Snapshot 19–25 November

**Pakistan:** Drought conditions in Sindh have affected nearly 1.7 million people; nearly 500 have died in Tharparkar, including 296 children. In FATA, the number of people displaced by the military’s operation Khyber One in the Tirah Valley has grown to 440,000 people, adding to 993,000 displaced by operations in North Waziristan.

**Liberia:** Two million children are thought to be affected by the consequences of the Ebola epidemic. High levels of unemployment are affecting income: 70% of households in a recent survey said they do not have enough money to afford food.

**South Sudan:** About 10,000 people, mostly women and children, have fled fighting in Southern Kordofan and are in need of humanitarian assistance in Nhialdu, Unity state. A new estimate has put the death toll from the conflict in South Sudan at 50,000 since December 2013.

*Updated: 25/11/2014. Next update: 02/12/2014*
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. Health, protection, food, and WASH are priority needs, as violence, looting, and displacement have led to a massive deterioration in the humanitarian situation across the country, affecting the entire population.

Political Context

Stakeholders

Ex-Seleka: Armed ex-Seleka took control of the northern part of CAR in January 2014, following Michael Djotodia's resignation from the presidency. Djotodia had been a Seleka leader, but dissolved the coalition in September 2013. Bambari, Ouaka, reportedly became the ex-Seleka headquarters in May. They number an estimated 10,000 fighters, including Muslims from the northeast, and Sudanese and Chadian foreigners (international media, 30/09/2014). Rival ex-Seleka groups have clashed on several occasions: a new branch, Unity for CAR, led by General Ali Darassa, was created in October (Jeune Afrique, 27/10/2014).

LRA: The Lord’s Resistance Army (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. 11 LRA attacks and 70 abductions were reported over July–September, a decrease of around 20% on April–June. Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou remain the most affected prefectures (OCHA, 10/11/2014).

UN peacekeeping mission (MINUSCA): MINUSCA began operations on 14 September, under a one-year mandate. It numbers 6,500 troops and 1,000 police and is expected to expand to 12,000 by February 2015, compared to the 4,800-strong African Union peacekeeping force previously active in CAR (UN, 14/09/2014; Government 16/09/2014).

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

EU forces: On 21 October, the 700-strong EU military operation in CAR (EUFOR-RCA) was extended to March 2015 to protect civilians and provide security for humanitarian operations in the Bangui area (Government, 07/11/2014).

US military assistance: The US is providing logistical support and advisers to African troops operating against the LRA in eastern and southeastern CAR.

National Political Context

After proposing the division of the country during peace talks in July, ex-Seleka proclaimed a free, independent, and secular state in northeastern CAR in August, and rejected the transitional Government formed during the same month (IRIN 23/09/2014; UNHCR, 22/08/2014; Government, 24/07/2014). On 6 October, anti-balaka also demanded that the President resign and that two anti-balaka quit the transitional Government (AFP,
National elections will not be organised before late 2015, which risks worsening the crisis (Missionary International Service News Agency, 01/09/2014).

Security Context

As of 12 September, at least 5,186 people had died from violence in CAR (Government, 16/09/2014). Since January, more than 1,120 security incidents have been recorded (OCHA, 06/11/2014).

The Government is prohibited from rearming by a UN arms embargo; disarmament operations are increasing tensions, particularly in Bambari, Ouaka (international media, 12/06/2014). On 26 October, the President of the Transitional National Council called on international forces to help protect the population (AFP, 26/10/2014).

Conflict Developments

An increase in both ex-Seleka and anti-balaka activism and targeting of international peacekeepers was noted during the first half of 2014. Renewed attacks and clashes between anti-balaka and ex-Seleka particularly affected Ouham, Ouham-Pende, Dekoa, Kemo, Nana-Mambere and Nana-Grebizi (AFP, 01/08/2014). Sangaris was deployed in Grimari, Ouaka, in April. At least 146 people were killed in Kemo, Nana-Grebizi, and Ouaka between June and September (Government, 16/09/2014).

In September and October, an increase in ex-Seleka activity was reported in Sibut, Kemo, with 25 reported dead (UNICEF, 09/2014; ACF, 13/11/2014).

Intense fighting and increased insecurity has been observed in Ouaka since May, due violence between armed groups, and targeting of civilians (AFP, 02/10/2014). 343,210 people have been affected by renewed violence since 8 October, especially in Bambari: anti-balaka attacked Bambari on 31 October, leading to the intervention of French forces, while armed groups attacked a number of villages between Bambari and Bakala (AFP, 26/10/2014; ACTED, 06/11/2014).

The security situation remains fragile in the capital, with periodic eruptions of violence. A deterioration in May saw dozens killed in clashes. Conflict has escalated again since the end of August, and a wave of violence beginning 7 October left at least 13 dead. Thousands of people were displaced, and serious violations of human rights, including kidnapping, murder, child recruitment, and sexual violence were reported (OCHA, 23/10/2014).

Recent Incidents

**Bangui:** The situation was tense around Beal IDP camp on 16–17 November, where ex-Seleka had threatened to blow up on-site munitions and explosive devices. Shooting and looting on 16 November led to international forces’ intervention (OCHA, 17/11/2014). Fighting between international forces and armed groups was reported on 31 October in northern Bangui (AFP, 31/10/2014).

**Haut Mbomou:** An eruption of violence between Muslim and Christian communities started on 5 November in Zémio, leaving at least three people killed and 14 injured, and marking the first major inter-community incident in the region since the country’s crisis began in 2012. 50 houses were burnt down in Zémio, Barth and Bahou in response to the killing of a member of one of the communities on 5 November; grenades and automatic weapons were used in the attacks (UN, 24/11/2014).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs

As of August, 2.5 million people out of 4.6 million need immediate assistance (half of whom are children) (OCHA, 06/08/2014).

**Access**

Violent attacks, threats against aid workers, and roadblocks hinder the supply of humanitarian assistance outside Bangui, where humanitarian needs are significant (OCHA, 07/11/2014). The July–November rainy season also affected road conditions, and it is impossible to find fuel outside Bangui (OCHA, 23/10/2014).

**Security Constraints**

**Bangui:** Violence and obstruction by armed groups all impact humanitarian access (OCHA, 23/10/2014). Road and air access to Bangui was disrupted for several days in October (UNICEF, 07/11/2014). WFP temporarily suspended operations in Bangui on 8 September because of renewed hostilities (WFP, 24/10/2014).

Insecurity in the capital affects the delivery of supplies to the regions: Paoua could not receive aid from Bangui, and distributions in Ndém and Gaoundaye (Ouham Pende prefecture) were delayed (UNHCR, 24/10/2014).

**Bamingui-Bangoran:** Humanitarian actors suspended activities due to security incidents in September (Danish Refugee Council, 23/09/2014). The delivery of aid has reportedly been obstructed by local authorities (OCHA, 16/07/2014).

**Kemo/Nana-Grebizi:** Security conditions on the Kaga Bandoro–Dekoa–Sibut route are very volatile (UNICEF, 07/11/2014).

**Ouaka:** The FAO warehouse in Bambari was robbed (OCHA, 20/08/2014). As of 25 June, UNHCR reported that clashes in Bambari have hampered access to the area.

**Trapped Communities**

At 9 June, an estimated 21,000 people, mostly but not exclusively Muslim, were trapped in 12 locations, including Boda (Lobaye prefecture), Yaloke (Ombella Mpoko), Berberati (Mambere-Kadei), Bozoum (Ouham-Pende), Boganangone (Lobaye), and the PK5 district of Bangui, where people are thought to be at very high risk, while Bouar and Baoro were considered as high risk (UNHCR, 09/06/2014).

**Security Incidents Affecting Aid Workers**
18 humanitarian workers have been killed and six wounded since January in 109 incidents (OCHA, 07/11/2014), including six in Bangui between 7 and 19 October (OCHA, 20/10/2014). On 7-8 November two MSF trucks and their crew were detained by an armed group on the road from Paoua to Bangui (MSF, 11/11/2014).

Disasters

Heavy rainfall on 27 October led to flooding in Bangassou, in Mbomou. 104 shelters were flooded, 19 destroyed and humanitarian assistance had not reached populations at 11 November. NFI needs are significant (ACTED, 13/11/2014).

Displacement

It is estimated that 80–85% of Bangui’s minority Muslim population had fled or been evacuated at March, as well as most of that of Yaloke (previously home to 10,000 Muslims), Baoro in Nana-Mambere (4,000 evacuees), Mbaiki in Lobaye, and Boali and Bossembete, Ouham-Pende (OCHA).

At 19 November, there are 430,000 IDPs in CAR, including 174,000 in displacement sites, 61,244 in 37 sites in Bangui (OCHA, 19/11/2014; UNHCR, 07/11/2014). The number of IDPs living with host families is unclear due to lack of systematic data collection (IDMC, 15/10/2014).

**IDPs**

**Bangui:** The largest camps in Bangui are Aéroport Mpoko (20,900 IDPs), Séminaire St Marc (8,000), and Mission Carmel (6,775) (CCCM, 29/10/2014). *Populations in Mpoko camp are in urgent need of food and shelter (UN, 20/11/2014).* The number of IDPs in camps has fallen by 78% since December 2013 (IOM, 30/09/2014).

7,160 people were displaced between 7 and 19 October, of whom 3,000 remained displaced end October (OCHA, 23/10/2014; PI, 22/10/2014). Much of the newly displaced population originates from Bangui’s 3rd and 5th districts, with additional displacement taking place in and around Bimbo, Ombella Mpoko (IOM, 21/10/2014). Health, WASH, and food are priority needs (OCHA, 21/10/2014).

**Haute-Kotto:** 13,000 IDPs fleeing violence in Bangi and Bambari early October have been reported in Bria (ICRC, 16/10/2014).

**Kemo:** Nearly 2,100 were displaced in Kemo prefecture following violence in September and October (ACF, 13/11/2014).

**Nana-Grebizi:** 23,000 IDPs in the Kaga Bandoro area at early May (UNHCR). Violence in M’Bres mid-August forced 1,000 people to flee their homes (OCHA 20/08/2014).

**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 protection (Aide Médicale Internationale, 05/11/2014).

**Ouaka:** 18,530 people have been displaced in the prefecture following renewed violence in October (WHO, 31/10/2014). 4,560 had fled armed group violence in villages along the Bambari-Bakala route between 21 October and 6 November (ACTED, 06/11/2014).

**Ouham:** The majority of the 20,000 displaced who had sought refuge in isolated rural areas following the arrival of armed groups in Boguila, Kouki, and Nana Bakassa on 25 October have returned (OCHA, 20/11/2014). Armed group violence in September –October in Paoua displaced around 2,000 people to their fields (IRC, 02/11/2014). An estimated 14,830 people have been displaced in Batafango. 2,000 people had been displaced in Kabo and Moyen-Sido in August as a result of clashes in Batafango (IOM, 25/08/2014).

**Eastern CAR:** At least 3,000 were displaced by the surge in violence on 5 November in Zémio (UN, 24/11/2014). 26,520 people remain displaced by LRA activity in eastern CAR (OCHA, 10/11/2014).

**Refugees in CAR**

8,012 refugees and asylum seekers are living in CAR (UNHCR, 07/11/2014), including 1,700 South Sudanese refugees at 31 March (UNHCR). 4,241 Congolese refugees are in Haut-Mbomou (OCHA, 10/11/2014).

Sudanese refugees in CAR’s Bembere camp (Ouham) faced beatings and money and livestock robbery by a large group of gunmen on 3 November (Radio Dabanga, 04/11/2014). As of 25 June, violence in Bambari reportedly interrupted a number of humanitarian programmes for Sudanese refugees in the Pladama Ouaka camp.

**CAR Refugees in Neighbouring Countries**

There are 423,000 CAR refugees in neighbouring countries; 186,000 of whom arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR). 239,110 are registered in Cameroon, 92,610 in DRC, and 20,370 in Congo (UNHCR, 31/10/2014). 1,600 new CAR displaced end October (OCHA, 23/10/2014). Much of the newly displaced populations are particularly vulnerable. The most affected regions are Ouham and most of Nana Grebizi and Kemo prefectures.
Ngaoundaye, Bocaranga, and Berberati sub-prefectures in the west, Boda and Bimbo sub-prefectures in the south, and Obo sub-prefecture in the west (FAO, 17/11/2014). In Basse-Kotto and Sangha Mbaere, food security will remain Stressed until December (FEWSNET, 30/09/2014). Diminished quantity and diversity of food intake is raising serious nutrition and health concerns (FAO, 17/11/2014).

In Nana-Bakassa, there are concerns about food insecurity since the population has resorted to negative coping mechanisms (INGO, 07/10/2014). 26% of households have inadequate food consumption, compared to 15% in 2013. The percentage of households resorting to negative coping mechanisms has risen from 27 to 30% (FAO, 17/11/2014).

In the coming months, a second – in some areas a third – consecutive poor harvest, along with below-average incomes and disrupted livelihoods, will limit food access, particularly for IDPs, returnees, and the poor in conflict zones, who are projected to be in Crisis in May (FEWSNET, 16/11/2014). Nearly one million are expected to be in need of emergency food assistance by the May-September lean season (USAID, 21/11/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

Crisis and insecurity have severely disrupted agricultural and marketing activities and caused the depletion of already inadequate household productive assets. Rainfall has been erratic in the west, and there have been pest attacks. This has all contributed to a 23% reduction in the planted area.

Food crop production in 2014 is estimated to be 58% below average (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

3.4 million need access to health services (OCHA, 19/11/2014). Lack of access to health services in IDP sites is of serious concern (WHO, 31/10/2014). 45% of health facilities outside Bangui were unable to provide basic health services at May (WHO, 30/09/2014).

Suspected cases of whooping cough (pertussis) have been reported in Ketele, Kaga Bandoro region, and particularly in Grevai, Nana Grebizi prefecture, affecting 40 (UNICEF, 07/11/2014).

HIV/AIDS

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

Malaria

Malaria cases grew from 1,574 cases over 18–25 October to 2,323 the following week. Malaria remains the main cause of mortality in CAR (WHO, 31/10/2014).

Protection

2.5 million people are in need of protection, particularly in vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, Ouham, Ouaka, and Lobaye prefectures (OCHA, 19/11/2014; 31/10/2014). Nearly 13,000 are in need of protection following the surge of violence in Zémio in Haut Mbomou on 5 November (OCHA, 20/11/2014).

Crimes against humanity and war crimes have been, and continued to be, reportedly
committed in CAR. Ex-Seleka 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 killing and maiming (Watchlist on children and Armed Conflict, 04/11/2014).

The number of child soldiers coerced into joining the ranks of various armed groups could approximate 10,000. On 10 June, 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).

*Updated: 24/11/2014*

**CHAD FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**7 November:** 2,400 people have been transferred from Doyaba transit site to Maingama temporary camp as of end October (UNHCR).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 92,600 CAR refugees as of 28 October (UNHCR, 28/10/2014), 20,000 of whom have arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR, 02/11/2014).
- 460,000 refugees in Chad as of 2 November (UNHCR, 02/11/2014).
- 2.6 million Chadians are estimated to be food insecure. 681,000 were considered to be severely food insecure during the lean season (OCHA, 15/10/2014; 30/09/2014).

**Political Context**

**Central African Republic Crisis**

Chad’s President Idriss Déby announced in May that the southern border with CAR would be closed to all except Chadian citizens until the CAR crisis is resolved. The Government expressed concern that armed fighters might be infiltrating refugee populations in the area, and deployed additional security forces to the border. 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**

In August, France deployed a 3,000-strong counterterrorism operation across the Sahel region, but 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).

**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). In Am-Timian, Salamat region, shelter and non-food items are still needed as many individuals are currently living in makeshift shelters and remain exposed to the rain. Additionally, food, health and WASH services are urgently needed (IOM, 30/09/2014).

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

An estimated 90,000 IDPs are living in protracted displacement in the east (OCHA, 19/11/2013). They have been experiencing difficulties accessing shelter, land, and income-generating activities, and the arrival of newly displaced people from CAR since December 2013 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. 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 2 November, Chad is host to 460,000 refugees; 365,400 are from Sudan, 92,600 from CAR and 1,900 from Nigeria (UNHCR, 02/11/2014).

157,500 are in Wadi Fira (34%), 114,350 are in Ouaddai (25%), 84,650 are in Sila (18%), and 47,500 are in Logone Oriental (10%). 22,750 refugees are in Dosseye camp, 60km from the CAR border, and 26,420 in Belom camp, Moyen Chari (UNHCR, 02/11/2014).

**Returnees**

There are 150,000 returnees from Libya as of 15 October (OCHA, 15/10/2014).

**Evacuees from CAR**

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, 20,000 of whom have arrived since December 2013 and are predominantly in the south of the country (UNHCR, 02/11/2014).
Although the Chad–CAR border remains officially closed, people continue to arrive at a number of 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.

90% 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 relocation (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

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

**Population relocation,** notably from Doyaba and Sido transit sites to Maingama temporary site, is ongoing (UNHCR, 07/11/2014).

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, does not have sufficient shelter and WASH capacity to host the entire population of Doyaba and Sido sites, although relocations are ongoing (OCHA, 18/09/2014; 25/10/2014). Maingama holds 5,786 returnees as of 15 October (OCHA, 15/10/2014). **2,400 people have been transferred from Doyaba to Maingama as of end October (UNHCR, 07/11/2014).** Work is under way to increase the hosting capacity to 30,000 people (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

Danamadja temporary site, in 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 Gaoui sites, 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 since the CAR crisis are outside 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). 22 villages host around 15,000 CAR evacuees in Mandoul and Logone Oriental. The assistance provided outside transit sites and temporary camps is very limited, the humanitarian needs are significant, particularly in WASH (OCHA, 30/09/2014). 3,700

returnees in Baibokoum and Mbitoye, Logone Orientale, 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, 1,091 returnees living in Kouno and surrounding villages have urgent needs in terms of shelter, food, and NFIs, 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 NFIs are needed, as many individuals are currently living in makeshift shelters. Food, WASH and health services are urgently needed (IOM, 22/09/2014).

**Chadians in neighbouring countries**

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). 150 of them have been repatriated to Chad by IOM at the request of the Chadian government in late August (IOM, 01/09/2014).

As of 1 September, another 1,350 Chadians who fled the violence in CAR via Cameroon were transported to Chad and accommodated in Djako new site (IOM, 01/09/2014). They had endured extremely difficult living conditions in the transit sites of Garoua Boulay and Kantzou in Eastern Cameroon since February. Nearly 5,000 people were initially expected to be repatriated to Djako, but the number of Chadian returnees from Cameroon is likely to be lower given that many migrants have already left the transit sites in Cameroon to other locations in the country or to Chad (IOM, 30/07/2014).

**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).

The food security situation deteriorated during the lean season from May to September, as 681,000 were considered to be severely food insecure as of 30 September, compared to 500,000 at Crisis or Emergency levels (IPC Phases 3 and 4) of food insecurity as of March 2014 (OCHA, 30/09/2014; 31/08/2014).

The harvest has improved 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 Bah El Ghazel in the Sahel strip, and early exhaustion of food stocks is likely to put poor households in these areas in Stressed conditions (IPC Phase 2) from February (FEWSNET, 25/10/2014).

**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.

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). 30 of the 102 health districts are considered non-functional by the Ministry of Health due to lack of resources. Access to quality healthcare is a particular concern for over 330,000 people in Kanem region due to particularly high malnutrition rates and food deficit in the lean season from May to October (OCHA, 19/09/2014).

Cholera

As of early October, 35 cholera cases were reported in Mayo-Kebbi (Map Action, 30/10/2014).

Malaria

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

The number of malaria cases nationwide has increased compared to last year, with a 28% increase (UNICEF, 14/08/2014).

Malnutrition

152,000 children are severely malnourished and 310,000 moderately malnourished as of 31 October (OCHA, 31/10/2014). Kanem, Bahr-El-Gazel, Gera, and Wadi Fira all report GAM above the emergency threshold of 15% (OCHA, 19/09/2014).

WASH

1.3 million people 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, 31/06/2014). Access to WASH facilities for host communities has also been affected by the presence of evacuees (UNHCR, 31/07/2014).

Education

Access to primary and secondary education is a need in Danamadja, Kobitey, and Djako sites (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

Protection

A trend of increasing SGBV incidents has been notified in Doyaba, Maingama, and Kobitey camps; 28 incidents were recorded 15 September–15 October.

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

Legal Status

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 (UNHCR, 07/2014). Family reunification is also a major protection challenge, as ongoing internal displacements have been observed between villages and camps in the south (OCHA, 25/10/2014).

Updated: 18/11/2014

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

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

19–23 November: Clashes between two rival factions of Raiya Mutomboki prompted displacement from 19 villages in Shabunda, South Kivu (UNICEF, 31/10/2014).

21 November: 1,500 people remain without shelter one month after floods and landslides hit Kalehe territory, South Kivu (Radio Okapi).

20 November: 50 people were killed in an ADF-NALU attack north of Goma, Beni territory, North Kivu (Radio Okapi, 22/11/2014).

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 582,700
people displaced across the province (OCHA, 14/11/2014).
- 121,900 refugees, mainly from CAR and Rwanda (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).
- Over 2 million children under 5 are suffering from acute malnutrition (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

Regional Security Context

The Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework agreement for DRC and the region, aimed at consolidating state authority in DRC, was signed on 24 February 2014 by Angola, Burundi, the Central Africa Republic, DRC, Congo, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. As of end September, the implementation was estimated not to be progressing (UN News, 22/09/2014).

National Political Context

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). Presidential and legislative elections are to be held in 2016, while the process will be initiated in 2015. The electoral calendar is not yet precisely defined (UN Security Council, 05/11/2014).

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).

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. Attacks by FDLR resumed in Misau and Misoke, Walikale territory over 3–5 November, however, deadline set by the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (CIRGL) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) to track remaining insurgents opposing the disarmament process is set at 2 January (Radio Okapi, 10/11/2014).

Counter-insurgency and Insecurity in the East

There are at least 40 armed groups operating in the east (ECHO, 22/10/2014). A new wave of violence intensified in eastern provinces in October, after a period of counterinsurgency operations by DRC armed forces (FARDC) and MONUSCO. In 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). Government and UN troops defeated M23, once the strongest army in the Kivu regions, at the end of 2013.

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 have all been reported (OCHA, 16/10/2014).

Beni territory: Since early October, repeated attacks on villages in Beni territory, reportedly committed by ADF-NALU, after an assault on FARDC positions in May-Moya, resulted in the death of 120 civilians (AFP, 05/11/2014). 50 people were killed in an attack north of Goma on 20 November (Radio Okapi, 22/11/2014). Civil unrest and violence from the local population towards MONUSCO assets and official buildings have also been recorded (AFP, 02/11/2014).

Walikale: FDLR violence over 3–5 November resulted in 13 civilians killed and SGBV reported in Walikale territory (Radio Okapi, 10/11/2014). NDC violence – including SGBV, kidnappings, and looting – was reported in the territory in September and October (OCHA, 08/10/2014). NDC 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 between Walikale and Masisi, and against Raiya Mutomboki between Walikale and Hombo, causing further displacement (UNICEF, 30/09/2014).

South Kivu

Security remains volatile in South Kivu as several armed groups continue to operate and trigger displacement within the province. Since mid-August, clashes have been ongoing between FARDC and Raiya Mutomboki in Shabunda (OCHA, 03/09/2014). Over 19–23 November, clashes between two rival factions of Raiya Mutomboki caused...
displacement from 19 villages (UNICEF, 31/10/2014).


Katanga

Interethnic conflict between Luba and pygmies, and Mayi-Mayi attacks, continue to affect Tanganyika district (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 Bakata Katanga: Ten attacks were reported over 23–30 October in Moero sector of Pweto territory (Radio Okapi, 30/10/2014). FARDC offensives were making gains against Mayi-Mayi Bakata Katanga of Musumari as of 5 November (Radio Okapi, 05/11/2014).

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 Lake Tanganyika since August (OCHA, 30/10/2014).

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 LRA is increasing activities against the civilian population in Haut and Bas Uele, according to a MONUSCO statement on 8 October. (AFP, 08/10/2014). In the third quarter 2014, 27 attacks, 15 deaths, and 55 abductions were reported, which represents a significant decrease in abductions and attacks compared to the second quarter. However, only one death was reported in the second quarter (OCHA, 10/11/2014).

FRPI: The FRPI has resumed violent activities in Irumu territory since the beginning of October (OCHA, 11/11/2014). At 11 November, the leader of FRPI Cobra Matata and a hundred insurgents are said to have surrendered (Radio Okapi, 11/11/2014).

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 Mambasa territory.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

In Katanga, Manono, Pweto, Mitwaba and Malemba-Nkulu experience most pressing humanitarian needs in all sectors (OCHA, 13/11/2014).

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: 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).

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 (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 has hampered humanitarian access in Bunyatenge and Kasugo areas and forced several organisations to withdraw their staff temporarily (OCHA, 26/09/2014).

Seasonal rains are deteriorating road conditions throughout the province, threatening access to populations (OCHA, 11/11/2014). 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).

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 Opieinge, Bafwasende 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).

Equateur: Zongo area, northern Equateur, has been cut off for over a month due to heavy rains and floods (Radio Okapi, 23/11/2014).

Disasters

Floods

As of 20 November, over 10,000 people were affected by floods in Basoko, Tshopo territory, Orientale province. 8,000 of whom are left without shelter after the Aruwimi River overflowed (FAO, 20/11/2014; OCHA, 11/11/2014). WASH and food security are concerning. Another 1,700 people have been affected by flooding in Banalia territory, Orientale, in October (OCHA, 11/11/2014).

Over 25–28 October, heavy rains caused floods and landslides in Kalehe territory, South Kivu, causing major infrastructure damage: two bridges, two schools and three power
plants were destroyed (OCHA, 11/11/2014). 1,500 people remain without shelter as of 21 November, as 950 houses were destroyed (Radio Okapi, 21/11/2014). 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 movements are frequent and difficult to quantify and track, due to the back and forth pattern of displacement and security conditions.

IDPs

2.6 million people are estimated internally displaced at end September, an increase of 100,000 since June (UNHCR, 30/09/2014). 770,000 newly displaced people have been recorded in 2014 as of 30 September. 95% of displacements were induced by insecurity and armed conflict (OCHA, 14/11/2014). According to UNHCR, around 80% of IDPs are hosted by families and communities, who are already facing chronic food insecurity and limited access to services and livelihood opportunities (FAO, 20/11/2014).

North Kivu: At 861,300, North Kivu has the highest number of IDPs in the country (OCHA, 14/11/2014), although 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. 16,400 IDPs are located in sites near Goma (IOM, 18/11/2014).

94,000 new IDPs have been recorded in the third quarter of 2014 due to insecurity in Walikale, Lubero, Beni and Masisi territories (OCHA, 14/11/2014). 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 increase vulnerabilities (OCHA, 22/10/2014). As of 11 November, 13,000 people have fled attacks attributed to ADF-NALU in Eringeti, Mbaute and Oicha in Beni territory (OCHA, 11/11/2014). 90,000 IDPs from fighting in the second half of 2013 are still in need of multi-sectoral assistance in Beni territory (UNICEF, 30/09/2014).

In Rutshuru, fighting between FARDC and armed groups is triggering back and forth displacement (OCHA, 11/11/2014). As of 20 November, 10,000 people are estimated to be displaced due to fighting between FARDC and Nyatura (OCHA, 20/11/2014).

South Kivu: 618,800 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 in Shabunda, Kalehe, Kabare, and Mwenga, and Fizi territory (OCHA, 14/10/2014; 27/10/2014). 38% of IDPs in the province are recorded in Kalehe (OCHA, 14/11/2014).

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 Kitchungu and Byangama (OCHA, 08/10/2014).

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 currently hosts 582,700 IDPs compared to 50,000 end of 2011 (OCHA, 14/11/2014). 80% of IDPs are living with host families; only 117,500 IDPs are on sites. 64% have been displaced by conflict involving armed groups and 14% by intercommunal violence between Luba and pygmies. 71,500 new IDPs were recorded in the third quarter of 2014, including 26,000 in Manono, 16,200 in Nyunzu, 14,500 in Pweto and 6,800 in Kabalo (OCHA, 14/11/2014).

Pweto territory hosts 178,000 IDPs, representing 30% of the displaced population in the province (OCHA, 20/11/2014). 47,600 IDPs are located across Manono, Nyunzu 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. (DRC Commission on Population Movements, 08/2014). 31,240 returnees have been recorded in the third quarter of 2014, including 20,600 in Pweto and 8,200 in Mitwaba (OCHA, 14/11/2014). The presence of FARDC forces, the upcoming harvest season, and the start of school year has encouraged returns (OCHA, 30/10/2014).

In Mutabi, 15,000 IDPs remain of the 46,000 who have fled their homes due to Mayi-Mayi Kota 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 2014 are now in need of food assistance (WFP, 27/10/2014). 71,500 new IDPs were recorded in the third quarter of 2014, including 26,000 in Manono, 16,200 in Nyunzu, 14,500 in Pweto and 6,800 in Kabalo (OCHA, 14/11/2014).

2,500 displaced people are in need of food, shelter and health assistance in Mwashi camp. They refuse to return to their home locations before Mayi-Mayi Bakata Katanga has been neutralised (Jeune Afrique, 24/11/2014).

Orientale: 467,500 IDPs are hosted in Orientale province, including 8,000 in the third quarter of 2014 (OCHA, 14/11/2014). 66% of IDPs are located in Ituri district, including 14,900 who arrived in the third quarter of 2014 (CPM quoted by OCHA, 11/11/2014). Clashes between FARDC and FRPI in Ituru territory, Ituri, displaced 274,200 people in the second quarter of 2014, far more than in the first (DRC Commission on Population Movements, 06/2014). 80,000 IDPs are estimated to have undertaken back and forth displacement due to FRPI raids as of end October (UNICEF, 31/10/2014).

Most of the new IDPs in Ituri are living with host families or in public buildings. WASH is the most pressing need (OCHA, 22/10/2014). An estimated 20,000 people have been displaced since April in Opieenge, Bafwasende territory due to fighting between FARDC and the Major Luc militia, and access is difficult (OCHA, 01/10/2014).

Attacks allegedly committed by Mayi-Mayi Morgan in Mambase territory caused the
population to flee, mainly to Biakato (OCHA, 22/10/2014). Other IDPs were reported in Bafwanduo (OCHA, 22/10/2014; 11/11/2014).

An estimated 113,000 people remain displaced in Bas Uele and Haut Uele (OCHA, 16/10/2014).

Maniema: Maniema has an IDP population of 185,300 people, including 20,000 newly displaced recorded in the third quarter of 2014. 30% of IDPs are located in Pangi, 26% in Punia, and 20% in Kasongo (OCHA, 14/11/2014). 9,500 IDPs 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, 22,210 CAR refugees have been registered since December 2013 despite the closure of the border, predominantly located in Equateur. Registration of CAR refugees 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).

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; and 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 (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. 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 184,500 DRC nationals from Uganda was to begin in September 2014 (World Bulletin, 01/05/2014).

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).

Agricultural Outlook

Flooding caused crop losses up to 80% in Basoko territory, Orientale province, while prices for basic food products have risen (Radio Okapi, 18/11/2014).

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, 01/10/2014). 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).

Cholera

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 (OCHA, 22/10/2014).

In Katanga, there is a lack of humanitarian personnel to respond to the consequences of the cholera outbreak (Radio Okapi, 07/11/2014). As of early October, over 7,000 cases including 300 deaths have been recorded in Katanga in 2014, a significant decrease compared to 13,726 cases and 348 deaths in 2013 (OCHA, 30/10/2014; OCHA, 30/06/2014).

As of 8 October, the situation was improving in several health zones of Fizi territory, South Kivu, even though Uvira and Fizi remained above epidemic level with 57 and 89 cases registered 29 September–5 October (OCHA, 08/10/2014).

Ebola

On 15 November, the end of Ebola epidemic in Boende, Equateur province, was declared, as no new case has been reported since 4 October. Following a retrospective laboratory
review, there were 66 Ebola cases, 49 of which were fatal, including eight among health workers. (WHO, 15/11/2014). The epidemic was not related to the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

**Measles**

As of mid-November, 11,500 measles cases, including 100 deaths, have been reported in Katanga province in 2014. The caseloads in Bukama, Kabondo Dianda, Kilwa, Mufunga Sampwe and Kalemie health zones have reached epidemic level. Insecurity has affected access to Kilwa health zone since July and hampered measles vaccination campaigns (OCHA, 12/11/2014).

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

**Rutshuru general hospital, North Kivu, is experiencing a sudden increase in measles cases as populations have returned from Rutshuru, Buturande, Kibututu, Kinyandoni and Umoja. A total of 10,400 cases have been recorded in the province as of October (OCHA, 20/11/2014).**

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

**Nutrition**

Over two million children under five are suffering from acute malnutrition (Radio Okapi, 04/11/2014). 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/p/day in Boyabu camp, 12L/p/day in Mole camp, 12L/p/day in Inke camp, and far below these numbers in the host communities (UNHCR, 07/2014).

**Education**

In Beni territory, North Kivu, 6,000 children have been out of school since October in Oicha and Eringeti due to insecurity (OCHA, 20/11/2014). In northern Beni, 48 schools had been damaged, occupied, or destroyed during FARDC operations against ADF-NALU militants in Kamango, Ruwenzori, and Mbau (OCHA, 11/09/2014). In Kalonge area, another 1,000 displaced children do not have access to school (OCHA, 20/11/2014).

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

70% of the 34,000 school-age IDP children in Pweto territory, Katanga province, do not attend school (OCHA, 20/08/2014).

**Protection**

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

15,800 protection incidents have been recorded in Katanga so far in 2014, including 14,000 in Kalemie, Manono, Mitwaba and Pweto. Forced marriage, SGBV, looting, torture and inhumane treatment had been reportedly perpetrated by all parties to conflict in the province (UNHCR, 18/11/2014).

**Child Protection**

An estimated 3,700 children have been reported as associated with armed forces and groups (UNICEF cited by ECHO, 21/10/2014).

**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. 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).

Updated: 25/11/2014

**DJIBOUTI DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

11 November: Reports indicate that food security conditions are deteriorating in most pastoral areas because of poor grazing resources and declining humanitarian assistance. 277,000 people are in need of nutritional aid. Those who are more food insecure are reportedly suffering from malnutrition, acute diarrhoea, and other diseases (GIEWS).

**KEY CONCERNS**
The estimated number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in the country is around 125,000 people including more than 27,000 refugees (ECHO, 01/08/2014).

Security Context

On 24 May, Al Shaabab carried out a terrorist attack in Djibouti’s capital. Two suicide bombers attacked a crowded restaurant, killing one and injuring eleven international soldiers. Al Shabaab claimed they carried out the attack in retaliation for Djibouti hosting a US military base in the country (The Guardian, BBC, 25/05/2014).

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).

Access

A lack of access due to insecurity, on top of reductions in assistance, has placed Obock in a particularly precarious situation (FEWSNET, 25/08/2014).

Displacement

Migrants

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

Refugees in Djibouti

27,234 refugees, the majority of Somali origin (20,190), are registered in Djibouti (ECHO, 01/08/2014). There are also 4,220 asylum-seekers, mostly from Ethiopia (3,230). They reside in two camps: Holl Holl and Ali Addeh (UNHCR).

Food Security

As of November, reports indicate that food security conditions are deteriorating in most pastoral areas because of poor grazing resources and declining humanitarian assistance (GIEWS, 11/11/2014). Shortages in rural areas have led to increased competition for natural resources, particularly along the migration corridor that runs across the country. Throughout the year, extended dryness and depleted pasture and water resources have led households in Obock and Southeast areas to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security levels. Livelihood, and access to food and water by pastoralists is threatened (FEWSNET, 25/08/2014).

In August, it was reported that WFP’s pipeline deficit since June 2013 has had a serious impact on populations who rely on humanitarian aid. For instance, while 82,000 people were targeted for assistance, in August, only 28,000 received food (FEWSNET, 25/08/2014).

Stress on rural livelihoods has triggered movement towards peri-urban areas of the capital, putting additional pressure on the delivery of basic services (UN, 12/06/2014).

Health and Malnutrition

In 2014, OCHA reported that 300,000 are in need of healthcare services. Communicable diseases, such as diarrheal diseases including cholera and pneumonia have a high morbidity rate.

Nutrition

According to OCHA, 277,000 people are in need of nutritional aid, compared to 195,420 in 2013. A food security survey conducted in November 2014 shows that those who are more food insecure are suffering from malnutrition, acute diarrhoea, and other diseases (GIEWS, 11/11/2014). WHO has reported that malnutrition rates among children in the most affected areas have surpassed the organisation’s emergency thresholds (FEWSNET, 05/2014).

Protection

During transit, migrants/refugees are exposed to theft by criminal gangs, and detention by authorities (Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat, 31/05/2014).

Updated: 18/11/2014

GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week 18/11/2014. Last update: 11/11/2014

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, 31/08/2014).

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).

Growing conditions for cereal crops and pastures 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. Aggregate cereal production in 2014 will drop by 75% compared to 2013, to about 57,000 metric tons. Production of groundnut, the main cash crop, is anticipated to decline by over 80%. Access to food will further be restrained by high prices of cereals and the depreciation of the national currency, which has increased domestic prices of imported food commodities (FAO, 05/11/2014). 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).

Erratic rains caused the depletion of grazing resources and lowered water points’ level in the major pastoral areas of the country (FAO, 05/11/2014).

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).

Reviewed: 18/11/2014

GUINEA FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

21 November: As of 18 November, 2,047 Ebola cases, including 1,214 deaths, have been reported in Guinea (WHO).

21 November: MSF warns that the situation remains concerning. The transit facility in the district of Macenta was full and had to turn away patients on two separate occasions in the first half of November. The Ebola treatment centre in Gueckedou is also full and the situation in the eastern prefectures, where no facilities are available, is concerning (MSF).

KEY CONCERNS

- 11 million people are affected by the consequences of the EVD outbreak (IFRC, 25/10/2014). At least 7,000 children in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea are in need of protection (UNICEF, 10/11/2014).

- 15,319 cases of Ebola and 5,444 deaths have been reported in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone each reported over 17-18 November) (WHO, 21/11/2014). The numbers of registered cases and deaths are largely inaccurate, underestimating the gravity of the situation on the ground according to the Government.

- The epidemic has since outstripped the health system’s capacity for response and control (OCHA, 16/09/2014), leading to an increase in non-Ebola related child morbidity and mortality (UNICEF, 26/08/2014).

For more information on the Ebola crisis in West Africa, visit the ACAPS Ebola Needs Analysis Project page.

Political Context

On 11 November, several opposition deputies and human rights activists went on hunger strike in Womey, Nzerekore prefecture, demanding the safe return of around 6,000 people they say fled their homes. The army was deployed in the town after after a group of EVD
sensitisers was killed last September by residents, and has been accused of human rights violations (UNMEER, 12/11/2014; international media, 11/11/2014). On 12 November, the Guinean Government announced the withdrawal of the troops (UNMEER, 14/11/2014).

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 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 the delay of presidential elections, due in 2015, because of the EVD crisis (International Crisis Group, 01/11/2014).

International Response

On 15 November, France announced it will coordinate Ebola containment efforts in Guinea, at the UN’s request (AFP, 15/11/2014). The UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution establishing a special mission to lead the global response to contain Ebola on 18 September. 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 also 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).

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).

On 8 November, in Coyah, several incidents of vandalism by the local population were reported after a visit by contact tracers. Sensitisation activities in this area have been suspended. Protests took place in Kaloum, Conakry, over a suspected Ebola death; the vehicle of the burial team was vandalised and security forces intervened to restore order (UNMEER, 11/11/2014). 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).

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, 200,000 of whom due to 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 more people (WFP, 05/11/2014). In the Forest region, households are using severe coping strategies – such as reducing the quality and frequency of meals, substituting rice 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

UNDP estimates that household income has dropped by 12.7% in Guinea as of October, due to the consequences of the Ebola outbreak (UNDP, 14/11/2014).

In Kankan district, the price of palm oil has increased 34%. The price for local rice was at alert level at Marché central (WFP, 27/10/2014). Monthly prices remained stable between August and September, except in Labé market, where rice prices fell by 21% (WFP, 29/10/2014). 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).

Ebola

As of 18 November, 2,047 Ebola cases, including 1,214 deaths, have been reported in Guinea (WHO, 21/11/2014). 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).

EVD transmission is persistent, although incidence is stable or declining in several districts. A total of 74 new cases were reported from 9 to 16 November. The vast majority of new cases were reported from the southeast, near the border with Liberia: Macenta reported 17 cases, Nzerekore 21 cases, and Kerouane 12 cases. Conakry reported one single new confirmed case the same week. Transmission in the districts of Coyah, Faranah and Sigui persists. Case incidence continues to decline
in the outbreak’s epicentre Gueckedou, which reported no new cases during the week to 16 November (WHO, 19/11/2014). Of a total of 34 districts in Guinea, 10 are yet to report a case of EVD.

However, MSF warns that the situation remains concerning. The transit facility in the district of Macenta was full and had to turn away patients on two separate occasions in the first half of November. The Ebola treatment centre in Gueckedou is also full and the situation in the eastern prefectures, where no facilities are available, is concerning (MSF, 21/11/2014).

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). On 1 August, West African Ebola-hit nations agreed to impose a cross-border isolation zone at the epicentre of the outbreak (AFP).

Regional Outbreak

The total cumulative number of reported cases across the region had reached 15,319, including 5,444 deaths (Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone each reported over 17–18 November). Six cases, all fatal, have been reported in Mali (WHO, 21/11/2014). 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). Four cases in the USA and one case in Spain have been confirmed (WHO, 31/10/2014).

HIV

80% of people living with HIV in the three most Ebola-affected countries have not been able to access treatment (UNDP, 14/11/2014). Around 217,000 people are estimated to live with HIV in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (international organisation, 20/10/2014).

Malaria

44% of Guineans, about five million people, are affected by malaria each year; the disease kills at least ten people every week. The recent gains from the past 10 years in reducing malaria mortality by 50% are been seriously hampered by the EVD outbreak (international media, 14/11/2014).

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

Depending on the severity of the Ebola crisis, between at least 2.13 and 2.41 million people will be exposed to undernourishment (ACF, 31/10/2014).

Protection

At least 7,000 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, 10/11/2014).

Updated: 24/11/2014

Liberia Food Insecurity, Epidemic

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

21 November: As of 17 November, 7,082 Ebola cases, including 2,963 deaths, have been reported (WHO).

20 November: Official campaign activities for the senatorial elections of 16 December began. Elections will not be in parts of the country that are under quarantine. All public rallies, demonstrations, and gatherings in public areas have been prohibited during the campaign (international media).

19 November: The Liberia Institute of Statistics estimates that over two million children are affected by EVD, about 600,000 of whom are under five (UNICEF).

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).

- 15,319 cases of Ebola and 5,444 deaths have been reported in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone each reported over 17-18 November) (WHO, 21/11/2014). The numbers of registered cases and deaths are largely inaccurate, underestimating the gravity of the situation on the ground, according to the Government.

- 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).

For more information on the Ebola crisis in West Africa, visit the ACAPS Ebola Needs Analysis Project page.

Political Context

Liberia's National Election Commission has announced plans to conduct the senatorial elections, postponed from 14 October, on 16 December (international media, 21/10/2014). Official campaign activities began on 20 November, but elections will not be held in parts of the country that are under quarantine. All public rallies, demonstrations, and gatherings in public areas have been prohibited (international media, 20/11/2014).

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. The ministry of information has taken responsibility for 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 (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). By 12 November, an estimated 2,200 US troops are currently in Liberia (Reuters, 12/11/2014). Cuba has sent 165 health workers to West Africa and 300 more 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).

Security Context

Generalised Insecurity

On 12 November, Liberia urged the UN not to reduce its peacekeeping force in the country, warning that the EVD epidemic is threatening peace and social cohesion (UNMEER, 13/11/2014). On 14 October, the Philippine military had 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 became ill or died of Ebola (AFP, 30/09/2014; UNMEER, 12/11/2014).

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; UNMEER, 12/11/2014). 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 to 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). 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

The humanitarian response is being hampered by a shortage of funds for fuel, as well as by poor road conditions, which have worsened due to heavy rains. Lack of sufficient vehicles is also complicating the distribution of supplies and transportation of EVD patients (UNMEER, 10/11/2014). Gleyansius town in Gbarpolu county has reported food shortages and lack of some basic medical supplies due to the bad condition of the roads (UNMEER, 21/11/2014).

Medical and other relief items are being stored for too long in Monrovia. 63 containers have been in store for over 17 days (UNMEER, 03/11/2014). Moreover, the airport can only handle one aircraft at any given time, creating delays and overloading of limited capacity (LogCluster, 19/10/2014).

Displacement

In October-November, about 14% of households indicate having moved dwellings since the Ebola outbreak, but only 30% of these households left the county. 7–15% of households indicated that a household member had left due to Ebola, with more than half indicating that the member went to Monrovia (World Bank, 19/11/2014).
Food Security

Results of the mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVam) indicate that, as of October 2014, all areas of Liberia are affected by food insecurity (WFP, 10/11/2014). In October, WFP delivered food for about 297,570 people affected by food shortages and quarantined (WFP, 05/11/2014). 1.7 million people are estimated to be food insecure in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, 200,000 due to the impact of Ebola (WFP, 05/11/2014).

It is difficult to estimate the impact of EVD compared to seasonal issues. More than 90% of households surveyed by the World Bank indicated that they were worried that their household would not have enough to eat at some point in the previous two weeks (World Bank, 19/11/2014). Over 70% of respondents said they do not have enough money to afford food. Many households have reduced the number of meals (80%, according to the mVAM), and restricted adult consumption in order to feed children, but still more than 90% worried that their household would not have enough to eat (World Bank, 19/11/2014). Coping levels are elevated throughout Liberia, suggesting that the EVD outbreak has had wide-ranging consequences for livelihoods and food security in the country (WFP, 10/11/2014). Poor households are reportedly spending a larger proportion – about 50–70% – of their income on food. People are also purchasing food on credit and borrowing money (Mercy Corps, 04/11/2014; international media, 23/10/2014).

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). If no changes are forthcoming, Mercy Corps has warned that households could face a critical level of food insecurity by April/May 2015 (Mercy Corps, 04/11/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

Tight restrictions on cross-border trade 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 (+42%), and Nimba (+36%) (WFP 27/10/2014). Imported rice prices this October were about 40% above general October price average (World Bank, 19/11/2014).

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 (WFP, 10/11/2014).

In addition to commodity price increases, it is now more expensive for people to access markets, as fewer passengers are sharing the cost of a trip (Mercy Corps, 04/11/2014). Many weekly 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).

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. In Barkedu and Foya counties, rice production fell by 15% (IRIN, 20/10/2014). There has been a substantial return to agriculture since early October, but it is too early yet to estimate the impact on the ongoing harvest (World Bank, 19/11/2014).

Livelihoods

Household income has dropped by 35% in Liberia as of October, due to the consequences of the Ebola outbreak (UNDP, 14/11/2014).

The self-employed have been hardest hit, due to the closure of markets. Before the crisis, over 30% of working household heads were self-employed, down to just above 10% nowadays. Only 50% of people working in the wage employment sector are still working, because of business or government office closures (World Bank, 19/11/2014).

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).

Liberia continues to be the country most affected by Ebola. As of 17 November, 7,082 Ebola cases, including 2,963 deaths, have been reported (WHO, 21/11/2014). 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; international media, 20/11/2014). The CDC estimates that only about 40% of Ebola cases are being reported in Liberia and Sierra Leone (AFP, 29/09/2014).

Reported incidence seems to have stabilised over the past four weeks, after declining from mid-September until mid-October. A total of 80 probable cases were reported from 8 to 15 November. Efforts to control the disease remain critical, particularly in Montserrado district, which reported 46 of the new cases that week. Other areas of transmission include Bong, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Rivercess and Sinoe. Lofa, however, has experienced a consistent decline in new weekly cases, with no new reported cases for a third consecutive week (WHO, 19/11/2014). All districts in Liberia have reported at least one case of EVD since the
Concerns have been raised by humanitarian actors over violent EVD outbreaks in remote communities in the area between Bong and Gbarpolu counties during the first half of November. Reaching these locations requires a 3-4 hour trek through the deep forest area and canoeing a river. Residents of the affected communities might flee the area in search of healthcare, contributing to the spread of the epidemic (UNMEER, 13/11/2014).

Healthcare provision: Logistics problems continue to hamper the containment of the epidemic, including hospitals which still cannot separate Ebola patients from others, shortages of ambulances, vehicles for case investigations, and thermometers (international media, 20/11/2014). In Sinoe county, there are reportedly no ambulances, nor is there a vehicle for the burial team (UN, 01/10/2014). In Bong county, the two largest hospitals have closed, leaving over 330,000 people without healthcare (international media, 12/09/2014). 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, 22/09/2014).

Containment measures: On 13 November, the Liberian President lifted the state of emergency and reduced the curfew (government, 13/11/2014). The state of emergency was declared on 6 August (Government, 06/08/2014).

In Grand Kru county, the Parluk community is under quarantine (WFP, 26/09/2014). On 11 August, Lofa county became the fourth county in quarantine after Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, and Gbarpolu (international media, 11/08/2014).

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, have intensified screening of travellers (ECHO, 29/07/2014). All markets in border areas are closed until further notice (AFP, 30/07/2014). 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).

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 had reached 15,319, including 5,444 deaths (Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone each reported over 17-18 November). Six cases, all fatal, have been reported in Mali (WHO, 21/11/2014). 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). Four cases in the USA and one case in Spain have been confirmed (WHO, 31/10/2014).

HIV

80% of people living with HIV in the three most Ebola-affected countries have not been able to access treatment (UNDP, 14/11/2014). Before the Ebola outbreak, more than 70% of the 30,000 HIV patients in Liberia had access to treatment, but more than 60% of the facilities distributing antiretroviral medicines have since closed, according to the National AIDS Control Program (IRIN, 21/11/2014).

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 had been admitted to acute malnutrition treatment centres (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).

WASH

Half of the population have no access to toilets (UNMEER, 20/11/2014).

Protection

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).

At least 7,000 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, 10/11/2014). Liberia’s Institute of Statistics estimates that over two million children are affected by the consequences of the Ebola outbreak in Liberia, about 600,000 of whom are under five (UNICEF, 19/11/2014).

On 10 November, four soldiers and their commanding officer were condemned for their actions during a protest in West Point over the Ebola quarantine in August. Two soldiers were found guilty of assault and arbitrary use of force, while two others were convicted of making false statements (international media, 10/11/2014).

According to local media, armed forces have been shooting at people trying to cross the border. Further notice (AFP)
border illegally from neighbouring Sierra Leone (INGO, 18/09/2014).

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).

Updated: 24/11/2014

MALI CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

17 November: Four new Ebola cases, including three deaths, have been recorded in Mali as of 14 November (WHO, 14/11/2014). 577 people have been placed under health surveillance. National authorities have decided to filter arrivals from Guinea at the Kourémalé border through one entry point, with reinforced health control, and to install a new quarantine centre (AFP).

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.

- 3.6 million people are estimated to be food insecure as of 31 October 2014 (OCHA, 31/10/2014). 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.

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

Political Context: 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 Angueloc, 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 (Préférence 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).

Due to lack of funding, the UN Humanitarian Air Service has reduced its fleet in Mali from two planes to one, seven destinations are still served, but at a reduced frequency (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

Displacement

IDPs

As of 31 October, about 86,000 people are internally displaced as a consequence of the 2012 conflict, which is a decrease from 101,300 recorded in August (OCHA, 26/10/2014). 13,200 IDPs are in northern Mali, including 12,000 in Kidal (IOM, 16/10/2014). 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 (IOM, 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 needs (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 31 October, an estimated 143,400 Malians refugees are recorded in neighbouring countries (OCHA, 13/11/2014). 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 31 October, 3.6 million people are estimated to be food insecure according to preliminary results of the National Food Security and Nutrition Survey (OCHA, 31/10/2014). 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 as they have been experiencing rain deficits from May to October 2014 (FEWSNET, 14/10/2014).

The harvest will improve food security conditions from October to March. Nonetheless, pocket deficits are identified in some regions of Timbuktu, Gao, Mopti and Kayes, where under-average harvests and livestock products are expected (FEWSNET, 25/10/2014; Food Security Cluster, 27/10/2014). Provisional early end of stock is expected in Gao, Bourem, Goundam, Niafunké, and in some areas north of Koulîkoro, Kayes, and Douentza area. Poor households from agro-pastoral areas are likely to remain in IPC Phase 1 (FEWSNET, 25/10/2014; Food Security Cluster, 27/10/2014).

In north riverine areas, vulnerable households are likely to reach Crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) as of April 2015 (FEWSNET, 16/11/2014).

Agricultural Outlook

Recent rainfall has improved the situation in northeast and central Mali, inducing reconstitution of water reserves and pastoral vegetation (WFP, 30/09/2014; Food Security Cluster, 27/10/2014).

However, livestock farming conditions are likely to worsen as of February in agro-pastoral areas previously affected by rain deficits in May-October, and those which recorded high cattle mortality impairing farmers’ livelihoods (Food Security Cluster, 27/10/2014).

Livelihoods

A combination of overfishing and the use of illegal fishing gear has seen fish stocks in Lake Malawi diminishing to the point that local people's livelihoods and food security are now under threat (IRIN, 07/11/2014).

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). 6.4 million people are considered to be at risk of epidemics (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

Ebola

Four new cases, including three deaths, have been recorded as of 14 November. Two health workers have been infected. The most recently reported cases are in Bamako and unrelated to the first patient in Kayes, who died on 24 October. 12 contacts related to the first case are still under follow-up in Kayes, and another 577 people have been placed under health surveillance as of 17 November (WHO, 14/11/2014; AFP, 17/11/2014). National authorities have decided to filter arrivals from Guinea at the Kourémalé border through one entry point, with reinforced health controls, and to install a new quarantine centre (AFP, 17/11/2014).

Nutrition

As of 30 September, 136,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition, and 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).

Education

Preliminary data for the 2014–2015 school year in the north indicate a decrease in the number of functioning schools compared to the 2013–2014 school year. The situation is particularly worrying in Menaka and Wabaria areas, Gao region, where only half the schools are open. In Kidal, only three schools are open. The main cause is the lack of teachers, who have fled insecurity (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

Protection

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

In early May, a UN report on the situation of children in Mali noted grave violations by armed groups active in the north and, to a lesser extent, by Malian armed forces and pro-Government militias, including killings, sexual violence and recruitment (UN Security Council, 15/05/2014).

Updated: 18/11/2014

NIGERIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

24 November: Boko Haram (BH) insurgents disguised as traders opened fire on a crowded market in Damasak, near the border with Niger. The death toll is unclear (AFP).

23 November: Suspected BH killed 48 fish vendors after setting up a roadblock near a
22 November: Nigeria’s main opposition party claimed that security agents had ransacked its office in Lagos, arresting workers and seizing documents. The All Progressives Congress (APC) said 28 workers were arrested (AFP, 23/11/2014).

19 November: At least 45 people were killed in a suspected Boko Haram attack in a village in the Mafa area, Borno state (AFP, 20/11/2014).

**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 of whom are in acute 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.
On 17 November, the Nigerian Government announced it will seek to extend the state of emergency for six more months, meaning the extraordinary measures will likely be in force for February polls (AFP, 17/11/2014). The state of emergency is feared to have strengthened the recruitment base of Boko Haram.

Boko Haram has taken nearly 20 communities in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states (OCHA, 19/11/2014). Tactics have changed since August, from attacking villages and withdrawing, to seizing control. By the beginning of September, experts were warning that Borno State was on the brink of a takeover. A series of kidnappings, primarily of women and girls, took place in Borno state in October. Common targets remain rural communities, markets, schools, and highways. 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).

In September, BH was advancing in Adamawa state, causing significant displacement. In October, however, media reports indicated that the military had recaptured a number of towns that had been under BH control since July (OCHA, 08/10/2014; AFP, 08/09/2014).

Counter-insurgency operations are ongoing, although in August, Nigerian soldiers refused to deploy to Gwoza without better weapons (AFP, 22/08/2014). The military has also used excessive force, resulting in large-scale destruction in civilian areas. Amnesty International has reported mass extrajudicial executions (Washington Post, 05/08/2014). Civilians have formed vigilante groups or self-defence militias, reportedly with the tacit backing of the Nigerian Government.

Recent Incidents

Borno state: On 24 November, BH insurgents disguised as traders opened fire at a crowded market near the border with Niger. The death toll is still unclear (AFP, 24/11/2014). On 23 November, set up a roadblock near a village on the shores of Lake Chad, and a convoy of fish vendors, killing 48 (AFP, 23/11/2014). On 19 November, at least 45 people were killed in a suspected BH attack in a village in the Mafa area (AFP, 20/11/2014).

On 16 November, the Nigerian army announced it had recaptured the town of Chibok, in a joint operation with local vigilantes. Boko Haram had seized Chibok on 13 November. Several residents said the army had fled the initial assault (AFP, 16/11/2014).

On 9 November, Boko Haram seized the city of Malam Fatori. Reports indicate that thousands fled (OCHA, 14/11/2014).

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).

Yobe state: On 10 November, a suicide bomber allegedly linked to Boko Haram attacked a school in Potiskum, killing 46 students and injuring another 80 people (OCHA, 14/11/2014). On 3 November, at least 15 people were killed and some 50 others were injured in a suicide bombing targeting a major Shia Muslim festival in Potiskum. A number of others were killed when troops deployed to the scene opened fire (AFP, 06/11/2014).

On 6 November, 16 men suspected of BH membership and arrested by the military were discovered shot dead only hours later. Civilian vigilante groups and troops ambushed BH on 30 October, as it prepared a raid on a village in the south of the state. Reportedly, fighters killed and then decapitated 41 BH (AFP, 06/11/2014).

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

Adamawa state: Boko Haram took the city of Mubi on 30 October, but were ousted on 14 November. BH then overran the neighbouring towns of Gombe and Hong, where they are said to have razed the police stations. The move towards Yola will raise concerns about safety in the city, where thousands of people have taken refuge to escape the violence (AFP, 13/11/2014: 14/11/2014).

Bauchi state: On 16 November, a suicide bomber killed at least 13 people at a market in the town of Azare. One of two men who had been spotted entering the busy market with the woman was killed by an angry mob, residents said (AFP, 16/11/2014). On 7 November, a bomb attack in Azare killed 7 people (AFP, 07/11/2014). 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).

Niger state: On 12 November, a female suicide bomber injured four people at a teachers' college in Kontagora. Niger state has not been touched by the insurgency in more than two years and Kontagora is roughly 2,000km from Boko Haram's northeastern stronghold (AFP, 13/11/2014).

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).

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 to commercial flights. Only one route to Maiduguri is possible, which is subject to insurgent attacks (OCHA, 09/2014).

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

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). Over 90% of IDPs reside with host families in about 200 communities; others have taken shelter in public buildings such as schools (OCHA, 06/2014; UNHCR, 31/10/2014). The burden is overstretches already scarce resources and aggravating poverty levels, including food security (UNHCR and OCHA, 01/07/2014). IDPs in host communities are in urgent need of shelter and non-food items.

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).

Thousands of people have fled to the south of Borno and Adamawa, and to neighbouring Gombe, Bauchi, and Taraba, 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 are 18 camps in Borno, Taraba, Gombe, and Lagos states. Most IDP households are headed by women who have been widowed during attacks.

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 (NEMA cited by OCHA, 09/2014). By October, residents had begun returning to Damboa, as BH had left the town (AFP, 19/10/2014).

Refugees

Nigeria hosts some 2,557 refugees and asylum seekers of mixed nationalities, mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon and Côte d’Ivoire (UNHCR, 31/10/2014).

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 Nigerien village 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).

At least 1,000 people have arrived in the Bosso area, in the south of the country, following battles for the Garrison town of Malam Fatori (UNHCR, 11/11/2014).

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. About 70% of those new arrivals are women and children who need immediate assistance in the form of food, shelter and medical care. Inhabitants of Minawao camp describe the conditions at the camp as dire, with serious needs for basic services and food (AFP, 15/11/2014). 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).

According to Cameroonian authorities, 13,000 people fled to Cameroon after Mubi had been seized by BH, but the vast majority have already returned to Nigeria, saying that their final destination was Yola, Adamawa state (UNHCR, 11/11/2014).

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). According to forecasts, crisis levels of food insecurity are expected to persist between March and September 2015 (FEWSNET, 11/2014).

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 impacted, 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

As of 5 August, an outbreak of cholera in two IDP sites hosting 10,000 IDPs in Borno, had infected 1,343 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). 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).

Nutrition

A February–May SMART survey has revealed poorer nutritional status among the population of the SoE states (UNICEF, 06/2014). This is the second year of food consumption gaps, and the closure of several health facilities has limited access to essential health and nutrition services, so it is possible that the prevalence of acute malnutrition could increase over the coming months (FEWSNET, 08/2014).

As of September, 628,000 children under five suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 30/09/2014). As of 30 January, 1.74 million were acutely malnourished in Nigeria (OCHA, 03/2014). Severe acute malnutrition is responsible for more than a third of all child deaths in Nigeria, which amount to 350,000 deaths from malnutrition every year (ECHO, 08/2014).

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.

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

500 educational institutions in the northeast have been destroyed by the insurgency (OCHA, 08/10/2014). Borno state authorities announced that 176 teachers have been killed by Boko Haram in Borno state since 2011 (UNICEF cited by OCHA, 07/2014).

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: 24/11/2014

SIERRA LEONE FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

21 November: As of 18 November, 6,190 Ebola cases, including 1,267 deaths, have been reported in Sierra Leone (WHO). After three weeks without new infections, the district of Kenema, the epicentre of the outbreak, reported a death from Ebola (AFP).

16 November: At least 300,000 personal protective equipment kits are needed (UNMEER).

KEY CONCERNS

- The whole population needs assistance as a consequence of the Ebola outbreak (OCHA, 16/09/2014).
- 15,319 cases of Ebola and 5,444 deaths have been reported in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone each reported over 17-18 November) (WHO, 21/11/2014). 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).

For more information on the Ebola crisis in West Africa, visit the ACAPS Ebola Needs Analysis Project page.

Political Context

The Defence minister, Alfred Paulo Conte, has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the newly named National Ebola Response Centre (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).

**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 teargas 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, over the delay in removing corpses. In Devil Hole, police used teargas to disperse protestors and arrested some (UNICEF, 28/09/2014).

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) were 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 between June and October 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).

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). Three-quarters of people surveyed by WFP have begun to reduce the number of daily meals and portion sizes (IRIN, 20/10/2014).

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 for 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. DWHH expects serious food shortages to hit the country in early 2015 (DWHH, 06/10/2014). 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.

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 the mVAM survey from WFP, 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 period (WFP 09/2014).

Household income has dropped by 29.7% in Sierra Leone as of October, due to the consequences of the Ebola outbreak (UNDP, 14/11/2014). According to a survey conducted by DWHH in Kenema and Kailahun counties, 97% of households indicate that their income dropped between May and August.

**Food Security**

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).

As of 18 November, 6,190 Ebola cases, including 1,267 deaths, have been reported in Sierra Leone (WHO, 21/11/2014). 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). According to the mayor of Freetown, 2,200 corpses have been buried since the start of the disease, while officials reported over 1,200 deaths, reinforcing suspicion about underreporting Ebola cases and deaths (International
All districts of Sierra Leone have reported at least one probable or confirmed case since the start of the outbreak. EVD transmission remains intense and widespread, with the country reporting 533 new confirmed cases between 9 and 16 November, including 168 in Freetown. High levels of activity persist in Port Loko and the Western rural area, which reported 95 and 102 confirmed cases. Bombali reported 52 confirmed cases. Transmission remains persistent in Bo, Koinadugu, Kono, Moyamba and Tonkolili. However, Kailahun has continued to experience sharp declines in incidence, with only one case reported in the past week (WHO, 19/11/2014). After three weeks without new infections, the district of Kenema, the epicentre of the outbreak, reported a death from Ebola on 21 November (AFP, 21/11/2014).

Healthcare provision: The national public health system is overstretched and struggling to deliver non-EVD care (UNMEER, 16/11/2014). On 12 November, some 400 healthcare workers at an Ebola treatment centre in Bandajuma, in Bo district, began a sit-down strike over hazard payments (international media, 12/11/2014). Authorities and humanitarian actors have warned about the alarming level of resistance to health workers and organisations involved in response activities against Ebola in Macenta (UNICEF, 05/09/2014).

Containment measures: At least 300,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) sets are needed (UNMEER, 16/11/2014). The Ministry of Health and Sanitation is planning a mass distribution of anti-malaria medicine, targeting 2.4 million people, in hotspot areas in the districts of Bombali, Kambia, Koinadugu, Moyamba, Port Loko, Tonkolili and in all of the Western Area in order to better identify Ebola cases, as the symptoms are similar (UNICEF, 12/11/2014).

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 unable to move freely (BBC, 25/09/2014). In June, Sierra Leone closed its borders with Guinea and Liberia, and closed schools, cinemas, and nightclubs in border areas (OCHA, 07/2014).

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).

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).

Regional Outbreak

The total cumulative number of reported cases across the region had reached 15,319, including 5,444 deaths (Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone each reported over 17–18 November). Six cases, all fatal, have been reported in Mali (WHO, 21/11/2014). 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).

HIV

80% of people living with HIV in the three most Ebola-affected countries have not been able to access treatment (UNDP, 14/11/2014). Around 217,000 people are estimated to live with HIV in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (international organisation, 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).

Measles

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

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).

WASH

About a third of the population live without latrines (UNMEER, 20/11/2014).

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

More than 3,400 children have been directly affected by the virus. About 800 children have lost both parents to Ebola according to UNICEF (IRIN, 20/11/2014). 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: 24/11/2014

SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

23 November: Although not independently confirmed, the Kenyan military has launched two operations into Somalia in reprisal for the attack in Mandera. More than 115 militants have been killed, and equipment and camps destroyed. Al Shabaab has denied any attack took place in Somalia (BBC, The Guardian). On 22 November, Al Shabaab gunmen attacked a bus in Mandera, Kenya, near the border with Somalia, killing 28 non-Muslim passengers (BBC, Al Jazeera).

19 November: The Interim South West Administration (ISWA), the regional administration encompassing Bay, Bakool, and Lower Shabelle has been formed (AMISOM).

16 November: Since September, more than 38,000 have been displaced due to floods in Lower Shabelle, Lower Juba, Banadir, Hiraan (UNHCR).

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 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. Infighting between presidents and prime ministers is a recurrent problem.

In May and June, tensions between state institutions threatened to derail political progress, when a group of parliamentarians asked for the resignation of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, after he had failed to consult and implement the Federal Government’s policy known as Vision 2016. A revised version of Vision 2016 was issued on 30 June, committing to wider national consultations. Key figures in the state initiative continue to oppose the agreement (UNSC, 25/09/2014) (ICG, 01/11/2014).

The formation of regional administrations is slowly taking shape, an agreements has been brokered with the regional state of Galmudug, and on 19 November, the Interim South West Administration (ISWA), which encompasses Bay, Bakool, and Lower Shabelle, was formed (UNSC, 23/09/2014; AMISOM, 19/11/2014).

Puntland: On 8 January, former Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed Ali Gaas was elected President of the self-declared semi-autonomous region Puntland. In September, there was an escalation in tensions between Puntland and Somaliland, which included the deployment of military forces to border areas (UNSC, 25/09/2014).

Somaliland: A demonstration turned violent after supporters of different political parties clashed in the Burao area in Togdheer. Protests began after the ruling Kulmiye party planned to unseat the Speaker of Somaliland, who is chairman of the Wadani party. Police fired on demonstrators: one was killed and eight injured. 22 police officers were injured (PI, 15/11/2014).

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 Hiraan region. There was an exchange of fire in Deefowm, about 40km north of Beledweyne. Several people were injured, although it is unclear if there are any casualties (AU, All Africa, 19/10/2014).

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, Bay, 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 Tiyeeglow 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).

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). 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. Al Shabaab is reportedly fleeing south and northeast as the SNAF-AMISOM offensive advances.

Militant Attacks

On 22 November, Al Shabaab attacked a bus in the town of Mandera, near the Kenya–Somalia border, and killed 28 non-Muslim. A day later, the Kenyan military launched two operations on Al Shabaab camps in Somalia, reportedly killing 115 militants, and destroying camps and equipment (BBC, The Guardian, 24/11/2014). The attack is yet to be independently confirmed, and Al Shabaab has denied that any attack took place in Somalia (Al Jazeera, 24/11/2014).

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% 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, Gedo, Hiraan, and Galgaduud (UN, 10/10/2014).

Access

Despite road access being 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, humanitarian organisations are currently reaching people in need of assistance in all regions of the country (OCHA, 17/11/2014).

The challenges to access are illustrated by Bulo Burde, Hiraan: the blocking of roads and commercial routes to Mogadishu and Beledweyne have brought an increase in humanitarian need, despite the withdrawal of Al Shabaab from the town – the only hospital has closed and prices of basic food commodities have spiked (OCHA, 17/10/2014).

Between July and September, there were 530 violent incidents with humanitarian access implications (OCHA, 17/11/2014). Even in areas where there has been no active conflict, illegal checkpoints, banditry, and demands for bribes are common (OCHA, 17/10/2014).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

As of September, 32 aid workers had been attacked in Somalia in 2013, with four humanitarian workers killed (USAID, 30/09/2014) (OCHA, 17/11/2014). 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 Sool and Sanaag (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 serous 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).

Drought

Six districts in southern and central Somalia have been affected by drought. Gedo is the most severely affected, with 70% of the population being impacted (OCHA, 17/11/2014).

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. An estimated 50,000 people have been affected across six regions (OCHA, 17/11/2014). From 1 September to 16 November, 30,323 have been displaced in Lower Shabelle, 6,274 in Hiraan, 2,033 in Lower Juba, and 120 in Banadir (UNHCR, 16/11/2014).

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 southern 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 borderline 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 Galgaduud, Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Bari, Mudug, Nugaal, Middle Juba, Lower Juba, and 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 has yet to increase with the dry rains (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); Luuq (Gedo); Bulo Burde and Jalalwsi (Hiraan); and Marka and Woryoley (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, Garbaharey, Bulo Burde, Ooryole, 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 production has fallen 30% below the five-year average, and cereal prices have increased since the beginning of the year in Bakool, Hiraan, Juba, and Shabelle (FAO, 31/10/2014).

Health and Nutrition
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).

IDPs: In July, Garowe IDPs showed very critical levels of acute malnutrition (over 20% GAM), and IDPs in Mogadishu, Dhobley, and Kismayo (south Somalia) and Dhusamareb and Galkayo (central Somalia) were at critical levels (over 15% GAM). IDPs in Beledweyne 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 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 poliovirus since 2007 was reported in Mogadishu on 9 May 2013. Large, insecure areas of south-central Somalia have not conducted immunisation campaigns since 2009, leaving 600,000 children vulnerable, according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

WASH

Water trucking is required in drought-affected areas, especially Lower Juba, Gedo, northeastern central regions and pastoral areas (OCHA, 02/10/2014).

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). The population of south-central Somalia has little to no access to safe 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; SGBV, including cases of sexual violence during interclan conflict; 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 (IOM, 08/08/2014). Impunity is widespread as traditional laws often discriminate against women and girls (OCHA).

Updated: 24/11/2014

SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Mid-November: About 10,000 people, mostly women and children from Southern Kordofan, have fled fighting in the Nuba Mountains and sought shelter in Nhialdu, Unity state. They are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 21/11/2014).

Mid-November: A new estimate indicates at least 50,000 may have died since December 2013, although access restrictions make numbers hard to verify (International Crisis Group).

KEY CONCERNS

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

- 1 million people are facing Crisis and Emergency levels (IPC Phases 3 and 4) of food insecurity for October–December 2014 (FEWSNET, 11/2014). 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).

- 1.44 million IDPs since December 2013 (OCHA, 09/2014) and 50,000 estimated to have been killed (International Crisis Group). Almost 102,000 civilians sheltering in UNMISS bases (UNMISS, 6/11/2014). 68% of IDPs are estimated to live in flood-prone areas (OCHA, 08/2014).

- Over 479,000 South Sudanese refugees moved across borders since December 2013 (UNHCR 11/2014).

- 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.

In January, the death toll was estimated at 10,000, however, a new estimate indicates at least 50,000 may have died since December 2013, although access restrictions make numbers hard to verify (International Crisis Group, 15/11/2014). 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. 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.

Border tensions with Sudan

On 12 November, bombs were reportedly dropped in the Maban district of Upper Nile state, which hosts over 125,000 refugees who fled fighting in neighbouring Sudan's Blue Nile state. However, Sudan has denied the reports (AFP, 14/11/2014). On 2 November, South Sudanese officials accused the Government of Sudan of a bombing raid in Khor Shamam village, Raga county, Western Bahr el Ghazal state. According to the County Commissioner, 24 people were wounded (VoA, 03/11/2014).

Clashes between the Government and SPLM-in-Opposition

Jonglei

In early November, heavy fighting in Khorfulus areas of Canal/Pigi and Fangak counties, Jonglei state, resulted in the displacement of about 35,000 people to Ayod county and the New Fangak areas. Humanitarian flights to the area were suspended (OCHA, 7/11/2014). 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 Rubkona, 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). Despite a new ceasefire deal, renewed fighting occurred on 10 November (AFP, 10/11/2014). 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 10 November, fighting between opposition forces and the government reported in Upper Nile, following renewed in Unity State (AFP, 10/11/2014). 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 (OCHA, 18/09/2014).

Inter-communal Violence

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. Partners reported an increase in the number of people fleeing Awerial county, Lakes state, for the southern part of Jonglei (OCHA, 7/11/2014).

On 15 November, five people were killed and 1,600 cattle raided in Yirol county (local media, 18/11/2014).

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).

Central Equatoria

Communal violence along the South Sudan–Uganda border in September forced 12,000 South Sudanese refugees to return to South Sudan (UNMISS, 25/09/2014).

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 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).

Rising ethnic tensions in Malakal PoC are hindering delivery of basic services as well as livelihood activities. A group of young men set up illegal check points impeding access to the market in mid-November (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). A week later, humanitarian organisations reported that the situation had calmed (OCHA, 21/11/2014).

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 is over, but most of the roads have not dried up since the rainy season. As of 21 November, 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 (Western Bahr el Ghazal), and Tambura (Western Equatoria), and Malakal (Upper Nile state); Guel Guk, Mathiang, Maiwut and Pagak (Upper Nile); Yirol, Nyang, and Shambe (Jonglei); Bor and Mabor, Ayod and Malakal (Jonglei); Bor, Gadian and Akobo (Jonglei); Bor, Pibor (Jonglei), and Kajoie (Western Equatoria).

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 21 November, over 1.44 million South Sudanese had been displaced internally and over 478,000 South Sudanese refugees had moved across borders since December 2013 (OCHA, 21/11/2014). Fluid displacement patterns and limited access to rural areas make numbers difficult to verify (UNHCR 11/07/2014).

IDPs

As of 21 November, 1.44 million people were displaced in South Sudan: 618,800 in Jonglei, 292,300 in Unity, 256,600 in Upper Nile, and 137,400 in Lakes (OCHA, 21/11/2014). An estimated 748,000 IDPs are under 18 (UNICEF, 18/11/2014). 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).

102,000 IDPs are sheltering in ten Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites on UNMISS bases: 49,000 in Bentiu, 31,000 in Juba (Tomping and UN House), 17,000 in Malakal, and 2,700 in Bor (UNMISS 06/11/2014).

An influx of displaced people into Akobo area in Jonglei, from Nasir, Upper Nile, was reported in September (OCHA, 19/09/2014).

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).

In mid-November, about 10,000 people, mostly women and children from Southern Kordofan, fled fighting in the Nuba Mountains and sought shelter in Nhialdu, Unity state. They are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 21/11/2014).

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 478,000 South Sudanese have sought refuge in neighbouring countries since the onset of the conflict (UNHCR, 21/11/2014).

Sudan: 109,000 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since 15 December 2013 (UNHCR, 20/11/2014). 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: 194,000 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 21/11/2014). 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 October following conflicts in Renk county (UNHCR, 06/10/2014).

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Uganda: 130,000 refugees (UNHCR, 20/11/2014). 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: 44,100 refugees (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). 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 million from 3.9 million for October through December 2014, following normal rainfall, good conditions for crops, and humanitarian response (FEWSNET, 11/2014). 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

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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**

Floods in Panyijiar county (Unity), Awerial, Rumbek East, North Cueibet, Yirol East and Yirol West counties (Lakes) and Malakal county (Upper Nile), Akobo (Jonglei), Kajo-Keji (Eastern Equatoria) have affected crop performance (FEWSNET, 01/10/2014; 17/10/2014). 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 region (Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile) (IPC, 09/2014).

Households in Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei are expected to exhaust household food stocks by December due to 2014 production deficits of 30–50%. Food security is expected to worsen in February/March with an early onset of the lean season and needs will peak from May to July. Renewed conflict and displacement in early 2015 will limit household coping capacity in conflict-affected areas (FEWSNET, 11/2014).

**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**

47 new cholera cases (2 deaths) were reported for the week 31 October–3 November in Central and Eastern Equatoria states. 6,297 cholera cases, including 160 deaths (case fatality rate 2.26%), were reported across the country as of 3 November (WHO, 3/11/2014). Incidence is reported to be decreasing (WHO, 09/2014). Renewable 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**

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

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).

**WASH**

To date, 6,854 cases and 190 deaths have been recorded in 2014, compared to 2,253 cases and 70 deaths for all 2013 (OCHA, 21/11/2014). A majority of cases are reported in Lankien (3,410), Cuil (960) and Wajak (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).

**Vanilla**

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).

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 flooded areas (OCHA, 16/10/2014).

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). The highest rates GAM were recorded in Leer county (34.1%) and Panyijiar (32.8%), Unity state; Akobo East, Jonglei State (31.8%) and Uror (27%), Jonglei; and Aweil South, Northern Bahr el Ghazal (26.1%) (UNICEF, 20/11/2014). According to MSF, malnutrition rates skyrocketed in parts of Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei states after the conflict began in December.

**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).

**Polio**

Two vaccine-derived polio virus cases have been confirmed in Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) site (WHO, 3/11/2014).

**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, 6,854 cases and 190 deaths have been recorded in 2014, compared to 2,253 cases and 70 deaths for all 2013 (OCHA, 21/11/2014). A majority of cases are reported in Lankien (3,410), Cuil (960) and Wajak (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).
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. Health partners have reported an over 5% increase in diarrhoeal diseases due to the disruption of sanitation and hygiene campaigns in the PoC sites (OCHA, 14/11/2014).

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). Latrine provision has improved from 99 persons to 69 persons per latrine (UNICEF, 20/11/2014).

Shelter and NFIs

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).

In total, 127 schools have been occupied (38 by armed groups, 84 by IDPs, two by both IDPs and armed forces, and three of unknown status). 24 new schools are reportedly occupied by IDPs displaced by floods in Tonj South, Warrap state, while 271 schools in the state were destroyed by floods (OCHA, 7/11/2014). 36 schools in Tonj East are reportedly occupied by people displaced by floods. About 500 children have also been forced out of school in Mvolo county, due to the floods in Western Equatoria State (OCHA, 21/11/2014). Six schools were closed in October in Rumbek East, Lakes state, due to insecurity (OCHA, 30/10/2014).

Protection

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).

UNFPA estimates that 25,000 women and girls are at risk of sexual violence (UNFPA, 7/11/2014). 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). Escalated tension in Malakal has increased vulnerability of women and girls to SGBV and interrupted access to reproductive health services and psychosocial support services (UNFPA, 07/11/2014).

Updated: 24/11/2014

SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

23 November: The Sudanese Air Force bombed areas in El Kurmuk locality, Blue Nile State, killing one child and burning farmland (local media).

Mid-November: In the Al Alagaya relocation site for South Sudanese refugees in White Nile state, the construction of 800 latrines has been delayed, despite the allocation of resources and staff (OCHA, 17/11/2014).

KEY CONCERNS
- Protracted insurgencies by armed groups are occurring across Darfur, and South Kordofan, and Blue Nile states. The conflict in South Sudan has also raised tensions.
- 6.6 million people (20% of the population) need humanitarian assistance (OCHA 17/11/2014): 4.4 million in Darfur and 980,000 in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states (OCHA, 11/2014).
- 3.5 million people are projected to be in Crisis, or Emergency levels of food insecurity in October and November 2014, most of whom are in Darfur (FEWSNET, 09/2014; GIEWS, 06/2014).
- 2 million children under five acutely malnourished (OCHA, 08/2014).
- Renewed fighting took place between armed opposition groups, militias, and the Sudanese army in Darfur since March.
- 2.4 million IDPs. Two million in Darfur prior to the latest clashes (OCHA, 03/2014), and 431,000 displaced in 2014 (OCHA, 10/2014).
- Humanitarian access remains a significant problem due to insecurity, mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), logistical constraints, and restrictions placed by the authorities.

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

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

Political Context

Profound divisions within 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. In September, 12 political activists were detained in Khartoum (local media, 28/09/2014).

In September, eight East Darfur state government officials resigned in protest at lack of response by the state to attacks by Rizeigat gunmen (local media, 20/09/2014).

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.

In November, South Sudanese officials accused the Sudanese Government of bombing Raga county, Western Bahr el Ghazal state, and Maban county, Upper Nile state, where more than 220,000 Sudanese refugees are living (AFP, 14/11/2014).

The Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF), formed in 2011, is seeking a comprehensive peace process covering the whole country. The Government is only willing to discuss the conflict in Darfur.

The SRF is made up of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), mainly active in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, as well as Darfur’s three largest opposition groups: the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM); the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel Wahid Al Nur (SLM-AW); and the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Arkou Minnawi (SLM-MM).

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.

In August, the SRF joined fellow opposition party, the National Umma Party, in efforts to bring about a transitional government; both parties announced they would not participate in elections scheduled for April 2015.

The Darfur Peace Process

The Darfur peace process is stalled, and does not include the SRF members, SLM-MM, SLM-AW, or JEM, who have consistently rejected the Doha process.

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. Talks between Khartoum and the SPLM-N have repeatedly failed, and negotiations last collapsed in April, reportedly over the SPLM-N’s demand for a comprehensive peace process.

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 some factions within the Eastern Front, the alliance that signed the agreement, 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 armed opposition 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. Tribal fighting has also 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.

Armed Conflict and Violence in Darfur

Security in Darfur has reportedly deteriorated significantly since late December 2013, with almost daily air strikes from the Sudanese Air Force (SAF). Air raids, attacks on IDPs and villagers and their shelters, and attacks on convoys, are frequent. IDPs in camps across Darfur have requested protection (local sources, 12/03/2014).

In October in North Darfur, a raid was reported in Zamzam camp, as were attacks in Um Keddada, Liwi, and Anka (OCHA, 26/10/2014; (local media, 13/10/2014, 29/10/2014,
In South Darfur, on 13 October, farmers and gunmen clashed near El Salam camp (local media, 14/10/2014). On 5 September, a demonstration in Kalma camp, protesting repeated raids by government forces, ended in violence; four people were killed and 39 wounded by government troops (local media, 05/09/2014).

In Central Darfur, pro-government forces reportedly attacked displacement sites in Zaileig, Kalik, and Niertiti in April, May, and June. Over ten people were killed, according to local media. Another militia incident was reported on 18 October, south of Deleig town (local media, 20/10/2014).

**Jebel Marra:** Over 30–31 October, SAF shelling killed ten people in Deribat, East Jebel Marra (local). SLM-AW claimed to have killed 37 government forces and pro-government militia in Deribat (local media). Air raids were frequently reported in Marshour Abu Zeid and East Jebel Marra in August and September. Aerial bombing was also reported in March and May.

**Inter-communal violence:** In Central Darfur, the Sudanese army was reportedly deployed to Mukjar, Um Dukhum, and Bindisi, after clashes between the Misseriya and the Salamat tribes in June left at least 130 people dead, according to local media. In West Darfur, local media reported in June that clashes between Misseriya clans over pasture in Babanusa locality had left 196 people dead (OCHA, 22/06/2014).

A reconciliation agreement between Hamar and Maaliya tribes was signed on 27 September in West Kordofan’s state capital Al Foulah. Intermittent clashes over land have occurred between the Hamar, from West Kordofan, and the Maaliya, from East Darfur (local media, 27/09/2014).

In East Darfur, at least 300 had been killed in clashes between Maaliya and Rizeigat by 20 August (local media, 20/08/2014). 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 Sheiria locality left one tribesman dead (local media, 14/10/2014).

**Armed Violence and Conflict in Kordofan and Blue Nile**

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. Aerial bombardments took place in South Kordofan in late September and early October. There are reports of injured civilians, and damaged infrastructure and crops (OCHA, 22/10/2014). On 23 November, the Sudanese Air Force bombed areas in El Kurmuk locality, Blue Nile State, killing one child (local media, 25/11/2014).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

6.6 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 17/11/2014).

In October, 4.4 million people in Darfur, more than half of the region’s population, needed humanitarian assistance (OCHA). This includes 2.4 million IDPs, 1.9 million non-displaced severely affected by violence, and 136,000 returnees or refugees from neighbouring countries.

In South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, 940,000 need assistance in government-controlled areas (OCHA), and 540,000 are estimated displaced 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. The number of humanitarian aid workers in Darfur declined from 6,850 in November 2013 to 5,440 in August 2014 (OCHA, 17/11/2014).

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**

Several abductions of aid workers were reported in June and July in North and South Darfur (IOM, 25/07/2014; UNICEF, 19/07/2014). On 16 October, three UNAMID peacekeepers were killed while guarding a borehole in Korma, North Darfur (UNAMID, 16/10/2014).

**Darfur**

East Jebel Marra region has been virtually inaccessible since 2010. Access to IDPs in Darfur is constrained by militia checkpoints and insecurity. Checkpoints on the Kutum–El Fashir and Anka–El Tur roads hamper humanitarian access (local media, 03/07/2014). Areas near Kutum (North Darfur) and Adila and Abu Karinka (East Darfur) were reportedly inaccessible on 26 May (OCHA). In May, local media reported that UNAMID had allegedly been denied access to parts of Kutum area. Insecurity is especially hindering the movement of humanitarian supplies to the localities of Um Dukhum and Bindisi in Central Darfur. In July, medical teams were denied access to El Sereif and Kalma camps in South Darfur. 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.

East Jebel Marra region has been virtually inaccessible since 2010.

**Blue Nile and South Kordofan**

The Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission have banned international staff from UN agencies and international NGOs from participating in an inter-agency multi-cluster needs assessment in Blue Nile state in November (local media, 19/10/2014). There has been no humanitarian access from Sudan to opposition-held areas in South Kordofan since October
Disasters: Floods

As of 11 September, 277,000 people were affected by heavy rains and flooding (OCHA, 14/09/2014). Earlier figures indicate 70,000 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, 24/08/2014). Main needs included shelter and NFIs, and emergency food, health and WASH services. Shelters have been destroyed, and needs are particularly acute in IDP and relocation sites. Poor road conditions have delayed the delivery of assistance.

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 (DRA) 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 had led to the displacement of some 55,000 people (11,000 families) 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: In South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, 540,000 are estimated displaced by conflict in SPLM-N territory (OCHA, 17/11/2014). With no presence in SPLM-N controlled areas, the UN is unable to verify these figures (OCHA, 19/05/2014).

West Kordofan: 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. 7,400 people in Ghabaysh locality fled conflict in North Darfur (OCHA, 21/09/2014).

Refugees in Sudan

An estimated 347,000 people of South Sudanese origin are currently hosted in Sudan (OCHA, 30/04/2014). As of 20 November, 109,000 South Sudanese nationals had arrived in Sudan since 15 December (UNHCR), with more than 1,000 registered per week in recent weeks. 2,000 refugees had registered between 7-14 November (UNHCR). An estimated 53,000 are in White Nile, 14,000 in South Kordofan, 31,000 in Khartoum, and the rest in West Kordofan and Blue Nile (UNHCR, 12/11/2014). A total of 165,000 are expected to arrive in 2014 (WFP, 02/07/2014). 6,800 displaced South Sudanese are living in the disputed area of Abyei (OCHA, 17/12/2014).

In June, 31,000 of the 85,000 refugees to have arrived in the first six months of 2014 had not received humanitarian assistance, and Khartoum ordered the evacuation of informal camps of South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, local media).

In White Nile, arrival rates from South Sudan increased from 500–600 people per week to around 1,000 in September, due to a surge in violence (ECHO, 23/09/2014). The Government has reportedly identified additional sites in anticipation of new refugees: El Khaira, Tawkalna 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).

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. 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).
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).

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.

Food Security

3.5 million people are projected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 2), or Emergency (IPC Phase 3) 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). Harvests in October improved food availability and access, income, and purchasing power of poor households. Cereal prices have decreased, although sorghum and millet prices are still above average (FEWSNET, 11/2014). The Food Security Technical Secretariat (FSTS) in Blue Nile state reported that food security improved in the state during August and September due to the availability of staple foods in the markets, and a significant decline in prices (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, even though above-average 2014/15 harvest are expected across most of Sudan.

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 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).

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).

Health clinics in El Redis and Al Alagaya relocation sites, White Nile state have reported a shortage of drugs. In El Redis clinic, lack of lighting, refrigeration, and an ambulance, severely hinder the delivery of health (OCHA, 17/11/2014).

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).

Dengue fever

WHO and the State Ministry of Health reported that between 28 August and 5 November 2014, 81 cases of haemorrhagic fever were registered in North Darfur since late August, of which 15 cases were confirmed as dengue, including three fatal cases (OCHA, 9/11/2014)

Hepatitis E

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 Serief IDP camp in September (OCHA, 21/09/2014). MSF reported an outbreak of hepatitis E in El Serief camp with more than 400 cases at 21 June (OCHA 06/07/2014).

Nutrition

Two million children under five are acutely malnourished, an upward revision from 1.4 million at the beginning of August; as of 30 September, GAM for Sudan exceeded the 15% emergency threshold (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).

WASH

In the Alagaya relocation site for South Sudanese refugees in White Nile state, the construction of 800 latrines has been delayed due to lack of space, despite the allocation of resources and staff (OCHA, 17/11/2014).

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).

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 camps.
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).

Education

In White Nile state, poor incentives for community teachers interrupt refugees’ education. Many classrooms are occupied by refugees due to lack of alternative reception space (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). According to local media in July, insecurity is affecting the supply of teaching staff, with thousands of teachers in Nyala, Darfur requesting transfers in July.

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

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 this constitutes an obstacle to 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.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Numerous rapes have been reported by local media in North, South and Central Darfur since March. Reports in early November suggested that more than 200 women and girls had been raped by Sudanese soldiers in Tabit area in North Darfur. Sudanese troops denied UNAMID access to assess the situation (Reuters, 17/11/2014). Between 1 July and mid-August, 45 people, women and girls, were raped in East Jebel Marra (local media, 18/09/2014). Between mid-July and 25 September, at least 30 cases of rape have been reported across Darfur (local media).

Updated: 25/11/2014

CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

20 November: 14 cholera cases have been confirmed following a cholera outbreak on 1 November along the CAR–Cameroon border. 13 have been reported in Gado village in Garoua Boulai, and one case in Timangolo refugee camp, along the border with CAR’s Mambere-Kadei (OCHA).


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 2012–1013 (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 Cameroonian conflict-affected border communities, including Amchide, Banki, Fotokol, Makambara, Djobana, Tourou, Dingding, Dombam and Damang (VOA, 27/10/2014).

Nigerian Islamist extremists Boko Haram are intensifying attacks in neighbouring Cameroon, targeting new villages with increasingly sophisticated weapons amassed from the Nigerian army, and Cameroon fears more violence in the approaching dry season. BH attacks are spreading south. Cameroon has deployed around 2,000 soldiers in the northern region and registered 32 deaths since the start of the operation (AFP, 20/11/2014). On 11 November, three civilians died in six coordinated attacks around Kolofata and Fotokol, in the Far North (AFP, 11/11/2014).

Cameroon announced its military had killed 107 Boko Haram fighters in several days of
As of 18 November, 239,106 CAR refugees are in Cameroon: 132,621 have arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR, 18/11/2014). 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 milita 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 Mblé, 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, Mblé, 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

44,000 Nigerians are estimated to have fled to northern Cameroon over the past year (UNHCR, 31/10/2014), 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).

Following the fighting in Mubi in late October, approximately 13,000 Nigerians fled to Cameroon. Cameroonian authorities state that the vast majority of the refugees have returned to Nigeria as of 11 November (UNHCR, 11/11/2014).

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 cross-border clashes in October, after militants crossed the border between the towns of Amchide and Limani (Reuters, 17/10/2014).

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

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

Floods 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).
6,000 to 18,000 between August and mid-November, putting a severe strain on services and exceeding the maximum capacity of 15,000 (UNHCR cited by IRIN 06/10/2014; AFP, 15/11/2014; FAO, 05/11/2014). About 70% of new arrivals are women and children who need immediate assistance in the form of food, shelter and medical care (AFP, 15/11/2014).

Although in the past many refugees opted to stay in villages close to the border, insecurity means refugees are increasingly asking to be relocated further away from the border (UNHCR, 31/10/2014). Those living outside the camp do not receive humanitarian assistance and lack of identification is a concern. The needs among the refugees are largely WASH, health, and nutrition-related.

**Food Security**

As of September, 1.8 million people are food insecure (OCHA, 30/09/2014). Cameroon is currently facing several food emergencies, due to dryness in the Sahel belt, and the strain of hosting almost 300,000 refugees from both Central African Republic and Nigeria (FAO, 05/11/2014).

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 also 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).

As of 20 November, 14 cholera cases have been confirmed following an outbreak on 1 November along the CAR–Cameroon border. 13 have been reported in Gado village in Garoua Boulai, home to CAR refugees, and one case in the Timangolo refugee camp, along the border with CAR’s the Mambere Kadei (OCHA, 20/11/2014).

**Ebolaa**

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).

Updated: 21/11/2014

ETHIOPIA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

11 November: SAM rates in refugee camps are still high, at 5.7% in Leitchuor, 7.8% in Kule, and 10% in Tierkidi (UNHCR).

11 November: More than 35,000 individuals were affected by floods in Dasenech in South Omo in SNNP region (OCHA).

11 November: UNHCR has announced that 15,000 refugees will be relocated from Matar to Pugnido, from 17 November. The move was initially planned for October, (UNHCR).

10 November: The rate of arrival of Eritrean refugees is still increasing. 5,000 refugees, mainly from Asmara, arrived in October alone. There are now 107,000 Eritrean refugees in the country.

10 November: In Oromia, the woredas of Borena, Bale, East Hararge and West Hararge are severely affected by drought. Water trucking has begun (OCHA).

10 November: Flood water from the Baro River has started to recede, and some refugees are returning to Leitchuor camp. However, the majority of those displaced by floods remain along the Nip Nip–Jakawo corridor and Gambella–Matar highway (UNCHR).

7 November: The overall trend of hepatitis E cases is decreasing in all camps (UNHCR).

1 November: The ration of latrines per person in some camps and entry points is considerably higher than the UNHCR standard of 1:50. Leitchuor and Pagak have 1:76, Nip Nip 1:87, Burubiey 1:103 (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 (IPC Phase 3 and 4). 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, 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
Governments, began on 25 April. In May, dozens of people were reported killed in violence across the region, according to local sources.

Elections are scheduled 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). In September, Amnesty International has reported violations of civil and political rights.

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 has posed access problems to refugee camps and the Burubiey border crossing point for months; Burubiey has been closed (UNICEF, 15/07/2014). Humanitarian interventions in Leitchuor 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 50 km of the road from Gambella to Leitchuor was accessible, and the rest was completely under water. This has prevented any possibility of pumping out the water or opening new bypass roads (IOM, 02/10/2014). Helicopter drops proved difficult due to poor weather conditions, therefore agencies opted to move assistance by boat (WFP, 15/10/2014).

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

Disasters: Floods

Heavy rains flooded 95% of Leitchuor 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).

As of 22 October, there are signs of the ground within the camp drying. Flood water from Baro River has continued to recede, prompting some refugees to return from

Nyinyang to Leitchuor. However, the majority remain where they self-relocated, in different parts of Nyinyang and along Nip Nip–Jakawo corridor and Gambella–Matar highway (UNHCR, 10/11/2014). Some 2,500 extremely vulnerable refugees from Leitchuor/Nip Nip camps are likely to be moved to Pugnido (UNHCR, 20/11/2014).

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, Argele, Berano, Dolo Ado, Dolo Bay, East and West Imy, Ferfer, Korahe, Kelafo and Mustahil woredas. 28,000 people were affected in Afar region, in Ambara and Dulecha woredas, with half of those affected losing their homes and now taking shelter in schools and temporary shelters. More than 35,000 individuals in Dasenech and Benatsemay woredas of South Omo in SNNP region were affected, with properties damaged and livelihoods lost (OCHA, 10/11/2014).

Displacement

IDPs

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

Refugees in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is now the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa (UNHCR, 19/08/2014). As of 15 October, Ethiopia hosts up to 643,955 refugees; 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).

South Sudanese Refugees

As of 1 November, 196,596 South Sudanese have sought asylum in Ethiopia since December 2013 (UNHCR, 01/11/2014). The majority of arrivals come from Upper Nile state and are predominantly from Gajaak, Gajjok, and Luo-Nuer tribes (UNHCR, 03/07/2014). They are arriving through Pagak (50%), Akobo (21%), Burubiey (24%), Matar, Raad, Pugnido, and Wanke entry points (UNHCR, 25/07/2014). 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 (UNCHR, 22/10/2014). 46,362 South Sudanese refugees were in Ethiopia before 2013. The number of South Sudanese refugees crossing the border into Ethiopia has seen a sharp decline, from an average of 2,000 per day in May to 87 in the first week of November (UNHCR, 10/11/2014).

According to UNHCR, as of 25 September, 157,570 individuals need to be relocated to other camps due to flooding (WFP, 06/10/2014). Leitchuor, Nip Nip, and Matar way station have been dismantled due to the continued risk of flooding and are now being rehabilitated. UNHCR announced in early November that the relocation of 15,000 refugees from
Matar to Pugnido, planned for October, will commence on 17 November (UNHCR, 10/11/2014). Refugees are rejecting the relocation proposals, citing insecurity as their main concern, including attacks by the South Sudanese armed forces from border areas (IOM, 23/09/2014; UNHCR, 01/10/2014). Okugo can only absorb 29,000 refugees in addition to the current population of 6,000. 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).

Northern Ethiopia receives a large number of Eritrean refugees, particularly unaccompanied minors. There was a spike in daily arrivals, with more than 200 Eritreans crossing the border each day in September. About 5,000 refugees, mainly from Asmara, arrived in Ethiopia during October. As of 10 November, Ethiopia hosts 107,000 Eritrean refugees (OCHA, 10/11/2014).

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 for economic reasons and fear 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).

In June, an estimated 2.7 million people were in Phase 3 and Phase 4 food insecurity (WFP, 06/2014). 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).

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 12/09/2014). 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, Waghimira Zone in Amhara and Tigray, households will quickly deplete their food stocks, likely becoming more food insecure after December (FEWSNET, 26/09/2014). 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).

The bega 2014-2015 season forecast indicates that eastern, northeastern, and central parts of the country will be negatively affected by unseasonal rainfall, and harvest and post-harvest activities will be hampered.

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

A survey carried out among South Sudanese refugees residing in Ethiopia indicate a serious public health emergency (OCHA 15/08/2014). Malaria remains the main public health concern in all the refugee camps, followed by respiratory tract infections and diarrhoeal diseases (OCHA 01/09/2014). 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).

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). As of November, the overall trend in cases was decreasing in all camps (UNHCR, 07/11/2014).

Cases of malaria have significantly increased in refugee camps due to flooding and poor use of treated bed nets (OCHA, 01/10/2014). In July, the death rate from malaria in Kule 1 camp was reported as 5.9/1,000/week, in Leitchuor 5.6/1,000/week and in Tierkidi 5.1/1,000/week (UNHCR 03/07/2014).

As of 1 November, Results of a SMART survey in Leitchuor, Kule, and Tierkidi show GAM rates of 25.8%, 28%, and 30.3%, and SAM rates of 5.7%, 7.8%, and 10%, respectively (UNHCR, 01/11/2014). Crude mortality rates in Kule 1 were 1.47/10,000/day and Leitchuor 1.03/10,000/day. Under-five mortality rates at Kule 1 were 5.9/1,000/day, in Leitchuor 5.6/1,000/day and in Tierkidi 2.73/10,000/day (WFP, 15/08/2014; UNICEF, 15/07/2014). The overall trend shows a deterioration in the nutritional situation in refugee camps.

The Government and humanitarian actors on the ground have responded to more than 200 measles outbreaks this year (OCHA, 11/08/2014). Close to 2,600 measles cases were recorded between until mid-January and May in Gambella, Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Somali regions (OCHA, 12/05/2014).
On 17 March, according to OCHA, a new case of polio was confirmed in Somali region, bringing the caseload in Ethiopia to ten since the outbreak started in May 2013. All cases were reported in woredas that share borders with Somalia, where the regional polio outbreak started.

WASH

According to UNICEF, only 31% of Ethiopian households have access to safe water (USAID, 30/09/2014). Critical water shortages exist in Afdera, Berhale, Bidu, Dubti, Eldar, Erebti and Kori woredas (OCHA, 01/09/2014). In the Somali region, seven out of nine zones are reportedly suffering from water shortages, causing people and livestock to migrate in search of water and pasture (OCHA, 06/10/2014). Seasonal rains have recently improved water availability in Oromia, and water trucking has commenced in Borena, Bale, East Hararge and West Hararge woredas (OCHA, 10/11/2014).

The ratio of latrines per person in Leitchuor is 76:1, in Pagak 1:76, and in Burbiey 1:103, considerably higher than the UNHCR standard of 1:50 (UNHCR, 01/11/2014). Inaccessible inter-camp roads between Kule and Nip Nip have delayed water trucking (UNHCR, 25/09/2014).

Education

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

Protection

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

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

KEY CONCERNS

- Violence is ongoing in the capital Nairobi, as well as the northeastern and coastal areas; two-thirds of 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 14/10/2014, 07/08/2014).

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

Political Context

Kenya is considered relatively stable in the Horn of Africa and held peaceful presidential elections in March 2013. However, the country remains ethnically polarised and affected by two decades of conflict in neighbouring Somalia. The implementation of a devolution process, land reform, and national reconciliation all challenge stability in a country where institutions are perceived to be weak.

President Uhuru Kenyatta has temporarily stepped down from office in order to attend the International Criminal Court as a civilian. He is charged with crimes against humanity, stemming from 2007–08 post-election violence, where more than 1,000 people died. Depute William Ruto is acting as President during his absence (AFP, BBC, 07/10/2014).

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,
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 Dadaab and Kakuma camps. In the following weeks, three bomb blasts killed ten people, and then 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 to Kakuma and Dadaab camps.

**Al Shabaab-related Violence**

On 17 November, one person was killed and over 200 were arrested after Kenyan security forces raided mosques accused of having links with Al Shabaab. Hand grenades and pistols were seized (AFP, 17/11/2014). Three mosques were closed (BBC, 19/11/2014). Four people were stabbed as gangs took to the streets in protest at the raids (AFP, 18/11/2014). 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).

A number of Islamic preachers have been killed in Mombasa in recent years, in alleged extra-judicial killings by security forces.

On 22 November, Al Shabaab gunmen pulled passengers from a bus in Manda county, and killed 28 non-Muslims. A day later, the Kenyan military launched two operations in Somalia, and reportedly killed 115 Al Shabaab militants, and destroyed camps and equipment (BBC, The Guardian, 24/11/2014). The attack is yet to be independently confirmed; Al Shabaab has denied that any attack took place (Al Jazeera, 24/11/2014).

Seven attacks in Kenya’s coastal region between mid-June and July left 102 dead. Soweto in Mombasa, Mpeketoni, Poromoko, Pangelguo the villages of Witu and Kibiboni, and Gamba police station were all targeted. About 500 families reportedly fled to 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.

On 20 November, five villagers were killed and 12 injured in North Horr, Marsabit, after fighting that involved Gabra and Dassanach communities (Kenya Daily Nation, 20/11/2014).

**Conflict in Baringo**

In Baringo county, drought has pushed pastoralists to take their livestock to new locations, and violence was reported in August and September (ACTED, 08/08/2014; 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.

**Conflicts in Samburu and Turkana**

On 17 November, clashes over cattle between Samburu and Turkana left ten dead. On 18 November, four more people died as Samburu raided Garuchu village, in Isiolo (Kenya Daily Nation, 18/11/2014). Four more people were killed in another raid in Turkana on 21 November (Kenya Daily Nation, 23/11/2014).

Turkana has also seen an increase in the frequency of violent attacks by raiders of Pokoto and Turkana communities. On 4 November, at least 22 police officers and three civilians were ambushed and killed in Kapkno, and their weapons and ammunition were stolen (Kenya Red Cross, 04/11/2014). On 7 November, Kenya defence forces raided Kapkno in an attempt to recover the stolen weapons. More than 30 people were injured and several properties were burned down (Kenya Daily Nation, 08/11/2014). Residents have fled Janur to Pokot North in West Pokot county and Turkana South: the majority are hiding in the hills, fearing victimisation by security forces. On 20 November, local media reported that security forces had erected roadblocks, hampering food aid distribution. Local populations have called on the Government to stop the security operations in order for aid to reach those affected (Kenyan Daily Nation, 20/11/2014).
Immediate needs include food, safe water supplies, medical services, and nutritional support for children (Kenya Red Cross, 11/11/2014).

**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).

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).

**Floods**

On 14 November, heavy rains in the Tana Delta have caused floods in Bura and Hirirmaru division in the southeast. Houses and WASH facilities have been destroyed. Close to 180 households are camping in nearby villages. Immediate needs include NFIs and WASH (Kenya Red Cross, 17/11/2014).

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

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

**Mandera:** In September, local media reported that the number of displaced had declined, but that those who remain displaced were in dire need of safe drinking water (The Star, 23/09/2014). 94,000 people were displaced in the months up to August (ACT Alliance, 30/07/2014; Kenyan Red Cross 11/06/2014).

**Lamu:** Local media reported in August that about 1,000 people displaced by the June–July Lamu attacks near the coast were in dire need of food, and consuming untreated waters from two bore holes. Their livelihoods are also affected, since they 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 Ailinguger, 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).

WFP has reported that resource constraints will cause a significant pipeline break in refugee operations in December, worsening an already critical nutrition situation among children (WFP, 15/10/2014). On 14 November, WFP announced that food rations to the entire refugee population in Kenya will be halved, as a result of insufficient funding (WFP, 14/11/2014). Humanitarian actors on the ground are gravely concerned over the serious effects this will have on nutrition and health (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

**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 Ailinguger 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 12 November, more than 44,151 South Sudanese refugees have crossed into Kenya through Nadapal border since mid-December (UNHCR, 05/11/2014). 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, 15/10/2014). 75,038 South Sudanese refugees are in Kakuma camp, Turkana county (UNHCR, 07/07/2014). Kakuma camp is hosting 178,995 refugees, surpassing its capacity of 150,000 (UNHCR, 05/11/2014). 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 November, no land had been granted to settle new arrivals (UNHCR, 15/10/2014).

UNHCR has reported that the overpopulation in Kakuma is causing friction among refugee communities, and security forces are finding it more difficult to manage situations (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). Clashes between Nuer and Dinka communities in Kakuma camp erupted on 26 October after a girl was raped. Eight refugees (from South Sudan, Burundi, and DRC) 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 sections of the camp and are seeking refuge in UN-run schools. Hundreds of Burundian and DRC refugees are moving to nearby police posts, churches and schools (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). Kenyan security forces are patrolling the camp (UNHCR, 04/11/2014).
Food Security

As of October, 1.5 million are in need of food aid, in a survey carried out by national and county governments. These households are concentrated in pastoral areas of Marsabit, Isiolo, and Wajir. In these areas, imminent short rains are expected to have positive effects on pastoralists’ food security by early December, as grazing resources will improve (GIEWS, 13/11/2014).

In major agricultural areas, conditions have started to improve, as long-rain crops have been harvested and are therefore more available in local markets. Following these harvests, the number of food insecure people is expected to decline until the end of the year (GIEWS, 13/11/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

Staple food prices will start to decline in November following more availability after the long rains harvest. This is expected to improve households’ ability to access food, as is an increase in labour opportunities during the short rains (GIEWS, 13/11/2014).

Poor rains have affected pasture and water availability in most pastoral and agro-pastoral areas (GIEWS, 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).

Health and Nutrition

Malaria

The malaria incidence rate has increase by 13.3% in refugee camps. 1,164 new cases were reported in the second week of November, compared to 1,009 in the week before (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

Nutrition

In August, GAM of up to 28.7% was reported in Turkana Central, 27.3% in Mandera North, and 29.2% Marsabit North/Loinyangalani (Kenya Red Cross 16/08/2014). GAM rates in East Pokot subcounty (Baringo) have reached 21.1% due to severe drought and inconsistent rains (ACTED, 08/08/2014).

SAM rates among South Sudanese refugees arriving in Kakuma between 14 and 20 October were at 15.4%, up from 10% in May. GAM was at 29.3%, up from 16.3% in May (UNHCR, 23/05/2014, 23/10/2014). Statistics show that malnutrition rates are higher among the most recent arrivals from South Sudan (UNHCR, 11/07/2014).

Polio

30,000 children have been targeted for a polio immunisation campaign in refugee camps, which started on 8 November (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

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 8.9 L/p/d, a drop from 16 L/p/d in October, and considerably below UNHCR standards of 20 L/p/d. The drop is attributed to damaged pipes following the recent floods (UNHCR, 01/10/2014, 14/11/2014).

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: 24/11/2014

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,
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. Sorghum 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


16 November: Clashes between Libya Dawn and forces backed by the House of Representatives forced the closure of Mitiga airport, killing at least four people and injuring 10 (AFP).

14 November: There are 393,420 IDPs in 35 cities and towns in Libya (UNHCR).

12 November: Twin suicide bombings hit Tobruk, wounding at least 25 people. Tobruk is still the base of the House of Representatives elected in June, but the Government recently moved its headquarters to the nearby town of Shahat (AFP).

6 November: Libya’s Supreme Court ruled the House of Representatives unconstitutional. Certain members of the House of Representatives in Tobruk declared that they did not recognise the Supreme Court ruling (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

1 November: Pro-government forces recaptured parts of Benghazi, including army positions (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- The conflict has affected more than two million people (UN, 03/09/2014)
- There are 393,420 IDPs in 35 cities and towns in Libya (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). More than 150,000 people have sought refuge abroad (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).
It is estimated that two million people have been affected by the conflict, which has generated shortages in food, fuel, water, medical supplies and electricity, as well as reduced access to health care and public services (OCHA, 07/11/2014).

The rapidly deteriorating security situation 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. **The Government recently moved its headquarters to the nearby town of Shahat (AFP, 12/11/2014).**

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.

On 6 November, Libya’s Supreme Court ruled the House of Representatives unconstitutional. Certain members of the House of Representatives in Tobruk declared that they did not recognise the ruling, which is likely to deepen the political crisis (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). 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 Ghexyan, 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.

On 12 November, twin suicide bombings hit Tobruk, wounding at least 25 people.

**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 Ghexyan, launched Operation Dawn.

On 16 November, clashes between Libya Dawn and forces backed by the House of
Representatives forced the closure of Mitiga airport, killing at least four people and injuring 10 (AFP, 16/11/2014).

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).

On 19 November, UNSMIL announced a 12-hour humanitarian truce (UNSMIL, 19/11/2014). According to local media, Ansar al Sharia breached the truce and fighting broke out again (Libya Herald, 19/11/2014).

By 1 November, pro-government forces had recaptured parts of Benghazi, including army positions. Libya’s special forces took back their headquarters on the road to Benghazi airport. According to government forces, the entire east of Benghazi was back under the control of government troops, while pro-government forces were making advances in the south of the city (AFP, 01/11/2014). Former General Haftar launched an offensive on 15 October 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 15 November, at least 356 people have been killed in fighting, 200 of which regular soldiers or members of Haftar’s forces (AFP, 15/11/2014). On 26 October, heavy fighting flared between Libya’s army and Ansar al Sharia militias apparently trying to 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 bombed the 17 February Brigade’s headquarters, those of SCBR in Hawari, and SCBR facilities in Gwarsa (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

In addition to recent developments in the west and east of the country, the situation in the south has reportedly deteriorated since January. Intermittent violence linked to inter and intra-ethnic rivalries has been exacerbated by geopolitics and shifting allegiances. Conflict, particularly in and around the cities of Sabha and Ubari, has resulted in displacement and increasing risks of spillover into southern neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

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 Frontières, 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).

Access to IDPs is difficult for convoys from abroad and for local humanitarian staff, with security constraints and blocked roads preventing the delivery of food and medical supplies to areas most affected by conflict. In Benghazi, parts of the city are inaccessible and entire neighbourhoods devastated by shelling (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).
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

Power outages of up to 19 hours a day in Tripoli impede communications (IRIN, 01/10/2014).

In Tripoli, shortages of water, diesel and cooking gas have been reported (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

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 14 November, there are 393,420 IDPs in 35 cities and towns in Libya UNHCR, 14/11/2014). Additionally, at least 56,544 IDPs are still displaced since the 2011 armed conflict (IDMC, 23/09/2014).

56,500 people have fled Benghazi since October, including some 2,500 already internally displaced Tawergha people. Still more people have fled from the eastern coastal town of Derna, but UNHCR is unable to confirm how many. Local crisis committees in the southeast confirm some 11,280 people have fled fighting in Ubari, while in the west civilian groups report 38,640 people have been displaced by fighting in Kikla, including many women and children (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). 100,000 people have been displaced from the area around Warshefana since mid-September (UNHCR, 10/10/2014).

As of early October, most displaced people are living with local families who, in some cases, have opened their homes to several families (UNHCR, 10/10/2014). However, as the number of IDPs continues to rise, many are now reported to be living in schools. Some local councils have stopped registering new arrivals due to limited response capacity.

According to UNSMIL, the Benghazi Local Council has registered some 34,000 IDPs in need of basic assistance (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). Al Marj, near Benghazi, has had to close its schools to accommodate people unable to stay with host families. Al Bayda and Tobruk are also straining to house the displaced. Schools in Tobruk will also be closed so they can host IDPs. Of particular concern are some 2,500 Tawerghans who fled their camp in Benghazi in mid-October, and are now staying in parks, schools and parking lots in Ajdabiya and neighbouring towns, with only thin plastic sheets and some tents for cover (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

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; UNHCR, 14/11/2014). 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 A Zawia 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 Zvara have reported difficulties in accessing and transporting medicines and medical supplies for people with chronic diseases and nursing mothers (IFRC, 12/08/2014). In Warshefana, fighting has disrupted health services and Zahra hospital reported severe shortages of medicines and medical supplies (ICRC, 17/09/2014).

Benghazi’s Jala 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 Akwakh, 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).

Mines and ERW

According to Islamist militias, approximately 600 anti-personnel mines have been cleared since Islamists seized Tripoli airport on 24 August (HRW, 05/11/2014). Incorrectly armed fuses or faulty ammunition have resulted in large quantities of unexploded ordnance in conflict areas (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).

Updated: 21/11/2014

MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

18 November: Without additional, well-targeted emergency assistance, more than 600,000 households could face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity by June. An Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is possible by September 2015 in the absence of emergency response (FEWSNET).
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 Mbera 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 northern 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). Access to food is difficult for some due to high prices of coarse grains such as sorghum and wheat. Sorghum prices in Nouakchott increased by 57% between February and August (FAO, 11/2014).

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).

Outlook

Without additional, well-targeted emergency assistance, more than 600,000 households could face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity by June. An Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is possible by September 2015 in the absence of emergency response (FEWSNET, 18/11/2014).

Poor rainfall during the June to October season in south-central Mauritania will result in significantly below-average main and off-season harvests, reduced seasonal labour incomes, and reduced income from livestock sales. In February/March 2015, more than 300,000 poor households in affected areas of the Senegal River Valley (near the border between Mauritania and Senegal) and western agro-pastoral zones (southwestern Mauritania) will begin to face food consumption gaps.

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: 21/11/2014

NIGER FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 20/11/2014. 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).

Conflict between farmers and pastoralists is frequent in Niger. On 8 November, a violent confrontation killed ten people and injured 13 others in the area of Birni-N’koni, in the southwest (AFP, 10/11/2014).

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, 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).

Agricultural Outlook

Poor pastoral resource availability in parts of the northern Sahel will begin to stress pastoral households from June to September 2015. Refugees from northeastern Nigeria in the Diffa region will need continued food assistance (FEWSNET, 11/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Cholera

As of 26 October, 1,660 cholera cases have been registered in 2014, including 60 deaths, representing a case fatality rate of 3.4% (OCHA, 10/2014). 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 (14.6%), 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: 20/11/2014

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
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).

Reviewed: 29/10/2014

BURUNDI FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

10 November: 7,000 DRC refugees in Musasa camp are demanding better conditions, including food availability, health care and education (local media).

7 November: As the lean season advances, food security conditions will deteriorate, especially in the northeast of the country (FAO).

KEY CONCERNS

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

Political Context

Since the President’s re-election in 2010, scores of political killings, intimidation of the opposition, and a crackdown on media freedom have been reported. Most recently, observers stated concerns on restrictions on civil and political rights, following a series of violent acts by the ruling party’s increasingly militant youth wing, Imbonerakure.

2015 General Elections: Proposed Constitutional Amendments
Deteriorating relations between the parties within the ruling coalition stem mainly from the desire of President Nkurunziza, elected in 2005 and again in 2010, to run for a third term in elections scheduled for June 2015. On 9 June, the Government, the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI), and all political parties and actors signed the General Principles for the conduct of the 2015 elections (UN, 10/06/2014). On 10 November, a Special Envoy and Head of the UN Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi (MENUB) was appointed (BNUB, 11/11/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement

IDPs

As of July, Burundi has 78,948 IDPs (UNHCR, 07/2014). They are mostly ethnic Tutsis, located in and around 120 sites across northern and central Burundi. No new displacement has been recorded since 2008 (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre).

Refugees

As of July, Burundi is host to 56,856 refugees (UNHCR, 07/2014). Refugees are mainly located in the border regions of Ngozi (north, alongside Rwanda), Ruyigi, Muyinga, and Cankuzo (east, alongside Tanzania) and Bubanza (west, alongside DRC).

7,000 DRC refugees living in Musasa camp, in northern Burundi, are demanding better conditions, as poor food availability, reduced health services and substandard education services are debilitating the population (local media, 10/11/2014).

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, 31/10/2014). Production deficits in Kirundo have led to atypical migration (FEWSNET, 30/06/2014). As the lean season advances, food security conditions are deteriorating, especially in northeastern areas, due to a shortfall in crop production. Planting for 2015, however, was completed and production prospects are favourable (FAO, 07/11/2014).

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).

Updated: 20/11/2014

CÔTE D’IVOIRE FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

18–19 November: A military protest in Baouké spread to Abidjan and other main cities. The turmoil was allegedly initiated by former insurgents reintegrated in 2009 (AFP, 19/11/2014).

KEY CONCERNS

- 3.13 million people in Côte d’Ivoire do not have access to potable water and sanitation
- 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.

Security Context

On 18 November, a military protest in Baouké spread to Abidjan and other main cities. The turmoil was allegedly initiated by former insurgents re-integrated in 2009, after Ouagadougou Peace Accord in 2007. Their demands regarding salary arrears were met, and the situation stabilised (AFP, 19/11/2014).

A UN human rights report indicated in January the security situation remains fragile. A large number of ex-fighters have not yet benefitted from disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programmes. In addition, large quantities of illicit arms are still circulating in the country.

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

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.

The presence of humanitarian organisations remains low in comparison with needs. UNICEF reports that the most pressing needs include child protection, access to water and health facilities, nutrition, education, and provision of birth certificates.
The risk of spread of the Ebola virus disease in Cote 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

A cholera outbreak was notified at 6 October. As of 22 October, 12 cases, including three deaths, had been reported in Abidjan (WHO, 31/10/2014).

WASH

7 million people are estimated to practice open air defecation, creating major health risks for their communities as diarrhoea is one of the main causes of child mortality in the country (UNICEF, 19/11/2014).

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). 300,000 people, originally abandoned children, are not covered by national legislation, as Côte d’Ivoire used not to provide nationality to parentless children (UNHCR quoted by All Africa, 12/11/2014).

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: 20/11/2014

NAMIBIA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 11/11/2014. Last update 01/09/2014.

KEY CONCERNS

- More than 110,000 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, 117,660 people were affected by a food security crisis and around 557,900 people in rural areas were at risk of food insecurity and requiring assistance, some 200,000 people less than the previous season. The food insecure population is found primarily in Kunene, and parts of Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, Omusati and Erongo regions (SADC, 08/2014).

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, 28/09/2014). However, crop harvests as of 22 September were 20–50% lower than in the same period in 2013 due to localised dry spells, 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: 11/11/2014

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).

The spread of Cassava Brown Streak Diseases (CBSD) is Bugesera will affect the cassava production, which is expected to be below average this year (FEWSNET, 31/10/2014).

Starting in January 2015, food security situations are expected to improve across the country, as harvesting of Season A will replenish food stocks, stabilize prices and increase income earning opportunities (FEWSNET, 31/10/2014).

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: 20/11/2014
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 11 November, 129,300 South Sudanese refugees had fled to Uganda since December 2013. They are hosted in refugee settlements in Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Koboko and Arua districts (UNHCR, 11/11/2014). Half of them are children under 12 years (FAO, 11/11/2014). 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). Half of those

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 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).

Food Security

In Karamoja about 700,000 people remain at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) level of food insecurity. Local conditions have slightly improved, but food stocks are expected to be partially replenished, and will likely run out by January 2015 (FAO, 11/11/2014). 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.
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). 197 contacts have been identified and isolated for a 21-day incubation period (WHO, 10/10/2014). As of 11 November, Uganda was declared free of Marburg (Government, 11/11/2014).

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).

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).

Human Rights Watch issued a report which asserts that the government response to deadly ethnic violence and reprisals in the Rwenzori region in western Uganda in July has been inadequate. On 5 July, Bakonzo community members organized themselves in small units and attacked police and army posts in several districts, which sparked reprisal attacks by other ethnic groups and security forces, followed by what HRW calls “brutal counter-security against Bakonzo civilians” (HRW, 05/11/2014).

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).

Updated: 21/11/2014

ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

15 November: Recent arrival rates of Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia have spiked: 5,000 in October and 1,200 in the first two weeks in November. 90% of those are between 18-24 years old, who are reportedly feeling mandatory military recruitment (Government, local news).

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, 30/05/2014).

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

On 24 April, according to media sources, the UAE Red Cross had access to a million children across six provinces to distribute clothing.

Displacement

IDPs

As of 30 April, 64 stateless persons and IDPs reside in Eritrea (UNHCR).

Refugees

As of 31 May, 3,136 refugees reside in Eritrea, including 3,056 Somali refugees (UNHCR).

Eritrean Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

According to 2012 UNHCR figures, there are 300,000 Eritrean refugees in neighbouring countries as well as in Europe and Israel. According to UN figures, some 4,000 Eritreans, among them hundreds of unaccompanied minors, are fleeing the country every month to escape government repression and lack of basic freedoms (UN, 05/06/2014). One in every 3,411 Eritreans have fled their country (All Africa, 21/10/2014).

Ethiopia: Recent arrival rates of Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia have spiked. 5,000 Eritreans entered in October, and 1,200 so far in November (Government of Ethiopia, 18/11/2014). About 90% of those who arrived in October were between 18-24 years old, and cited the intensified mandatory recruitment into the national military service as their reason of flight (local news, 15/11/2014). As of mid November, Ethiopia is hosting an estimated 99,000 Eritrean refugees, who are mainly settled in four camps in the northern Tigray and Afar region (OCHA). International media had 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). 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). 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

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: 19/11/2014

AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, LANDSLIDES, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

23 November: A suicide attack in Yahya Khail district of Paktika province killed 57 civilians and injured 60, the country’s deadliest single attack since 2011 (AFP).

18 November: A Taliban suicide attack in Kabul killed two Afghan guards and injured one civilian (AFP).

12 November: Aerial bombardments on 26 October in North Waziristan agency displaced around 2,680 people to Afghanistan’s Gulan camp (UNHCR).

KEY CONCERNS

- 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).

- 13,845 returnees in 2014 and 755,000 IDPs (UNHCR, 30/09/2014); 113,000 were displaced in 2013 (UNHCR, OCHA, 02/2014).

- 7 million people are severely food insecure (IPC, 01/11/2014), while 5.4 million need access to health services and 1.7 million need protection.

- 853,000 children under five suffer from SAM, and eight provinces show GAM rates above 15%, breaching the emergency threshold (OCHA, 31/07/2014; 28/10/2014).

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

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 pair were rival presidential candidates in disputed elections. A disputed UN audit released its results on 26 September, indicating 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 ongoing 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 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). There are currently about 41,000 NATO troops in Afghanistan, down from a peak of 130,000 in 2012 (AFP, 30/09/2014).

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 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

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).

Remote parts of southern and south eastern Afghanistan, near the border with Pakistan, remain under Taliban control. Taliban numbers have increased by 15% since the beginning of 2013, as the group intensifies attacks in the wake of NATO troop withdrawal.

Conflict Developments and Incidents

A suicide attack in Yahya Khail district of Paktika province on 23 November killed 57 civilians and injured 60, the country’s deadliest single attack since 2011 (AFP, 24/11/2014).

Two Taliban bombings in Logar and Jalalabad killed 10 police on 10 November. 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 suicide attack in Kabul on 16 November killed two Afghan guards and injured one civilian (AFP, 18/11/2014). A suicide bomber attacked the vehicle convoy of a prominent female Afghan MP near the parliament in Kabul on 16 November, killing three civilians and injuring 22 (AFP, 16/11/2014). A bombing on 10 November 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).

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.

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).

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 (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).

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. Access continues to present challenges to humanitarian actors in the eastern region, particularly in Kunar and Nangarhar (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

27 incidents involving aid workers were recorded in October. Four aid workers were killed and 13 abducted, compared to two and ten, respectively, in September (OCHA, 31/10/2014). 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 NFI, shelter, cash, and livelihood opportunities (UNHCR, 30/09/2014). Displaced households living in IDP camps have started leaving the camps where shelters are 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 Maiman 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 Kunar 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 Neh-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, NFI, basic health services, and psychosocial support. The situation is constrained by poor access and security issues (Red Cross, 09/10/2014).

Refugees in Afghanistan

Following aerial bombardments on 26 October in North Waziristan agency, around 2,680 Pakistanis sought refuge at the Gulan camp in Khost province; they need urgent assistance with food and emergency shelter (UNHCR, 12/11/2014).

By 15 October, nearly 244,200 refugees (33,481 families) from North Waziristan 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). Pakistani refugees are not expected to return to their country before March or April, due to infrastructure destruction, winter, and reduced livelihood opportunities (UNHCR, 29/10/2014).

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 5 November, 32,073 people were in 53 informal settlements in Kabul (OCHA, 11/11/2014). 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, including 12,000 from Pakistan (UNHCR, 20/11/2014). 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 NFI are 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).

Due to a funding shortfall, WFP has been able to pre-position only 60% of food assistance for an estimated 830,000 people ahead of the winter this year (OCHA, 30/10/2014). 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

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).

Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan has risen by 7%, from 209,000 hectares in 2013 to 224,000 hectares in 2014 (UN, 12/11/2014).

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). In October, there were two incidents involving NGO-run health facilities, including the abduction of a midwife and other clinic staff (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

Nutrition

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 8 November, 19 polio cases have been confirmed in 2014, mostly in conflict-affected areas, compared to 14 in 2013 (Government, 08/11/2014). 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).

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). The needs of 128,327 individuals (29,200 refugees and 98,937 individuals in the host community) were assessed in Khost for WASH assistance; priority district targets for emergency WASH response are Gurbuz, Khost, Center/Lakan, Mandozayi, Terezayi and Spera in Khost, and Barmal and Urgun in Paktika (UNHCR, 29/10/2014).

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).

Shelter and NFIs

Two million people are living higher than 2,000 meters in Afghanistan, including 244,200 new refugees in Khost and Paktika, 32,000 displaced in Kabul Informal Settlements and 2,300 recently displaced by conflict in areas of high altitude, leaving them exposed to winter conditions. 423,300 children under five and 253,920 people over 55, 7,000 in need of shelter and 544,000 economically vulnerable living in hard reach areas are also vulnerable. Fuel, food and NFI are key priorities (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

Education

Educational facilities in Khost are overstretched, with 344 schools employing 6,000 teachers and catering for around 360,000 children. There are 50,000 school-aged refugee children in Khost (Institute for War and Peace Reporting, 05/11/2014).

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: 24/11/2014

IRAQ CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

23 November: Three bombs near Baghdad killed nine people (Trust).

21–23 November: Iraqi forces, including Shi’ite militias and Peshmarga forces, retook Jalawla and Sadia towns, Diyala governorate, from IS fighters (Understanding War and
21–22 November: IS attacked Ramadi, capital of Anbar governorate. Clashes in Al Hoz, southern Ramadi, are ongoing. During the attack, IS reportedly killed at least 25 members of the Albu Fahad tribe in retaliation for alleged opposition (AFP). At a checkpoint on the Albu Faraj Bridge, north of Ramadi, IS detonated an explosive device, killing four people and injuring 11 others, while heavily damaging the bridge (Understanding War). Heavy clashes also took place south of Fallujah, and unidentified gunmen reportedly kidnapped 13 individuals related to a member of the Council of Representatives.

22 November: IS launched an attack in Balad district, Salah al Din governorate, with fighting ongoing (Understanding War).

22 November: South of Mosul, coalition airstrikes targeted an IS camp in Qayara, killing 20 fighters and injuring five others (Understanding War).

19 November: IS claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing at the main checkpoint to the provincial government headquarters in Erbil, killing four and wounding 29 others (AFP).

OVERVIEW

The Islamic State insurgency has compounded an already fragile political situation, leading to a level 3 humanitarian crisis and international military intervention. Iraq now hosts one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world with four massive waves of internal displacement in 2014: Anbar in January, Mosul in June, Sinjar in August and Hit in October. Priority humanitarian needs are food, water, shelter, and fuel. Protection and the risk of disease outbreak are also concerns. Host communities are increasingly stretched. At the same time, large information gaps exist on the situation of affected populations outside of the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

Political Context

National Political Context

The perceived marginalisation of Sunni groups by the previous Government, led by President Maliki, is considered one of the main drivers of the current conflict. The formation of a unity government led by President Haydar al Abadi at the start of September represents the first step towards a longer-term solution to the present crisis.

Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Masoud Barzani’s Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the PUK have ruled the autonomous Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) through a coalition government since 2005. Barzani’s term has recently been extended to 2015, a move denounced as illegal by the opposition. A budget agreement made with Baghdad in November is considered a first step towards resolving a broader oil dispute and raises the prospect of increased coordination in the fight against IS. The agreement allows for the resumption of budget transfers from Baghdad to Kurdish areas, which were cut nine months ago over an oil dispute (FT 13/11/2014).

Security Context

Although hard to verify, particularly in IS-controlled areas, approximately 1,273 people were killed in October and 2,010 injured (UN). An additional 471 members of the Iraqi security forces were killed, and 520 injured. The conflict has resulted in more than 9,300 civilian deaths countrywide since January. 233 civilians died and 584 were injured in Anbar January–October; of the other governorates, Baghdad, Salah al Din and Diyala were the most affected by violence in October (UN 01/11/2014).

Conflict Developments

Since the fall of Mosul on 10 June, Islamic State (IS), with support of armed opposition groups including tribal militias and members of the former Government and military, has been in control of large swathes of Iraq’s provinces of Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al Din and Diyala. The Iraqi army, Iraqi special forces, Peshmerga and anti-IS militias continue to cooperate in fighting IS.

Iraqi forces, with militias and Peshmerga, retook Jalawla and Sadia towns, Diyala governorate, from IS on 23 November (Trust 23/11/2014). Army forces and Shi’ite militia
regained control of Adhaim Dam in Diyala governorate earlier in the month (AFP 15/11/2015).

In a bid to take more ground, IS has attacked Ramadi, capital of Anbar governorate. During the offensive, IS reportedly killed at least 25 members of the Albu Fahad tribe in retaliation for alleged opposition. IS and affiliates killed over 300 members of the Sunni Albu Nimr tribe in the first week of November, after the tribe’s resistance to IS collapsed when it ran low on ammunition (OCHA 07/11/2014). IS also severely damaged a bridge north of Ramadi Fighting in Al Hoz, southern Ramadi, is ongoing (Understanding War 20/11/12014). The Government is distributing weapons and ammunition to tribesmen, while tribes have requested more air support (AFP 22/11/2014). Heavy clashes also took place south of Fallujah; unidentified gunmen also reportedly kidnapped 13 individuals related to a member of the Council of Representatives.

IS also launched an attack in Balad district, Salah al Din governorate.

South of Mosul, coalition airstrikes targeted an IS camp (Understanding War 21/11/2014). Representing a significant strategic gain, the siege of the main oil refinery by IS fighters near Baiji was broken by Iraqi forces in mid-November. Baiji town was also recaptured. In early November, in a bid to cut off IS supply routes, and supported by coalition airstrikes, Iraqi forces and Peshmerga retook Jurf Al Sakhar in Babil, and pushed militants out of the Zumar area to the north of Mosul (WFP 04/11/2014).

In Erbil, IS claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing at the main checkpoint to the provincial government headquarters. The bombing, which killed four and wounded 29, is the worst attack in the usually stable region since September 2013 (AFP 19/11/2014).

Baghdad is the scene of near-daily bombings and shootings. Multiple car bomb blasts between 8 and 23 November, killed at least 86 people and wounded over 210 (Trust 23/11/2014; AFP 17/11 2014; 08/11/2014). There was no immediate claim for the attacks, but IS has claimed responsibility for previous car bomb attacks. On 16 November, a UN convoy was hit, with at least one explosion. No one was killed or injured (UNAMI 16/11/2014).

Stakeholders

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 areas of northern and eastern Syria, as well as parts of northern and central Iraq. In February, Al Qaeda formally disassociated itself from IS, following clashes between IS and Jabhat al Nusra, the official al Qaeda affiliate in Syria. In June, IS declared the establishment of a Sunni caliphate, straddling Syria and Iraq, spreading from Aleppo in northern Syria to Diyalah in eastern Iraq. Its chief Abu Bakr al Baghdadi was declared caliph and leader for Muslims everywhere. Iraqi officials report that Baghdadi was injured in airstrikes near Mosul in early November. However, this has not been confirmed by other sources (Washington Post 10/11/2014). The CIA estimates that Islamic State has between 20,000 and 31,500 fighters in Iraq and Syria (BBC 15/09/2014).

KR-I Forces

In early August, Kurdish forces from Iraq, Syria, and Turkey joined forces in north Iraq to reclaim areas lost to IS (AFP). On 30 September, Pershmerga forces launched an operation clearing IS from the Iraq–Syria border town of Rabia, which they were reported to have taken control of by the end of October (Trust; ISW).

Government Forces

In October, the Iraqi army launched an offensive to retake towns held by IS south of Baghdad, seeking to secure the Shia religious sites of Najaf and Karbala.

International Involvement

US warplanes began air strikes against IS in August. On 15 September, 30 additional countries pledged to help Iraq fight IS militants by all means necessary.

The US has announced it will start providing arms support to tribes opposing IS, and hopes these fighters will become part of a more formal Iraqi national guard later. More budget has also been allocated to the training and arming of Iraqi and Kurdish forces (Guardian 22/11/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

5.2 million Iraqis, including over two million IDPs, 1.5 million in host communities, and 1.4 million in hard-to-reach areas, require some form of humanitarian assistance. A Level 3 emergency was declared by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on 12 August and was extended for six months in November (OCHA 07/11/2014).

Humanitarian access to most of Iraq is extremely limited, therefore most of the data available is on the situation in KR-I.

Access

An estimated 2.2 million individuals requiring emergency assistance remain beyond the reach of aid agencies (UN 09/2014). The overall number and geographical spread of the displaced population pose a major challenge, hampered further by funding shortfalls (21/11/2014).

Security restrictions and delays in security clearances affect assistance to IDPs, particularly in Anbar (OCHA 31/10/2014). Several international NGOs have suspended activities in IS-controlled areas, but in some cases they continue to provide emergency assistance through local partners (USAID 2013). Access to areas that had been controlled by IS and its affiliates is hindered by booby-traps and landmines.

Border crossings: The Kurdish-controlled Peshkabour-Semalka crossing is mostly closed. While the IS-controlled Al Qa‘im and Al Waleed crossings are technically open, insecurity prevents most civilian movement. Rabia crossing was reportedly been taken from IS by Peshmerga forces in October (Trust 23/11/2014).
Anbar governorate remains largely inaccessible (UNHCR 31/10/2014). 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. Access to Al Qa’im refugee camp is reportedly extremely difficult. IS and its affiliates are laying siege to Al Baghdadi, where there are about 37,000 residents and about 30,000 IDPs, and to Haditha, where 100,000 residents are hosting about 42,000 IDPs (OCHA 31/10/2014).

Ninewa: Conditions inside Mosul have dramatically deteriorated since IS took control, and government rations stopped. Severe shortages of food, water and electricity are reported; public institutions are not functioning; and the local economy is near collapse (Guardian 27/10/2014).

Displacement

IDPs

The number of IDPs from January to 9 November has been revised upwards to 1,968,516 – or 328,086 families – across 2,003 sites (IOM DTM 15/11/2015). 61% of IDPs have left their governorate of origin. This number does not include the recent displacement of an estimated 18,000 people in Salah Al Din governorate (OCHA 14/11/2014). Over 200,000 individuals have been displaced since early September, mostly in Kirkuk, Anbar, Salah Al Din, Diyala, and Ninewa governorates (OCHA 14/11/2014; IOM 09/11/2014).

The central north region is hosting approximately 900,000 IDPs, while about 150,000 have sought refuge in the south. Kirkuk is hosting about 372,000 IDPs, with numbers expected to increase following fighting in Salah Al din (OCHA 14/11/2014).

KR-I: Some 930,000 people, or 47% of the currently displaced population, are hosted in KR-I. Dohuk has the largest IDP population, at 430,000 (OCHA 14/11/2014).

As of 15 November, 225,373 Syrian refugees have been registered by UNHCR in Iraq, 95,042 of whom reside in nine camps, and 130,331 outside camps. KR-I hosts an estimated 97%. Another 4,500 refugees reside in Anbar governorate, around 1,500 of whom in Al Obaidi camp (UNHCR 20/11/2014; 15/11/2014).

In KR-I, around 98,000 refugees are in Dohuk, over 94,000 in Erbil, and 25,000 in Sulaymaniyah. 53,202 reside in Domiz refugee camp; 9,600 in Kawergosk; over 8,100 in Darashakran; over 5,100 in Qushtapa; 4,800 in Arbat; 3,500 in Basirma; 7,750 in Gawilan; and 1,300 in Akre (UNHCR 20/11/2014). 41% of refugees in KR-I are under the age of 18. 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 (REACH 20/10/2014). All three KR-I governorates have different policies towards Syrian refugees.

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

Syrian refugees from Turkey: Close to 15,000 refugees from Kobane, Syria, crossed into Turkey and have since arrived in KR-I, mostly through the Ibrahim Khalil border crossing with Turkey, which was opened on 10 October. 40% stayed in Dohuk, 50% moved to Erbil, and 10% moved to Sulaymaniyah. 7,234 refugees have been transported to camps (UNHCR 10/11/2014; 31/10/2014).

Returnees to Syria: Since the beginning of January over 25,500 Syrian refugees have returned to Syria (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.

Host Communities

1.7 million people in host communities are affected (OCHA 07/11/2014). Local authorities are overstretched and under-resourced. There is increasing concern that central governorates are also reaching saturation point.

Iraqi Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 1 September, there are 141,143 Iraqi refugees in the region (USAID).

Jordan: the number of Iraqi refugees continues to grow, with about 38,500 registered with UNHCR as of 1 November. About 100–150 new refugees arrive each day, nearly matching the number of Syrian arrivals (UNHCR 01/11/2014).

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 have sought refuge in Al Hasakeh. Most are in the Newroz camp near Qamishli.

Turkey: As of 23 September, more than 103,000 Iraqi refugees were (pre-)registered during 2014, including an estimated 64,000 who have arrived since early June. Estimates of actual numbers, including unregistered refugees, reach more than 200,000 (USAID 26/09/2014).

Food Security

2.8 million people need food assistance, of which approximately 1.5 million are highly food insecure and in need of emergency food assistance. Immediate funds are required to prevent a break in the food pipeline in January 2015 (OCHA 07/11/2014).

Haditha, Anbar governorate, is facing major food shortages due to an IS siege, making main roads impassable, and several bridges, including one linking Falluja with Baghdad, have been destroyed. Access to Al Qa’im refugee camp is reportedly extremely difficult. IS and its affiliates are laying siege to Al Baghdadi, where there are about 37,000 residents and about 30,000 IDPs, and to Haditha, where 100,000 residents are hosting about 42,000 IDPs (OCHA 31/10/2014).

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Haditha, Anbar governorate, is facing major food shortages due to an IS siege, despite limited government assistance (WFP 04/11/2014).

Disruption of markets and cross-border trade, and restricted movement of food commodities remain a concern. The Iraqi Ministry continues to subsidise basic staple food commodities through the Public Food Distribution system, providing 50% of energy requirements to more than four million individuals (non-displaced).
Despite above-average production in 2013/2014, estimates are that the 2014/2015 cropping season will be affected by the conflict. Cereal import requirements are expected to increase in 2014/2015 (FAO 10/11/2014).

Many farmers and rural households, especially in Nineawa and Salah al Din--which together account for one-third of total wheat and barley production--have fled their fields. In addition, farmers from these governorates have not yet received payment for wheat, creating cash flow problems. Farmers are selling livestock at lower prices, either to generate fast cash or because of their inability to afford fodder and cattle vaccination (FAO 10/11/2014).

**Refugees:** 95% of newly arrived Syrian refugees in Gawilan camp, Dohuk, reported emergency food assistance as a priority need (IOM/UNHCR 17/10/2014, REACH 20/10/2014). 12% of refugees households outside camps across KR-I reported lack of food. 13% of households were found to have borderline food consumption in Sulaymaniyah, compared to 4% in Erbil, and 1% in Dohuk (UNHCR/REACH 14/09/2014). 18% of all camp residents in KR-I reported selling food assistance (UNHCR 14/10/2014).

**Livelihoods**

Public resources are slowly being depleted, especially in areas under control of IS and affiliated groups (UNICEF 08/11/2014). Almost 198,000 people need cash assistance (OCHA 07/11/2014).

12% of Syrian households in KR-I refugee camps reported having no source of income, with the number reaching 21% in Gawilan. 5% of refugee households across KR-I were unable to meet their basic needs, with household items and shelter improvement as priority needs (UNHCR/REACH, 17/09/2014).

**Health and Nutrition**

Around two million people in inaccessible areas, mainly in Anbar, Dohuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Nineawa, Salah al Din, and Sulaymaniyah governorates are extremely vulnerable to public health risks. Children under five, women who are pregnant or of childbearing age, people vulnerable to violence and sexual or gender-based violence (SGBV) and the elderly, especially those from single households, are most at risk (WHO 24/10/2014).

The Health Cluster estimates that up to 50% of displaced Iraqis will need medical attention this winter (OCHA 04/11/2014).

**Availability of Healthcare**

Critical shortages of essential medicines, vaccines and supplies have become an increasing concern in urban health facilities, as supply routes from Baghdad are disrupted, and the embargo on cargo flights has stopped the medical supply chain (WHO 09/2014; UNHCR 09/2014; OCHA 07/2014). Staff shortages are an additional complication: around 50% of specialised health staff has left Anbar, Diyala, Nineawa and Salah al Din since 2014 (WHO 24/10/2014).

A number of health facilities have been damaged by bombing and shelling. 180,000 IDPs in Hit district, Anbar governorate, are in need of health assistance, and two facilities in Hit were looted and remain non-functional; health facilities have been damaged in Al Nakheeb district (WHO 04/11/2014). In Mosul, an explosion damaged a hospital, leaving only two units functional, staffing levels are down to 30–50%; and severe medicine shortages have been reported. In Tetra, Kirkuk governorate, there are vaccine shortages (WHO 04/11/2014).

**Measles**

Reports, however, indicate that the system is compromised in Nineawa and Salah al Din governorates (FAO 11/2014).

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**KR-I:** Health service delivery is challenging in areas with high concentrations of IDPs, due to shortages of staff, essential medicines and medical consumables (WHO 04/11/2014). Since mid-June, frequent power cuts are endangering health service provision in refugee camp health centres (UNHCR 07/2014). 43% of newly arrived Syrian refugees in Gawilan camp required urgent medical assistance.

The influx of under-vaccinated Syrian refugees into KR-I increases the risk of disease outbreaks, maternal and child mortality, and comprises care for those with chronic diseases, disabilities, and mental health problems (WHO 04/11/2014).

Respiratory tract infections (38.8%) and diarrhoea (15.6%) are the most common ailments in refugee and IDP camps (WHO 10/11/2014). **Compounded by malnutrition, respiratory tract infections and diarrhoea account for two-thirds of deaths among refugee and IDP children under five, with the number likely to increase (WHO 24/10/2014).**

An estimated 20% of the non-camp refugee population face key obstacles such as financial costs as well as perceived availability of services in accessing healthcare (UNHCR 09/07/2014).

**Diarrhoea**

The number of cases of acute watery diarrhoea among refugee and IDP populations has increased further (WHO 04/11/2014).

**Hepatitis A**

31 suspected hepatitis A cases were reported in Dohuk in September and October (WHO 10/11/2014).

**Maternal Health**

According to Duhok health directorate figures, 450,000 IDPs are women and girls of reproductive age. 72,000 are estimated to be pregnant, 10,000 of whom are expected to face pregnancy-related complications (UNFPA 11/2014). Maternity services are particularly stretched in Erbil hospital (WHO 10/11/2014).

**Measles**

So far, 1,127 measles cases have been registered in 2014. Cases are distributed over Nineawa, Salah al Din, Kirkuk and Diyala. When compared to 2013, the number of cases decreased by 50% in Nineawa, and by 80% in Dohuk; case numbers increased from 5 to 258 cases in Kirkuk, and from 1 to 178 in Diyala (WHO 09/11/2014).
Seven cases of malnutrition were reported from Arabat refugee camp, in KR-I, in the first week of November, compared to five reported in the last week of September (WHO 04/11/2014).

Nutrition

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Polio

Lack of access to Hit, Haditha, and Amirat Al Falluja districts limited a polio vaccination campaign in October (WHO 10/11/2014). Two cases have been reported in 2014, the last on 7 April in Mada'in district, Baghdad-Resafa governorate (Global Polio Eradication Initiative 19/11/2014).

WASH

Access to clean water is a critical, life-threatening problem in conflict-affected areas, including among populations under the control of armed groups. Power cuts, fuel shortages, disruption to supply routes, and the seizure of municipal water facilities have left communities without clean water (UN, 08/2014).

In central and southern governorates, lack of access to NFIs to heat water is affecting access to personal hygiene. Missan, Wasit, and Thi-Qar governorates have financial difficulties providing WASH facilities for the displaced and have requested Cluster support for latrines for IDPs (OCHA 07/11/2014).

In KR-I, 31% of over 85,000 IDPs assessed during a CCCM survey across 880 sites do not have access to electricity nor water (IOM/REACH 19/11/2014).

Shelter and NFIs

1.26 million IDPs are in need of winterisation assistance. 516,000 need adequate shelter, and an estimated 300,000 people are in need of immediate winterisation assistance (OCHA 07/11/2014). The estimated immediate funding requirements to provide winterisation support amount to USD 173.1 million (OCHA 03/11/2014).

Approximately 10% of the most vulnerable non-camp population will be targeted for winterisation assistance in 2014. As many as 700,000 IDPs live in unfinished or abandoned buildings, schools, religious centres, and parks. More than 60,000 are living in eight tented camps, with new camps being constructed to house more than 300,000 families (UNHCR 21/11/2014). Dohuk and Anbar governorates have the largest number of families housed in inadequate shelter. (REACH 10/2014). 28% of IDPs are staying with host families, 21% are in rented accommodation (OCHA 07/11/2014).

In Dohuk governorate, Gawilan camp has reached capacity – with 20% of households reporting to be sharing a tent with other families – and Chamishku camp is near capacity (OCHA 14/11/2014; REACH 10/2014). In Diyala governorate’s Aiden camp, 903 tents require replacement (OCHA 31/10/2014). In Erbil, Harsham camp has reached capacity and 40 families are on the waiting list. Kawergosk refugee camp is over capacity overflow by at least 3,000 people (OCHA 31/10/2014).

There is a shortage of kerosene (UNHCR 31/10/2014). At least 800,000 people are lacking basic NFIs. In Erbil, IDPs report heaters, fuel, clothes and blankets as their most urgent needs (NRC 10/2014).

In KR-I, which experiences the country’s coldest temperatures, winter clothing kits will reach only about half of the children who need protection (UNHCR 30/10/2014).

Education

Over 500,000 IDPs are estimated to be of school age (UNICEF 09/2014).

The delayed 2014/2015 academic year, originally scheduled for September, started on 22 October for many children in Iraq, except for schools in Dohuk governorate, where the start of the year has been postponed to 1 December. Displacement has increased Dohuk governorate’s student population by 50% from 400,000 to 600,000 (OCHA 26/10/2014).

Countrywide, more than 1,080 schools are being used as IDP shelters, and a further 130 are occupied by military forces. In Anbar governorate, 25,000 IDPs are occupying 422 out of 1,122 schools. 38 schools have either been destroyed or damaged by shells and bombing. In Dohuk, 353 schools are still occupied (mostly in Zakho, Sumel and Duhok city centres) (UNICEF 08/11/2014). In Diyala, 33 schools have recently been vacated, leaving 140 of 1,000 schools occupied by both military and displaced. 16% of Kirkuk’s schools host 9,000 displaced people. In Baghdad, 69 of the 16,000 schools are providing shelter for 5,480 IDPs. 28 schools in Missan governorate are occupied by IDPs. In Wasit governorate, two schools remain occupied by IDPs as ten have been vacated (OCHA 26/10/2014, 31/10/2014).

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 dropout levels in schools with the Kurdish curriculum due to lack of language support; lack of textbooks and other education materials; and lack of teachers (OCHA 07/11/2014; UNHCR 07/2014). Erbil had significantly higher rates of households reporting having no child attending school (76%) than Dohuk (45%) and Sulaymaniyah (39%). Access to education has reportedly been compromised in Erbil by delays in the issuing of residency cards (UNHCR 30/09/2014).

Protection

Substantial humanitarian law violations and human rights abuses by armed actors in conflict areas have been taking place since January, including targeted attacks, abductions, forced conscription, human trafficking, and sexual assault against Iraqi civilians, particularly women and individuals from ethnic and religious minority groups (UNAMI 10/2014). Armed actors reportedly also attack civilian infrastructure, such as health facilities and schools (USAID 10/2014).

There are safety and welfare concerns for civilians recently liberated from IS-controlled
areas of Ninewa governorate, as they may face retaliation for their perceived support to IS and affiliates (OCHA 07/11/2014).

IDPs and Refugees

Around 1,700 families displaced by fighting in Diyala governorate have reportedly been denied entry to Khanaqin, Diyala governorate, and Kalar, KR-I, by Kurdish forces (OCHA 07/11/2014).

The numerous Peshmerga checkpoints at KR-I borders and in disputed neighbouring areas significantly limit freedom of movement (PI, NRC/IRC SNAP 13/11/2014).

In Sulaymaniyah governorate, increased tensions between host and displaced communities may lead to the expulsion of IDPs from host communities (OCHA 07/11/2014).

Many IDPs have fled without formal identification papers, without which it is often impossible to get residency. A fifth 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).

Children

4% of refugee households reported having separated minors with them (REACH 20/10/2014).

IS is reportedly providing military training to schoolchildren in Syria and Iraq. In Mosul, IS has replaced physical education classes in local schools with martial arts classes. IS are using children as young as 13 as fighters (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty 30/10/2014).

IDP children are at risk of violent attack, suffer from psychosocial distress, and are at increased risk of exploitation, including child labour. There are no special services available for children with disabilities or special needs (ACTED, 08/2014).

ERW and Mines

Iraq is heavily mined, with up to 1,838km² of contaminated territory and IS is reportedly planting more (Landmine Monitor/ICBL, IRIN 06/11/2014). An estimated 3,000 mines and explosive remnants of war were found in Jurf al Sakhr, 50km south of Baghdad, after IS left (OCHA 31/10/2014).

Updated: 23/11/2014

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.81 million people need humanitarian assistance, over 50% are children (OCHA, 09/2014).
- 1.6 million people, or 61% of the population, estimated food insecure (OCHA, 30/04/2014).
- 1.5 million people in the Gaza Strip have no or extremely restricted access to water (OCHA, 03/08/2014).
- Continuity of medical care is threatened by the financial crisis and electricity shortages in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (OCHA).
- The ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip limits access and movement of both people and goods.

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).

There is an increase in protests demanding UNRWA accelerate its reconstruction efforts. An unclear timeframe around reconstruction and the workings of the Government-led Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism are proving frustrating. On 13 November, in a massive rally staged by the Hamas movement and attended by some

4% of refugee households reported having separated minors with them (REACH 20/10/2014).

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20,000 people at a stadium in Rafah, senior officials blamed UNRWA and the National Consensus Government for the alleged slow pace of shelter assessments and reconstruction (UNRWA, 20/11/2014).

**Israeli–Palestinian Peace Talks**

Israel withdrew from the US-sponsored peace talks on 25 April, after the deal between Hamas and Fatah. Talks had begun in July 2013, following three years of deadlock. On 26 October, Palestinian negotiators announced that talks on a stable Gaza ceasefire were to resume after mid-November, instead of on 27 October as planned (AFP, 28/10/2014; 20/10/2014).

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 approval for almost 4,000 new homes and housing units in settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem (AFP, 05/09/2014; AFP, 01/10/2014; AFP, 27/10/2014). Israel’s measures have drawn international condemnation. On 16 November, the Israeli Government stated it was unwilling to limit construction activities in east Jerusalem.

**Security Context**

**Gaza: Operation Protective Edge**

**Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian farmer near the border in northern Gaza on 23 November, in the first deadly shooting since the truce (AFP, 23/11/2014).**

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 10 November, 46 people have been killed and 4,918 injured by Israeli forces in 2014 (OCHA).

On 18 November, two armed Palestinians attacked worshippers at a synagogue on the western outskirts of Jerusalem. Four rabbis and a policeman were killed and eight others injured (AFP, 19/11/2014; Amnesty, 18/11/2014). In line with a policy decided in early November, Prime Minister Netanyahu announced that the houses of the synagogue attackers would be demolished, as the home of a Palestinian attacker who had driven his car into a crowd of pedestrians and killed two in October was demolished (AFP, 19/11/2014). On 12 November, Israeli settlers set fire to a mosque near Shilo settlement and Ramallah (AFP, 12/11/2014). On 11 November, Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian protester during clashes in the southern West Bank (AFP, 12/11/2014).

Heightened tensions and clashes across East Jerusalem continued over 4–10 November, 382 Palestinians were injured, the largest number recorded in a single week since early August (OCHA, 10/11/2014). 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.

The recent intensification of clashes is largely linked to Palestinian concerns over potential introduction of new permanent arrangements to Al Aqsa Mosque compound – on 5 November, Israeli forces fired rubber bullets, tear gas canisters and sound grenades, injuring at least 50 Palestinians and causing damage inside the mosque (OCHA, 10/11/2014). The access of Muslims to the compound has been restricted, while the entry of settlers and other Israeli groups has become more frequent (OCHA, 10/11/2014). On 14 November, Israel lifted restrictions on Muslims praying at the mosque after US Secretary of State John Kerry announced an agreement on steps to reduce tensions (AFP, 14/11/2014).

**Settler-related Violence**

In 2014, 282 incidents of settler-related violence have resulted in Palestinian casualties or property damage in the West Bank, and 184 incidents resulted in Israeli casualties or property damage. The demolition of 543 structures has displaced 1,266 people this year, compared to 633 demolished structures during the same time period in 2013 (OCHA, 10/11/2014). 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).

**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, 28/09/2014).

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). Border crossings continue to be highly restricted and border closures in response to security incidents frequently occur. On 6 November a number of Palestinian doctors and patients held a protest at the Rafah crossing, requesting that Egypt reopen the crossing to allow people out for medical treatment (UNRWA, 11/11/2014).

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).

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.

The energy and fuel crisis continues to adversely impact the routine provision of basic services in Gaza, including health, water, waste water, and solid waste (OCHA, 10/11/2014).

On 28 October, following two days of partial operation, the Gaza power plant shut down completely due to lack of fuel (OCHA, 27/10/2014). On 11 November, following a fuel donation the power plant resumed partial operations, but an explosion on the same day damaged the pipeline and its surrounding infrastructure and resulted in a halt of fuel deliveries (OCHA, 11/10/2014).

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).

So far in 2014, only 88 truckloads of selected agricultural produce have been allowed to leave Gaza, the vast majority for international markets, compared to 5,007 truckloads of a wider range of goods delivered to international markets and to the West Bank in the first half of 2007, before the blockade (UNRWA, 20/11/2014).

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 longstanding 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).

The lack of permits restricts access to medical care for 2,000 referral patients. People with disabilities and the elderly were disproportionately affected by increased difficulties in accessing health services and relief distributions during and after the recent conflict (WHO, 31/10/2014).

Mental Health

WHO estimates that up to 20% of the total population in emergency-affected areas could develop a mental disorder. This equates to 360,000 people in the Gaza Strip needing mental healthcare in the short and medium term, in addition to those needing routine mental healthcare services (WHO, 31/10/2014).

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 under-resourcing. The education sector was already overstretched prior to the crisis, 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 herders, 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 (Israeli 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).

On 7 November, a 14-year-old Palestinian was injured following the detonation of an unexploded sound bomb in Al Jab’a village (Bethlehem), the third such incident in this area in four weeks (OCHA, 10/11/2014).

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: 20/11/2014

SYRIA CIVIL WAR

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

16–17 November: IS has executed 1,429 people in Syria since June, the majority civilians. Around 1,200 people have been killed so far in the Kobane offensive, while violent clashes continue (SOHR/AFP).

7 November: Government forces continued their counteroffensive in northern Hama. Aerial bombardment resulted in 63 deaths and 70 injured. Access to government-controlled villages Nubul and Zahra, Aleppo, remains confined; access to eastern Aleppo City remains problematic (OCHA).

7 November: Clashes broke out in Idleb and western rural Aleppo between Al Nusra Front and its allies, and Free Syrian Army affiliates, raising fears of an all-out war. Al Nusra seized military bases and warehouses from its opposition (OCHA).

November: In October 2014, the number of new refugees registered by UNHCR had declined by 88% from the 2013 monthly average to only 18,453 (NRC/IRC).

KEY CONCERNS

- Over 195,000 deaths were documented between March 2011 and October 2014. In October, 6,000 conflict-related deaths were reported, including 1,000 civilians (SOHR 10/2014).

- 10.8 million Syrians are in urgent need of humanitarian aid (UNICEF 07/2014). 4.6 million people are in need of WASH assistance. 4.4 million need food, 2.7 millions NFIs, 2.4 million health, and 1.6 million shelter (MSNA 30/10/2014).

- 5.2 million people live in difficult-to-reach areas (MSNA 30/10/2014).

- 6.5 million IDPs are in Syria (SNAP 07/2014).

- 3,213,349 Syrians are registered or waiting to register as refugees outside Syria as of 17 November. Lebanon: 1,141,330; Turkey: 1,065,902; Jordan: 618,508; Iraq: 223,923; Egypt: 140,406 (UNHCR 17/11/2014). Children make up 51.6% of the refugee population (UNHCR 09/11/2014).

OVERVIEW

The conflict in Syria is now in its fourth year and the humanitarian situation continues to worsen. There were major changes in conflict dynamics over 2014, both in terms of warring factions’ control over territory and in terms of the fault lines of the conflict.

The conflict has killed over 195,000 people and caused large-scale displacement. More people are in camps than last year, and more non-displaced are in need of humanitarian assistance. The country has also experienced severe drought, impacting the availability of safe water and the health status of the population, as well as reducing agricultural output and local food production. Protection concerns are widespread. WASH and access to food are high priorities as well as access to health services. Humanitarian needs in areas under prolonged and ongoing siege are particularly high as access to food, basic services, and livelihoods is obstructed.

Political Context

Four years after the Syrian conflict started, there is still no political solution in sight. Several attempts at dialogue between the government and the opposition – seen as weak, remote and disconnected from opposition groups on the ground – have stalled.
Local truces have mainly been short-term solutions for access, instead of becoming tools for a broader political solution and step towards peace talks (AFP 09/11/2014).

In June 2014, President Bashar al Assad was re-elected, sealing his leadership for another seven years (SNAP 07/2014).

Economists state that the current conflict has set the Syrian economy back more than 30 years: oil production has been brought to a near halt, exports and imports have declined by more than 90%, and unemployment is exceeding 50%. The Government is increasingly depending on aid from its allies (AFP 19/11/2014).

Security Context

Marking one of the highest monthly casualty figures throughout the Syrian crisis, 6,000 conflict-related deaths were reported from 10 of 13 governorates in October, including 1,000 civilians (SOHR 26/10/2014; NRC/IRC 12/11/2014). Deprivation of basic necessities and denial of humanitarian relief have become a widespread tactic in the Syrian conflict.

Stakeholders

On 30 June, the Islamic State declared an Islamic caliphate, 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. The IS insurgency has diverted attention from the Assad Government, which has increased its attacks.

Al Nusra Front, linked to Al Qaeda has turned against other opposition factions, such as the Syria Revolutionaries' Front (SRF) and the Hazm Movement, which are considered mainstays of the Free Syrian Army. There are believed to be as many as 1,000 armed opposition groups in Syria.

Conflict Developments

Islamic State (IS, formerly the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant) was in full control of Ar-Raqqa governorate, its stronghold in Syria, as of October. It also held significant swathes of territory in Aleppo, Al Hasakeh, and Deir-ez-Zor. IS has clashed with various armed groups when spreading to new areas such as Rural Damascus, Damascus, and Homs. It controls approximately 60% of Kobane, with up 500 civilians remaining in the Kurdish-controlled parts of the city (OCHA 07/11/2014). Around 1,200 people were killed in the Kobane offensive, up until 15 November, while violent clashes continue (SOHR 16/11/2014).

Al Nusra Front appears to be the dominating faction in northwest Syria (Carnegie Endowment 03/11/2014). It has seized towns and extended its influence along the border with Turkey since the middle of the year. It has taken major strongholds of the Free Syrian Army in the Al Zawiya and Al Arbi'in mountains, and is closing in on the strategic Bab Al Hawa crossing between Syria and Turkey, controlled by western-backed opposition forces (AFP 09/11/2014; Al Jazeera 04/11/2014; Assafir 03/11/2014). Al Nusra's control of the crossing could lead to its closure by Turkish authorities, closing down a major access route to northwestern Syria (OCHA 07/11/2014).

Other opposition forces have lost strongholds in Deir-ez-Zor and northeastern Aleppo, but gained substantial ground in Idleb, Hama, and to a lesser extent, Dar'a and Quneitra (MSNA 30/10/2014).

Government forces have regained control of several areas north of Aleppo, such as Homs city, and Qalamoun in Rural Damascus, in 2014. Syria's military is increasingly using barrel bombs (AFP 09/11/2014).

International intervention: As part of a multinational campaign against Islamist militant groups, a US-led coalition began air strikes in mid-September on IS and Al Nusra Front military installations in Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, Al Hasakeh, rural Aleppo and Idleb (SNAP, 10/2014). Airstrikes targeting Ahrar al Sham, an opposition coalition of Islamist and Salafist units, might change the security posture of a wide variety of armed groups that had considered themselves unlikely to be targeted (OCHA 07/11/2014).

The southern governorates, strategically important thanks to their proximity to government-controlled Damascus and As-Sweida governorates, have become major battlefronts. In addition, the presence of various armed factions makes expanding to the north more difficult. Opposition groups and Al Nusra Front consider the south, especially Dar'a, as one of their main strongholds away from the threat of IS (SNAP 07/11/2014). Central governorates have also witnessed an increase in air strikes and the use of barrel bombs, especially on Idleb and Rural Damascus.

Latest Security Incidents

Reportedly, 762 government air strikes and barrel bombings were carried out in central and southern governorates over 20–30 October, leading to 220 civilians killed, and at least 500 injured (SOHR 30/10/2014).

Aleppo

Clashes broke out between Al Nusra and its allies, and Free Syrian Army affiliates, in Idleb and western rural Aleppo, raising fears of an all-out war between these groups. Al Nusra seems to be consolidating control in western Idleb and Zawiya Mountains.

In early November, government air raids on Al Bab, an IS stronghold northeast of Aleppo, killed 21 civilians, and wounded 100 (SOHR, AFP 08/11/2014). At least 12 civilians were killed when the Syrian air force dropped barrel bombs on Muwasalat district, Shaar neighbourhood (AFP 06/11/2014). In a series of opposition leader assassinations, three commanders were killed by unidentified gunmen in Aleppo (AFP 09/11/2014).

Damascus

Clashes between government forces and opposition fighters in Beit Tima, a majority-Druze region in southeastern Damascus province, killed 40 people (SOHR, AFP 07/11/2014).
Local opposition groups and Al Nusra Front seized Nawa town, southern Dar’a governorate, from government forces. 19 people were killed, reportedly including six civilians (AFP 09/11/2014).

Hama

Government forces have continued their counteroffensive in northern Hama, with dramatic escalation of aerial bombardment on nearby settlements, resulting in 63 dead and 70 injured (OCHA 07/11/2014).

Homs

IS took a key gas field in eastern Homs from government control and launched an offensive on the Tiyas military airbase. Both actions may be a prelude to a further offensive in nearby areas, which raises significant protection concerns for a large numbers of civilians, including minorities (OCHA 07/11/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

10.8 million people are in need inside Syria, with children and older persons considered most in need. Over two million people need humanitarian assistance in Aleppo governorate, with food and water assistance being the most urgent. 1.2 million are in need in Idleb, 830,100 in Ar-Raqqa, 522,580 in Deir-ez-Zor, 503,700 in Al Hasakeh, 482,500 in Hama, 381,200 in Dar’a, 346,500 in Lattakia, 108,100 in Rural Damascus, and 56,000 in Quneitra. In general, needs are more severe in rural areas, specifically in the food, health, water, and NFI sectors (MSNA 30/10/2014).

Syria has also experienced severe drought conditions in 2014, impacting the availability of drinkable water and the health status of the population, as well as reducing agricultural output and local food production.

Access

Some 5.2 million people live in areas that are hard to reach. 1.4 million are in conflict areas, four million in ‘sporadic fighting’ areas, and one million in ‘no fighting’ areas (MSNA 30/10/2014). Interference by powerful groups or people, particularly in Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, Lattakia, and Al Hasakeh is the biggest humanitarian constraint. In government-controlled areas in Lattakia, Hama, and Idleb governorates, assistance does not reach affected populations seen to be affiliated with opposing parties. UN envoy De Mistura has held talks with Foreign Minister Muallem on the plans for ‘freeze zones’, allowing aid deliveries during fighting in local areas.

Of particular concern are communities in areas under prolonged and ongoing siege: Nubul and Al Zahra in rural Aleppo; Eastern Ghouta, Daryya, and Moadamiyah in Rural Damascus; the Old City in Homs; and Yarmouk Camp in Damascus.

The UN’s response efforts are chronically underfunded: only 38% of the Syria component of OCHA’s appeal is covered. Only 5.3% of the regional component has been funded (UN News service 30/10/2014).

Critical Infrastructure

Due to fighting around Kobane, the city has been cut off from the national power network for 11 months. For 9 months, the water supply has also been cut off from the station in the southern Shaioukh district (Guardian 11/10/2014, Bihar 21/10/2014).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

63 humanitarian workers have been killed in the conflict since March 2011. Twenty-nine United Nations national staff members, of whom 26 are UNRWA staff, have been detained or are missing (UNSC 24/09/2014). Most recently, the beheading of US aid worker Peter Kassig by Islamic State was confirmed (AFP 16/11/2014).

Trapped and Hard-to-Reach Communities

Aleppo: Government advances around Aleppo has increased the risk that the eastern side will be entirely surrounded. Approximately 300,000 civilians would be affected, as all routes would require actors to cross front lines (OCHA 07/11/2014). Access to and from Kobane is extremely restricted, forcing its remaining inhabitants to rely on local resources and limited smuggling from Turkey (SNAP 07/11/2014). September deliveries across lines of active conflict almost halved in rural Aleppo as compared to the previous cycle (WFP 22/10/2014). Five trucks 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).

Al Hasakeh: On 23 September the Turkish authorities approved 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 access routes have prevented deliveries since July (WFP 06/10/2014).

Damascus: Access to Yarmouk Palestinian camp is frequently disrupted due to increasing tensions and resort to armed force. Since the end of July, there has been a significant decline in the quantity of food (covering just 20% of need) and other essentials delivered. Around 200 people have reportedly died because of shortages in the camp (AFP 29/10/2014).

Deir-ez-Zor: Volatile security conditions and the presence of armed groups along access routes have prevented deliveries since May. Up to 15,000 civilians are estimated to remain in eastern Deir-ez-Zor city. IS restricts humanitarian and commercial access to government-controlled neighbourhoods in the city, affecting approximately 150,000 civilian inhabitants (OCHA 07/11/2014).

Homs: Al Waer neighbourhood has seen security conditions deteriorate following a failed truce, severely undermining living conditions for 350,000 people. Under partial siege for the past 12 months, over half of Al Waer’s residents are IDPs, who are now mostly living in
Following intense negotiations and previous efforts, UN aid reached Homs in November, for the first time in six months (AFP 13/11/2014).

**Idlib:** The intensification of conflict continues to constrain the provision of humanitarian assistance, and deliveries slowed further in October (WFP 30/10/2014). September deliveries across conflict lines almost halved in rural Idlib compared to the previous cycle (WFP 22/10/2014).

**Displacement**

IDPs

There are 6.45 million IDPs within Syria; 50% are children. Between January and September, the number living in IDP camps grew by 56%, from 108,000 to approximately 165,000. Changed conflict dynamics, ongoing violence, the depleted capacity of host families, depletion of savings and the search for better livelihoods are all contributing to increased multiple displacement (MSNA 30/10/2014; OCHA/REACH 30/10/2014).

Conflict intensity defined population movements in September–October. Displacement was most reported in Aleppo and Hama, and Lattakia, followed by Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, and Al Hasakeh. Lattakia (80%), Ar-Raqqa (60%) saw the biggest increase in their population. Idlib probably has the highest concentration of IDPs, at more than 40% of the population. In other governorates, except Lattakia and Quneitra, IDPs generally account for 10–35% of the population (MSNA 30/10/2014).

**Aleppo:** Aleppo is the most populous governorate, and has 1,340,500 IDPs – or 26% of the population (MSNA 30/10/2014). Between 190,000 and 250,000 were displaced to Turkey following the IS advance in and around Kobane – constituting one of the largest single displacement movements since the start of the Syrian crisis. Another 4,000–5,000 people remain on the Syrian side of the border, having entered Meidan Ekbi, northwest of Afrin (UNICEF 21/10/2014).

**Al Hasakeh:** 510,000 IDPs (MSNA 30/10/2014). Around 600 Syrian Kurds from Kobane crossed the Turkish border and arrived in Newroz camp, already hosting over 4,000 Iraqi Yazidi refugees (UNICEF 21/10/2014).

**Ar-Raqqa:** 174,000 IDPs (MSNA 30/10/2014). Since late September, fears over airstrikes have forced thousands of families to flee Raqqa city, Al Tabqah, 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:** Over 168,000 IDPs (MSNA 30/1/2014). Large-scale military operations displaced thousands of civilians to safer areas of Dar’a and Quneitra governorates (WFP 22/10/2014).

**Deir-ez-Zor:** Almost 395,000 IDPs (MSNA 30/10/2014).

**Hama:** 353,000 IDPs (MSNA 30/10/2014).

**Homs:** On 1 October, UNOSAT located 132 probable IDP shelters in the desert along the border with Jordan. This is a 47% increase in apparent IDP shelters since 25 July (UNOSAT 01/10/2014).

**Idlib:** 995,000 IDPs (MSNA 30/10/2014). The actual number of displaced people is thought to far exceed the documented numbers (ICRC 17/10/2014, WFP 22/10/2014).

**Lattakia:** 763,000 IDPs (up from 300,000 reported in August), the majority in Lattakia city (MSNA 30/10/2014).

**Quneitra:** 39,000 IDPs (MSNA 30/10/2014). Escalating fighting had people flee towards opposition-controlled areas in southwest Dar’a and southeast Quneitra, where access constraints prevent food distribution (WFP 24/09/2014).

**Rural Damascus:** 29,400 IDPs (MSNA 30/10/2014). Following large-scale attacks by government forces over 20–30 October, around 100,000 civilians from Dar’a and Quneitra, Harasta and Ein Tarma in Damascus fled to relatively safer areas in Ghouta, Rural Damascus. The number is now thus estimated to be significantly higher. An estimated 15,000 civilians fled violence in the Qalamoun region towards Jobbeh, Jerud 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, Mashta Hellou and Banyas. Around 1,600 families reside in 21 collective shelters; 14 are in Tartous city (OCHA 28/08/2014).

**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).

3,213,349 Syrians are registered or waiting to register as refugees outside Syria as of 17 November (UNHCR 17/11/2014). On average more than 150,000 Syrians were able to cross into neighbouring countries each month in 2013. This figure dropped to an average of approximately 78,000 per month for the first nine months of 2014. In October this year, the number of new refugees registered by UNHCR had declined by 88% from the 2013 monthly average to only 18,453
Turkey: 1,065,902 refugees. The Government has suspended pre-registration as of 20 October to focus on the full registration process. Some 20,407 Syrian refugees have been fully registered as of 30 September. The rate of full biometric registration is reportedly 400 people a day (UNHCR 04/11/2014). Turkey is to issue work permits for an estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees in order to crack down on black market practices (AFP 13/11/2014).

Lebanon: 1,141,330 refugees. Lebanon has closed its borders to Syrian refugees since 24 October.

Jordan: 618,508 refugees. The arrival of Syrian refugees into Jordan fell markedly in early October mainly due to border management policies (UNHCR 04/11/2014).

Egypt: 140,406 refugees. 150 have been deported to Syria, Lebanon, and Turkey. More have received deportation orders. Forced return to conflict areas is prohibited under international refugee law (Amnesty International 14/11/2014).

Iraq: 223,923 refugees.

Palestinians: Over 50% - or 280,000 - of approximately 540,000 Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA in Syria have been displaced within Syria, 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. Around 4,000 Palestine refugees reportedly reside in Egypt, and smaller numbers in Libya, Turkey, and East Asia (UNRWA 28/10/2014).

Food Security

Almost 4.5 million are in need of food assistance. IDPs in collective shelters, with host families, or living in informal settlements are most susceptible to food shortages. The most acute needs are reported from Dar’a, Quneitra and Rural Damascus (MSNA 30/10/2014). 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).

In October, the UN started cutting food aid to 4.2 million Syrians because of a funding shortfall. Food will continue to be provided to the same caseload, but it has been cut to 60% of the normal food basket (AFP 13/10/2014). WFP has no funding for its Syria programmes in December, estimated to lead to further displacement, which in turn will increase protection concerns (WFP 21/10/2014).

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, 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).

Livelihoods

More than half the population (54.3%) lived in extreme poverty at the end of 2013; and 54% of the labour force – or 3.39 million people – are without work (Syrian Centre for Policy Research, UNDP 19/10/2014).

The lack of adequate information on humanitarian assistance as well as economic pressure, erosion of livelihoods, lack of income-generating activities and increased size of households hamper population’s access to services and goods across all sectors (MSNA 30/10/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Over 2.4 million people have been found in need of health assistance, with highest numbers reported from Ar Raqqa (627,600), Aleppo (475,270) and Al Hasakeh (356,200). The chronically ill, disabled and child-headed households are the most vulnerable social groups at risk of health concerns (MSNA 30/10/2014).

43% of areas with frequent fighting, and 37% with sporadic fighting, reported acute health needs. Ar-Raqqa, Dar’a, Idlib and Quneitra report life-threatening to severe conditions (MSNA 30/10/2014).

Capacity

Since the start of the conflict, some 200,000 Syrians have died from chronic illnesses due to lack of access to treatment and medicines (PHR 10/2014). 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 a lack of (female) medical staff, severe supply shortages and frequent power cuts. An increasing number of complications such as septicaemia, gangrene, organ failure are being reported.

700 primary health centres out of a total of 1,921 are out of service; and 400 ambulances and 359 field vehicles are out of service. More than one-third of public hospitals, 37 out of 98, are also out of service (Syrian Ministry of Health, UNHCR, PHR 10/11/2014). 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).
Aleppo: In Aleppo city, four primary healthcare centres and five trauma clinics are functioning; seven of 17 ambulances are operational. In Yarmouk Palestinian camp, only one hospital is still functioning, after two were destroyed by fighter jets and artillery. The only pharmacy still operating has been attacked by shelling and rockets at least twice. There were once between 100 and 120 pharmacies in the camp (PHR 10/2014).

Dar'a: One hospital is operational, serving a population of 256,750; two others are partially functioning (WHO 07/2014). The governorate faces acute shortages of life-saving treatment and basic medical supplies. Access to services needs improvement (PHR 10/2014).

Deir-ez-Zor: Contamination of the Euphrates River, heavy violence, damaged water infrastructure, hot weather, overcrowded shelters, and frequent power cuts have made Deir-ez-Zor governorate more susceptible to the spread of communicable diseases. Typhoid and hepatitis A are on the rise, with 76% of typhoid cases between January and mid-July 2014 reported from Deir-ez-Zor (PHR 10/2014). Five out of seven public hospitals are partially functioning (UNFPA 04/08/2014) and suffer from a chronic lack of supplies and staff.

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). There are acute shortages of life-saving treatments and basic medical supplies, and access to services needs improvement (PHR 10/2014).

Attacks on health workers and facilities

Between March 2011 and August 2014, 560 medical personnel had reportedly been killed, most of which were targeted killings. Among others, 183 doctors, 110 nurses, 107 medics, and 51 pharmacies have been killed (PHR 10/2014). In the same period, PHR has documented 195 attacks on 155 separate medical facilities. Of these, 176 were committed by government forces, 13 by non-state armed groups, and six by unknown forces (PHR 25/09/2014).

Diarrhoeal Disease

Diarrhoea is 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), most of which in Deir-ez-Zor.

Measles

As of mid-September, 610 cases of suspected measles had been reported (WHO 30/10/2014).

Polio

The beginning of October marks six months with no cases of wild poliovirus in the Middle East, indicating that transmission of the virus has been interrupted (Global Polio Eradication Initiative 08/10/2014).

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.

Typhoid

As of mid-September, 2,976 cases of typhoid fever had been reported, and typhoid is reportedly increasing, especially in areas with high violence (WHO 30/10/2014).

Maternal Health

2.7 million women and girls of reproductive age are in need of care in Syria, including around 432,000 pregnant women (UNFPA 31/10/2014). Every day, some 1,480 women give birth in dire conditions (UNFPA 03/2014). The proportion of deliveries by caesarean section increased from 19% in 2011 to 45% in 2013. Ongoing violence impedes access to reproductive health and GBV services, while there remains a critical gap in delivery in besieged or opposition-controlled areas. The low number of accredited health partners is an additional constrain (UNFPA 31/10/2014).

Mental Health

More than 350,000 individuals in Syria are estimated to suffer from severe forms of mental illness; over 2 million people 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).

Nutrition

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% (UNICEF 21/10/2014).

WASH

4.6 million people are in need of WASH assistance. Six out of ten governorates
report major problems in the WASH sector. More than 400,000 are reported in acute need of water in Al Bab subdistrict in Aleppo Governorate alone (MSNA 30/10/2014).

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 is increasing the risk of outbreaks of waterborne diseases. Syrian families consume 40% less water than they did pre-crisis and, as of August, availability of safe water supplies was one-third of pre-crisis levels. Also, one-third of water treatment plants no longer function, and sewage treatment has halved. As of September, three of four water pumping stations in Aleppo have been shut down, affecting over two million people in both government- and opposition held neighbourhoods (PHR 10/2014; WHO, UNICEF 22/07/2014).

In September, the main water supply in Yarmouk camp was disrupted as a result of damage to pipes. Drought conditions have forced its 18,000 civilian residents to rely on unsafe and insufficient untreated groundwater and a single well. As of the beginning of November, while depending on government clearance and the security situation for delivery, UNRWA has been permitted to transport limited amounts of clean water into the camp (10/11/2014).

**Shelter and NFIs**

1.6 million people are in need of shelter assistance (MSNA 30/10/2014). 1.2 million houses have been damaged, 400,000 of which have been totally destroyed (UNHCR 30/10/2014).

The dispatch of non-food items (NFIs) has fallen significantly since April, while 2.7 million people are in need of NFI assistance (MSNA 30/10/2014). 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).

Dar’a, Lattakia, and Quneitra have acute needs followed very closely by other governorates such as Hama, Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo, Al Hasakeh and Rural Damascus. 40% of people identified in need of shelter are located in Aleppo governorate, as are 34% of people identified in need of NFI assistance (MSNA 30/10/2014).

**Education**

420,000 Syrians aged 6-14 are in need of education services, and many of these children have been out of school for two or more years (UNHCR/REACH 07/2014). 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).

**Chemical Weapons**

A rapid assessment by the Syrian Interim Government, carried out in July, found that 30% of assessed public schools do not receive any support, and that the primary reason for student drop-out is the need to work to support family (OCHA 07/11/2014).

76 UNRWA schools – more than two-thirds – have become unusable. Another 15 are used as collective shelters, housing 6,043 people (UNRWA 17/11/2014).

**Protection**

The most recent Multi-Sector Needs Assessment found that children, women and girls, older people, people with disabilities, young men, IDPs, minority groups, refugees, and third-country nationals face the greatest protection risk (30/10/2014).

Ethnic and religious communities in IS-occupied areas have been targeted directly, forcing them to assimilate or flee (UN Human Rights Council 14/11/2014). IS has killed hundreds of captured belligerents during recent military assaults in Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, and has executed 1,429 people in Syria since June, the majority being civilians (UN Human Rights Council 14/11/2014; SOHR/AFP 17/11/2014).

Other non-state armed groups also continue to commit violations, including summary executions. Also, border closures or tight restrictions by neighbouring countries (Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan) are dissuading people in life-threatening situations from seeking refuge abroad.

**Recruitment**

Non-state armed groups and the Government’s Popular Committees are increasingly recruiting children: over 120 cases – more than half by the Free Syrian Army – have been documented between 1 January and 19 August, including girls, and some as young as eight (UN Security Council 28/08/2014). In Raqqa, IS is using education to desensitise children to extreme violence and foster a new generation of recruits (UN Human Rights Council 14/11/2014).

**Indiscriminate Attacks**

In October, the Syrian Armed Forces carried out more air strikes and barrel bombings on opposition-held areas in the central and southern governorates, leading to the death of at least 220 civilians and the injury of at least 500 others (SOHR 30/10/2014). In September, US missile strikes have killed at least seven civilians in Kafr Deryan in Idleb (AFP/HRW).

In the first nine months of 2014 alone, the United Nations in Syria has verified at least 35 indiscriminate attacks affecting schools, teachers, and students incidents, which killed 105 children and injured 293. 13 children were killed, and many more injured, in an attack on Al Hayat Primary School in Qaboun district, eastern Damascus (AFP, UNICEF 05/11/2014). The real numbers are estimated to be higher, and there are indications that attack in some areas may have been deliberate (UNICEF 07/11/2014).
The destruction of the 12 remaining chemical facilities and a ricin poison-producing facility will commence by the end of November. The process will likely be completed by mid-2015 (AFP 06/11/2014). The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) maintains a presence in Syria (UNSC 27/10/2014). There has been a spate of allegations of chlorine attacks, the most recent reported on the town of Kafr Zeta on 28 August (OPCW 10/09/2014). An OPCW commission found confirmation that a toxic chemical was used in three villages of northern Syria earlier in the year.

Detention

So far this year, 1,917 people have died in Syrian prisons from torture, starvation, and lack of medical treatment, among them 27 children under the age of 18 (Syrian Observatory for Human Rights). The Syrian Government has allegedly freed around 11,000 detainees since President Assad declared a general amnesty in June. Some 200,000 people are estimated to be still detained by the Government (AFP 11/11/2014; 02/11/2014).

IS has seized other children and adult male and female civilians from villages near Kobane, reportedly holding some of them hostage against the release of IS fighters held by Kurdish fighters (HRW 04/11/2014).

On 14 August, Human Rights Watch released a report corroborating allegations of mass deaths in government custody: 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).

IS has sought to exclude Syrian women and girls from public life by dictating regulations. On several accounts, forced marriages of girls to IS fighters and the selling of abducted girls into sexual slavery have been reported (UN Human Rights Council 14/11/2014).

Media

Journalists and other media workers are systematically targeted.

Updated: 19/11/2014

YEMEN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

24 November: The Southern Movement announced it would form its own government by December, and has set a deadline of 30 November for all northern government employees and armed forces to leave the south (Al Bawaba).

21 November: The Yemeni Government ended a mutiny by elite paramilitary unit officers suspected to be loyalists of former president Saleh, who were trying to oust their commander (AP).

19 November: According to local government sources, clashes in October and November in Al Bayda governorate displaced roughly 14,000 people, about 7,000 of whom remain displaced. People reportedly fled seven villages in Waid Rabi, Al Quraishyah and Rada Districts, mainly seeking safety in caves or neighbouring villages (OCHA).

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
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).

Houthi Insurgency

The Houthis, also referred to as Ansarullah, are based in Sa’ada governorate, but have advanced, 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 Houthis 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). 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).

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, foreigners for abduction, and oil pipelines. 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 (AFP). But at the end of June, suspected AQAP briefly seized Sayun airport (Gulf News). The Wadi border crossing to Saudi Arabia was attacked (Reuters).

According to analysts, the Houthis advance has bolstered support for AQAP and Ansar al Sharia; tribes in Ibb and Al Bayda, for example, who are opposed to the Houthis advance, have allied themselves with Ansar al Sharia (Reuters, 09/11/2014). 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).

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%.

On 8 November, Yemen’s ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh dismissed UN sanctions against him and senior Houthis, withdrawing his General People’s Congress (GPC) party from the new Government. Saleh’s attempt to sack Hadi from the party’s leadership was rejected by senior figures within the GPC (AFP, 09/11/2014; 13/11/2014).

On 9 November, the new Government was sworn in (Al Jazeera, 09/11/2014). On 13 November, a Houthis presidential aide stated the Houthis group endorsed the new government despite its opposition to some ministers (Reuters, 13/11/2014).

Southern Movement (Al Hirak)

Rallies in the south calling for secession have gained momentum since October due to the developments in Sanaa and other northern governorates (Yemen Times, 19/10/2014). On 24 November, the Southern Movement announced it would form its own government by December, and set a deadline of 30 November for all northern government employees and armed forces to leave the south (Al Bawaba, 24/11/2014). Renewed protests for independence rallied thousands to the streets of Aden on 8 November (AFP, 14/11/2014). 33 members of parliament have formed the Southern Parliamentary Bloc, in support of protests arguing for secession (The Daily Star, 27/10/2014). On 27 October, the Southern Movement’s two existing councils were merged into one, representing all southerners, calling for the south’s full independence, a federal and parliamentary political system, 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 has called on Houthi support (Yemen Times, 28/10/2014).

Houthi insurgency: a conflict driven by regional and global dynamics
Security Incidents and Conflict Developments

**Sanaa:** On 11 November, clashes between Yemeni police and Houthis at Sanaa airport killed two police and a civilian (AFP, 11/11/2014).

Al Qaeda said in early November that it had tried to kill US ambassador Matthew Tueller, but the two bombs were detected (AFP, 09/11/2014). 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).

Armed Houthi ‘popular committees’ have mushroomed at improvised checkpoints across the city. They say they are merely unpaid volunteers. Critics charge that they act as a partisan force and their presence is likely to encourage more violence. Houthis have also been accused of violently suppressing dissent (IRIN, 03/11/2014).

There was a string of bomb and suicide bomb attacks throughout October (AFP, 29/10/2014; Yemen Times, 14/10/2014). The largest attack, on 9 October, targeted a gathering for Houthi supporters, killing 47 and wounding dozens more. Al Qaeda claimed responsibility (AFP, 09/10/2014).

**Al Bayda:** Fighting continues between AQAP and Houthis, and their respective allies, in and around Rada. On 22 November, AQAP claimed to have killed 12 Houthi fighters in Rada in an attack, a claim Houthis denied (Al Jazeera, 22/11/2014). Clashes began in mid-October and have involved the use of rocket-propelled grenades and attacks on schools and hospitals used by the warring parties (AFP, 17/10/2014; 20/10/2014; 08/11/2014). Fighting over 24–27 October killed 250 people (The Daily Star, 28/10/2014; Yemen Times, 22/10/2014). A US drone strike on 24 October killed at least ten suspected Al Qaeda fighters (Al Jazeera, 25/10/2014). Rada is a mixed Sunni-Shi’ite area that has frequently been the scene of clashes.

**Al Hudaydah:** Houthis seized the Red Sea port city of Hudaydah in October. A movement representing the Tehama people launched protests over 18–19 October calling for Houthis to withdraw from Al Hudaydah governorate (Yemen Times, 21/10/2014). On 2 November, suspected Al Qaeda attacked and seized security headquarters in Hudaydah (AFP, 02/11/2014).

**Al Jawf:** Fighting was particularly fierce in September in Al Ghail district, through which a road linking the capital to the oil regions passes, although all parties had agreed to withdraw from the district on 18 September.

**Amran:** Amran governorate has been under de facto Houthi control since August, after fierce fighting between Houthis and pro-government tribesmen in June (Middle East Monitor, 30/08/2014).

**Dhamar:** Ten Houthi insurgents were killed during clashes on 20 October in the Anss district of Dhamar, taken by the insurgents the previous week (AFP, 20/10/2014).

**Ibb:** Ibb city was seized by Shi’ites in late October (AFP, 02/11/2014). Houthis insurgents also captured Radmah, on a road linking Sanaa with Aden. The Houthis now virtually control Ibb governorate, with the exception of Udain, which AQAP and its allies recaptured on 20 October (29/10/2014).

**Marib:** According to media reports, there are concerns that Houthi insurgents might send reinforcements to Marib to assume control over the governorate (Al Jazeera, 22/11/2014).

**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 the city of Mukalla (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.

**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).

**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, 10/2014). 90% of IDPs are estimated to live outside camps (OCHA, 3 September 2014; Global CCCM Cluster, 27 March 2014). IDPs are reluctant to return in the absence of a political solution to the conflict, de-mining, and reconstruction of war-damaged personal property and public infrastructure (OCHA, February 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.
Clashes in October and November in Al Bayda governorate displaced roughly 14,000 people, about 7,000 of whom have remained displaced as of 19 November, according to local government sources. People reportedly fled seven villages in Wald Rabī’, Al Quraishyah and Rada’ districts, mainly seeking safety in caves or neighboring villages (OCHA, 19/11/2014).

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 October, 61,222 refugees and migrants had arrived in Yemen in 2014 (OCHA, 30/10/2014). 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).

At least 2,000 Syrian refugees have been registered in Yemen since August. The total number of Syrians in Yemen is estimated to be more than 10,000 (OCHA, 5/11/2014).

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).

**Returnees**

During October, IOM recorded 25,940 Yemeni returnees at the Al Tuwal border crossing point between Yemen and Saudi Arabia (IOM, 14/11/2014). 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.

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).

Poor access to basic services, a malfunctioning economic system, and weak institutions combined with another wave of violence and instability, all constrain the efforts of recent returnees to re-establish their livelihoods (FEWSNET, 16/09/2014).

**Amran:** As of 10 August, most of the at least 35,000 IDPs who 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, and landmines are still a threat (ECHO, 27/08/2014).

**Food Security**

Yemen's macro-level food security started to deteriorate in 2007/2008, mainly because of declining oil exports and increasing food imports (Comprehensive Food Security Survey, 11/2014). The overall current food security situation shows a slight improvement since 2011, however, 10.6 million people (40% of the population) are still in Emergency (4.8 million) and Crisis (5.8 million) phases (FEWSNET, 16/09/2014). Nearly half of the rural population and over one quarter of the urban population are food insecure (Comprehensive Food Security Survey, 11/2014).

Sa’ada, Hajjah, Shabwah, Abyan and Lahij are in Phase 4 (Emergency), while Hudaydah, Rayma, Al Daleh, Al Bayda, Ibb, Taiz, Al Mahweet, Sana’a (rural), Marib, Dhamar, Amran and Al Jawf are in Phase 3 (Crisis). Sa’ada governorate has the country’s most food insecure areas; more than 40% of the governorate’s population severely food insecure (Comprehensive Food Security Survey, 11/2014).

Crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) are expected between January and June 2015 (FEWSNET, 11/2014).

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). If the conflict, instability and other food insecurity drivers do not improve, livelihoods and food security of the majority of the population in Phases 2 and 3 will deteriorate to Phases 3 and 4, respectively (FEWSNET, 16/09/2014). The increase in the cost of fuel since July exacerbates the crisis (ECHO, 27/08/2014; 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).

**Agriculture and Markets**

As of October, seasonally adjusted wheat prices had risen by 15%, and the retail prices for fuel had increased by 48% (WFP, 27/10/2014). The terms of trade for wages and animals against wheat have declined, which has further compromised the purchasing power of wage earners – already under strain as conflict reduces income opportunities – and animal owners access to staple food commodities (FEWSNET, 16/09/2014).

Yemen is particularly vulnerable to international hikes in food prices, since it imports up to 90% of its main staple foods, like wheat and sugar. 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). Poor and late rainfall over the main 2014 season have negatively affected rain-fed agricultural production and availability of pasture, fodder and water for livestock. Later rainfall in Taiz, Raymah, Ibb, Abyan, Lahj and Al Mahweet, however, has improved sorghum productivity (FEWSNET, 16/09/2014).

Livelihoods

The conflict in Sanaa and the deteriorated security situation which led to displacement and in some cases fear of return, has disrupted livelihoods and hurt the local economy (Yemen Times, 06/11/2014).

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).

Nutrition

The number of acutely malnourished children under the age of five has fallen from an estimated one million at the end of last year to just over 840,000, according to the Nutrition Cluster. In the same period, the number of severely acutely malnourished children declined from 279,000 to about 170,000. This is a reduction of 16% almost 40%, respectively. However, more than one in ten children is still acutely malnourished, with boys more affected than girls (Comprehensive Food Security Survey, 11/2014).

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, due to various factors including poor water and sanitation conditions, poor food consumption habits, and scarce health facilities. The net result is that national GAM has slightly improved: 12.7% of under five children are malnourished compared to 13% in 2011 (OCHA, 31/08/2014; FEWSNET, 16/09/2014). GAM is at 9.6% in Abyan, 7.5% in Shabwah, 15.3% in Hajjah, 10.1% in Lahj and 13.2% in Sa’ada governorates (FEWSNET, 16/09/2014).

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. An estimated 1.14 million children aged 6–14 years (compulsory school age group) are out of school—69% are girls (UNICEF cited in Yemen Times, 04/11/2014).

Over 350 damaged schools require rehabilitation or reconstruction, affecting some 72,000 children. Every governorate in Yemen is operating schools that are not equipped with buildings (Yemen Times, 04/11/2014).

Fighting in Al Bayda and Ibb has disrupted education. Authorities in Ibb closed 169 schools serving 92,000 students in Yarim district and Ibb city for a week. In Al Bayda, 11 schools in Rada remained closed as of 31 October, leaving 6,000 students out of class (OCHA, 05/11/2014).

In Sanaa, four schools have been severely damaged and 20 moderately damaged. Ten schools used for military purposes during the fighting have since been vacated. In Amran governorate, 24 of 62 schools affected by fighting needed rehabilitation before reopening (OCHA, 05/11/2014).

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).

About 10% of Yemenis are believed to be muhamasheen, — a group that often faces discrimination due to perceptions within Yemeni society that they are descended from servants. In Taizz governorate, only 9% of muhamasheen families have piped water in their homes compared to 29% of the general population, and only 39% of muhamasheen children aged 6–17 years attend school, compared to the national average of 69% (OCHA, 05/11/2014).

Refugees and Migrants

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).

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).

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).

Incidents of grave violations against children were recorded in Sanaa city and Sanaa and Amran governorates during the recent conflict. In Sanaa city, 17 incidents were documented in September. Sixteen boys were recruited and used by parties to conflict, while one was abducted (OCHA, 05/11/2014).

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). In October, four children were injured by unexploded ordnance in Saada and Al Dhalee Governorates. Six incidents were reported with 12 boys killed and 14 children injured in the governorates of Sa’ada (4), Amanat Al Asimah (1) and Ibb (1) (UNICEF, 31/10/2014).

In 2013, there were 49 casualties from mines or ERW, including 40 children (Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor, 19/11/2014).

Updated: 24/11/2014

LEBANON CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

24 November: Mediator-led hostage negotiations between the Government and Jabhat al Nusra are ongoing (Daily Star).

22–23 November: Two refugee babies in Arsal have died of the cold and cases of pneumonia and respiratory problems are expected to rise among refugees (Daily Star).

17 November: In Akkar, the majority of informal settlements has existed for a year or more, and their populations are highly dependent upon assistance and loans (UNHCR/REACH).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1,143,899 Syrians are registered as refugees in Lebanon. 10,985 are awaiting registration (UNHCR 19/11/2014). 39% have specific needs; 25% of children are at risk (UNHCR 22/10/2014). Over 45,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria have been recorded by UNRWA (04/11/2014).

- Shelter is a critical problem: some 132,000 families – or 55% of Syrian refugees – in Lebanon live in substandard housing. 92,400 families need winter assistance (OCHA 04/11/2014).

- An estimated 420,000 school-aged refugee children need education services (REACH 11/2014).

- Only 30% of Syrian children born in Lebanon have birth certificates (UNHCR 10/11/2014)

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 food price hikes, and pressure on health and education systems, housing, employment. 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

National Political Context

On the grounds that elections would currently present too much of a security risk, the Lebanese Parliament extended its mandate for another two years and seven months at the beginning of November, after a similar move in 2013. The Reform and Change bloc, which had boycotted the extension vote, announced it would challenge the extension law at the Constitutional Council (Daily Star 12/11/2014).
Some observers state the extension might pave the way for dialogue between the March 8 and March 14 blocs 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 voting for the new president, arguing that the sessions are futile until rival groups agree on a consensus candidate.

The Government was formed in February after ten months of political stalemate, and 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

The conflict in neighbouring Syria has exacerbated sectarian tensions and affects the security situation in Lebanon. Along its northern and northeastern border with Syria, Lebanon is engaged in a battle against the Islamic State (IS), Jabhat Al-Nusra (JAN) and affiliated armed groups.

Hezbollah’s involvement in Syria, and the alleged presence of JAN and IS in Lebanon, is raising destabilisation concerns in Lebanon. JAN hinted at attacks on Hezbollah strongholds in November, which observers perceive as consistent with JAN’s stated strategy to force Hezbollah to withdraw from Syria and refocus on Lebanon.

In August, armed fighters briefly took over the town of Arsal, in the Bekaa Valley. This event, along with other sporadic incidents across the country, have been followed by an increase in raids and arrests by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF).

Tripoli: There have been several bouts of fighting in Tripoli between Sunni groups sympathetic to armed opposition groups in Syria, and Alawite groups supporting the Government of Syria. Fighting was recurrent before the alleged presence of IS and JAN, and is mostly a manifestation of long-standing socio-economic grievances and sectarian tensions (SNAP 06/11/2014).

In October, fighters occupied the Old City for the first time, leading to an LAF assault driving them out of the city, as well as raids detaining hundreds of Syrians, Lebanese, and Palestinians in Tripoli, Saida, and Beirut (Daily Star 05/11/2014). 42 people were killed, including 8 civilians (SNAP 06/11/2014; BBC/Al Jazeera 26/10/2014). The fighting caused major damage to the impoverished Sunni neighbourhood of Bab-al-Tabbaneh, home to some 100,000 people, including over 6,600 registered Syrian refugees (SNAP 06/11/2014; Reuters 27/10/2014; UNHCR 18/07/2014).

Bekaa Valley: Three soldiers and a civilian were killed, and an army unit was ambushed in the Arsal area in the first half of November (Daily Star 14/11/2014). In early August, heavy fighting took place between the Lebanese army and armed groups, which began again on 27 August, with air raids along the border and bomb attacks targeting military and Hezbollah in Arsal and Bekaa Valley. Events in Arsal have prompted military raids of Syrian refugee settlements.

Prisoner swap: Since clashes in early August, IS and JAN are believed to be holding about 30 Lebanese soldiers and members of security forces. IS has asked for the release of its captive members, while JAN is demanding protection for Syrian refugees and the opening of a safe passage for civilians into and out of Arsal. Three Lebanese soldiers have already been killed by the armed groups, two by IS and one by JAN, in a bid to pressure the Lebanese Army to ease its activities in Tripoli (Daily Star 01/11/2014). Mediator-led hostage negotiations are ongoing (Daily Star 24/11/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

USD 1.5 billion in funding is needed for Lebanon to cope with the humanitarian situation this year; as of 5 November, only 44% has been raised (UNHCR). Waste water management, water supply, electricity supply, employment and health services are the priority needs (OCHA/REACH 31/10/2014).

Access

Refugees live across 1,750 different locations in Lebanon, making the delivery of humanitarian assistance challenging (UNHCR 09/2014). Insecurity in parts of Bekaa, especially North Bekaa, where many refugees are living, has at times challenged humanitarian access. In Southern Lebanon, access and movement have at times been affected by the security measures implemented by local authorities, communities, and other groups (OCHA 08/2014).

Critical Infrastructure

The shortage of surface water due partly to little rainfall last winter has reduced the production of electricity from dams, leading to a scarcity of electric power (UNHCR 10/11/2014).

Displacement

Refugees in Lebanon

1,143,899 Syrians are registered as refugees in Lebanon. 10,985 are awaiting registration. Bekaa is hosting 404,909 refugees; Beirut 319,935; North Lebanon 284,948; and Southern Lebanon 134,107 (UNHCR 19/11/2014). 79% are women and children. 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 09/2014). The number of Syrians in Lebanon who are not registered with UNHCR is unknown. More than half of refugees coming to Lebanon moved at least once before crossing the border; one in ten moved more than three times (UNHCR 01/09/2014).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: 45,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS)
Iraqi refugees: Lebanon hosts nearly 7,500 registered Iraqi refugees and a further 1,200 are awaiting registration (USAID 19/09/2014).

Returnees

According to a 2013 assessment, most Lebanese returnees from Syria arrived in 2011 (36%), 2012 (40%), with a smaller proportion arriving in the first half of 2013 (IOM 14/11/2014).

Host Communities

Communities and municipalities are struggling to cope with the pace of the crisis and the surge in needs (UNHCR 30/09/2014). All 446 host communities have 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 (OCHA 09/2014).

Food Security

As of August, 12% of households were classified as moderately food insecure, and less than 0.5% were considered severely food insecure. Nearly 68% of households reported having reduced the number of meals (VASyR 08/2014). 27% of new Syrian refugees have poor to borderline food consumption scores (UNHCR 08/2014). Funding shortfalls caused WFP to reduce the October voucher value, and food parcels for new arrivals and vouchers for Palestinian refugees were discontinued (WFP 10/2014).

Agriculture and Markets

A severe drought has resulted in a substantial decline in agricultural production throughout the country. There are concerns about sustainability and efficiency of water use in agriculture (FAO 11/11/2014). Fruit and vegetables are most affected, and prices have increased.

Aggregate cereal consumption has increased from 0.9 million metric tons a year (2004–2008) to 1.2 million. Lebanon relies heavily on imports: national grain production is tentatively put at just under 200,000 metric tons, similar to last year and the five-year average (FAO 11/11/2014).

Average rainfall in 2014 is estimated at 470mm, far below annual averages of 824mm (Inter Press Service 23/07/2014).

Livelihoods

78% of refugee households are not able to generate an income, citing a lack of work as the main issue. 30% of refugees are unemployed and 88% of the employed are unskilled or semi-skilled labourers, paid 40% less than the minimum wage in Lebanon, according to a livelihood assessment by the ILO. Female Syrian workers earn 30% less than male workers. The high cost of living forces households to move into substandard accommodation (UNHCR 09/2014; ILO 04/2014).

28% of Syrian refugee households resorted to emergency coping strategies in 2014, up from 22% in 2013. Newcomers arriving in 2014 are in general more vulnerable (UNHCR 09/2014). 77% of refugee households are relying 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 2014), and 68% of refugee households reported that WFP vouchers were their main source of income (WFP 09/2014).

Unemployment: 39% of refugees surveyed in July were unemployed for over 12 months in Syria before fleeing to Lebanon (UNHCR 09/2014). The northern region of Akkar is experiencing diminished economic resources and increasing unemployment, which reaches over 58% in some affected areas (UNHCR 10/11/2014). Unemployment in border areas hosting Syrian refugees has doubled since the refugee influx.

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

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 08/2014).

Lebanon has a privatised health care system, the cost of transportation, medical visits and treatment are therefore major obstacles for refugees despite UNHCR covering 75% of medical costs (MSF 19/11/2014). Access is further limited due to short working hours and lack of trained health personnel. In Akkar, Tripoli and Bekaa, people have to travel over 2km to access services (OCHA/REACH 31/10/2014).

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

89% of Syrian youth (18–25 years of age) described themselves as depressed, anxious, or...
afraid most of the time (UNFPA; UNHCR 10/2014). Around 300,000 displaced Syrians are estimated to be most vulnerable to mental health concerns; 60% are women and children (WHO 07/2014).

WASH

Demand for water has increased by 7% due to the refugee influx: 33% of refugee households do not have drinking water, compared to 28% in 2013 (VAsyR 08/2014; UNHCR 07/2014). In some areas water shortages can only be addressed through infrastructure projects that require funding (UNHCR 30/09/2014). An estimated 55.4% of households reported storing water in containers at home, which can increase the risk of infectious disease transmission (UNHCR 10/2014).

Informal settlements have limited or no sanitation facilities. Approximately 12% of households (twice the percentage in 2013) do not have access to a place for washing, and of those who had access, over 7% were sharing bathrooms and latrines with 15 people or more (VAsyR 08/2014). WASH conditions are worse for refugees in informal settlements, for those in difficult-to-access locations in the Bekaa Valley and the north; and for an estimated 26,000 PRS (UNHCR 07/2014). 70% of refugees need assistance adapting to hygiene conditions in displacement (UNHCR 10/2014).

In Akkar and Bekaa, the use of open fields and pit latrines is common, and sewage systems need to be improved urgently (OCHA/REACH 31/10/2014). In Arsal, 544 latrines in informal settlements and communal shelters were destroyed during fighting, as was 623,000 litres of water storage capacity in informal settlements (UNHCR 08/2014).

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 09/2014).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter remains an urgent concern, especially as refugees run out of resources to pay rent. The number of evictions is growing every month (UNHCR 30/09/2014). Refugees live in substandard dwellings, with limited privacy and protection from the elements. 55% of Syrian refugees live in substandard housing, including 38% in insecure dwellings; and 17% in improvised informal settlements. 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 09/2014, UNHCR 07/2014). Bekaa has over 700 settlements of four or more tents; Akkar has over 300 settlements, some of which were severely damaged by heavy rainstorms in October.

A survey found that in Akkar, the majority of informal settlements had existed for a year or more, and are generally located on private land, on the outskirts of host communities. The populations are highly dependent upon assistance and loans (UNHCR/REACH 17/11/2014).

Winterisation: 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. Two refugee babies have died of the cold and cases of pneumonia and respiratory problems are expected to rise among refugees in the absence of heating (Daily Star 24/11/2014). 92,400 families are in need of winter assistance, including shelter, fuel, clothing and blankets (OCHA 04/11/2014).

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 (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: 27% live in single-room structures, warehouses, garages, or unfinished buildings; 4% live in informal settlements and collective shelters; 4% are classified as homeless (IOM/OCHA 09/2014; UNHCR 07/2014).

Education

The school-aged population has increased by almost 480,000 children in Lebanon as a result of the refugee influx. More than 420,000 children are in need of education services (REACH 11/2014; OCHA 04/11/2014; VAsyR 2014; UNHCR 05/2014). Roughly 65% of community representatives in Akkar and Tripoli reported improving access to education as urgent or critical (OCHA/REACH 10/2014).

The biggest barrier to schooling is the financial constraint. Other obstacles are a lack of awareness of available educational support; a lack of space in public schools; and the cost of transportation. Language barriers and safety concerns contribute to a high drop-out rate among refugee children (REACH 11/2014; UNHCR 09/2014).

90,000 Syrian refugee children between the ages of 5 and 17 were enrolled in public schools in 2013/2014. More than 30,000 of these children were enrolled in a second shift programme that delivers a lighter certified curriculum in Arabic for Syrian students who were not able to enrol in the first shift (REACH 11/2014). 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) (UNHCR 10/2014).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: School enrolment rates have doubled since the
last academic year, to 64%. About 6,500 PRS students have enrolled in 60 UNRWA schools for the 2014–2015 school year and received back-to-school kits (OCHA 04/11/2014). 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

Refugees

Restrictions on freedom of movement due to security checkpoints, curfews, and lack of identification expose refugees to many vulnerabilities (UNHCR 09/2014). Members of the Lebanese army have committed serious violations, including right violations of detained refugees, evictions, and threats of eviction. In addition, 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 (HRW 03/10/2014).

Status: In May, the Government introduced measures to limit the Syrian refugee influx. In October, the Government formally agreed to stop welcoming displaced people, barring exceptional cases, and to ask UNHCR to stop registering the displaced. The policy has resulted in a substantial reduction in refugees registering (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 09/2014). All Syrians without legal residency status will be exempt from overstay lines until the end of 2014 (Government 08/2014). Previously, 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).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: 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). The exact number is difficult to ascertain.

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 the main drivers of tensions (UNHCR 09/2014; REACH 08/2014). Increasing reluctance from local institutions and communities to accept the international response and assistance has also been reported (UNHCR 26/09/2014).

There is a growing perception in Lebanon that IS and affiliated armed groups benefit from support within some Syrian refugee communities, directly impacting Syrians across the country, potentially decreasing freedom of movement and livelihood opportunities; and putting them at risk of raids, arrests, evictions, and other retaliatory measures (SNAP 06/11/2014).

SGBV

25% of survivors of reported SGBV cases are under 18 years of age. Displacement increases the risk of SGBV, as does overcrowding and lack of privacy. Unaccompanied girls and adolescents, single heads of households, child mothers and spouses, and women and girls living with disabilities are the most at risk (UNHCR 14/11/2014).

Scarce economic opportunities coupled with high costs of living have some families resort to negative coping mechanisms including early marriage, child labour, survival sex. The 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 and growing tension between refugees and host communities.

Child Protection

Only 30% of Syrian children born in Lebanon have birth certificates (UNHCR 10/11/2014). 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 07/2014).

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 08/2014). Child labour is also reported to be increasing across the country, and there is a noted increase in unaccompanied or separated children amongst working children. The national child protection system is struggling to provide appropriate care and services (UNHCR 30/09/2014).

Refugee–Host Community Tensions

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).
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 insurgencies 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 Kanzihal, Aung Bar Lay and Tang Kaw, located about 16 km from the jade mining town of Hpakan, 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 Gyi 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 repeated 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 Kyaikmayaw 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 Thamanya Hill, about 40km southeast of Kayin state capital Hpa-an (local media, 01/10/2014). Over 100 villages 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

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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 IDPs 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 Rohingyas, 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).
- 1,332 civilians killed in terrorist violence in the first nine months of 2014 (SATP, 05/10/2014). 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 and 442,700 displaced by military operation in Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency. There were already 930,000 IDPs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA as of mid-December 2013.

OVERVIEW

Priority humanitarian needs are health, nutrition, and food assistance. The security situation remains volatile due to militant attacks in urban centres and military operations against the Taliban in the tribal areas.

Political Context

A year after Nawaz Sharif became Prime Minister, Pakistan is in a political crisis. There are continued signs that the military is exploiting protests by the political opposition – 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 Parliamentary session 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 between June 2013 and January 2014.

A ceasefire between the Government and the Taliban expired on 23 April. Both militant and security sources have stated that the ceasefire was used by the Taliban to preserve militant bases, and on 10 June, the Taliban vowed to start all-out war.

In early September, a new branch of Al Qaeda was announced. Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent will cover Myanmar and Bangladesh, the Indian states of Assam and Gujarat, and the disputed territory of Kashmir (Financial Times, 03/09/2014).

Security in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The Government launched operation Zarb-e-Azb against armed groups in North Waziristan Agency on 15 June, after the Taliban’s declaration of war and attack on Karachi airport. A second operation, Khyber 1, began on 18 October in Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency. At 7 November, the army had reportedly killed more than 1,000 militants and lost 86 soldiers (AFP, 07/11/2014).

A bomb targeting a school bus in Kurram in Khyber Agency killed two and injured one on 18 November (AFP, 18/11/2014). On 11 November, at least five soldiers and 15 militants were killed and six soldiers injured in a gunfight in Orakzai (AFP, 11/11/2014). Two bombings killed four people, including two civilians, on 4 November in a village in Khyber Agency (AFP, 04/11/2014). Mortar shells fired from across the border in Afghanistan on 21 October killed one and injured two in Bajaur Agency (DAWN, 21/10/2014). 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).

Many people fled NWA for Bannu, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but incidents have been reported here too. Four displaced people and nine police officers were injured in a clash during a food ration distribution at an IDP camp in Bannu on 13 November (Radio Free Liberty, 13/11/2014). A roadside bomb in Bannu exploded near a military vehicle on 11 November, killing a soldier and wounding another (AFP, 11/11/2014).

Two Pakistani civilians were killed in Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 15 November, by stray bullets from clashes between Afghan forces and militants on the other side of the border (AFP, 15/11/2014). At least six people were killed and three others injured by Jamat-ul-Ahrar – a TTP faction – bombing a village in Peshawar on 7 November (AFP, 7/11/2014). Two bomb blasts in the region in October killed 13 (AFP, 04/10/2014; AFP, 02/10/2014).

Balochnist

The United Baloch Front (UBF) has opposed 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 in the state.

A car bomb targeting a judge killed one and wounded 25 in Quetta on 11 November, while six were killed in a shooting on the same day in Bolan district (AFP, 11/11/2014). At least 32 people were killed in more than five sectarian and separatist attacks in October (AFP, 19/10/2014; DAWN, 06/10/2014; DAWN, 02/10/2014; France24, 23/10/2014; AFP, 05/10/2014).

Tensions along the Pakistan–India border

On 27–28 August, 15,000 people fled gunfire and shelling near the Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan (The Guardian, 28/08/2014). Fighting between Pakistan and India began again on 6 October had resulted in an estimated 20 casualties and thousands displaced by 9 October, with further firing reported at the end on the month (UN, 09/10/2014; AFP, 29/10/2014). On 2 November, 55 were killed and 120 wounded by a suicide bombing at the main Pakistan–India border crossing near Lahore. The attack was claimed by several factions within the TTP, reflecting their fragmentation (AFP, 02/11/2014). Mortar shelling in Lahore on 5 November killed three and injured one (AFP, 05/11/2014).

Other Incidents

A grenade attack in Karachi in Sindh injured 15, including three parliamentarians, on 21 November (AFP, 21/11/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

A bomb targeting a school bus in Kurram in Khyber Agency killed two and injured one on 18 November (AFP, 18/11/2014). On 11 November, at least five soldiers and 15 militants
Access

Access in Balochistan remains challenging due to hostilities between the Government and militants, separatist movements, and sectarian violence (ECHO, 20/10/2014).

On 4 October, Pakistan barred activists from taking relief goods for the flood-affected to the border with India-administered Kashmir, where delays in aid have created widespread anger among residents (AFP, 04/10/2014).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

Taliban gunmen wounded a polio health worker in Peshawar on 24 November at the beginning of a vaccination campaign (AFP, 24/11/2014). Two incidents targeting polio teams were reported in the northwest in October (DAWN, 22/10/2014; AFP, 08/10/2014).

At October, 66 aid workers, including 36 police escorts and 13 polio workers, had been attacked in 2014; 36 were killed, 11 injured and 19 kidnapped (OCHA, 31/10/2014). The highest number of incidents occurred in KP, FATA and Sindh (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).

Disasters

Floods

As of 11 October, monsoon rains and floods had 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 had 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). Priority needs in September were health, food, shelter, and access to safe drinking water (WHO, 23/09/2014). Recovery needs in terms of housing, agriculture, livelihood and infrastructure are most important in Jhang, Muzaffargarh, Multan and Hafizabad districts in Punjab and Haveli, Poonch, and Sudhnuti in Azad Kashmir (Government, 11/11/2014).

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). Short, intense rainfall is becoming common during Pakistan’s monsoon seasons and undermining underground water resources, which could have a severe impact on available water for hygiene, sanitation and drinking (Trust, 04/11/2014).

Drought

Drought conditions in Sindh province due to poor monsoon rains have affected nearly 1.7 million people so far in 2014 and killed 496 people in Tharparkar, including 296 children. 3,812 livestock perished (USAID, 20/11/2014). 80 people died in Tharparkar between 1 October and 17 November, with 14 new deaths between 16 and 17 November; 85 have died in Umerkot, including 61 infants, between September and November (DAWN, 17/11/2014). Over 40 children are currently under medical assistance in Mithi hospital in Tharparkar but resources are falling short and several children are in critical condition (USAID, 17/11/2014).

Conditions may worsen in Tharparkar, Dadu, Jamshoro, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot and Thatta districts. Anticipated needs are supplementary nutrition feeding, drought-tolerant agriculture inputs, animal fodder, available water management and building of water reservoirs (USAID, 29/10/2014).

Displacement

IDPs

At end October, there were 1.8 million IDPs in Pakistan (OCHA, 28/10/2014). At 12 November, there were nearly 1.5 million IDPs (228,883 families) in FATA and KP, mainly in Peshawar and Bannu (UNHCR, 12/11/2014; OCHA, 21/10/2014).

As of 20 October, 993,000 people (90,809 families; 74% women and children) had been displaced from North Waziristan, adding to the 930,000 pre-existing IDPs in FATA and KP (ECHO, 20/10/2014; OCHA, 12/09/2014). At 18 November, operation Khyber 1 had displaced nearly 442,655 people (53,750 families) (USAID, 20/11/2014).

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). 58% 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).

Among the IDP population, female-headed households (7%), children-headed households (4%), older people, and people with disabilities (5%) are excluded from distribution, mostly due to lack of documentation. Access to information, particularly on the registration process, available services, and support, is lacking (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

40% of North Waziristan’s population has remained, despite army operations, and limited access leaves them far from basic services and humanitarian support (IRIN, 25/09/2014).

Refugees in Pakistan

At 20 October, there were 1.6 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, of whom approximately one-third live in refugee villages, and two-thirds in urban and rural host communities; the exact number is difficult to ascertain (UNHCR, 1/11/2014).

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). Nearly 181,000 (27,000 families) are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 30/10/2014).

Food Security

Tharparkar and parts of Umerkot, Sanghar, Khairpur, Sukkur and Ghotki districts in Sindh province are in Emergency food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) as a result of prolonged drought conditions (USAID, 04/11/2014). In Tharparkar, food insecurity has worsened since early 2014 due to cereal production shortfalls as a result of a second successive season of poor rains, coupled with loss of small animals (FAO, 29/10/2014).

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).

Dengue

455 dengue cases have been reported in Punjab in 2014. The most affected districts are Rawalpindi, Sheikhupura, 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).

Diarhoea

Over 1.8 million cases of acute diarrhoea were reported 29 December 2013–8 August 2014. Another 29,573 cases of bloody diarrhoea were reported in the same period (WHO, 13/08/2014).

Crimean–Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF)

128 suspected cases of CCHF were reported from different provinces in Pakistan in 2014, including 36 related deaths. The first reported cases appeared mid-February and the latest was reported in mid-October (WHO, 02/11/2014).

Polio

As of 6 November, 236 wild polio cases had been reported in 2014 in Pakistan, from FATA, KP, Sindh, Balochistan, and Punjab, surpassing the record of 199 in 2000 (WHO, 08/11/2014; 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). There were 9,958 cases of refusal during a polio vaccination campaign in Quetta in Balochistan mid-November (DAWN, 16/11/2014). 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 61 people since December 2012, including health workers and police providing security.

Nutrition

In Sindh, 1.1 million children under five are acutely malnourished; 400,000 of them are suffering from SAM (ECHO, 20/10/2014). By May, more than 200 people in Pakistan 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).

WASH

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).

An estimated 690,000 people – largely IDPs and returnees in KP 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). 50% of the population in Tirah valley in FATA has been living in makeshift shelters after having been displaced in 2013 (IOM, 14/11/2014).

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 protection. 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: 24/11/2014

INDIA FLOODS, LANDSLIDES

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

17 November: Seasonal snowfall will deteriorate the food security situation for affected populations in remote areas in Jammu and Kashmir, as food aid is still to reach some areas (Reuters).

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 Hud Hud 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 Hud Hud

Severe cyclonic storm Hud Hud made landfall on 12 October on India’s east coast, around the city of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Hud Hud 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). With seasonal snowfall expected to arrive soon, displaced and affected populations are facing a precarious food security situation. Although the Jammu and Kashmir state governments have promised six months of free food to those affected, those populations in remote areas or with access difficulties have yet to receive any food aid (Reuters, 17/11/2014).

The most affected areas are Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Pulwama, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Budgam, Rajouri, Poonch 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).

Delayed and erratic monsoon rains are expected to reduce the 2014 kharif cereal production. Additionally, floods and high food prices in some markets are affecting the food security situation for poor households (FAO, 31/10/2014).

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).

Updated: 20/11/2014

JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

13 November: WFP received a last-minute donation that will allow them to continue providing normal food assistance to Syrian refugees in urban areas until the end of November, and has forestalled a plan to cut 21% of the total assistance per person. This will not apply to the 6.5% of beneficiaries who had their assistance cut off in October, when WFP activated beneficiary targeting (PI 13/11/2014).

KEY CONCERNS

- 618,600 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR (20/11/2014); another 38,500 Iraqi refugees (UNHCR, 01/11//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.

  - The key concern in Jordan remains the Government of Jordan’s increasingly restrictive entry policies, which have effectively closed the border to Syrian refugees. For months, Syrians have been forced to enter through an informal crossing in the remote eastern desert. Since the beginning of November, no new arrivals have been recorded from this crossing.

  - 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 is generally dominated by groups supporting Al Qaeda and there are significant divisions 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 (REACH 09/2014)

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 20 November, about 618,600 Syrian refugees were registered with UNHCR in Jordan. Over 80% live in local communities, with the remainder in camps. (UNHCR 20/11/2014)

The key concern in Jordan remains the Government’s increasingly restrictive entry policies, which have effectively closed the border to Syrian refugees. The Syrian refugee influx peaked with about 1,700 arriving each day in early 2013, but has since seen a number of sudden reductions. In 2014, Syrian refugees were no longer allowed to use the informal border crossings near Ramtha, and were forced to enter through another informal crossing in the remote eastern desert. Since the beginning of November, UNHCR has registered no new arrivals coming across this border.

According to trusted sources, in early October an estimated 4,000–5,000 Syrians were 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. 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 38,500 registered with UNHCR as of 1 November, 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.

Refugees in Host Communities

Over 80% of Syrian refugees living outside camps are in the northern governorates of Amman, Irbid, Mafraq, and Zarqa. The priority need among refugees in host communities is consistently for cash to pay rent. Work permits are cost-prohibitive for refugees, although many Syrians, including children, work in agriculture and construction, despite protection risks that include arrest and detention.

About 20% of Syrians in northern governorates live in substandard accommodation, including garages, basements, chicken houses, and tents. Housing has become increasingly overcrowded as resources are depleted. In Mafraq, one of the poorest governorates, rental costs have quadrupled; refugees now outnumber local residents.

Over 15,000 refugees were residing in informal tented settlements in September, according to REACH/UNICEF assessments, representing a more than threefold increase since December 2013. Many of the refugees had left Za’atari camp due to conflicts in the camp with powerholders from Syria’s Dar’a governorate. While there is a threat of mass evictions, reliable sources indicate that the Jordanian authorities will refrain from a major crackdown due to the logistical challenges and negative attention. When residents of informal settlements were asked if they are willing to go back to camps voluntarily due to the evictions, the majority said no, and said that they rather return to Syria. (REACH/UNICEF 21/10/2014)

Azraq camp in Zarqa governorate opened on 30 April. As of 29 September, nearly 15,000 refugees were registered by UNHCR in the camp. However, it is believed that only about half this number remains due to the harsh, hot, and windy climate, long distances to reach services, lack of electricity, and the camp's isolation from livelihood opportunities. At full capacity, Azraq camp will be able to accommodate 130,000 refugees.

Za’tari is the second largest refugee camp in the world with about 80,000 residents, and the equivalent of a new city in Jordan. The number of refugees returning from urban areas to Zaatar camp still increasing. 1,081 of 1,136 people transferred to Zaatar camp 25–31 October, were from urban areas (UNHCR 04/11/2014). It is likely that the onset of cold weather is contributing to this trend – an increase in returns to the camp was also seen at the same time in 2013 – however the food assistance cuts in urban areas may also be contributing to refugees’ decision to return to the camp.

The lack of security in certain parts of Zaatar camp impedes access to services, particularly for women and girls. Security incidents and protests are frequent. Since the camp was established in 2012, at least 200,000 refugees have left for other urban centres.
through both official and unofficial channels. However, authorities have cracked down on
unofficial departures in 2014.

About 4,000 Syrians live in the Emirates Jordan Camp (EJC), which has high living
standards and extensive support, primarily from the UAE Red Crescent. Despite the
improved living standards, a significant number of refugees have also left EJC camp for
urban areas or to return to Syria.

Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)

About 14,500 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

Since the beginning of October, 36,000 Syrian refugees (or 6.5% of all registered refugees)
are no longer receiving food assistance, as WFP, facing a funding shortfall, has started
targeting assistance based on a July assessment. The agency anticipates the need for
more cuts in the future.

A last-minute donation has allowed WFP’s full food assistance to continue for
November (PI 13/11/2014). Funding for food assistance to refugees in camps is available
until the end of 2014, however, short of another donation, urban refugees may again face
cuts in December. 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: 20/11/2014

NEPAL FLOODS, LANDSLIDES

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 19/11/2014. 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)
Security Context

Madhesis, who constitute a third of the Nepali population, are victims of discrimination and rights abuses, remain stateless and continue to be underrepresented in the State. Recent protests in the south of the country, asking for repairs of crumbling infrastructure, have led to violent police crackdowns and incarcerations (Al Jazeera, 19/11/2014). In September, the UNRC and local media have reported that daily protests involving students have taken place in the Terai region (UNRC, 01/10/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

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).

Updated: 19/11/2014

PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

7 November: One year after Typhoon Haiyan hit, solutions are still needed for 20,000 people living in 56 displacement sites and requiring shelter, WASH and protection support (UNHCR).

5 November: 30,070 people (10,120 families) out of 47,622 evacuated since end September over the potential eruption of Mayon volcano in Albay province have been sent home, as they live outside the high risk zone (Government).

30 October: Around 2,300 people (500 families) were evacuated to a school after alleged BIFF members set houses on fire in Sitio Balibet, Cotabato province, during the first week of October (Government).

KEY CONCERNS

- Over 26,000 people remain displaced ten months after Typhoon Haiyan struck and more than two million lack adequate shelter or housing (FAO, 09/10/2014).

- Thousands of people who fled fighting in Zamboanga in September 2013 are still displaced and being temporarily moved to the Masempla transition site, where minimum standards for WASH and basic services are currently unmet (OCHA, 01/10/2014).

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

OVERVIEW

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

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, 23/10/2014). Around 2,300 people (500 families) were evacuated to a school after alleged BIFF members set houses on fire in Sitio Balibet, Cotabato province, during the first week of October (Government, 30/10/2014). 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).

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

Alert Level 3 was declared on 15 September over a possible eruption of the Mayon volcano, as well as an extended high-risk zone of over a 6–8km radius, covering Legazpi, Ligao, and Tabaco cities of Albay province (OCHA, 01/10/2014). On 5 November, 30,070 people (10,120 families) out of 47,622 have been sent home from over 45 evacuation centres, as they live outside the radius (Government, 05/11/2014). 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, 30/09/2014).

Typhoon Kalmegi

At 23 September, flash floods and landslides caused by Typhoon Kalmegi (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

At end October, 38,000 people remained displaced, including 23,000 in three evacuation centres and eight transitional sites, one year after fighting between an MNLF faction and the army in Zamboanga (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

Disease outbreaks in the camps have left some 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

Resettlement has begun for families in Tacloban still living in tents. Nearly 300 families (1,500 people) have moved to relocation sites, according to local officials and 550 more are scheduled to move by end November. A further 200 families living in tents in Tanauan municipality are also being relocated (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

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), and solutions are needed for 20,000 people still living in 56 displacement sites and requiring shelter, WASH and protection support (UNHCR, 07/11/2014).

With 89% of affected households still reporting 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).

Bohol earthquake

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: 11/11/2014

SRI LANKA

INTERNAL UNREST, DROUGHT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
Landslides in Haldummulla area in Badulla have left 37 dead, 22 missing, and 4,460 people displaced, who are seeking shelter in welfare centres. Immediate needs include WASH, NFI and mobility equipment (OCHA).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- 1.2 million people across 13 districts in six provinces remain affected by drought, a significant decrease of 500,000 people since the beginning of October (Disaster Management Ministry, 21/10/2014).
- 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**

_IDPs_

After the end of the conflict in 2009, most IDP camps are closed. Government statistics compiled by UNHCR shows 820,882 people are estimated to be displaced as of early 2014, living with host families (GIEWS, 04/11/2014). These are attributed to protracted displacement of people who cannot return home owing to housing, land or property issues (UNHCR).

**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. 4,460 people have been displaced and are seeking shelter in 28 welfare centres in Badulla. 37 people have died and 22 are still missing (OCHA, 17/11/2014). Deaths and damages are being blamed on a faulty early-warning system in the region (Reuters, 06/11/2014). The continued threat of landslides and rainfall hampered initial assistance and search activities in the area (Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, 30/10/2014), but improved weather conditions have now allowed for more access (AFP, 02/11/2014). WASH, NFI and mobility equipment have been identified as the most pressing needs (OCHA, 03/11/2014).

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 33% 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: 20/11/2014

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

15 November: Ukraine’s President ordered the withdrawal of all state services from the armed groups-held eastern regions. All banking services could also be withdrawn in the coming weeks (international media).

14 November: As of 14 November, about 970,000 people have been displaced by the conflict since the beginning of the year, of whom more than 460,000 people internally and over 508,500 to neighbouring countries (OCHA).

2–16 November: 105 Russian convoys crossed into Ukraine and 665 people dressed in military style have been reported crossing the border in both directions (OSCE).

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 460,000 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 NFI, 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 15 November, Ukraine’s President ordered the withdrawal of all state services from the armed groups-held eastern regions. The evacuation of state workers and the withdrawal of all courts and judges as well as the relocation of prisoners have also been decreed. All banking services could also be withdrawn in the coming weeks (international media, 15/11/2014).

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).

On 20 October, 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).

Security Context
As of 11 November, at least 4,132 people were wounded by the conflict and 9,747 killed (OCHA, 14/11/2014). An average of 13 people have been killed each day since the September ceasefire (UNHCR, 20/11/2014). 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, 09/09/2014).

Between 2 and 16 November, 105 Russian convoys crossed into Ukraine. Some were presumably to deliver humanitarian assistance while other were identified as military trucks. (OSCE, 03/11/2014: 04/11/2014; 11/11/2014; 16/11/2014). Between 5 and 12 November, 665 men and women dressed in military style have been reported crossing the border in both directions (OSCE, 12/11/2014).

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). Humanitarian needs are significant and growing, and there is a serious lack of response capacity on the ground (OCHA, 14/11/2014).

Access
On 6 November, the Ukrainian President established obligatory passport controls for anyone crossing the lines separating opposition-controlled areas (AFP, 06/11/2014).

On 2 October, an ICRC delegate was killed in Donetsk due to indiscriminate shelling (ICRC, 02/10/2014).

The safety and security of health workers remains a major concern in conflict areas, preventing access to emergency and primary health services in Shahtersk, Sinizhne, 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).

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).

Displacement
Displacement continues and safety and security are prime concerns (OCHA, 10/10/2014).

IDPs
The IDP situation is a cause for major humanitarian alert. As of 14 November, over 460,360 IDPs are registered in Ukraine, of whom over 200,000 have been displaced since September (OCHA, 14/11/2014). Unofficial estimates suggest that the number of IDPs could be higher, as there is no established centralised registration system (UN, 25/09/2014).

95% of the IDPs are from eastern Ukraine, and are concentrated in Donetsk and Kharkiv, as well as in Kyiv (UNHCR, 24/10/2014).

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).

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
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). As rent prices are increasing, around 20% of the
IDP population from the displacement areas are returning to conflict areas (OCHA, 14/11/2014).

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 14 November, more than 508,500 people have fled to neighbouring countries, about 420,000 of whom have crossed into Russia since the beginning of the year (OCHA, 14/11/2014). 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

Food reserves of eastern Ukraine are fully depleted and infrastructure is partly destroyed. Record prices for wheat products, as well as the destruction of transport systems, disruptions in markets, have worsened the food security situation. Food assistance will target about 120,000 IDPs, returnees, and vulnerable residents affected by the conflict (FAO, 14/11/2014). Current and new food assistance operations are underfunded, reducing the humanitarian aid provided (WFP, 23/10/2014).

Preliminary results of the WFP Food Security Assessment indicate that at least 30% of the population of Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia regions have limited access to markets due to increased food prices, disrupted transport systems, high insecurity and remoteness (OCHA, 14/11/2014). 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 Donetsk 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 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 and at least 45 hospitals have been destroyed or damaged (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). In conflict-affected areas, about 20–30% of doctors, 20–50% of nurses and 50–70% of paramedics are missing (OCHA, 14/11/2014).

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). On 5 November, 609,000 doses of BCG vaccine became available and the government is finalising tenders for other vaccines. 50% of the required vaccine will be then available (UNICEF, 14/11/2014). 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). The current stock of antiretroviral drugs is sufficient until December. There are difficulties delivering the drugs to the areas of Donetsk and Luhansk due to ongoing fighting (UNICEF, 14/11/2014).

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
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). With 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 residential 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). IDPs renting accommodation on their own seem to be excluded from any humanitarian assistance, thus in worse situation compared to those staying in collective centres (OCHA, 14/11/2014).

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 a huge challenge for the humanitarian community (OCHA, 17/10/2014).

In Donetsk region, shelling has damaged Prikonalnaya 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 Yasinovataya, Krasnogorovka and nearby villages (UNICEF, 20/10/2014). Since 10 November there has been no supply of water and electricity in Avdeevka, Donetsk region, due to intensified fighting in the area (UNICEF, 14/11/2014). 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 Donetsk and Luhansk city (UNICEF, 07/10/2014).

Education

In Donetsk region, of 237 damaged educational institutions, 50 have been restored, but 187 still require repairs. 17% of schools in affected areas are not functioning (OCHA, 14/11/2014).

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).

Provision

Human rights abuses committed by armed groups continued to be reported, 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; OCHA, 14/11/2014).

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: 20/11/2014

KEY CONCERNS

- An estimated 384,000 individuals have been affected by drought (OCHA, 02/09/2014).

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 national Food Security 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). Drought consequences have caused losses up to USD 70.1 million since June (OXFAM quoted by local media, 08/11/2014).

Rains have improved since mid-August, but dryness from poor primera season rains lingers (FEWSNET, 12/09/2014).

Food Security

As of 13 November, 14,615 people in drought-affected areas are in severe food insecurity and 70,815 in moderate food insecurity. 94,400 more people are at risk of food insecurity if the crop situation were to deteriorate (WFP, 13/11/2014).

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). Poor households in coffee-growing, agro-industrial, and daily labour regions are likely to be affected by high prices for basic food grains and low-income from coffee production (FEWSNET, 31/10/2014).

Half of affected households have food reserves for no longer than 2.5 months as of September, and 10% cannot fulfil their basic food needs according to a national food security evaluation (WFP, 13/11/2014).

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). An estimated 100,000 farmers who directly depend on coffee for their...
livelihood have lost their jobs this year (Money News, 11/09/2014). 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 13–19 October, according to the Ministry of Health (La Prensa, 23/10/2014). In total, 93,125 people have been affected, including 149 confirmed cases, since the beginning of the outbreak in June (PAHO, 07/11/2014).

Dengue

As of 6 November, 49,448 suspected dengue cases have been reported in 2014, including 15,341 confirmed cases and 385 of severe haemorrhagic dengue (PAHO, 06/11/2014).

Updated: 19/11/2014

Haiti FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS


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).

- Cholera cases have been progressively decreasing since January 2014, but the disease remains a concern (WHO 27/06/2014). Waterborne diseases are a main cause of infant mortality (World Bank, 09/10/2014).

- 800,000 people rely on humanitarian assistance in 2014 (UN, 27/10/2014).

- 85,430 IDPs (22,741 households) remain in 123 camps as of September as a result of the 2010 earthquake (OCHA, 04/10/2014).

- The resilience of the population and its capacity to cope with new crises are generally weak.

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).

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).

Disasters

36,270 Haitians have been affected after heavy floods hit northern and western departments between 31 October and 6 November. 6,000 were evacuated to temporary shelters – including in Cap Haitian and Fort Liberté. Five people were killed and 14,000 houses damaged (IOM, 11/11/2014; local media, 07/11/2014).

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 sites), followed by Delmas and Carrefour (IOM 07/07/2014). Priority needs include the provision of minimum basic services, protection monitoring and response, and promotion of durable solutions (OCHA, 03/11/2014).

Population numbers in open 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). As of June, 8,542 displaced families in 46 camps were considered at risk of forced eviction. 56,506 people in 53 camps were considered to be at particularly
high risk of flooding (OCHA, 20/08/2014). Due to inadequate funding, 69,400 IDPs are not currently targeted by any return or relocation programmes.

Basic services in camps have declined faster than the pace of return or relocation. Only one-third of camps have access to water (OCHA, 31/07/2014). Access to healthcare is problematic due to lacks of infrastructure and funding. At June, camp populations surveyed registered 12.5% GAM, 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 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).

In October, populations in Artibonite, Nord-Ouest, Sud-Est, and Nippes departments faced Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security levels (OCHA, 04/10/2014). Parts of Sud, Sud-Est, and Nippes departments are likely to enter Crisis (IPC Phase 3) by March 2015 (FEWSNET, 18/11/2014).

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).

El Niño over October–December could lead to 15,000 more people suffering from acute food insecurity (OCHA, 04/10/2014).

**Agricultural Outlook**

Severe dryness persists, particularly in the southern peninsula and the Central Plateau, with below-average rainfall forecast through December (FEWSNET, 28/10/2014). Drought during January–March led to a 30% loss of seasonal harvests (OCHA, 04/10/2014). Drought since May has affected the spring and autumn agricultural seasons, suggesting that the 2014/15 crop production is likely to be significantly below average. Early exhaustion of food stocks and below-average agricultural labour income will cause a deterioration in food security (FEWSNET, 18/11/14).

**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 outbreak began in May (IFRC, 10/10/2014).

**Cholera**

As of 30 August, 8,657 suspected cases of cholera, including 69 fatalities, had been registered in 2014, a 76% decrease compared to same period in 2013. Projected case numbers for 2014 have been revised down from 45,000 to 15,000 (OCHA, 03/11/2014; UN, 30/09/2014). However, weekly reported cases have been rising since the rainy season mid-September to 629 compared to 250–290 between January and September. Daily cases observed in cholera treatment centres in Port-au-Prince nearly doubled, due to the reduced number of dedicated centres, increase in rainfall activity and below-average hygiene conditions (local media, 17/11/2014). Overall, nearly 711,450 suspected cholera cases and 8,600 deaths have been reported by the Ministry of Health since the start of the epidemic in October 2010 (PAHO, 07/11/2014).

Centre department is still particularly affected: Hinche, Cerca Carvajal, Cerca la Source, Thomassique and Mirebalais communes 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 2014, compared to 1,054 in 2013 (OCHA, 20/08/2014).

**Nutrition**

100,000 children under five suffer acute malnutrition; 20,000 of whom are severely malnourished. 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 lack access to safe water (one-third of the total population and 47% of the rural population) (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 poorer than before the earthquake (UN, 27/10/2014). IDPs living in informal settlements are at risk of eviction (OCHA, 20/08/2014).

**Education**

17% of IDPs in camps surveyed in 2014 have not received any education (OHCHR, MINUSTAH and Protection Cluster, 30/06/2014).
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).

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 Olancho, Valle Nuevo, Capulin, 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).

As of 22 October, 571,700 people are of concern for livelihood and food insecurity due to the drought (IFRC, 22/10/2014). 154,000 people are estimated to be in dire need of food assistance (Humanitarian Country Team, 27/10/2014). Below-average 2014 primera harvests, reduced income from coffee sector employment and sales, and above-average basic food prices mean that vulnerable households will experience Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of food insecurity October–March 2015 in parts of southern Honduras (FEWSNET, 18/11/2014). Early depletion of reserves after 2014 primera season losses and limited income opportunities are likely to lead to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in May 2015 in southern areas (FEWSNET, 16/11/2014).

The food security situation in Honduras has worsened due to drought, yet strong winds and rains have hit San Manuel Ulua, and the destruction of crops has affected 14,000 people (3,500 families) (REDLAC, 18/08/2014).

Delayed postrema sowing due to moisture deficits in August will result in stepped production. In addition, crops are at risk of being affected by lack of rainfall through November–December (FEWSNET, 31/10/2014).

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
Fish farms have been affected by the depletion of fish stocks (EU, 20/08/2014).

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

Over 30,000 suspected cases of dengue have been recorded in 2014 (Proceso Digital, 18/11/2014). At 6 November, 506 cases had been confirmed (PAHO, 06/11/2014).

WASH

The drought has affected access to safe drinking water in the most affected areas (La Prensa, 10/08/2014). 27,300 people are considered to be in need of house disinfection, health education and access to safe water according to a joint assessment between the Ministry of Health and the Water and Sanitation working group (Humanitarian Country Team, 27/10/2014).

Updated: 19/11/2014

NICARAGUA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

18 November: 947 confirmed cases of chikungunya have been reported throughout the country, compared to 651 on 13 November, meaning the epidemic is spreading rapidly (La Prensa; Local media, 13/11/2014).

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

About 400,000 people are estimated to be affected by the drought (OCHA, 03/11/2014), 100,000 of whom are in dire need of assistance (ACT Alliance, 31/10/2014). 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 most affected 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, while authorities feared severe downpours and strong winds would cause more flooding and landslides (The Tico Times, 27/10/2014). As of 13 November, no additional damage has been identified as direct consequences of the Tropical Storm, although heavy rains continued throughout the country (Government, 06/11/2014; 29/10/2014).

Heavy rains have affected more than 64,360 people within a month according to the latest official assessment (Government quoted by local media, 18/11/2014). 74 municipalities have been affected in 15 departments and two autonomous regions, 12 departments of which suffered severe damage and 3 with minor damage (Government, 10/11/2014). More than 4,500 houses have been destroyed in 134 communities (ECHO, 19/10/2014). 7,000 people remain evacuated to 25 official shelters and 82 informal shelters.
as of 10 November (Government, 10/11/2014).

In August, 700 people in Managua were affected by floods after more than 100 houses were destroyed (Government, 26/08/2014).

Food Security

The provision of assistance will improve food security through October–December. Poor households in northwestern areas will be in Stressed levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 2) January–March 2015 due to production losses, price rises for basic food products and reduced income opportunities (FEWSNET, 18/11/2014).

Agricultural Outlook

Insufficient rainfall since the beginning of the August–November postrera season has caused moisture deficits in northeast Nicaragua (FEWSNET, 17/10/2014). In Estelí, Madriz, Nueva Segovia, Matagalpa, León and Chinandega departments, farmers waited until the end of September to sow postrera seeds, which will result in stepped production. In addition, crops are at risk of being affected by lack of rainfall through November–December (FEWSNET, 31/10/2014). 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).

Health

Chikungunya

947 confirmed cases have been reported as of 18 November, including 112 new cases recorded over 15–16 November, compared to 651 cases on 13 November according to national data, meaning the epidemic is spreading rapidly throughout the country (La Prensa, 18/11/2014; local media, 13/11/2014).

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and its negative effects of the livelihoods of its residents (La Razon, 29/10/2014).

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 Razon, 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 was the worst flooding in the last 60 years (ACT Alliance, 24/09/2014).

Landslides

Around 850 people have been affected in Luribay, La Paz, due to landslides caused by a severe hailstorm in early November. Some households are currently displaced, living in tents in the town’s sports field. The majority of the crops in the town have been lost (PAHO, 04/11/2014) (Government, 05/11/2014).

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). 16,000 head of cattle and camels have been lost (REDLAC, 17/11/2014).

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 benefited 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).

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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](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.acaps.acaps).


To download the mobile application for iOS phones [click here](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/global-emergency-overview/id567382309?mt=8)


**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](https://www.acaps.org/docs/Global%20Overview%20Methodology%20Brief.pdf) and the [Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.acaps.org/docs/FAQ.pdf).