinan towns were declared to be in a state of calamity (Government, 18/09/2014). As of 15 September, three people had been killed, three injured, and 17,633 people displaced (ECHO, 15/09/2014).

**Floods in Mindanao**

Late August, nearly 111,400 people were affected by flash floods (28,600 in Cotobato province, 3,770 in Cagayan de Oro and 79,000 in eastern Maguindanao, where landslides occurred) (ECHO, 04/09/2014; OCHA, 01/09/2014). Supplies for schools and health centres have been damaged (Government, 02/09/2014). 160,000 people had been affected by floods in Maguindanao and in some areas of North Cotabato mid-July (OCHA, 14/07/2014).

**Typhoon Rammusun**

Over 1.6 million people were affected (97 dead, 460 injured and five missing) after Typhoon Rammusun hit the Philippines on 15–16 July. Nearly 120,000 houses were destroyed or damaged, along with crops and fisheries (OCHA, 22/07/2014). A state of calamity was declared in the regions of Cagayan Valley and Eastern Visayas (NDRRMC, 22/07/2014).

**Typhoon Haiyan**

25,000 remain displaced ten months after Category 5 Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda) made landfall on the east of the Philippines on 8 November 2013. 14.1 million people were affected, including 5.9 million in Central Visayas, 3.9 million in Eastern Visayas, 466,000 in MIMAROPA, and 70,000 in Caraga. 6,201 people were killed, over 28,600 injured, and over 550,000 houses destroyed (OCHA).

**Displacement**

**IDPs in Maguindanao**

By late August more than 5,000 people were displaced in Sultan Sa Baronguis Mangui in Maguindanao, as a result of violent confrontations between two MILF armed groups (Government, 01/09/2014). In July and early August, 2,875 people were affected by conflict between an armed group and government forces in Maguindanao, of whom 1,150 were living in one evacuation centre (Government 09/08/2014).

In Basilan, ARMM, over 5,250 people were displaced as a result of fighting between Palaman and Sandiki groups (Government, 07/08/2014).

**Zamboanga**

As of end September, 22,600 people remained displaced in three evacuation centres and eight transitional sites, one year after fighting between an MNLF faction and the army in Zamboanga (OCHA, 03/10/2014).

Disease outbreaks in the camps have left about 160 evacuees dead; sanitary conditions are a major concern (OCHA, 09/09/2014). As two of the largest camps will be closed, people are being temporarily moved to the Masempla transit site, until the construction of...
permanent housing is complete. Monsoon rains have damaged roads leading to the camp, affecting the delivery of clean water. Protection concerns remain critical, where women and children in particular are at risk of abuse and exploitation (OCHA, 01/10/2014).

**Typhoon Haiyan**

Over 25,000 people remain displaced ten months after typhoon Haiyan struck and more than two million lack adequate shelter or housing (FAO, 09/10/2014). Some 456,000 people (95,000 families) live in unsafe or inadequate emergency or makeshift shelters, sometimes in flood-prone coastal areas (Government, 31/08/2014). 1,710 displaced people from the hardest-hit communities of San Jose district in Central Luzon are in four transitional shelters in Tacloban (UNHCR, 13/10/2014).

With 89% of affected households still showing varying levels of typhoon-related damage, longer-term assistance such as supporting self-recovery, assisting households in no-build zones, helping with safer reconstruction, and enabling access to health care, schools, public transportation, and livelihood opportunities is required (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).

**Rehabilitation**

In Bohol, extensive shelter needs and repair of health and school facilities are required following the October 2013 earthquake (IFRC, 13/10/2014). All evacuation centres have now been closed and families are housed in 885 transitional shelters (UNICEF, 10/10/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

Four BIFF gunmen attacked a hospital in Sharif Aguak in Maguindanao on 23 October, killing two soldiers guarding the facility (Missionary International Service News Agency, 23/10/2014).

**Measles**

By October, 117 cases of measles had been confirmed, mostly in Benguet, Baguio and Kalinga provinces, compared to 60 during the same period last year, with a reported death in Baguio city in Benguet province (Government, 20/10/2014).

**Food Security**

High prices of main staple rice lead to food security concerns. A 4.7% increase on the September 2013 Consumer Price Index was witnessed in September (FAO, 10/10/14).

As of July, flooding had affected 45% of the planted area in Maguindanao, affecting over 5,000 farmers (OCHA, 07/07/2014). Agriculture, fisheries, and agricultural infrastructure were affected by July’s Typhoon Rammasun.

**Education**

In 2014 in Mindanao, ten attacks on schools have been reported, affecting over 3,500 school children (UNICEF, 10/10/2014).

**Protection**

BIFF continues to actively recruit and train child soldiers.

**Updated: 29/10/2014**

**SRI LANKA  INTERNAL UNREST, DROUGHT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

30 October: Heavy rains caused a mudslide in Haldummulla area, Badulla, central Sri Lanka: 300 people have been evacuated, over 150 people are still missing, and ten were reported dead (AFP; Al Jazeera, 29/10/2014).

- An estimated 770,000 people are food insecure due to consecutive droughts and floods (WFP, 01/10/2014).

**Political Context**

Sri Lanka is heading into a period of political flux: presidential elections will be held in January 2015, two years ahead of schedule. The current president, Mahinda Rajapaksa, is said to be seeking re-election for a third mandate, after presidential terms limits were removed in 2010. Opposition figures had argued the removal of term limits will lead to de facto dictatorship (The Diplomat, 30/10/2014).

Tensions were rising between Buddhists and the Muslim minority, who make up 10% of the population in May-June. In May, Muslim legislators asked President Rajapakse to protect their minority community from what they described as Buddhist extremist elements (IRIN, 24/06/2014).

**Security Context**

In June, three Muslims were killed and 80 people were seriously injured in sectarian violence in Aluthgama and Beruwela, Kalutara District, during a protest march led by the hardline Buddhist group Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) (BBC, 16/06/2014).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Displacement**

**Refugees**
As of 30 June, there were 308 refugees and 1,562 asylum seekers in Sri Lanka, a 700% increase on 2013 numbers.

On 15 August a Sri Lankan court ordered authorities to stop deporting Pakistani asylum seekers without properly assessing their claims (Reuters, 15/10/2014).

Since early June, national authorities have arrested and detained 328 refugees and asylum-seekers, and deported 183 to Pakistan and Afghanistan (UNHCR, 12/09/2014). 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 access to asylum seekers in detention to enable protection assistance (UNHCR 12/08/2014).

Disasters

Landslides

On 29 October, heavy rains caused a mudslide in Haldummulla area, Badulla, central Sri Lanka. 300 people have been evacuated to schools and 120 houses have been destroyed (Government, 29/10/2014; AFP, 30/10/2014). Over 150 people are missing and ten are confirmed dead (Al Jazeera, 29/10/2014). The continued threat of landslides and rainfall is hampering assistance (Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, 30/10/2014).

On 2 October, 400 people had been affected by landslides and collapsed buildings after high winds and heavy rainfall hit the Southern region (OCHA, 07/10/2014).

Floods

As of 21 October, 10,600 people have been affected by floods in the country, including 5,762 in Matara district, Southern region, due to heavy rains since the beginning of October (Government, 21/10/2014).

Drought

The 11-months drought following the delayed December-February northeast monsoon maha has affected more than 1.2 million people across 13 districts in six provinces, a significant decrease of 500,000 people since the beginning of October (Government, 21/10/2014; 29/08/2014), including 900,000 people in the Northern and Eastern provinces, regions that are generally poor, dependent on agriculture and lack strong coping mechanisms or infrastructure to withstand the impact of natural disasters (Inter Press Service, 29/09/2014). Families (which families?) are suffering from shortages of water for domestic and agricultural use in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Hambantota, Puttalam, Mannar, Vavuniya, Moneragala, Batticaloa, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, Kilinochchi, Jaffna, Kurunegala, and Ampara districts.

The southwest monsoon rains, from May to September, have also been below average (Economic Times, 30/06/2014).

Food Security

770,000 drought-affected people are food insecure (WFP, 01/10/2014), mainly in Ampara and Moneragala in the east (WFP, 04/2014 and FAO, 05/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

Overall, crop production has decreased by 42% compared to 2013 (Government, 05/08/2014). The delayed 2014 maha monsoon, lowered the aggregate rice production by 22% compared to 2013, and was 12% below the previous five-year average (FAO, 02/10/2014). The 2014 yala rice output, accounting for 35% of annual production, was 30% lower than last year’s, due to a 29% contraction in area planted and dry weather at the start of the cropping season, particularly in key north-central and eastern producing areas. About one-third of the paddy harvest was also lost by drought conditions in the country (WFP, 01/10/2014).

Rice prices have increased by 36% compared to 2013, due to the sharp contraction in this year’s production. Fresh fish and vegetables’ prices have also risen as a consequence of adverse weather (WFP, 14/10/2014; FAO, 02/10/2014).

Updated: 30/10/2014

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 30/10/2014. Last update: 24/09/2014

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 longstanding and ongoing systematic, widespread, and gross human rights violations. On 17 March, China dismissed the UN for making unfounded accusations. On 18 February, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights had urged world powers to refer DPRK to the International Criminal Court; a UN report documented evidence of widespread and systematic human rights violations and crimes against humanity and recommended targeted UN sanctions. DPRK announced in August that it is to publish a human rights report to counters the claims in the UN report (international media, 08/2014). On 20 October, the DPRK envoy to the UN denied that DPRK had political prisoners and warned that the country would take unspecified “countermeasures” if leader Kim Jong-un was charged with crimes against humanity (international media, 20/10/2014).

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.

On 12 February, Seoul and Pyongyang held their first high-level talks in seven years, in the Panmunjom truce village. According to reports, although no agenda had been set, the parties discussed a range of issues including reunions of families separated during the 1950–1953 Korean War.

In September 2013, DPRK agreed to restore a cross-border military hotline with South Korea, which had been shut down six months earlier, and DPRK and South Korea reopened the joint industrial park in Kaesong.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Humanitarian access is extremely limited. 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.

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. An estimated 2.4 million people need food assistance (OCHA, 11/09/2014).

WFP reports that 45% of households have borderline and 30% poor food consumption. People in central mountainous areas do not have access to sufficient food from the public distribution centre and have to rely on planting risky hillside crops to supplement their daily diet, despite poor seed quality, shallow soil, accelerated erosion, low yield expectations, and the fact that most of the hillside cultivators do not necessarily have an agricultural background (US State Department, 22/09/2014). Poor rainfall has been reported in parts of the country (WFP, 10/2014).

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.

Health and Nutrition

Malnutrition

Chronic child malnutrition and poor dietary diversity among children, women, and households remain the main concern. Super cereal, biscuits, pulses and oil are needed to supplement the poor dietary intake among target vulnerable groups (WFP 06/2014).

Reviewed: 30/10/2014

EUROPE

UKRAINE CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

6 November: Obligatory passport controls in and out of opposition-held areas have been put in place by Ukrainian authorities (AFP).

2-4 November: 42 Russian convoys, presumably delivering humanitarian assistance, crossed into Ukraine (OSCE).

2 November: Opposition groups held elections, supported by the Russian authorities, adding to tensions between pro-Russian and pro-Ukrainian groups (AFP).

30–31 October: Ukrainian authorities accused pro-Russian separatists of violating the ceasefire 45 times over one night, resulting in the death of one civilian (AFP).

31 October: Some IDPs are reportedly returning to opposition-held areas despite...
ongoing insecurity due to exhausted coping mechanisms and insufficient support in government-controlled areas of displacement (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS
- 5.2 million people live in areas directly affected by the conflict and are in need of protection as of 17 October (OCHA, 17/10/2014). There is a growing need for humanitarian aid, especially in view of the upcoming winter season (ECHO, 22/10/2014).
- Access to humanitarian aid in conflict areas is reportedly near to impossible (OCHA, 19/09/2014).
- Worsening tuberculosis epidemic in eastern Ukraine, according to doctors (AFP, 18/08/2014). 340,000 people in need of medicine and medical supplies (WHO, 09/09/2014).
- The number of local volunteers is decreasing, under the pressure of fatigue, lack of resources and return to university following the summer break (IOM, 22/10/2014). UNHCR reported a pattern of discrimination and stigmatisation against IDPs from the east on political grounds (IOM, 22/10/2014).

OVERVIEW
About 442,000 people have been displaced, while continued fighting and lack of transportation make it difficult for civilians to escape contested areas. The affected populations, especially in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, are in most urgent need of shelter, food and NFIs, WASH, as well as healthcare, education, and protection. The capacity of absorption within host communities has been weakening and there is a critical need of winterised shelter.

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.

Political Context
On 26 October, parliamentary elections were held. Voters in Crimea and in eastern Luhansk and Donetsk provinces – about five million of Ukraine’s 36.5 million-strong electorate – were unable to vote, so 27 of the 450 seats in parliament will be empty (AFP, 26/10/2014). On 2 November, opposition groups held elections, reportedly won by Alexander Zakharchenko, adding tensions between pro-Russian and pro-Ukrainian groups. The elections were condemned by the Ukrainian Government, the UN, and Western Governments, and have been only supported by Russia (AFP, 03/11/2014; international media, 03/11/2014).

The Prime Minister has signed a resolution to establish a centralised system to register IDPs (OCHA, 03/10/2014). On 20 October, the Parliament adopted a law setting out the rights and freedoms of IDPs.

Parliament ratified the EU Association Agreement on the same day and voted in favour of three years’ limited self-rule of some areas of Donetsk and Luhansk. The law authorises the use of Russian in state institutions within the opposition-held Luhansk and Donetsk regions, and the holding of local elections on 7 December. Amnesty was also granted to all non-government forces taking part in the fighting, on condition that they turn in their weapons (international media, 16/09/2014). These two bills need to be signed by the President to enter into force (OHCHR, 08/10/2014).

Security Context
By 29 October, 4,035 people had been killed in eastern Ukraine, with 9,336 people confirmed wounded by the conflict (OCHA, 31/10/2014). An average of nine people have been killed each day since the September ceasefire (UN, 23/10/2014). The death toll could be significantly higher, according to the UN, since access to the conflict-affected areas is restricted and reliable information is difficult to collect (OCHA, 13/09/2014; UN, 08/09/2014).

Over the course of the night of 30-31 October, pro-Russian separatists have been accused by Ukrainian authorities to violate the ceasefire 45 times, resulting in the death of one civilian (AFP, 31/10/2014).

Between 2 and 4 November, 42 Russian convoys crossed into Ukraine, presumably to deliver humanitarian assistance (OSCE, 03/11/2014; 04/11/2014). However, the Government has been wary of previous shipments, concerned that the aid is used as cover for military assistance to opposition fighters.

Humanitarian Context and Needs
5.2 million people live in areas directly affected by the conflict and are in need of protection as of 17 October (OCHA, 17/10/2014). The affected populations, especially in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, urgently need shelter, food and NFIs, and WASH, in addition to healthcare, education and protection. There is a growing need for humanitarian aid, especially in view of the upcoming winter season (ECHO, 22/10/2014).

Access
On 2 October, an ICRC delegate was killed in Donetsk due to indiscriminate shelling (ICRC, 02/10/2014).

Security Constraints
In Donetsk, limited amounts of humanitarian aid has been delivered, but shelling in Donetsk and Luhansk regions continues to impede access. The presence of humanitarian
actors is increasing, but bureaucratic, security and financial restrictions are impeding response at the scale required (OCHA, 19/09/2014).

Logistical Constraints

Donetsk International Airport continues to be the site of intense fighting between the Ukrainian army and pro-Russian separatists (international media, 01/10/2014). Months of conflict have left the airport heavily damaged (international media, 17/10/2014).

Movement to and from Crimea continues to be problematic on the Ukrainian mainland side with the almost complete stoppage of private cars (OCHA, 31/10/2014). 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).

IDPs

Displacement continues and safety and security are prime concerns (OCHA, 10/10/2014).

The IDP situation is a cause for major humanitarian alert. As of 31 October, over 442,000 IDPs are registered in Ukraine, of whom over 182,000 have been displaced since September (OCHA, 31/10/2014). Unofficial estimates suggest that the number of IDPs could be higher, as there is no established centralised registration system (UN, 25/09/2014; UNHCR, 18/08/2014). As of 9 October, among the IDP population, 31% are children; 19% of IDPs are included in the category elderly or disabled; 66% of adult IDPs are women (UNHCR, 20/10/2014).

95% of the IDPs are from eastern Ukraine, and are concentrated in Donetsk and Kharkiv, as well as in Kyiv (UNHCR, 24/10/2014). Recent hostilities around Mariupol, Donetsk region, have displaced 1,000 people from the villages of Gnutovo, Sartana, Sopino and Talakovka to relocate to relatively safer areas in the city (OCHA, 24/10/2014).

Movements of the affected population from opposition-held areas to government-controlled areas have separated families and blurred the lines between IDPs and affected populations, making people more insecure (OCHA, 10/10/2014).

Most IDPs have left with few belongings, and need shelter, food, and other essential assistance. The absorption capacity within host communities has been weakening, and the number of local volunteers is decreasing (OHCHR, 08/10/2014; IOM, 22/10/2014). Some IDPs are reportedly returning to opposition-held areas despite insecurity due to exhausted coping mechanisms and insufficient support in government-controlled areas of displacement (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

Tensions between IDPs and host communities are rising (IDMC, 15/08/2014). IDPs are subjected to stigma and structural discrimination, and are often unable to access housing and employment (OCHA, 31/10/2014). UNHCR has reported a pattern of discrimination and stigmatisation against IDPs from the east on political grounds (IOM, 22/10/2014).

Returnees

According to Minister of Social Policy Lyudmyla Denisova, some 86,000 IDPs have returned to their homes as of 7 October. Many are facing challenges due to damage to infrastructure, housing, businesses, industries (OCHA, 28/09/2014).

Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 31 October, more than 488,400 people have fled to neighbouring countries, of whom 400,000 people have fled to Russia since the beginning of the year (OCHA, 31/10/2014). However, the UN and Russian authorities estimate that 875,000 Ukrainians have actually fled to Russia. Authorities on both sides of the Russia –Ukraine border appear to be preparing for a long-term population shift (international media, 03/10/2014).

In addition, an estimated 19,000 people are estimated to be displaced within Crimea (IDMC, 31/10/2014).

Food Security

28,000 people are targeted for food assistance by WFP (WFP, 23/10/2014). Current and new food assistance operations are underfunded, reducing the humanitarian aid provided (WFP, 23/10/2014). In Donetsk, a local NGO is distributing food aid to 1,400 people per day (AFP, 01/11/2014).

Increased caloric needs during winter months have to be taken into consideration for upcoming food distributions. WFP is advising a standardised winter food basket that provides around 2,600kcal per person per day (OCHA, 17/10/2014). Food availability remains limited in Donetsk and Luhansk cities. Access to food in the market is the major challenge (WFP, 23/10/2014). The conflict and the approaching winter are having a significant negative impact on markets and the food supply chain (OCHA, 10/10/2014). With food prices tied to fuel prices, household food expenditures could significantly increase (OCHA, 28/09/2014; 03/10/2014).

Livelihoods

The discontinuation in payment of salaries and social benefits to the affected population in opposition-held areas has resulted in lack of access to food and other commodities. Many IDPs can no longer afford to pay the rent (UNHCR, 17/10/2014).

The conflict has already impacted Ukraine’s economy, which is set to shrink 9% this year (international media, 19/09/2014). The price of food has continued to rise since January this year and overall is comparatively more expensive than last, adding
pressure to financially stressed IDPs (WFP, 23/10/2014; OCHA, 13/09/2014). More than 70% of Donbas businesses are closed and banks are not operating at full capacity in the affected areas (OCHA, 19/09/2014). As of 10 October, nearly 40,000 small and medium businesses in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions have ceased activity due to the fighting, leaving thousands of people without any income (OCHA, 10/10/2014).

Health and Nutrition

The safety and security of health workers remains a major concern in conflict areas, preventing access to emergency and primary health services in Shahtersk, Snizhne, Yasinovataya (OCHA, 24/10/2014; OCHA, 29/08/2014). On 10 October, an ambulance was hit by gunshots at a Donetsk checkpoint; three people were killed. The attack appeared premeditated as it followed media messages that some medical transport had been handed over to armed forces (OCHA, 17/10/2014).

There are concerns that civilians may also have less access to inpatient healthcare than military actors (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

The health sector has reported that the national pharmaceutical supply is "on the verge of collapse". The Ministry of Health has called for support to replenish lifesaving essential medicines (OCHA, 24/10/2014). The resilience of local health facilities is at risk of failure if the number of IDPs increases (UNICEF, 23/09/2014). Unless an urgent solution is found, starting January 2015, Ukraine will not be able to cover needs for antiretroviral and TB drugs (OHCHR, 08/10/2014; OCHA, 03/10/2014).

340,000 people need medicine and medical supplies (WHO, 09/09/2014). At the beginning of September at least 32 hospitals in Donbas region were reportedly not functioning, at least 45 hospitals have been destroyed or damaged; up to 80% of health workers are absent from the conflict area (OCHA 19/09/2014; 10/10/2014). An increasing lack of fuel for ambulances have been preventing ambulances to respond, reducing the number of operational ambulances by half (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

There are critical supply shortages include vaccines and dialysis treatment, as well as treatment for diabetes, cancer and rare diseases, as well as provision for the special needs of the disabled (OCHA, 31/10/2014). Access to specialised care, including chronic non-communicable diseases, maternal and newborn care, and safe blood transfusion, remains very limited for residents of rural areas in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (OCHA, 31/10/2014). Provision of care and medication for children with bleeding disorders is the most urgent issue (OCHA, 17/10/2014).

HIV/AIDS

Almost 50,000 HIV-infected patients are in urgent needs of antiretroviral drugs (OCHA, 17/10/2014). Regional AIDS Centres in Donbas area are not operating or providing only limited services (UNICEF, 07/10/2014). Provision of health products for HIV testing is critical (OCHA, 10/10/2014).

Polio

The polio risk is of deep concern. Extreme vaccine shortages, a low rate of vaccination – reported to be 50% – an already weak surveillance system disintegrating, armed conflict, and displacement have all aggravated the risk of the spread of the disease (Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 02/10/2014; UNICEF, 20/10/2014).

Tuberculosis

Doctors are warning of a worsening tuberculosis epidemic in eastern Ukraine. 11,600 multidrug-resistant TB cases urgently need drugs (OCHA, 17/10/2014). 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).

Shelter and NFIs

Winterisation is one of the urgent priorities, including the provision of warm blankets and winter clothes for IDPs (OCHA, 31/10/2014). Without the decrease in local production and ongoing conflict, the deficit of coal and wood is a pressing issue (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

Approximately 20% of IDPs, about 75,000 people, are believed to be staying in collective centres, which in many cases are old Soviet summer camps, sanatoria, and dormitories with cracked wooden windows, leaking roofs and no heating (IOM, 03/10/2014).

Many residents and IDPs residing in elderly centres in opposition-controlled areas are in urgent need of food, medicine, mattresses, and hygiene items (OCHA, 10/10/2014).

The lack of reliable energy supply over the winter is a serious concern (OCHA, 28/09/2014). 20% of needs for electricity are covered in Luhansk (OCHA, 03/10/2014).

Concerns remain about how to fund the temporary accommodation of IDPs, as some regional authorities are no longer able to accommodate IDPs (UNHCR, 23/09/2014). Due to lack of financial resources and facilities, Government coordination agencies often refuse free accommodation to IDPs (OCHA, 13/09/2014).

WASH

According to a recent assessment, the WASH situation in government-controlled territory is improving. Water is now available in most areas; however, the quality of water is of major concern. People are either buying bottled water or boiling it before they drink (OCHA, 24/10/2014).

The delivery of drinking water and hygiene supplies in rebel-controlled areas remains
In Donetsk region, shelling has damaged Prikanalnaya and Gorlovskaya water filter stations (UNICEF, 20/10/2014). Approximately 30% of Donetsk remains without water central supply and gas (OCHA, 17/10/2014). The Kirov pumping station is only operational during the day, limiting water supply to 50% to the city’s population, and residents of Shahtersk city receive less than 30% of their needs. In Torez, around 20% of the required amount of water is available. Piped drinking water is unavailable in Avdeyevka, Yasnovataya, Krasnogorovka and nearby villages (UNICEF, 20/10/2014). Krasnoarmeyisky district, in Donetsk region, reportedly has no water supply and repairs are not possible while insurgents control the reservoir. Diesel generators are needed to power water pumps and treatment units (OCHA, 28/09/2014).

Safe sanitation remains a priority in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts; temporary latrines and disinfection materials are urgently required (OCHA, 28/09/2014). Access to toilets and adequate sanitation facilities remains an issue since the sewage system is dysfunctional in Luhansk city (UNICEF, 07/10/2014).

**Education**

Around 290 schools have been destroyed or damaged due to fighting (UNICEF, 08/09/2014).

On 1 October, authorities in opposition-held areas announced the beginning of the school year but the actual number of children attending school in those areas is unconfirmed (OCHA, 10/10/2014).

**Protection**

On 6 November, the Ukrainian President established obligatory passport controls for anyone crossing the lines separating opposition-controlled areas (AFP, 06/11/2014).

Armed groups have increasingly committed human rights abuses, including abduction, torture/ill-treatment, unlawful detention, execution and forced mobilisation of civilians, as well as the seizure and occupation of public buildings (OHCHR, 08/10/2014).

As of September, insurgent forces are detaining around 460 civilians on allegations of violating public order, and subjecting them to forced labour. Forced mobilisation and threats of the death penalty are being used by armed groups (OHCHR, 19/09/2014). From mid-April to 25 August, at least 1,000 people have been detained on suspicion of being militants and subversives (OHCHR, 08/10/2014).

Alleged torture and executions of detainees by armed groups and volunteer battalions continued to be reported but still require thorough verification (OHCHR, 08/10/2014). Allegations of ill-treatment of detainees by the Ukrainian Government and armed groups, including beating, threats of death, other humiliating and degrading treatment, and lack of access to medical and legal assistance, continued to be reported (OCHA, 17/10/2014).

**Mines and ERW**

Evidence of widespread use of cluster munitions in some 12 locations in urban areas, towns, and rural settings has been documented by Human Rights Watch. While it was not possible to determine conclusively responsibility for all attacks, evidence indicated that Ukrainian government forces were responsible for several cluster munition attacks on Donetsk city in early October (Cluster Munition Coalition, 22/10/2014).

Increasing reports of mines and unexploded ordnance have been reported in areas of Donetsk and Luhansk affected by conflict, with civilian deaths (UNICEF, 22/10/2014).

**Minorities**

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% do not have documentation. Roma are afraid to be registered as IDPs, fearing persecution when they return. Limited awareness among the Roma concerning available assistance and insufficient outreach activities have exacerbated their vulnerability (UNHCR, 17/10/2014).

In Crimea, Crimean Tatars and other pro-Ukraine figures have been forcibly disappeared or gone missing since May. On 6 October, a Crimean Tatar was found hanged (HRW, 07/10/2014).

**Vulnerable Groups**

The situation of people in institutional care is a major concern. Disabled people, orphans, older people and people in psychiatric hospitals have all been moved from conflict-affected areas (UNHCR, 20/10/2014).

There are indications that 50% of state and municipal institutions for the care and guardianship of minors in Donetsk and Luhansk regions are not functioning (international media, 07/10/2014).

**Women**

Women face a series of specific protection challenges, including: prohibition from leaving conflict zones by partners; rape; forced domestic labour by insurgents; post-traumatic syndrome and possibility of violence in collective centres (OCHA, 19/09/2014). An increasing number of cases of gender-based violence in conflict-affected areas are being reported (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

Updated: 03/11/2014
EL SALVADOR FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

23 October: The chikungunya epidemic is worsening across the country, as 12,691 cases were recorded between 13-19 October, according to the Ministry of Health (La Prensa).

KEY CONCERNS
- An estimated 384,000 individuals have been affected by drought (OCHA, 02/09/2014).
- 25,000 face critical conditions of food insecurity (ACT Alliance, 29/08/2014)

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters: Drought

An estimated 384,000 people have been affected by drought (OCHA, 02/09/2014). The drought has affected 65% of agricultural land (FAO; 19/09/2014), and 105 municipalities in 12 departments (La Prensa Grafica, 12/09/2014). As of 12 September, 103,500 farmers have been directly affected, according to a Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock evaluation (FEWSNET, 30/09/2014). The worst damage has been recorded in the eastern region, namely Usulutan, San Miguel, Morazan, and La Union, which cultivates 30% of the country’s maize production (FAO, 19/09/2014).

Farmers have estimated that around USD 100 million will be needed to recover from the losses and restore the land damaged by drought (OCHA, 01/09/2014).

Rains have improved since mid-August, but dryness from poor primera season rains lingers (FEWSNET, 12/09/2014).

Food Security

As of 29 August, 25,000 people face critical conditions of food insecurity (ACT Alliance, 29/08/2014). Small-scale coffee and bean farmers will be under Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security conditions from October to December in eastern and western parts of the country (FEWSNET, 30/09/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

The drought has caused total or partial losses of primera crops across the country and failure of primera staple grain crops in eastern and western areas. Up to 30% of the annual maize harvest and 90% of the total bean crop have been lost (EU, 20/08/2014). Food reserves are said to be exhausted, and year-end prices will remain high (FEWSNET, 30/09/2014). Bean prices have increased by 87% and maize prices by 33% over the third quarter of 2014 (WFP, 27/10/2014).

Compounding the impact of the drought, nearly three-quarters of coffee trees are infected with leaf rust, threatening livelihood security for small-coffee producers (Save the Children, 29/09/2014).

Prices for basic grains have spiked, and unemployment has further hampered the food security situation (FEWSNET, 31/08/2014). An estimated 100,000 farmers who directly depend on coffee for their livelihood have lost their jobs this year (Money News, 11/09/2014).

The coffee leaf rust epidemic, affecting the entire Central American region, is further affecting the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and day labourers. In Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador, 655,000 people are estimated to be food insecure due to the coffee leaf rust infestation (WFP, 15/10/2014).

Health and Nutrition

In mid-September, the Ministry of Health stated that the country remains on national alert due to chikungunya and dengue epidemics. The alert was first declared on 25 June (The Tico Times, 15/09/2014).

Chikungunya

The chikungunya epidemic is worsening across the country, as 12,691 cases were recorded between 13-19 October according to the Ministry of Health. In total, 71,548 people have been affected, including 149 confirmed cases, since the beginning of the outbreak in June (La Prensa, 23/10/2014).

Dengue

As of 14 October, 43,300 suspected dengue cases have been reported, including 12,929 confirmed cases and 372 of severe haemorrhagic dengue in 2014 (PAHO, 14/10/2014).

Updated: 29/10/2014

HAITI FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

29/08/2014. Small-scale coffee and bean farmers will be under Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security conditions from October to December in eastern and western parts of the country (FEWSNET, 30/09/2014).
28 October: Households in the southern peninsula and the central plateau are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity between April and June 2015 as a result of severe dryness and a projected second consecutive below-average harvest (FEWSNET).

KEY CONCERNS
- Ongoing severe dryness, particularly in the southern peninsula and the Central Plateau, and likely below-average rainfall through December, are expected to result in the second consecutive below-average harvest and increase food insecurity (FEWSNET, 28/10/2014).
- Despite the decreasing trend in cholera cases since January 2014, the disease remains a concern (WHO 27/06/2014). Waterborne diseases are one of the main causes of infant mortality (World Bank, 09/10/2014).
- So far in 2014, 800,000 people relied on humanitarian assistance (UN, 27/10/2014).
- The resilience of the population and its capacity to cope with new crises are generally weak.
- 85,430 IDPs (22,741 households) remain in 123 camps as of September as a result of the 2010 earthquake (OCHA, 04/10/2014).

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 23 September, Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe said that elections will be held no later than early 2015, more than three years behind schedule (ABC News, 23/09/2014).

Security Context
The indefinite postponement of parliamentary and local elections since 2011 has contributed to a polarised political climate. While the UN stabilisation mission, MINUSTAH, maintains police in regions, the Haitian National Police are not yet fully capable of dealing with civil unrest (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs
So far in 2014, 800,000 people are relying on international humanitarian assistance (UN, 27/10/2014).

Displacement

IDPs
85,430 IDPs (22,741 households) remain in 123 camps as of September as a result of the 2010 earthquake, a 17.5% decrease on June numbers (OCHA, 04/10/2014). Delmas (38%), Port-au-Prince (27%) and Croix-des-Bouquets (10%) account for 75% of displaced households (CCCM, 08/10/2014). Port-au-Prince has the highest number of IDP sites (37% of open sites), followed by Delmas and Carrefour (IOM 07/07/2014).

Population numbers in camps have grown over the first six months of 2014, as other camps have closed, and insecurity elsewhere has grown (OHCHR, MINUSTAH & Protection Cluster, 30/06/2014).

Due to inadequate funding, an estimated 69,399 IDPs are not currently targeted by any return or relocation programmes. As of June, 8,542 displaced families in 46 camps are considered at risk of forced eviction. 56,506 people in 53 camps considered to be at particularly high risk of flooding (OCHA, 20/08/2014).

Basic services in camps have declined faster than the pace of return or relocation. Only one-third of IDP camps have access to water (OCHA, 31/07/2014). Access to healthcare is problematic due to lacks of infrastructure and funding. At June, populations studied registered 12.5% GAM, while two-thirds lacked access to latrines and less than 3% had access to improved drinking water and hygiene (OHCHR, MINUSTAH & Protection Cluster, 30/06/2014).

Returnees
As of October, 1,448 Haitians in the Dominican Republic (including 182 women and 44 children) had been forced to return to their home country (Local Organisation, 15/10/2014).

Food Security
As of July, 2.6 million Haitians continue to be affected by food insecurity, including 200,000 severely food insecure (OCHA, 20/08/2014).

At October, parts of Artibonite, Nord-Ouest, Sud-Est, and Nippes departments face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security levels (OCHA, 04/10/2014). El Niño over October-December could lead to 15,000 more people suffering from acute food insecurity (OCHA, 04/10/2014). Households in the southern peninsula and the central plateau are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity between April and June 2015 (FEWSNET, 28/10/2014).

Agricultural Outlook
Drought during January-March has led to a 30% loss of seasonal harvests (OCHA, 04/10/2014). Ongoing severe dryness, particularly in the southern peninsula and the central plateau, and likely below-average rainfall through December, are expected to
result in a second consecutive below-average harvest (FEWSNET, 28/10/2014).

Below-average food stocks due to the prolonged drought are expected to result in higher food prices between March and April 2015 (AlterPress, 21/10/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Five million Haitians (half of the total population) lack access to basic health services (UN, 27/10/2014).

Chikungunya

As of October, 65,000 suspected cases of chikungunya have been reported since the May outbreak (IFRC, 10/10/2014).

Cholera

As of 30 August, 8,628 suspected cases of cholera, including 69 fatalities, had been registered in 2014, a 76% decrease compared to same period in 2013. Projected numbers have been revised from 45,000 to 15,000 cases in 2014. Since October 2010, nearly 706,100 suspected cholera cases and 8,600 deaths have been reported by the Ministry of Health (UN, 30/09/2014).

So far in 2014, more than 2,000 Haitians had been affected by cholera and 13 had died in central areas (local media, 29/09/2014). Hinche, Cerca Carvajal, Cerca la Source, Thomassique and Mirebalais communes in the Centre department were placed on high alert in mid-September for cases of cholera and acute diarrhoea (Government, 06/10/2014).

1,332 suspected cases of cholera have been registered in 102 camps since the beginning of 2014, compared to 1,054 cases reported in 73 camps in 2013 (OCHA, 20/08/2014).

Malnutrition

100,000 children under five suffer from GAM, among whom 20,000 suffer from SAM. Ten communes have above 10% GAM (OCHA, 20/08/2014).

Malnutrition rates in IDP camps are of great concern. At May, GAM rates within 20 camps stood at 12.5% (OCHA, 20/08/2014).

WASH

More than 3.4 million Haitians (one-third of the total population and 47% of rural population) lack access to safe water (UN, 30/09/2014). 38% do not have access to improved water sources and 69% lack access to improved sanitation (World Bank, 30/09/2014). As of June, 50% of camps lack adequate sanitation facilities; only one-third have a water point. 60% of schools have no toilets and more than three-quarters lack access to water (HRW, 08/10/2014).

Waterborne diseases are one of the main causes of infant mortality (World Bank, 09/10/2014).

Shelter

94% of people left homeless by the 2010 earthquake have been relocated outside camps but their living conditions are still poorer than prior to the earthquake (UN, 27/10/2014).

IDPs living in informal settlements were at risk of eviction in August (OCHA, 20/08/2014).

Education

17% of IDPs in camps recently surveyed have not received any education (OHCHR, MINUSTAH and Protection Cluster, 30/06/2014).

Protection

The number of rapes reported in the first half of 2014 is double that of the same period in 2013. More than two-thirds of the rapes reported involved minors (OHCHR and Protection Cluster, 30/06/2014).

Gender-based violence continues to be of great concern in IDP camps, where most cases of sexual aggression are reported among women (OHCHR, MINUSTAH and Protection Cluster, 30/06/2014).

Updated: 29/10/2014

HONDURAS FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

27 October: 372,000 small-scale and subsistence farmers and labourers need humanitarian assistance due to the effects of drought (Humanitarian Country Team).

22 October: 571,700 people are of concern for livelihood and food security due to drought (IFRC).

KEY CONCERNS

- 745,000 people are affected by the drought, including 372,000 small-scale and subsistence farmers and labourers considered to be in need of humanitarian assistance (Humanitarian Country Team, 27/10/2014). Choluteca, Valle, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán, Intibucá and Lempira departments are the most affected (EU, 20/08/2014)

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

Drought

745,000 people are affected by the drought, including 372,000 small-scale and subsistence farmers and labourers considered to be in need of humanitarian
assistance as of 27 October (Humanitarian Country Team, 27/10/2014). At end September, the impact of the drought was worsening in southern parts of the country as food insecurity increased in the Dry Corridor (La Prensa, 25/09/2014). The most affected departments are Choluteca, Valle, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán, Intibucá and Lempira (EU, 20/08/2014). The Government declared a state of emergency in the Dry Corridor on 5 August (Government, 05/08/2014).

Rains have improved since mid-August, but dryness from poor primera season rains lingers (FEWSNET, 12/09/2014).

Floods
A moderate preventive state of alert was declared in Gracias a Dios and South Olancho as Tropical Storm Hanna formed along the northern coastline (Comision Permanente de Contingencias, 27/10/2014). Heavy winds and rainfall caused some damage to electric infrastructure in Gracias a Dios as of 27 October (La Prensa, 27/10/2014).

Since 14 October, heavy rains affecting the country since 14 October left at least 3,000 people cut off and 2,500 people were evacuated to temporary shelters (COPECO cited by Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras, 21/10/2014). 70 roads have been significantly damaged and 5 others were destroyed over the country (La Prensa, 19/10/2014). Marcovia municipality has been particularly affected as the Choluteca River overflowed on 20–23 October (La Prensa, 23/10/2014).

Since 26 September, intense rains have provoked flash flooding over Choluteca and Valle departments, in the south. As of 29 September, the north of Choluteca department is almost inaccessible due to severe damage to roads and infrastructure. 4,000 people are directly affected.

In Valle department, the communities of La Ceiba, Los Amates, El Olanchano, Valle Nuevo, Capulín, Guatales, Muruahaca, El Carrizo y El Conchal have been flooded since 26 September. 2,000 people are affected (Proceso Digital, 29/09/2014, El Heraldo, 29/09/2014).

On 5 October, flooding in Santa Barbara department, western Honduras, left people without drinkable water as water pipes were damaged. 150 people were evacuated (La Prensa, 05/10/2014; El Heraldo, 05/10/2014).

On 13 October, about 14,000 people from 16 communities in Valle department were affected by the Goascorán River overflowing. These communities had already been affected by drought and crop losses (La Tribuna, 13/10/2014).

Food Security
The food security situation in Honduras has worsened due to drought, yet strong winds and rains have hit San Manuel Ulúa, and the destruction of crops has affected 14,000 people (3,500 families) (REDLAC, 18/08/2014).

As of 22 October, 571,700 people are of concern for livelihood and food insecurity due to the drought. Food insecurity is further increased by the loss of crops and food resources, the increased prices of basic food items and diminished income for day labourers (IFRC, 22/10/2014).

Well below-average 2014 primera harvests, reduced income from coffee sector employment and sales, and above-average red bean prices mean that the people affected by food insecurity in the Dry Corridor will experience Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of food insecurity August–December (FEWSNET, 16/09/2014). Extremely poor households will experience a rapid deterioration in their food security in early 2015, and more humanitarian assistance is expected to be needed than usual (FEWSNET 18/08/2014).

Agriculture and Markets
Recent estimates point to a 25% drop in maize production during the primera season compared to last year, and losses of over 8,000 metric tons of beans (FAO, 19/09/2014). 70% of maize crops and 45% of bean crops have been lost in drought-affected areas (La Prensa, 10/08/2014). Fish farms have been affected by the depletion of fish stocks (EU, 20/08/2014). The floods in Valle department have destroyed all apple crops in the area (Proceso Digital, 29/09/2014).

Maize prices increased by 23% and bean prices by 17% over the third quarter of 2014 (WFP, 27/10/2014).

The coffee leaf rust epidemic, affecting the entire Central American region, is further affecting the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and day labourers. In Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador, 655,000 people are estimated to be food insecure due to the coffee leaf rust infestation (WFP, 15/10/2014).

Health and Nutrition
22.6% of children are affected by chronic malnutrition (IFRC, 22/10/2014).

Dengue
22,511 suspected cases of dengue have been recorded so far this year, including 1,611 severe haemorrhagic dengue. 506 cases have been confirmed (PAHO, 14/10/2014).

Chikungunya
Three confirmed cases of chikungunya have been recorded as of 21 October (La Tribuna, 21/10/2014).

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

Updated: 29/10/2014

NICARAGUA FOOD INSECURITY
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

27 October: A moderate preventive state of alert was declared as Tropical Storm Hanna touched land in Nicaragua on 27 October. Severe downpours and strong winds are expected across the country, at risk causing additional flooding and landslides and increasing difficulties for the previously population affected (The Tico Times).

27 October: 10,600 people have been evacuated to 32 official shelters and 90 informal shelters following heavy rains in the last weeks (UN Technical Team).

KEY CONCERNS

- The current drought is the most severe in Nicaragua in more than 30 years. Nearly 75% of primera maize crops have been lost (OCHA).
- Vulnerable communities will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) Food Insecurity from October to December (FEWSNET, 01/09/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

Earthquake

On 14 October, a 7.4 magnitude earthquake affected large parts of the country. A moderate preventive state of alert was in place in the departments of Chinandega, León, Managua, Carazo, Masaya, Granada and Rivas (Government, 15/10/2014). 100,000 people from 74 communities had been preventively evacuated from coastal areas (ECHO, 15/10/2014). Limited information is available on the status of affected and evacuated populations as of 30 October.

Drought

It is estimated that 112 of the country’s 156 municipalities have reported damage or loss of crops due to the drought. Latest official assessments have revised estimated losses upward, to 77,000 metric tons of maize and 45,000 metric tons of rice. The worst-hit areas are the northern departments of Nueva Segovia, Madriz, and Estelí, bordering Honduras.

Nearly 75% of the primera maize crop has been lost (OCHA, 09/08/2014). Early prospects for the postrera season, which accounts for 40% of maize production, are uncertain. Severe losses of beans and groundnuts, as well as livestock, are reported. The dry spell also affected parts of the major growing areas of Matagalpa and Jinotega (FAO, 19/09/2014). The increase in temperatures in coastal areas has affected the fishing sector (EU, 20/08/2014).

Lower than average rainfall is forecasted for August to November. The situation could worsen by the beginning of 2015 if, as projected, the harvest of the second cropping season is below average (FAO, 09/10/2014).

The drought, which began in late July, has been the worst in more than 30 years. Nicaragua has requested aid from humanitarian and development actors in the country (OCHA, 29/08/2014).

Floods/Heavy Rains

A moderate preventive state of alert was declared as Tropical Storm Hanna touched land in Nicaragua on 27 October. Severe downpours and strong winds are expected across the country, at risk causing additional flooding and landslides and increasing difficulties for the previously affected population (The Tico Times, 27/10/2014).

As of 22 October, heavy rains have affected more than 60,000 people in October according to the latest official assessment (Local media, 22/10/2014) and caused 27 deaths (El Nuevo Diario, 23/10/2014; UN Technical Team, 27/10/2014). 69 municipalities have been affected in 17 departments, 14 departments of which suffered severe damage and 3 with minor damage (Local media, 22/10/2014). More than 4,500 houses have been destroyed in 134 communities (ECHO, 19/10/2014). 10,600 people were evacuated to 32 official shelters and 90 informal shelters (UN Technical Team, 27/10/2014). An additional 2,800 people are to be transferred from risk-concerned areas in Managua into shelters as of 20 October (Local media, 20/10/2014).

In August, 700 people in Managua were affected by floods after more than 100 houses were destroyed (Government, 26/08/2014).

Food Security

The loss of primera crops and spikes in the price of beans means that poor households and migrants in the Dry Corridor will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity from October to December (FEWSNET, 16/09/2014).

Agricultural Outlook

Despite increased rainfall, moisture deficits in northeast Nicaragua continue as the region has received insufficient rainfall since the beginning of the August-November Postrera season (FEWSNET, 17/10/2014). Bean prices have increased by 29% and maize prices by 26% over the third quarter of 2014 (WFP, 27/10/2014).

The coffee leaf rust epidemic, affecting the entire Central American region, is further affecting the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and day labourers. In Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador, 655,000 people are estimated to be food insecure due to the coffee leaf rust infestation (WFP, 15/10/2014).

Updated: 29/10/2014
SOUTH AMERICA

BOLIVIA  FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

27 October: More than 51,000 people and 20,200 hectares of maize crops have been affected by the drought. The number of people affected is expected to reach 150,000 by the end of the year (OCHA).

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

Disasters

A series of natural disasters has affected Bolivia since the beginning of the rainy season in October 2013 and have had a severe impact on livelihoods and food security.

Drought

Twelve districts (Lagunilla, Gutierrez, Charagua, Boyuibe, el Trigal, Cuevo, San Miguel de Velasco, Sipina, Quiruisilla, Cuatro Cañadas, San Javier, San Julian and San Ignacio) have issued a red alert due to extreme drought and its negative effects of the livelihoods of its residents (El Mundo Bolivia, 20/10/2014). More than 51,000 people are affected, with the number expected to rise to 150,000 by the end of the year (OCHA, 27/10/2014).

Earthquake

On 1 October, a 4.9 magnitude earthquake, with more than 30 aftershocks, affected over 500 people in three districts of La Paz: Irupana, Cajuata, and Cairoma. Those affected were evacuated and remain in shelters (OCHA, 07/10/2014). Some houses have been destroyed and others are at high risk of collapse (La Razón, 06/10/2014).

Heavy Rainfall and Floods

At 24 September 146 out of 339 communities were still affected by the flooding of the last rainy season. On 25 September, 11 districts north of La Paz were under a state of emergency (Government).

As of 2 June, an estimated 325,000 people had been affected in Bolivia’s Amazon valleys, lowlands, and plains during the October–March rains (OCHA). The floods caused the collapse of around 2,000 homes, the destruction of 63,000 hectares of arable land, and the death of 150,000 livestock (ACT Alliance, 24/09/2014). Officials estimate that agriculture is the primary income-generating activity of 40% of affected families. This has been the worst flooding in the last 60 years (ACT Alliance, 24/09/2014).

Food Security

In July, the nutritional status of flood-affected families in the departments of Pando, Beni, La Paz and Cochabamba was deteriorating, according to preliminary results of the Emergency Food Security Assessment (WFP, 25/07/2014).

Agriculture

The drought in six municipalities in the department of Santa Cruz has affected more than 20,200 of corn crops (OCHA, 27/10/2014).

According to FAO on 27 February, livestock is expected to be the most affected by the rains. Estimates indicate that close to 63,000 hectares of crops, including rice, maize, and cassava, have been negatively impacted. Despite losses in the department of Beni, prospects for 2014’s de verano season are favourable, since the main cereal-producing departments of Santa Cruz, La Paz, and Cochabamba, were less severely affected and the abundant rains may have benefitted the developing crops in some places.

Health

The flood-affected are suffering from gastrointestinal infections, respiratory infections, and skin diseases; pregnant women and children are most affected (ACT Alliance, 24/09/2014).

Updated: 29/10/2014
Introduction to the Global Emergency Overview Update

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

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

The Global Emergency Overview consists of three main sections:

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

The priority levels are assigned on the basis of:
- the number of people affected by recent disasters
- the level of access to the affected population
- the <5 mortality rate
- the level of development of the country
- the number of protracted IDPs and refugees.

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

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

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

The Global Emergency Overview is a mobile application.

To download the mobile application for Android phones click here.

To download the mobile application for iOS phones click here.

Update

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

Disclaimer

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

More information on the Global Emergency Overview Methodology can be found in the Global Overview Methodology Brief and the Frequently Asked Questions.