Snapshot 22–28 July 2015

**Somalia:** More than 10,000 people have been displaced in Lower Shabelle and Bay regions since AMISOM and Somali armed forces began their offensive. Al Shabaab has lost control of Bardhere in Gedo and Dinsoor in Bay. In accessible areas of Hudur town, Bakool, 33% GAM and 19% SAM were observed in a MUAC assessment in July – a significant deterioration since June. Very critical malnutrition rates persist in Bulo Burde, Hiraan.

**DRC:** Measles has broken out in Maniema, with 415 cases recorded so far. 2,115 cases have been reported in Orientale this year, and 15,000 in Katanga. One reason for the rise in cases is lack of vaccination. Dungu, in Haut-Uele, Orientale, has seen a significant fall in WASH coverage and routine vaccination.

**South Sudan:** The cholera outbreak continues, with 1,375 cases recorded since 18 May, most in Juba county. At 3.2%, the case fatality rate is double the global average. In Unity state, the government has prevented food aid reaching Malakal.

AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

For more information on CAR, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

24 July: The Attack Group of Fatima’s Church, a new armed group, claimed the 20 July abduction of three government officials (Journal de Bangui, 24/07/2015; Reuters, 21/07/2015).

21 July: CAR’s highest court overturned a decision by parliament to ban thousands of refugees from voting in October’s presidential election (Reuters).

21 July: The Democratic Front of the Central African People (FDPC) attacked a WFP food convoy escorted by MINUSCA, near Baboua, Nana-Mambere, killing one driver (Reuters, 21/07/2015; UN, 18/07/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- More than 5,000 people have died in violence since December 2013 (Government, 16/09/2014; BBC, 07/01/2015).

- 2.7 million of 4.6 million people needed immediate assistance, half of them children (OCHA, 06/06/2015).

- 1.5 million people are in Crisis and Emergency phases of food insecurity (USAID, 13/03/2015).

- Only 55% of health facilities are functioning (WHO, 27/04/2015).

OVERVIEW

Health, protection, food, and WASH are top priority needs, as continued violence, looting, and displacement cause further deterioration of an already dire humanitarian situation across the country. Violence between Muslim communities, perceived to have links with the ex-Seleka, and Christian communities, aligned with the anti-balaka militias, has resulted in displacement, targeted killings along communal lines, and human rights abuses.

Political Context

Between 4 and 11 May, the Bangui Peace Forum took place. Moderated by President of Congo Denis Sassou Nguesso, 585 participants agreed on a 'Republican Pact for Peace', which sets the calendar for elections and revision of the constitution; a consensual disarmament model; the establishment of a criminal court; and an agenda of humanitarian and development priorities (BBC, 03/05/2015; Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, 12/05/2015).

A constitutional referendum will be held on 4 October. The first round of presidential and legislative elections will take place on 18 October, and the second round on 22 November. (AFP, 19/06/2015). Voter registration will take place 26 June–27 July. International organisations condemned CAR’s transitional government after it rejected provisions in the draft electoral bill that would allow 190,000 eligible refugees to vote (UNHCR, 14/07/2015). CAR’s highest court overturned parliament’s decision (Reuters, 21/07/2015). The transition to the new government is meant to be complete by December 2015 (UNHCR, 25/06/2015).

Conflict began in late 2012, when Seleka fighters advanced from the north, taking control of territory on their way to the capital Bangui, where they held power until December 2013. Seleka committed numerous abuses during their advance and rule, and self-defence militias composed of mainly non-Muslims, ‘anti-balaka’, began revenge attacks in late 2013. Most ex-Seleka members withdrew to the north at the end of 2013, but fighting persisted between ex-Seleka and anti-balaka, Muslim and Christian communities, and pastoralists and farmers. In April 2015, the ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka agreed to a ceasefire. This was rejected by the transitional Government, just as it rejected an earlier ceasefire agreement (USAID, 10/04/2015).

African Union forces, MISCA, backed by France, were deployed in December 2013, authorised by the UN. The African Union had already deployed troops to CAR prior to Seleka’s assumption of power, but was overwhelmed by the severity and scope of the
conflict. In mid-September 2014, the UN peacekeeping force took over operations under the name MINUSCA.

A transitional government was formed in August 2014. It was rejected by the ex-Seleka, which had proclaimed a de facto, independent, secular state in northeastern CAR in July (IRIN 23/09/2014; Government, 24/07/2014).

Security Context

More than 1,820 security incidents have been recorded since January 2015 (OCHA, 12/05/2015). 265 security incidents were recorded in June, an increase compared to 249 in May and 252 in March (NGO Safety, 20/07/2015). More than 5,000 people have been killed since December 2013 (BBC, 07/01/2015).

MINUSCA and Sangaris have reinforced their presence in north-central CAR. Anti-balaka activity has increased on the border with Cameroon. The presence of Nigerian armed groups has been reported (UNHCR, 25/06/2015). Attacks against civilians have been reported in Ouandago (Nana-Grebizi), Kabo (Ouham), Batangafo (Ouham) and the Bouca –Batangafo (Ouham) route (UNHCR, 25/06/2015).

Activity of emerging armed groups has been reported. In Nana-Mambere, on the border with Cameroon, an increase in violence has been associated with the Front Démocratique du Peuple Centrafricain (Democratic Front of the Central African People, or FDPC), a splinter group from the Seleka (Reuters, 21/07/2015). Another armed group, The Attack Group of Fatima’s Church, has been active in Baboua, Nana-Mambere, claiming the 20 July abduction of three government officials (Journal de Bangui, 24/07/2015).

Priority areas for civilian protection are Ngaoundaye (Ouham-Pende), Markounda (border area) and Batangafo (Ouham), Bambari and Kouango (Ouaka), Boda (Lobaye), Gamboula, (Mambere-Kadei) and Mbres (Nana-Grebizi) (UNHCR, 15/05/2015).

Stakeholders

**Ex-Seleka:** Seleka was an alliance of factions created in 2012 and dissolved by President Djotodia in late 2013. However, many fighters remained active, and were dubbed ‘ex-Seleka’. With the exception of 17,114 confined to three military camps in Bangui, most moved out of the capital and controlled much of central and northern CAR by January 2014 (IRIN, 17/09/2014). Bambari, Ouaka reportedly became the ex-Seleka headquarters in May 2014. Between 10 and 15 commanders oversee 1,500–3,750 soldiers each, including Muslims from the northeast, and Sudanese and Chadians (IRIN, 12/01/2015; international media, 30/09/2014; Enough, 17/06/2015).

**Anti-balaka:** The anti-balaka were formed in order to counter the Seleka; there are around 75,000 militants, though the numbers are contested, and their main leaders and political programme remain unknown (IRIN, 12/01/2015). After the coup and Djotodia’s resignation, many members of the former government army, the FACA, joined the anti-balaka. It is suspected that up to ten anti-balaka factions function in the vicinity of Bangui (IRIN, 12/02/2014).

**LRA:** Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou prefectures remain most affected by the Lord’s Resistance Army, which increased attacks as the political crisis left a power vacuum (OCHA, 10/11/2014).

**UN peacekeeping mission (MINUSCA):** MINUSCA officially took over operations on 14 September 2014, under a one-year mandate. In March 2015, the number of peacekeepers was increased by 1,000, to better protect infrastructure and senior officials in Bangui, bringing the total to 13,000 uniformed personnel (Reuters, 26/03/2015). On 28 April, the UN Security Council extended MINUSCA’s mandate by one year (UN, 28/04/2015).

**French forces:** On 19 May, the operation was formally handed over to MINUSCA (French Ministry of Defence, 22/05/2015). As of 21 May, 1,700 of 2,000 French troops were left in CAR (UN, 21/05/2015).

**EU advisory mission:** The EU launched the EU Military Advisory mission (EUMAM RCA) on 19 January, with the objective of reforming the security sector (Government, 16/03/2015).

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

Recent Incidents

**Bangui:** Three unidentified armed individuals attacked the National Radio of CAR on 7 July, disarming and temporarily kidnapping one of the two Gendarmes on guard (UN, 07/07/2015).

**Nana-Mambere:** Late June, MINUSCA was dismantling an FDPC camp (Front démocratique du peuple centrafricain) in the prefecture. FDPC had been carrying out attacks on a main supply road (UN, 24/06/2015). FDPC was formed around a decade ago. It was part of Seleka in 2012, but has since come into conflict with other Seleka members.

**Nana-Grebizi:** 4,400 people fled armed attacks in Bissingue, Ndemayo, and Site-Nana for Kaga Bandoro town on 15 May. According to the UN, the attacks resulted in ten deaths (USAID, 12/06/2015).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

2.7 million out of 4.6 million people need immediate assistance, half of them children. Humanitarian needs in CAR continue to exceed available resources and delivery of aid is expected to decline because funding remains low (OCHA, 06/06/2015). However, on 13 May, CAR was deactivated as a Level 3 emergency response (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

**Access**

Crime hinders the supply of humanitarian assistance outside Bangui. MINUSCA forces are organising patrols in Damara (Ombella-Mpoko), aiming to curtail crime in the region, including violent attacks, threats against aid workers, and roadblocks (OCHA, 28/05/2015). A rapid assessment on the Niango–Kaga Nze route, in Bangui-Bangoran province, found...
that exactions, theft, and abuse were current in the region (Premiere Urgence – Aide Médicale International, 06/05/2015).

Trapped Communities

As of 15 May, more than 36,000 people are trapped and at risk of violence and abuse in seven enclaves countrywide: in Bangui’s PK5 (24,000), Boda (9,000), Bouar (1,600), Carnot (522), Berberati (456), Yaloke (316), and Dekoa (105). Most belong to religious and ethnic minorities and have limited access to basic services (OCHA, 28/05/2015; USAID, 12/06/2015).

The trapped Fulani population of Yaloke is being relocated to a new site. 109 said they would relocates to Cameroon (UNICEF, 09/07/2015).

Security Constraints

**Bangui:** In PK5, shopkeepers have complained about extortion by ex-Seleka who ‘secure’ the neighbourhood against anti-balaka (AFP, 28/05/2015).

**Security Incidents Affecting Aid Workers**

232 acts of violence have been recorded against humanitarian organisations since January 2015 (OCHA, 12/05/2015). They include thefts of humanitarian assets and facilities as well as threats to staff (USAID, 27/04/2015). UN, NGO, and private vehicles are becoming regular targets on main roads (IOM, 02/02/2015).

18 humanitarian workers were killed and six wounded in 142 incidents in 2014 (OCHA, 04/12/2014; USAID, 19/12/2014).

Nana-Mambre: On 18 July, a WFP food convoy escorted by MINUSCA was attacked close to Baboua, killing one driver (UN, 18/07/2015). Several NGOs have temporarily suspended operations in the areas along Baboua-Besson and Baboua-Cantonnier roads in western Nana-Mambre due to insecurity. Nana-Mambre is becoming more and more inaccessible. Polio vaccination of over 16,000 children has been delayed in two subprefectures (OCHA, 08/06/2015).

Displaced

The number of displaced decreased from 399,270 in May to 368,860 in July (UNHCR, 22/07/2015). The decrease in IDPs is due to improved security and a consistent presence of MINUSCA. Displacement, however, is still occurring in Ouham and Nana-Grebizi prefectures (OCHA, 21/06/2015). There are approximately 131,000 returnees in CAR, mainly in Ouham-Pende, Ouham, Kemo and Nana-Grebizi (OCHA, 28/05/2015).

As of 27 July, the voluntary return and reintegration of persons from Mpoko site was ongoing (UNHCR, 27/07/2015; UNICEF, 09/07/2015). At end July 20,870 people (4,170 households), at Mpoko airport IDP site have been deregistered (UNHCR, 27/07/2015). A survey of all households previously found that 42% plan to resettle in new areas and 55% want to return to their place of origin (OCHA, 18/02/2015; USAID, 27/03/2015). 1,173 households have been registered in the 5th district of Bangui (OCHA, 28/05/2015).

**Nana-Grebizi:** Increased displacement has been recorded throughout the prefecture, with informal IDP sites being set up (UNHCR, 26/06/2015). After an attack in mid-May, 1,900 IDPs and 2,500 residents fled villages on the Dekoa route to the Evêché IDP site in Kaga Bandoro (OCHA, 28/05/2015).

**Mambere-Kadei:** Former IDPs are beginning to return to Berberati. 92 former IDPs returned and received one month’s assistance (OCHA, 15/07/2015).

**Ouham:** Increased displacement has been recorded throughout the prefecture with informal IDP sites being set up (UNHCR, 26/06/2015).

**Ouaka:** Ouaka hosted 57,000 IDPs at 12 March (OCHA, 18/03/2015). In Bambari, there are 9,870 IDPs in Sangaris IDP site; 2,614 IDPs in MINUSCA site; 8,790 at Notre Dame de la Victoire; 9,400 in the Muslim neighbourhood Hadji and Bornu; and 7,900 at Aerodome (UNICEF, 31/03/2015).

**Refugees in CAR**

8,260 refugees and asylum seekers from DRC, Chad, and Sudan are living in camps in Bangui, Bambari, and Zemio (UNHCR, 25/06/2015; 17/04/2015; OCHA; 29/04/2015).

**Returnees**

Local sources report a return rate of 1,000 people per week from DRC to Kouango, Ouaka prefecture (OCHA CAR, 08/07/2015).

**CAR Refugees in Neighbouring Countries**

As of end June, there are 465,210 CAR refugees in neighbouring countries, including 810 registered in June (UNHCR, 16/07/2015; 25/06/2015). 247,600 are registered in Cameroon, 91,520 in Chad, 99,180 in DRC, and 28,170 in Congo (UNHCR, 16/07/2015). 8,260 refugees and asylum seekers from DRC, Chad, and Sudan are living in camps in Bangui, Bambari, and Zemio (UNHCR, 25/06/2015; 17/04/2015; OCHA; 29/04/2015).

**Food Security**

The lean season has begun and a food security crisis is expected to last until September 2015, in particular for IDPs and some host communities. 1,280,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes (IPC, 15/07/2015; Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 20/05/2015; FEWSNET, 30/05/2015). Mbres and Bambari prefectures are those facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes, while Nana-Grebezi, Haute-Kotto, Ouham-Pende, Mambere Kadei, Ouaka, and six other prefectures are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes (IPC, 15/07/2015).
About 19% of people in rural areas are in Crisis and 12% in Emergency (OCHA, 28/05/2015). The most insecure are households headed by women, displaced people or returnees, and those without financial resources. Households in the north and northwest need assistance (FEWSNET, 01/04/2015). A rapid assessment concluded that 36% of households had inadequate food consumption in April compared to 26% in October (UNICEF, 09/07/2015).

Food assistance needs will remain the same as last year and will be higher than the five-year average (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Food access is restrained by reduced food production, lack of livelihoods, and high food prices (OCHA, 18/12/2014; FAO, 26/01/2015). Food crop production in 2014 was 58% below average, as a result of insecurity, looting, and the killing of livestock (OCHA, 04/03/2015). Poor storage of seeds results in insect and fungi attacks, and poor germination (FAO, 19/06/2015). Food stocks in rural areas are 40–50% below average due to recurring raids.

Fish supply has fallen by 40% and cattle-breeding 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 in 2014 (FAO, 26/01/2015; OCHA, 18/12/2014).

Health and Nutrition

As of December 2014, two million people need access to health services (OCHA, 19/11/2014; 22/12/2014). 55% of health facilities are functioning (WHO, 27/04/2015). Only 25% of those offering services have functioning sources of energy, and 21% have access to water (WHO, 31/12/2014).

There is a lack of access to health services in IDP sites and in the subprefectures of Mibres, Batangafo, and Kouango due to increased insecurity (OCHA, 29/04/2015). Deficiency in antiretroviral treatment is reported in Ouaka due to lack of access (OCHA, 28/05/2015).

Malaria remains the primary cause of mortality. 19,890 cases were reported between 4 May and 7 June (WHO, 30/04/2015; 30/06/2015). Funding shortages have brought an NGO to reduce activities by 60% in Paoua and Markounda subprefectures, Ouham, where almost 150,000 had received free malaria treatment (OCHA, 13/05/2015).

A measles outbreak has been reported in Birao, Vakaga prefecture: at least 51 cases were reported during the last week of June and three new cases in July (ECHO, 10/07/2015).

In April, seven cases of meningitis were reported in Batangafo (WHO, 30/06/2015).

Nutrition

Based on a national survey, the country has 6.5% severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (UNICEF, 08/01/2015). In 2015, 32,348 children will suffer from SAM and 78,355 from MAM (OCHA, 28/05/2015). From January to end March 2015, 6,500 children were admitted for treatment for SAM (UNICEF, 30/04/2015).

In 2014, 28,000 children were severely malnourished and 75,500 moderately malnourished (OCHA, 04/12/2014; 18/12/2014).

WASH

2.3 million people do not have access to improved safe water or improved sanitation (OCHA, 23/09/2014; 22/12/2014). 1.4 million people are targeted for WASH infrastructure support in 2015 but lack of funding is a constraint on WASH infrastructure support (OCHA, 29/04/2015; 28/05/2015).

In Bambari, Sangaris IDP site has 6.8L of water/person/day; MINUSCA has 10L/person/day; Notre Dame de la Victoire 4.0L/person/day; and Muslim neighbourhoods have 2.2L/person/day (UNICEF, 31/03/2015).

Shelter

IDP housing: Many displaced people are sleeping on the ground or in the open. Some are under pressure to leave camps, especially those living in school sites. Muslim IDPs face limited movement due to tensions with surrounding communities. IDPs with host families face lack of space and tensions. IDPs tend to move to rental housing after being in IDP sites or with host families but struggle to keep up with rent. Abandoned housing taken up by IDPs is mostly shelter left by Muslims, but only provides minimal protection after having been burned or pillaged. Finding shelter and temporary protection in the bush is another common option for IDPs (NRC, 12/2014).

Some returning IDPs find their homes destroyed or occupied. Disputes and tensions when IDPs relocate are a concern (NRC, 12/2014).

Education

An assessment of schools noted that as of end April 2015, 78–88% are open (UNICEF, 30/04/2015). The situation varies across the country, with 25% functioning in Nana-Mbres, Batangafo, and Kouango due to increased insecurity (OCHA, 29/04/2015; 28/05/2015). An assessment of schools noted that as of end April 2015, 78–88% are open (UNICEF, 30/04/2015). The situation varies across the country, with 25% functioning in Nana-Mbres, Batangafo, and Kouango due to increased insecurity (OCHA, 29/04/2015; 28/05/2015). Education

Student enrolment has improved by 31% since 2013-2014 but is still 6% below pre-crisis levels (2011-2012) (UNICEF, 30/04/2015). Only 6,000–10,000 children were enrolled in school 2012–2014 (IRIN, 12/01/2015). Over 1.4 million children are in need of education (OCHA, 22/12/2014).

In Bangui’s PK5 district, teachers have left due to insecurity, resulting in 60,000 school-aged children in need of safe learning spaces (USAID, 13/03/2015).

Only 10% of school-aged returnees in Debissaka village, Mbonou prefecture, are attending school due to security threats and attacks (ACTED, 22/04/2015).

Protection

Crimes against humanity and war crimes have been reported. 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). On 8 January, the UN Commission of Inquiry into human rights concluded that violence towards Muslims by anti-balaka in 2014 constitutes ethnic cleansing (Government, 20/01/2015).

15 months after being captured in Ombella-Mpoko, 11 Fulani, including the local head of anti-Balaka are still missing and no investigation has started (UN, 05/06/2015). Refugees are at risk of statelessness because access to birth certificates is limited (OCHA, 28/05/2015).

20 peacekeepers were sent home following an event 10 July, where excessive force was used on four people, killing two. (Reuters, 09/07/2015).

Child Protection

432 children were killed or maimed by violence in 2014 (OCHA, 04/12/2014).

The number of children recruited into armed groups has risen to 8,000–10,000, from 2,500 at the beginning of the crisis (The Guardian, 18/12/2014; OCHA, 02/04/2015). Eight major militia groups have agreed to free child soldiers and children used as cooks, messengers, or for sexual purposes (Reuters, 05/05/2015). More than 350 children were freed from armed groups on 14 May (AFP, 14/05/2015).

France is in the process of investigating allegations of child abuse by its peacekeeping forces that occurred between December 2013 and June 2014 (Reuters, 29/04/2015). UN peacekeepers from another country have been accused of sexually abusing street children in Bangui; an investigation is underway (Reuters, 23/06/2015).

Land Mines/UXOs

Camp Beal, an ex-Seleka camp in Bangui, is in the process of being cleared of ammunition and explosives (UN, 06/07/2015).

Updated: 27/07/2015
Political Context

National Political Context

Attempts to prolong the President’s term beyond the two-term limit were met with violent protests in September and then January. Although Parliament voted against the legislation, there are doubts regarding the scheduling of elections (AFP, 27/09/2014; 25/01/2015). In March and April, activists promoting political participation were arrested (Reuters, 16/04/2015). Parliamentarians are convening in special session from 4 July until 2 August to allow elections to be held in October 2015 (AFP, 03/07/2015).

Security Context

Stakeholders

At least 40 armed groups are operating in the east of the country (ECHO, 22/10/2014). They range from local militias set up initially as self-defence groups (among them many Mayi-Mayi groups), to secessionist groups, and forces first set up by fighters from Uganda (LRA and ADF/NALU), Rwanda (FDLR) and Burundi (FNL). The UN has a peacekeeping mission (MONUSCO), and an EU mission providing assistance to security sector reform (EUSEC) was extended until 30 June 2015 (EU, 25/09/2014). The UN and the Government are discussing withdrawal of the UN mission (Radio Okapi, 06/04/2015).

Recent efforts to demobilise armed groups are ongoing. In Goma, North Kivu, a 75 militants have arrived in a camp. On 20 July, 130 arrived in Munigi camp, including 26 child soldiers (UN, 18/07/2015).

Front of Patriotic Resistance in Ituri (FRPI) was set up in November 2002 from among the Ngiti ethnic group (TRAC). Attacks increased in Ituri territory, Orientale, in 2015, after a failed disarmament programme at the end of 2014 (OCHA, 19/04/2015). The FRPI was reportedly neutralised by the FARDC and MONUSCO in late June. 35 died, 52 were wounded and 36 captured alive in three weeks of operations (AFP, 24/06/2015).

Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) are mainly Hutu Rwandans who were allegedly linked to the genocide. An estimated 1,400 fighters are active, primarily in the Kivu region (Reuters, 22/03/2015).

Mayi-Mayi: At least 20 Mayi-Mayi groups, formed by local leaders along ethnic lines, are active in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Katanga. The number of fighters can range from 100 to 1,000 (AFP 2013).

Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU) is a Muslim militant group founded in the 1990s. MONUSCO and the FARDC launched an operation in North Kivu to neutralise the group in January 2015 (Radio Okapi, 07/01/2015). ADF activity decreased in January, but by early February attacks against villages in Beni territory had increased (AFP, 04/02/2015; 20/03/2015).

Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) was founded by Joseph Kony in Uganda in 1987 and spread to South Sudan, then to DRC and CAR (IRIN).

National Liberation Forces (FNFL) are Burundian militants based in South Kivu (AFP 2013).

The armed forces of the DRC (FARDC) comprise 120,000–130,000 fighters (Defence Web, 2013). Seven army and police officers were banned from receiving MONUSCO support in March 2015 because they pose a risk of committing human rights violations (Reuters, 11/03/2015).

The UN Stabilization Mission in DRC (MONUSCO) is made up of almost 18,000 troops, as well as military observers and police units (UN, 09/04/2015). The initial mission, MONUC, was established after the 1999 peace agreement between DRC and five regional states. In March 2014 its mandate was expanded, with the creation of an Intervention Brigade, charged with neutralising armed groups (RFI, 20/10/2014). MONUSCO’s mandate was extended for another year in March 2015, although its force was cut by 2,000 troops (Reuters, 26/03/2015; AFP, 26/03/2015).

Conflict Developments

North Kivu

2.29 million people in North Kivu are affected by armed conflict (OCHA, 02/06/2015). FARDC began an offensive on the FDLR in February, and renewed its offensive on the ADF on 19 July (Radio Okapi, 20/07/2015; AFP, 26/02/2015). 2,960 incidents have been recorded in the first half of 2015, including 519 incidents in June, an increase of 497 in May (International NGO Safety Organization, 20/07/2015). Over 400 people have died through ADF attacks in the past nine months (AFP, 15/07/2015).

Bени territory: 300 people have been killed by ADF militants in Beni territory in the past five months (Radio Okapi, 16/07/2015). An ADF attack on the night of 23 July left several buildings burned and 3 women dead (AFP, 24/07/2015). Another ADF attack was recorded in Beni on FARDC positions. On 20 July, FARDC soldiers took control of the Mutara valley (ACLED, 27/07/2015). FARDC began an offensive against ADF on 19 July (Radio Okapi, 20/07/2015). ADF attacked Kaluka village on 15 July: seven people were killed (Radio Okapi, 16/07/2015). In May, around 80 people were killed, and people left a dozen villages, asked by authorities to move towards FARDC positions and the towns of Oicha and Beni.

Lubero: A clash broke out on 25 May in a transit camp for ex-FDLR combatants in Kanyabayonga. Four people were injured (Radio Okapi, 25/05/2015). The security situation in Banmate, Itala, Bunzoa, Ikobo villages, which lie between Lubero and Walikale territories, is tense due to FDLR attacks (Radio Okapi, 18/05/2015).

Masisi: Five people were killed in an attack on Goma airport in the night of 1–2 June, by suspected ADF (international media, 03/06/2015). 30 people have been arrested (international media, 08/06/2015).

Walikale: Four civilians were killed in clashes between two Mayi-Mayi factions on 2 June in Nsindo. Thousands reportedly fled their homes (Radio Okapi, 04/06/2015).
South Kivu

In Lulingu, Shabunda territory, clashes have been ongoing since mid-May between FARDC and Mayi-Mayi Raiya Mutomboki. Economic activity has ceased, and schools and other basic infrastructure are not functioning. An unknown number of people have left the town, and flights to the region have been suspended (OCHA, 27/05/2015). On 15 June, the Mayi-Mayi Mutomboki kidnapped 28 persons, including 11 women (OCHA, 09/07/215). Incidents have been reported in south Fizi territory since May. 8,000 people fled to north Katanga and east Maniema after Mayi-Mayi attacks (OCHA, 10/06/2015).

Oriental

On 16 July, FRPI attacked a spontaneous IDP camp in Katorogo, Bunia. This is the ninth attack on an IDP site in 2015 and the second in one week (OCHA, 22/07/2015). An INGO vehicle was attacked south of Bunia on 13 July. 35 people died, 52 were wounded and 36 captured alive in three weeks of FARDC–MONUSCO operations in June (AFP, 24/06/2015). On 8 June, 30 people were abducted in Dungu-centre, reportedly by LRA. 12 were released after FARDC intervention (local media, 12/06/2015).

Katanga

Since early 2015, Katanga’s triangle of death (Pweto, Manono, and Moba territories) has experienced a decrease in Mayi-Mayi attacks (Radio Okapi, 17/03/2015), but Luba (Bantus) and pygmies (Batwa) have frequently clashed in Kaleme, Manono, and Nyunzu territories (OCHA, 08/04/2015). In Nyunzu territory, conflict between Luba and pygmies has killed 200 people since January 2015; 60 women have been raped. 113 villages have been burned (Radio Okapi, 03/06/2015). Four people have been killed in clashes in Kitutwa, Manono territory (Radio Okapi, 03/06/2015). On 1 May, pygmy militants burned 28 Luba homes in Kazala locality, Manono, and later clashes killed eight and injured 30 (local media, 07/05/2015). Luba burned several shelters in an IDP camp in May. Women and children are now hosted in a warehouse (ECHO, 05/05/2015; OCHA, 06/05/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

7 million people need humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Access

The mountainous and volcanic terrain, and lack of tarred roads, limit access across DRC, and access worsens during the rainy season. Insecurity is a major constraint in the east.

North Kivu: There were two attacks on humanitarian organisations in Rutshuru and Walikale territories between 18 and 21 June (OCHA, 23/06/2015). Organisations had already suspended activities along the Oicha–Eringeti route north of Beni (Radio Okapi, 23/05/2015). Some 275,000 IDPs are hard to access due to insecurity (OCHA, 30/04/2015). Commercial flights are not serving the area and roads are inaccessible (local media, 09/06/2015).

South Kivu: 40% of the roads in South Kivu are impassable (OCHA, 29/05/2015). Traffic has been suspended on the Bukavu–Goma road since 7 June, after a bridge over the Kitalima River collapsed. Armed groups were stealing goods from stranded trucks (local media, 09/06/2015). An increasing number of insecurity incidents have been reported on the route between Bitale and Hombo (Kalehe territory) (OCHA, 10/06/2015). Humanitarian and commercial flights to Lulingu, Shabunda territory, have been suspended due to insecurity (OCHA, 31/05/2015). Two NGOs have temporarily suspended activities (OCHA, 10/06/2015). In Lulingu, movement restrictions due to armed activity are preventing women from accessing their crops (OCHA, 09/07/2015).

Equateur: The dry season makes passage on the Ubangi River challenging – it is impossible in the wet season – almost cutting the region off completely (AFP, 19/07/2015).

Katanga: In Malemba-Nkulu territory, humanitarian assistance in restricted due to poor roads, especially during the rainy season (OCHA, 30/04/2015). Insecurity has prevented humanitarian actors from accessing Lulingu, where people are in dire need of assistance (OCHA, 10/06/2015).

Oriental: Humanitarian organisations have slowed their activities in the south of Ituri territory (Bunia, Gety, Aveba and Bukiring) due to insecurity (OCHA, 03/06/2015). Since 16 May, five NGOs have suspended humanitarian activities (OCHA, 10/06/2015).

Security Incidents Affecting Aid Workers

From January to end March, 37 incidents against humanitarian actors were recorded nationwide (OCHA, 30/04/2015). But 35 incidents against humanitarians were reported in North Kivu alone over 14–30 April (OCHA, 30/04/2015). Humanitarian agencies are reporting an increase in kidnapping, robbery and extortion cases in North Kivu’s Rutshuru and Walikale territories (USAID, 15/04/2015).

Disasters

Heavy Rains

On 12–13 June a landslide in Mbuse and Laingba, in Ituri territory, Orientale, caused at least 26 deaths and 10 injuries. 500 homes were damaged, leaving people in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 24/06/2015).

IDPs

At end April, there were 2.8 million IDPs in DRC, including 121,000 displaced between January and March 2015 (OCHA, 30/04/2015). 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). Displacement can be short-term, but repetitive, depending on the security threats in the regions.
North Kivu

North Kivu hosts 604,560 IDPs as of 25 June, compared to 570,260 in May. Part of the 6% increase is due to a quality control check (UNHCR, 14/07/2015; OCHA, 17/06/2015). 26,880 were newly displaced in June due to violence in Beni, Rutshuru, and Walikale territory (UNHCR, 14/07/2015).

67% live with host families and 33% in IDP sites (OCHA, 15/07/2015). 25% are in Lubero territory, 24% in Beni, and 23% in Masisi (OCHA, 15/07/2015). 57 sites in North Kivu host more than 201,600 people, mainly from Rutshuru and Masisi (ICM, UNHCR and others, 25/05/2015). Near Goma, four sites remain open, hosting more than 16,000 IDPs (ECHO, 29/05/2015). Buhimba and Nzulo IDP sites closed in May. Most people relocated to Masisi, Nyirangongo, and Rutshuru territories (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

275,360 IDPs returned home in the last 18 months (UNHCR, 14/07/2015).

Beni: There are 152,270 people displaced in Beni as of 25 June, compared to 145,190 in May (OCHA, 15/07/2015). 24,000 people were displaced in early May in the north (OCHA, 02/06/2015).

Lubero: 127,630 people are displaced in Lubero as of 24 June, 20,860 fewer than in May (UNHCR, 15/07/2015).

Walikale: There are 76,030 IDPs in Walikale as of 25 June, 16,310 more than in May (UNCHR, 15/07/2015). Hundreds of households are seeking refuge in Walikale centre, Kibua, Mpofi, Pinga, and at the border with Lubero territory. They are staying with host families, and lack food, clothes, and access to healthcare (Radio Okapi, 06/06/2015). 1,800 people were displaced in Ntoto due to clashes between Raiya Mutomboki factions. An assessment shows families are hosting up to 15 people and most people left without personal effects (OCHA, 23/06/2015). Misau and Muna localities in Ihana have been abandoned since 24 June due to clashes between factions of the Nduma Defense of Congo (NDC), also known as the Mayi Mayi Cheka. The population has fled to Kibua and Pinga (Radio Okapi, 27/06/2015).

South Kivu

At 30 June, 317,960 IDPs were in South Kivu, compared to 661,400 at end March. The 53% decrease in number is due to a purging of data that is awaiting verification (OCHA, 10/07/2015). 11,150 people were displaced between April and June, compared to 34,120 in the previous quarter. Most have been displaced by clashes between the FARDC and armed groups in Kalehe territory (OCHA, 10/07/2015). At 31 March, there were 209,600 returnees over the previous 18 months (OCHA, 10/06/2015). More than 39,000 people were displaced towards Lulungu in May and June due to insecurity (OCHA, 09/07/2015). 89% of IDPs are with host families, 3% in sites and 8% in shelters (OCHA, 10/07/2015).

Oriental

As of end March, there were 550,490 IDPs in Orientale province (OCHA, 19/02/2015; 30/04/2015). Around 389,230 people are displaced in Ituri district (OCHA, 22/05/2015).

DRC hosts more than 225,020 refugees (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; USAID, 15/04/2015; OCHA, 30/04/2015). DRC provincial authorities insist that assistance should only be delivered within camps, making it difficult to support refugees in host communities.
From CAR: As of 25 June, there were 98,280 CAR refugees in DRC (UNHCR, 25/06/2015). As of 15 May, 4,158 were registered in Bili camp (UNHCR, 15/05/2015). In Mboiti camp, 20 of 31 students have dropped out of secondary school (UNHCR, 25/06/2015).

From Rwanda: DRC is hosting 117,300 Rwandan refugees (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; 30/10/2014; UN 30/12/2014).

From Burundi: As of 22 July, 13,600 new Burundian refugees have arrived in DRC (UNHCR, 22/07/2015). The majority are in South Kivu, 500 are in Katanga and 60 are in Maniema (WFP, 15/07/2015). More than 50% are living with host families and 6,970 have been transferred to Lusenda site in Fizi territory (UNHCR, 22/07/2015; 08/07/2015; WFP, 19/06/2015). FDLR presence in hosting areas is a concern (UNHCR, 05/06/2015; OCHA, 27/05/2015). Prior to the recent influx, there were 9,000 Burundian refugees in DRC (OCHA, 27/05/2015). The Government will grant temporary status to the new Burundian refugees (OCHA, 15/06/2015).

From Angola: There are 560 Angolan refugees registered in DRC. Another 28,000 are undergoing voluntary repatriation: as of 23 April, at least 15,520 Angolan refugees had returned from the DRC (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; Government, 30/04/2015).

Returnees

Angola: Between 1 January and May, 29,881 DRC citizens were deported from Angola (Soyo and Cabinda provinces) (OCHA, 04/06/2015). Over 16-30 May, about 14,000 DRC nationals were expelled from Angola (Radio Okapi, 17/06/2015).

Burundi: 325 DRC refugees previously in Burundi have returned to Uvira territory (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

DRC Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

There are around 442,440 DRC refugees in neighbouring countries, mainly in Uganda (178,220), Rwanda (73,560), Burundi (53,860), Tanzania (55,870), Congo (23,450), Kenya (15,630), South Sudan (14,630), and CAR (5,340) (UNHCR, 31/03/2015; 17/02/2015; 01/01/2015; 31/12/2014). Since January, more than 4,500 people have fled to Uganda from eastern DRC (ACT Alliance, 05/06/2015).

Food Security

6.6 million people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes as a result of armed group activity, inter-communal violence, and displacement (OCHA, 30/04/2015; Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, 28/01/2015; USAID, 15/04/2015). Ituri (Orientale), Boende (Equateur), Punia (Maniema), Shabunda (South Kivu), Manono, Mitwaba and Pweto (Katanga) are all in Emergency phase (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 22/05/2015).

It is estimated that food production is currently 20–40% below national consumption (USAID, 21/07/2015).

Maniema: More than 21,000 households (151,200 people) face food insecurity following a fungus in crops in Kibombo territory. The region’s production of cassava, rice and banana has decreased by 62%, 73% and 91%, respectively. More than 3,000 hectares of rice crops have been damaged (OCHA, 21/04/2015). In December 2014, Kibombo territory was in Crisis food insecurity (OCHA, 26/05/2015).

Health and Nutrition

23,000 people in Masisi territory, North Kivu, do not have access to health services (OCHA, 11/02/2015). More than 17,500 IDPs and their hosts in north Beni, North Kivu, need health assistance (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

In South Kivu, 60% of the population in Uvira, Fizi, and Walungu territories do not have healthcare (OCHA, 29/06/2015). IDPs are slowly returning, even though basic services are not functioning. In the five health zones (Lulingu, Tchonka, Milenda, Tchampundu, Lolo), there is a lack of medical stocks, especially rape kits (OCHA, 09/07/2015).

In Orientale, the health situation at Dungu, Haut-Uele, has worsened since MEDAIR and MSF left in 2014: health coverage has decreased from 85% in 2014 to 43.5% in 2015. Since May 2015, the frequency of routine vaccination is not met in 10 health facilities in the area, due to a lack of oil, which is used as fuel for cool vaccine storage (OCHA, 22/07/2015). 29 cases of menigitis and one death were reported over 4 –10 May (OCHA, 27/05/2015). The same period saw 26,332 cases of malaria and 55 deaths (OCHA, 03/06/2015). 140 health facilities in Bunia are functioning, but without trained health personnel and without adequate medicine (Radio Okapi, 30/06/2015).

In Maniema, GAM is 10% and SAM 2%, with Kailo and Kabambare territories most affected (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Measles

In Katanga, 15,000 measles cases were reported between 1 January and end June; 50% more than for the same period in 2014 (OCHA, 02/07/2015). 250 people have died (Radio Okapi, 08/07/2015). Non-vaccinated children are one reason for the rise in measles cases (OCHA, 02/07/2015). 12 health zones are affected. Malemba health zone, Malemba-Nkulu territory, is the worst affected with an average of 1,500 cases per week (OCHA, 31/05/2015). Some 16,000 more cases have been reported in other parts of the country (OCHA, 31/05/2015). A fire in a hospital in Pweto, in Katanga, on 23 June destroyed medical supplies including vaccines against polio and measles (Radio Okapi, 24/06/2015).

A measles epidemic was declared in Maniema province on 15 July. 415 cases have been recorded, including 295 in Kasongo health zone (OCHA, 22/07/2015).

In Orientale, 2,115 cases of measles, including three deaths, have been reported January—May (OCHA, 22/07/2015).

Cholera

6,870 cases of cholera, including 68 deaths, were recorded from January to 28 June, compared to 9,660 for the same period in 2014 (UNICEF, 27/07/2015). Katanga and
South Kivu are most affected: 35% of all cases (2,170) had been recorded in Katanga as of 17 May, including 38 deaths (OCHA, 25/05/2015).

In North Kivu, an increase in cholera cases (more than 30) has been reported in Nkassa and Kailenge, Pinga region, Walikale territory (OCHA, 02/06/2015). In Orientale province, 126 cases of cholera, including eight deaths, were recorded in Gety health zone 23-31 May (OCHA, 24/06/2015).

Four individuals died and 22 others were affected by diarrhoea in Lubutu health zone, Maniema territory, South Kivu; it is still uncertain if this is cholera (Radio Okapi, 08/07/2015).

In 2014, there were 22,200 cases of cholera and 372 deaths (WHO, 31/12/2014; UNICEF, 24/12/2014).

WASH

**Equateur:** Inke and Mole refugee camps, Equateur, provide an average of 10.5L of water per person per day, significantly below standards (UNHCR, 15/05/2015).

**North Kivu:** An estimated 4.3 million people require WASH assistance in North Kivu, including 5,000 IDPs in Bwalanda, Kashilira and Kikuiku sites in Rutshuru territory, where there is a lack of WASH actors (OCHA, 20/05/2015).

**Maniema:** Only 40% of the population of Maniema has access to safe water (OCHA, 02/04/2015).

**Oriental:** 12,600 IDPs in Badengayido, Orientale, lack access to WASH because the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) has opposed it (OCHA, 15/07/2015).

In N’sele commune, Kinshasa, 376,000 people have limited access to safe water (Radio Okapi, 18/06/2015).

**SHELTER**

21,000 IDPs from North Kivu are in need of shelter in Komanda, Orientale (OCHA, 03/06/2015).

A fire in Kalonda II IDP site, Maniema, South Kivu, on 7 July destroyed 300 homes. Witnesses report that pastoralists set the fire (OCHA, 08/07/2015).

**EDUCATION**

7.3 million children aged 5–17 – 28% of the school-aged population – are not attending school (Radio Okapi, 10/03/2015).

One million children are in need of education in North Kivu (OCHA, 02/06/2015).

In South Kivu, on average, 12,300 students cannot access schools every month, due to conflict and natural disasters (OCHA, 10/06/2015).

In Katanga, more than 85% of the 2,000 school-aged children in Kasanga Nyemba, Kalemie territory, are not attending school (OCHA, 22/04/2015). A school was burned in Garenganze, Manono territory, following clashes between Luba and pygmies. 4,600 students are affected (Radio Okapi, 17/05/2015). More than 30 schools in Kalamu, Malemba-Nkulu territory, have been closed since March 2015 due to clashes between the Mayi-Mayi and the FARDC (Radio Okapi, 20/05/2015).

Some 3,000 students in Aveba, Ituri district in Orientale, risk not being able to take their final exams in June due to insecurity (OCHA, 03/06/2015).

Among refugees from CAR, about 75% of school-age children living in refugee camps (12,256) are not going to school due to lack of infrastructure and teachers (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

**PROTECTION**

Military, militias, and other armed groups are accused of abuse of civilians, including arbitrary arrest, extortion, looting, child conscription, sexual violence, and executions.

In Orientale, 12,300 protection incidents against civilians were reported in 2014, compared to 4,800 in 2013 (OCHA, 04/02/2015). In Haut-Uele district, 485 incidents were reported in the first three weeks of May 2015 (OCHA, 27/05/2015). In May, 935 protection incidents were registered in Ituri district, compared to 1,983 in April (OCHA, 03/06/2015). An NGO report determined that 40% of Orientale’s surface contains mines (Radio Okapi, 04/04/2015).

**CHILDREN**


**SGBV**

Sexual violence has been a common element of warfare by the armed groups and soldiers in eastern DRC since the breakout of war in the early 1990s. 127 women reported being sexually abused after an attack by dozens of armed men in Kikamba town, South Kivu on 1 May (MSF, 15/05/2015).

In Orientale, 90% of the 2,900 SGBV cases reported in Orientale in 2014 occurred in Ituri territory, the others in Uele territory (OCHA, 08/04/2015; 19/04/2015). In Haut-Uele district, 110 SGBV incidents were reported in the first three weeks of May, and 138 in April (OCHA, 27/05/2015). On 10 May, 26 women were raped by FRPI in Apihinji and Mbulumbulu localities (OCHA, 22/05/2015).

In Katanga, there were more than 600 cases of SGBV reported from January–March in Katanga. 50% came from Nyunu territory (OCHA, 22/04/2015).

1,680 SGBV cases were reported in 2014 in Katanga and 840 in Kasai-Occidental (OCHA, 05/02/2015; Radio Okapi, 11/02/2015). 2,012 were reported in Orientale province, and 1,123 in Bas-Congo (OCHA, 10/12/2014, 03/12/2014; Radio Okapi, 27/11/2014).
ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 14/07/2015. Last update: 10/06/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.2 million people, including 696,000 children under 18, are in need of humanitarian assistance (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).
- Over 60% of the Eritrean population was reported as undernourished between 2011 and 2013 (WFP).
- Torture, arbitrary detention, and indefinite national service are the grave human right concerns reported in Eritrea (UNHRC).
- Ongoing human rights abuses prompt thousands of Eritreans to flee the country every year. In March 2015, Ethiopia was hosting 133,348 Eritrean refugees (OCHA, 20/04/2015).
- Operations and maintenance of established humanitarian systems remain a significant challenge (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

Political Context

Eritrea is a one-party state governed by President Isaias Afwerk and his party People’s Front for Democracy and Justice. No national elections have been held since Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

1.2 million people need humanitarian assistance, including 696,000 children under 18 (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

Access

There is a lack of updated and reliable data on the humanitarian situation due to limited humanitarian access. Providing direct humanitarian assistance remains a challenge due to limited access, and absence of assessments and humanitarian space (ECHO).

Displacement

Refugees

As of May 2015, there were 2,802 Somali refugees in Eritrea (UNHCR, 22/05/2015).

Eritrean Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

The entire Eritrean refugee population is estimated to constitute more than 321,000 people (Guardian, 21/04/2015). UN estimates that 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. Eritreans constitute the second biggest group of migrants arriving in Italy by boat, after Syrians (Reuters, 24/03/2015). In 2014, more than 37,000 Eritrean refugees sought refuge in Europe, the vast majority arriving by boat across the Mediterranean (UNHCR). The high proportion of unaccompanied minors who cross from Eritrea to Ethiopia is a priority concern (UNHCR).

Ethiopia: At the end of June, there were 139,039 Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR, 30/06/2015), mainly settled in four camps in the northern Tigray and Afar regions (UNICEF, 21/04/2015). Arrival rates spiked towards the end of 2014, with a total of 33,000 arriving by the end of the year (UNHCR, 09/02/2015). The influx has resulted in shortages of shelter in the camps (OCHA, 26/01/2015).

Sudan: Sudan reportedly hosts at least 114,500 Eritrean refugees (UNHCR).

Djibouti: As of 1 January, there were 1,240 Eritrean refugees in Djibouti (UNHCR, 30/01/2015).

Kenya: As of 1 June, there were 1,595 Eritrean refugees in Kenya; the majority located in Nairobi (UNHCR, 08/06/2015).

Food Security

A delayed onset and lack of rainfall has resulted in abnormal dryness across western Eritrea (FEWSNET, 17/07/2015). Very poor rainfall since February, including extremely sporadic rain since mid-March, has led to drought conditions in eastern Eritrea (FEWSNET, 30/05/2015).

It is estimated that Eritrea produces only 60% of the food it needs, and markets appear to be dysfunctional. These two factors suggest that a significant part of the population may be in need of food assistance. Due to extensive national service,
farmers are routinely absent during harvest periods (Economist, 10/03/2014). In addition, local food and fuel prices are likely to be high, putting severe pressure on household coping mechanisms. The Government officially denies any food shortages within its borders and refuses food aid (ECHO).

Health and Nutrition

According to FAO in 2013, over 60% of the Eritrean population was reported to be undernourished between 2011 and 2013.

Protection

According to a June 2015 report by the UN Human Rights Council, grave human rights violations are widespread. Eritreans are deprived of fundamental freedoms by the authorities, and are routinely and arbitrarily arrested, detained, and tortured. Disappearances or extrajudicial executions were also reported (UNHRC, 04/06/2015). Eritreans are subject to systems of national service and forced labour in which individuals are effectively detained indefinitely (UNHRC, 04/06/2015).

Mines and ERW

UNICEF reported in January 2015 that landmines and ERWs continue to have a serious impact on the population, including causing deaths, injuries and disabilities. Humanitarian mine action programmes in the country have been scaled down because of limited access (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

Updates: 20/07/2015

NIGERIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

OVERVIEW

Violence has displaced close to 1.6 million people, restricted movement, disrupted food supply, seriously hindered access to basic services, and limited agricultural activities. People affected by violence in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, and neighbouring Bauchi, Taraba, and Gombe states are in urgent need of protection, shelter, food, and access to health services and education.

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

Political Context

Muhammadu Buhari was sworn in as President on 29 May, succeeding Goodluck Jonathan, whose party had led the country since 1999. Buhari is a former president and military ruler from northern Nigeria (local media, 29/05/2015; AFP, 02/04/2015).

Security Context

Between January and mid-July 2015, around 6,740 fatalities were reported in more than 320 violent events with confirmed or suspected BH involvement in northeastern states. The same period in 2014 saw around 220 incidents, with almost 4,000 fatalities. As of 11 July, 69 suicide attacks have been recorded in 2015, compared to 38 in all of 2014 (ACLED, 11/07/2015). Boko Haram’s (BH) insurgency in the northeast began to gain momentum in 2014, when 7,711 deaths were reported (ACLED, 11/01/2015).

Since the end of 2014, the conflict with Boko Haram has taken on a more regional dimension, with attacks in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, and a strengthened multinational force. With the engagement of regional forces, the Nigerian Government regained territory in early 2015, but insurgent attacks have since increased in the northeast (UNHCR, 22/05/2015).

In the Middle Belt area (Benue, Kaduna, Plateau, Nassarawa, and Taraba states), inter-communal clashes flare regularly, fuelled by ethnic and religious tensions, as well as competition between farmers and pastoralists (IDMC, 12/2014).

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

23 July: Boko Haram (BH) is reported to be holding five local government areas in Borno and Yobe states (AFP).

20 July: So far in July, more than 500 people have been killed in confirmed and suspected BH attacks; more than half of all deaths were reported in Borno state (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- Around 6,740 deaths from Boko Haram-related violence in 2015 as of mid-July. 7,711 deaths from Boko Haram-related violence were reported in 2014 (ACLED, 11/07/2015; 11/01/2015).

- 4.6 million people in need of humanitarian aid, including 1.4 million IDPs (OCHA, 05/06/2015; IOM, 30/06/2015).

- 3.5 million people are expected to be in need of emergency food assistance between July and September (FEWSNET, 25/06/2015).

- 1.5 million are in need of nutrition assistance, including 461,000 children under five suffering from SAM (OCHA, 05/06/2015).

- 2.2 million people are in need of WASH assistance; 1 million in need of shelter and NFIs; 2.2 million in need of protection; and 3.5 million people in need of healthcare (OCHA, 06/2015).
Boko Haram (BH)

Boko Haram ("Western education is forbidden") has been leading an insurgency to create an Islamic state in the predominantly Muslim regions of northeastern Nigeria. The Nigerian authorities have been fighting BH since 2009. Precise BH troop numbers are not known, but estimated at around 15,000 (Amnesty, 13/04/2015). In March, BH pledged allegiance to Islamic State (AFP, 07/03/2015).

Recent Incidents

BH attacks tend to follow a similar pattern, with houses set on fire, food and cattle seized, and a number of villagers killed. The attacks often lead to the displacement of residents. In July, more than 500 people were killed in confirmed and suspected BH attacks (AFP, 20/07/2015).

Borno state: On 24 July, at least 25 people were killed in suspected BH attacks on three villages in south Borno, close to Sambisa Forest (AFP, 25/07/2015). On 23 July, eight people were killed in a raid on Pompomari village, close to Maiduguri (AFP, 23/07/2015). On 21 July, suspected BH raided Buratai village, home to an army chief. After the attack, there was a failed suicide attack at a military checkpoint in Biu town, 25km away (AFP, 23/07/2015). In the first two weeks of July, around 300 people were killed in suicide attacks and raids on villages (AFP, 15/07/2015; 14/07/2015; 11/07/2015; 10/07/2015; 07/07/2015; 04/07/2015; 03/07/2015; 02/07/2015; Die Welle, 13/07/2015).

Yobe state: On 26 July, a suspected BH suicide bombing in Damaturu killed 19 people and injured 47. On 20 July, three police were killed at a checkpoint on the outskirts of the city (Reuters, 27/07/2015). Earlier in July, three suicide bombings in Damaturu killed at least 13 people (AFP, 17/07/2015). Six people were killed in a bomb blast outside of Damaturu on 20 July, at a checkpoint on the main road to Maiduguri (AFP, 20/07/2015). On 5 July, five people were killed in a suicide attack on a church in Potiskum city (AFP, 05/07/2015).

Gombe state: On 22 July, 42 people died in bomb blasts at two bus stations in Gombe (AFP, 22/07/2015). On 16 July, a twin bomb blast at a market in Gombe city killed 49 people and injured 71 (AFP, 16/07/2015; 17/07/2015).

Plateau state: Two explosions occurred on 5 July in Jos city. The first in a restaurant, the second was a suicide attack on a mosque. Accounts of casualties vary between 44 and 51, and between 47 and 61 wounded. There was no claim of responsibility, although BH has targeted Jos city in the past (AFP, 05/07/2015; BBC, 06/07/2015; CTV News, 06/07/2015).

Kaduna state: At least 25 people were killed in a bomb blast in a government building in Zaria on 7 July. 32 were injured. No group has claimed the attack, but BH has previously targeted the city (AFP, 07/07/2015).

Inter-communal Violence

Reports of inter-communal violence in the Middle Belt have decreased in recent months. On 18 June, eight farmers were killed in Wukari district of Taraba state (AFP, 18/06/2015). In May and April, at least 46 people were killed in inter-communal violence; 118 people were killed in March. Involved communities mainly include Fulani, Ologba, and Egba (AFP, 26/05/2015; 19/04/2015; 17/03/2015; ECHO, 17/03/2015). In 2014, around 1,700 people died in inter-communal violence (ACLED, 2014; ICG, 01/10/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Reports of low morale and defections persist among Nigerian forces. Failures to act on intelligence and abuse during the campaign against BH are also a problem, impacting relations with the civilian population (ACLED, 31/03/2015). In the past, Nigerian soldiers at times reportedly refused to deploy, or fled from operations (AFP, 22/08/2014).

Regional Forces

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF) has reached 8,700 military and civilian personnel, including contingents from Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria (BBC, 03/03/2015). The scope and remit of the regional force is unclear. Failure to maintain control over liberated towns, such as Gamboru and Marte in Borno state in March and April, have suggested coordination problems. The force is headed by a Nigerian commander (AFP, 11/06/2015; 25/04/2015; 20/03/2015).

Conflict Developments

The renewed military offensives of early 2015 and territorial gains by regional forces (36 towns recaptured in Borno) have prompted BH to revert to guerrilla tactics including village raids, abductions, bombings and suicide attacks, increasingly targeting civilians (AFP, 23/03/2015; US Institute of Peace, 09/01/2015). BH has increased the number and the range of attacks since March–April, including in areas not previously targeted, such as Yola and Bauchi (INGO Forum, 17/07/2015). BH is reported to be holding five local government areas in Borno and Yobe states (AFP, 23/07/2015).

Between December 2014 and June 2015, OCHA reported 162 BH-related incidents and 3,750 fatalities. February being the deadliest month with 987 deaths in 47 incidents (OCHA, 18/06/2015; 30/06/2015). Others reported more than 320 incidents and 6,740 deaths between January and mid-July 2015 (ACLED, 11/07/2015). The scope and remit of the regional force is unclear. Failure to maintain control over liberated towns, such as Gamboru and Marte in Borno state in March and April, have suggested coordination problems. The force is headed by a Nigerian commander (AFP, 11/06/2015; 25/04/2015; 20/03/2015).

Since 29 May, when President Buhari assumed office, more than 700 people have been killed in the northeast (AFP, 17/07/2015). More than 200 people were killed in Borno state in June alone, and violence has escalated since early July. Other states that have reported BH attacks in July include Yobe, Gombe, Plateau, and Kaduna. Adamawa, which is among the three most affected states, has not reported any BH attacks since early June. The national army claims to have killed more than 600 insurgents (AFP, 05/07/2015).
Some 9.7 million people, including IDPs, are staying in 34 areas worst affected by the insurgency. The entire population of northeast Nigeria – 24.5 million people – is indirectly affected; 4.6 million are in need of humanitarian aid (OCHA, 30/04/2015; 09/07/2015). The situation is compounded by limited international presence in the area. An estimated 2.3 million people do not have access to humanitarian aid and are in critical need of assistance (INGO Forum, 17/07/2015).

Access

The security situation in the northeast continues to impair access to affected populations. Almost daily attacks on communities since the beginning of the year have resulted in an absence of humanitarian actors in the region. Those who are present have difficulty accessing populations and assessing the extent of needs in remote areas (ACF, 30/06/2015). Humanitarian assistance is very limited in remote areas that are or were formerly under BH control (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

In Borno state, many domestic flights have been cancelled and fuel stations are running out of petrol (BBC, 25/05/2015).

Media access has also often been prohibited, with BH having destroyed communication and media infrastructure (Reporters without Borders, 05/02/2015). Infrastructure damage reaches 80% in some areas controlled by BH (IRIN, 05/06/2015).

Displacement

Around 1.6 million Nigerians have been displaced by conflict, including nearly 1.4 million internally and 203,000 abroad. 57% of IDPs are children.

IDPs

As of June, nearly 1.4 million IDPs have been identified in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe states, compared to 1.5 million in April. More than 200,000 people have returned in Adamawa state, but further displacement continues (IOM, 30/06/2015).

The majority of IDPs have been displaced for several months or longer (INGO Forum, 17/07/2015). Most basic needs are not covered, and IDPs are mainly relying on their own limited resources, charity of private individuals, and harmful coping mechanisms. The priority is food security, followed by protection and livelihood support (INGO Forum, 19/06/2015; ECHO, 25/06/2015). 27% of registered IDPs are not receiving any assistance. This proportion is higher among IDPs living with host families (40%) than those in IDP sites (11%).

More than 1.2 million are staying with host families, the remaining are staying in 42 camps and camp-like sites (IOM, 30/06/2015).

95% of IDPs were displaced by the insurgency, and 5% by communal clashes. About 75% were displaced in 2014, and 23% in 2015. 56% of IDPs are children; half are under five. More than one million are in Borno, which is also the state of origin for 80% of IDPs. 125,484 are in Yobe (9%) and 113,437 in Adamawa (8%). People displaced by inter-communal violence are mostly in Taraba and Bauchi states (IOM, 30/06/2015).

Most IDPs are not yet returning home, citing a lack of security and livelihood opportunities. Many cannot return to their original homes, due to destruction of infrastructure and houses (INGO Forum, 19/06/2015). There are 223,141 returning IDPs in northern Adamawa state (OCHA, 09/07/2015). They are in urgent need of shelter, food, health, and education. Concerns remain over mines, IEDs and UXO in areas of return (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Refugees

As of May, there were 2,190 refugees and asylum seekers in Nigeria (UNHCR, 27/05/2015).

Nigerian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

There are around 200,000 Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries. 74,000 are in Cameroon, 64,000 in Niger, and 14,900 in Chad (UN, 12/06/2015; 18/06/2015).

Food Security

4.6 million people are estimated food insecure. A food security Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is expected in worst-affected areas in the northeast from July–September (OCHA, 09/07/2015; FEWSNET, 25/06/2015).

3.5 million people are expected to be in need of food assistance in the northeast between July and September. Eastern Yobe, central and eastern Borno, northern Adamawa, and IDP settlements are worst affected, with at least two million people expected to face Emergency food security outcomes (OCHA, 08/06/2015; FEWSNET, 25/06/2015). Markets remain significantly disrupted in the Lake Chad region, due to insecurity (FEWSNET, 31/05/2015).

Lack of access to IDPs for food distribution, mostly in urban areas, is a concern (FEWSNET, 20/05/2015). Lack of access to food has been reported in 11 out of 42 displacement sites. Borno state is most affected, with 10 sites lacking access to food (IOM, 30/06/2015).

Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity is expected for most households outside the northeast through at least September (FEWSNET, 11/05/2015).

Agriculture and Livelihoods

Communities in northeastern rural areas largely depend on farming for their livelihoods. But families returning from displacement will not be able to support themselves, as staple crops have not been planted (INGO Forum, 17/07/2015). Insecurity prevents those who remain in the northeast from carrying out typical farming activities. Forecasts for the 2015 rainy season (May–September) are poor and the main harvest in October is expected to be well below average for a third consecutive year (FEWSNET, 25/06/2015).

Boko Haram enforces rigid movement restrictions and some limitations on trade, negatively impacting people’s ability to obtain food and gain a livelihood, and limiting food availability on markets (Amnesty, 13/04/2015; FEWSNET, 25/06/2015).
Health and Nutrition

3.5 million people need health support (OCHA, 09/07/2015). Mortality rates are increasing and vaccination programmes severely hit, with polio vaccination campaigns limited to Maiduguri.

Urgent health and nutrition support is needed in the newly opened Dalori camp in Maiduguri (OCHA, 08/06/2015; UNICEF, 01/06/2015). 75 health facilities had been destroyed in Borno state as of May. Half of the local government areas have access to health care facilities (USAID, 17/06/2015).

Most IDPs in host communities have limited access to health services (OCHA, 02/10/2014). 3,000 health facilities in the northeast are closed or have been partially destroyed (OCHA, 08/10/2014).

Malaria is the most prevalent health problem among IDPs in camps (IOM, 30/06/2015). By end of June, 2,316 cholera cases had been reported in 2015 in 13 of 16 states, with 121 deaths. Anambra, Kano, Rivers, and Ebonyi states are worst affected. Although the number of cases is significantly lower than the 24,195 over the same period in 2014, the case fatality rate has risen to 5.2%. Case numbers had been fluctuating between 0 and 60 per week since the peak of the outbreak in mid-March, but increased to 100 new cases in the last week of June (IFRC, 09/06/2015; 22/07/2015; UNICEF, 27/07/2015).

Displacement from areas affected by the outbreak is increasing the risk of cholera spreading towards the border with Niger (OCHA, 30/06/2015).

Nutrition

1.5 million children and pregnant and lactating women are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2015. 32% are estimated to be children suffering from SAM (OCHA, 09/07/2015). Around 100,000 children in camps are thought to be suffering from SAM (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

In May, GAM in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe IDP camps was around 12% among children under five. Malnutrition is thought to be worse among IDPs in host communities, as they lack access to nutrition services. In April, a nutrition assessment found 29% GAM among IDPs under five in Borno state (USAID, 23/07/2015).

WASH

2.2 million people are in need of WASH assistance (OCHA, 09/07/2015). WASH conditions in IDP host communities are critical, with reports of inadequate latrines and lack of access to safe water (IDMC, 16/04/2015). In the northeast, only 46% of the population have access to improved sources of drinking water and 21% to latrines (UNICEF, 13/01/2015).

Residents in two IDP sites have less than 5L of water/person/day. People have more than 15L/p/d in only 13 out of 42 sites (IOM, 30/06/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

One million people are in need of shelter and NFIs (OCHA, 09/07/2015). IDP sites are often overcrowded (IRIN, 05/06/2015). The number of IDPs in formal camps has been growing since April, and shelter and other basic needs have risen (OCHA, 08/06/2015). There is a reported need for shelter repair materials in half of IDP sites. 4% of IDPs in camps (some 4,450 individuals) are living in self-made tents, while others are staying in public buildings, such as schools and community centres, and government buildings (IOM, 30/06/2015).

Education

10.5 million children are out of school in Nigeria, including 60% in the northeast of the country (UNICEF, 04/2015). 300,000 children in Borno state have been unable to attend school for more than a year (USAID, 17/06/2015).

Low numbers of qualified teachers, scarcity of teaching materials, and fear of sending children to school are main concerns for IDP children's access to education (UNICEF, 01/06/2015).

BH has repeatedly targeted schools and other educational institutions. More than 300 schools have been severely damaged or destroyed, and at least 196 teachers and 314 school children were killed between January 2012 and December 2014 (UNICEF, 13/04/2015).

Protection

2.2 million people are in need of protection (OCHA, 09/07/2015). Top reasons cited for not feeling safe include the killing of civilians, armed encounters and destruction of property. The affected population in the northeast and north-central states indicates main protection concerns are destruction of housing, property and crops, land-related conflicts and forced evictions (UNHCR, 06/07/2015).

Women are at particular risk of sexual violence and trafficking in displacement sites. Unaccompanied minors make up 1.7% of IDPs (23,550 individuals) and physical and emotional abuse of children is reported in many IDP sites. The majority of unaccompanied and separated children are in Borno state, followed by Yobe and Adamawa (IDMC, 16/04/2015; UNICEF, 13/04/2015; OCHA, 07/07/2015; Protection Sector Working Group, 17/07/2015).

IDP camps are facing a significant threat from militant infiltration; some cases of BH...
militants disguised as IDPs have been reported from Maiduguri (UNHCR, 29/05/2015).

Abduction, Torture, and Forced Recruitment

Kidnappings of groups of women and girls by BH continue. More than 2,000 women and girls have reportedly been abducted by the group since January (AFP, 30/04/2015; BBC, 14/04/2015).

Women and girls have been trafficked, raped, abducted and forcibly married in areas controlled by BH (OCHA, 30/04/2015). Young men are being forcibly recruited and executed (Amnesty, 13/04/2015). The increasing use of children and women for suicide bombings is of great concern (UNHCR, 29/05/2015).

Cases of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, detention, and torture have been documented among Nigerian forces in the course of security operations against BH (Amnesty International, 03/06/2015). Amnesty has raised concerns about the tactics used by security forces in the offensive against BH. More than 8,000 people are said to have died in detention in June (Reuters, 23/06/2015).

Updated: 27/07/2015

SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

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 1.5 million people living in seven regions affected by the Somalia–African Union military offensive: Bakool, Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan, Bay, Banadir, and Lower Juba.

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. Vision 2016, the Federal Government’s policy covering constitutional revision, the establishment of regional administrations, and transition to multiparty democracy, is opposed by key figures in the state (UNSC, 25/09/2014; ICG, 01/11/2014).

Security Context

Security incidents such as suicide attacks, mine explosions, and armed confrontations continue in southern regions. Most incidents between January and May 2015 were reported in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Beletweyne and Kismayo (FSNAU, 26/06/2015). Armed actors conducted more than 940 violent incidents targeting civilians and humanitarian personnel between 1 March and 20 April (USAID, 19/05/2015). Over 2,200 conflict incidents with humanitarian impact were reported in the first nine months of 2014, including military operations, active hostilities, and other forms of violence against civilians (OCHA, 17/10/2014).

Stakeholders

Al Shabaab

- 2.75 million people need safe water (OCHA, 02/06/2015).
- 3 million are estimated to need emergency health services (OCHA, 02/06/2015).
- Nearly one million people are facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food insecurity outcomes (UNICEF, 30/04/2015).
- Some 203,000 children under five are estimated to be acutely malnourished, mainly in south-central Somalia, including 38,200 severely (OCHA, 20/07/2015).
- 1.7 million children are out of school (OCHA, 12/03/2015).
- Nearly one million Somali refugees live in neighbouring countries, mostly Kenya, Ethiopia, and Yemen (UNHCR, 07/07/2015).

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

27 July: Very critical levels of acute malnutrition persist in Hudur and Bulo Burde, where access to food and medication is limited due to road blocks and insecurity (FSNAU).

24 July: Al Shabaab has lost control over Bardhere (Gedo) and Dinsoor (Bay) towns, to Somali and African Union armed forces (BBC, 22/07/2015; 24/07/2015).

21 July: More than 10,000 people have fled towns in Lower Shabelle and Bay regions, as SNAF-AMISOM have started new offensives (AMISOM, 19/07/2015; ECHO, 21/07/2015).

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 (UNHCR, 12/2014).
Al Shabaab is a militant Islamist group and off-shoot of the Islamic Courts Union. It took over most of southern Somalia in 2006, seeking to establish an Islamic state. Numbering 7,000–9,000 militants, Al Shabaab typically targets Somali government officials, AMISOM forces, and perceived government allies. Attacks in urban centres and along transport axes are common. Al Shabaab has also carried out a number of attacks in Kenya. Al Shabaab was forced out of Mogadishu in 2011 and Kismayo in 2012, and lost Barawe, Lower Shabelle, in October 2014.

SNAF–AMISOM Offensive

In November 2013, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) force was increased to 22,000 from 17,600. Its mandate has been extended until 30 November 2015 (UNSC, 25/09/2014). The Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF) and AMISOM launched a military offensive against Al Shabaab-held areas in March 2014 (OCHA, 05/2014). The second phase of the offensive began in late August. Bakool, Gedeo, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan, Bay, Banadir, and Lower Juba regions are all affected (FSNAU, 03/2015). New offensives started in July in Bay and Gedeo regions (AMISOM, 19/07/2015). Galgaduud. Lower and Middle Juba, Middle Shabelle, and Mudug are also expected to be affected (OCHA, 20/07/2015).

Conflict developments

Al Shabaab continues attacks on civilians, humanitarian personnel, and government officials. In June, at least 93 Al Shabaab attacks were reported, with 197 fatalities, compared to 92 attacks and 157 fatalities in May. However, for many incidents no number of casualties is confirmed. The number of deaths from Al Shabaab-related violence is thus expected to be much higher (ACLED, 11/07/2015).

Late July, military forces took control of Bardhere and Dinsoor towns. Though local media reported heavy fighting, military sources claim they took the towns without a fight (Horseed media, 20/07/2015; BBC, 24/07/2015; 22/07/2015). Al Shabaab claims the withdrawal was a strategic act, and that it will return (Reuters, 23/07/2015). Other Al Shabaab strongholds, such as Jilib in Middle Juba and Hudur in Bakool, are expected to be targets of the offensive (local media, 19/07/2015).

Local media reports that Al Shabaab has advanced in Lower Shabelle region, and in June was in control of at least three districts: Awdheegle, Tora-toro and Mubarak (Horseed media, 05/07/2015). AMISOM is reportedly withdrawing from some of its smaller outposts in Somalia (BBC, 29/06/2015).

In retaliation for recent Al Shabaab attacks in Kenya, airstrikes were carried out in Gedeo region. More than ten civilians were reportedly killed, and many others injured. Residents have fled the area (Horseed media, 12/07/2015; 13/07/2015).

Recent incidents

On 21 July, at least 24 civilians were reportedly killed and 22 injured in Marka town, when AMISOM soldiers opened fire. AMISOM claims the victims were Al Shabaab fighters. Many residents fled the area (Al Jazeera, 21/07/2015). On 15 July, clashes occurred between Ethiopian AMISOM forces and Al Shabaab near Wajid district, Bakool (Horseed media, 15/07/2015). The same day, militants were killed in Gedeo region in clashes with Kenyan defence forces (Allfrica, 15/07/2015). On 13 July, Al Shabaab attacked a town in Raga El district, Middle Shabelle, which had been under AU and government control since last year. At least ten Somali soldiers were killed (Horseed media, 13/07/2015). Al Shabaab briefly seized Wanlaweyn town in the southeast of Lower Shabelle on 4 July (Horseed media, 05/07/2015; Raxanreeb, 05/07/2015).

Mogadishu: Al Shabaab attacks in Mogadishu mainly target political figures. On 26 July, at least 13 people were killed and more than 40 injured in a car bomb attack on a hotel that hosts several diplomatic missions. The attack was said to be in retaliation for the dozens of civilians killed by military forces in the south several days earlier (AFP, 27/07/2015; BBC, 26/07/2015). Four people were killed in an attack on an MP on 25 July (AFP, 26/07/2015). On 12 July, a district official and his bodyguards were killed in Kahda district (Horsec media, 12/07/2015). On 10 July, Al Shabaab killed at least five people in two coordinated attacks on two hotels. Dozens were injured. The same day, there was a mortar attack on a former football stadium, which is now a key base of AU troops, but no casualties were reported (AFP, 10/07/2015). On 5 July, a car bomb exploded, targeting a senior security officer. No casualties were reported (Raxanreeb, 05/07/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Restricted humanitarian access continues to affect aid delivery to affected populations in south-central Somalia (OCHA, 02/06/2015). Insecurity on the main roads makes needs assessment, delivery of humanitarian supplies, and response difficult (OCHA, 21/11/2014). Even in areas where there has been no active conflict, illegal checkpoints, banditry, and demands for bribes are common (OCHA, 17/10/2014).

Al Shabaab has cut off road access to towns controlled by AMISOM, including Rabhure and Wajid in Bakool (FEWSNET, 16/04/2015). However, some goods are coming into these towns through community networks (OCHA, 20/07/2015). Bulo Burde in Hiraan is only accessible by helicopter; Belet Weyne–Mogadishu and Mogadishu–Baidoa–Dolow are badly affected (OCHA, 20/07/2015). Banadir, and Lower Juba regions are all affected (FSNAU, 03/2015). New offensives started in July in Bay and Gedeo regions (AMISOM, 19/07/2015). Galgaduud. Lower and Middle Juba, Middle Shabelle, and Mudug are also expected to be affected (OCHA, 20/07/2015).

The Puntland–Somaliland border is closed (OCHA, 24/04/2015; Logistics Cluster, 29/04/2015; OCHA, 12/05/2015). The indefinite closure of Bosaso Airport, Puntland, for renovation, has severely constrained humanitarian operations (PI, 08/01/2015).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

Over 20 incidents of violence against aid workers were reported in May and June. In the first six months of 2015, the number of security incidents involving aid workers has reached more than 60. Eight workers were killed, 14 injured, five abducted, and 30
arrested or detained (OCHA, 16/07/2015; 20/07/2015). A 400-strong UN military unit was deployed in Mogadishu with a mandate to protect aid workers in May 2014 (UN).

Displacement

IDPs

An estimated 1.1 million Somalis were IDPs by June 2015, 893,000 in the south-central region, 129,000 in Puntland, and 84,000 in Somaliland. 369,000 IDPs live in makeshift camps in Mogadishu (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). The same figures have been reported since December 2014 (OCHA, 04/12/2014).

Conflict continues to cause displacement, with more than 10,000 people reported to have fled towns in Lower Shabelle and Bay (OCHA, 16/07/2015; ECHO, 21/07/2015). Between 12 and 20 July, some 900 new IDPs were registered in Dinsor district, Bay region, and Bardhere, Gedo region (Society Development Initiative Organization, 20/07/2015).

Returnees

The Tripartite Agreement between the Kenyan and Somali Governments and UNHCR, signed in November 2013, establishes a legal framework for Somali refugees wishing to return home (UNHCR 15/08/2014). 3,000 refugees have registered to return, compared to the original target of 10,000 (UNHCR, 08/12/2014). Between 8 December and 26 July, 2,903 Somalis returned from Kenya. 2,132 have returned to Kismayo, 722 to Baidoa, and 49 to Luuq (UNHCR, 12/07/2015). Afgoye, Balcad, Belet Weyne, Jowhar, Mogadishu and Wanla Weyne have been identified as new areas for return (OCHA, 20/07/2015).

Somali refugees in Kenya cite insecurity and lack of earning opportunities as their main uncertainties regarding return to Somalia (UNHCR, East African, 02/08/2014; UNHCR, 11/08/2014).

Refugees and Returnees from Yemen

The number of new arrivals from Yemen has increased significantly since April. As of 20 July, 25,022 have been registered: 16,614 arrived in Bosaso, Puntland, and 8,284 in Berbera, Somaliland. On 20 July, 1,256 people arrived, compared to around 200 people the previous week (IOM, 16/07/2015; 23/07/2015).

Immediate needs of new arrivals include emergency health relief, food, protection, and WASH (Red Cross Movement, 02/07/2015). Camps are overcrowded and there is not enough capacity to meet needs (local media, 24/05/2015; 13/05/2015; 08/06/2015). A second reception centre is being set up in Bosaso (UNHCR, 14/07/2015). Arrivals are expected to reach 48,000 by September (Red Cross Movement, 02/07/2015). The large majority of arrivals are Somali returnees (21,259), some 2,300 are Yemeni refugees, and the remainder are third-country nationals (IOM, 16/07/2015). Some people continue on to Mogadishu, where they are staying in IDP settlements (UNHCR, 14/07/2015).

Some people fleeing Yemen are being told the conflict in Somalia is over and a peace agreement was signed. Others, especially unaccompanied and separated children, are not aware of the conflict until they arrive in Somalia, and cannot afford to return to Yemen (OCHA, 06/07/2015).

Somali Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

There are 967,445 Somali refugees in neighbouring countries, of whom 2,753 were registered in 2015: at least 421,789 in Kenya, 247,703 in Ethiopia, and 246,648 in Yemen, with the remainder in Uganda, Djibouti, Eritrea, and Tanzania (UNHCR, 07/07/2015).

Food Security

The food security situation has deteriorated since January, with nearly one million people facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food insecurity outcomes as of May; an increase from earlier projections of 730,000 people (UNICEF, 30/04/2015). An additional 2.3 million people are facing Stressed (Phase 2) outcomes and are highly vulnerable to shocks (OCHA, 02/06/2015). IDPs make up some 75% of food-insecure people (OCHA, 20/07/2015).

People in IDP sites are facing Crisis and Emergency food security outcomes. In parts of Hiraan and Bakool that are affected by roadblocks and conflict, most households will face Emergency food insecurity through September 2015, and the situation is likely to persist in the following months (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 22/05/2015; USAID, 19/05/2015; FSNAU, 26/06/2015; OCHA, 16/07/2015).

Households in northwest agropastoral zones will have to reduce food consumption between July and the next hagaa harvest in October due to poor crop yields. Pasture shortages are reported in parts of Bari, Sanag, Awdal, and Woqooyi regions in the north, and in Galgaduud, Middle and Upper Juba, and Lower and Upper Shabelle regions in south-central Somalia (FEWSNET, 16/06/2015; GIIEWS, 27/07/2015).

From July–December, a deterioration in food security is projected in parts of agricultural livelihood areas of Somalia, particularly in the southern areas of Bay, Bakool, Hiraan, Middle Juba and Middle Shabelle, where reduced crop yields are expected. In livestock-dependent livelihood areas, improvement in food security is likely due to favourable livestock prices, increased milk availability, and increased livestock herd size. However, in the areas in with pasture shortages, deteriorating livestock conditions are expected during the dry hagaa season until October (FSNAU, 26/06/2015; GIIEWS, 27/07/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Harvesting of the gu crops is forecast to be below-average in south-central agropastoral areas, as well as in northwestern cropping areas. Off-season harvest in riverine areas of Lower and Middle Juba, Middle Shabelle and Gedo regions will be negatively impacted by below-average hagaa showers from July–September (GIIEWS, 27/07/2015).

Prices of staple crops increased in June in markets in the south, including Mogadishu, due to consecutive below-average harvests and conflict-related trade disruptions (GIIEWS, 27/07/2015). Prices of food commodities remain high in urban areas
of Bakool and Hiraan regions due to trade blockades throughout the past year (FSNAU, 26/06/2015). In Hudur, Bakool, price increases up to 28% were observed in June, compared to May. In Bulo Burde, Hiraan, prices remained relatively stable in June, but continue to be high due to insecurity (FSNAU, 27/07/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Around 3 million people are in need of emergency health services, particularly in Bay, Bakool, Galgaduud, Middle Juba and parts of Gedo (OCHA, 02/06/2015). 1.5 million people are without access to primary health services, including 300,000 children under five, due to funding shortfalls (OCHA, 16/07/2015). In the Humanitarian Response Plan, the health sector is only 8.5% funded, the lowest since 2008. Consequently, ten hospitals have closed or majorly scaled down services in the past three months. Basic health posts and clinics are struggling to meet primary health needs. Many aid agencies have withdrawn health workers due to lack of funds (WHO, 23/07/2015). Hospitals in Dhobley, Galkayo, Jawhar, and Kismayo risk having to suspend services. In 2014, 20 health facilities closed due to limited funding (OCHA, 16/07/2015).

In Hudur, Bakool region, several health centres have closed; those that remain open lack staff and supplies. Many residents do not have access to medical services, as roads have been blocked (Horseed Media, 15/07/2015).

All IDP sites in south-central Somalia had a serious under-five mortality rate May–June (1–1.9/10,000/day) (FSNAU, 06/2015). The situation in Dhobley, Lower Juba, is considered a humanitarian crisis, with critical death rates (1.47/10,000/day), mainly due to acute malnutrition (FSNAU, 06/2015).

Priority health concerns continue to be measles and acute watery diarrhoea (OCHA, 20/07/2015). Among people arriving from Yemen, main health problems include acute respiratory infections, skin and eye infections, diarrhoea, trauma, and burns. Many are arriving on ships that are not meant for passengers, which exacerbate some medical conditions (Red Cross Movement, 02/07/2015).

Nutrition

An estimated 1.3 million people are in need of nutritional support (OCHA, 02/06/2015). An estimated 203,000 children are acutely malnourished: 38,000 severely so (OCHA, 20/07/2015). 26% of nutrition actors have stopped their activities this year due to limited funding, risking an increase in levels of malnutrition (OCHA, 02/06/2015).

In accessible areas of Hudur town, 33% GAM and 19% SAM were observed in a MUAC assessment in July, representing a very critical situation (over 17% GAM). Boys are more affected than girls. Rates were at 16% GAM and 6% SAM in June (FSNAU, 27/07/2015). Very critical malnutrition rates persist in Bulo Burde, with 24% GAM and 7% SAM in July, but SAM has improved from the 19% recorded in June (FSNAU, 27/07/2015).

IDPs: A May–June nutrition assessment found a significant deterioration among IDPs in Kismayo and Dhobley in south-central Somalia. Five sites have critical levels of acute malnutrition (>15% GAM): Baidoa, Dhobley, Garowe, Galkayo and Dolow. In the last three sites, acute malnutrition has been above the critical threshold over the past two years. Among Dhobley IDPs, GAM has nearly doubled since the last assessment (October–December 2014), from 11% to 20.7%. SAM levels are above 4% in Baidoa, Galkayo, and Dolow.

Serious malnutrition levels (10%–15% GAM) were reported among IDPs in Mogadishu, Qardho, Bossaso, Kismayo, Dhusamreeb and Hargeisa. Alert levels (5%–10% GAM) were only seen in the northwest, in Berbera and Burao (FSNAU, 06/2015).

Shelter

937,000 people are estimated in need of shelter, due to displacement after flooding in south-central Somalia and evictions of displaced communities in Banadir, Kismayo, and other urban areas (OCHA, 02/06/2015).

IDPs in Mogadishu are living in makeshift shelters. The most pressing needs are in Aladala, Aslubta, Beelo and Maslac in Dayniile district, and Ikashi in Hodan (OCHA, 03/06/2015).

WASH

2.75 million people need safe water, particularly those in displacement sites and in areas affected by acute watery diarrhoea or cholera (OCHA, 27/03/2015; 02/06/2015).

In Bosaso reception centre, Puntland, latrines are very few, but there is no room to build additional latrines. There is a need to increase water storage capacity (UNHCR, 14/07/2015).

Education

1.7 million children are out of school in south-central Somalia. Children of displaced families remain the most vulnerable and neglected in access to education (OCHA, 12/03/2015; 02/06/2015). There is a lack of teachers and learning materials, and learning facilities are inadequate (OCHA, 20/07/2015).

Protection

1.11 million people are considered in need of protection, mainly due to physical insecurity during the SNAF-AMISOM offensive and inter-clan fighting; SGBV, including cases of sexual violence during inter-clan conflict; child protection violations; killing of civilians (including children); separation of children; and forced/secondary eviction. The areas most affected are Middle and Lower Shabelle and Lower Juba (UNHCR Protection Cluster, 10/2014; OCHA, 02/06/2015).

Forced Evictions

2015 has seen a surge in forced evictions of IDPs. In the first five months of 2015, 96,000 people were reportedly forcibly evicted, compared to 32,500 in the whole of 2014 (OCHA, 20/07/2015). The majority of those evicted from Mogadishu fled to settlements in the
outskirts of the city. More than half are in need of shelter, 80% need safe water and latrines, 70% lack access to food, and 60% are in need of health services in the new locations (Food Security Cluster, 23/03/2015). Human Rights Watch reported that authorities beat some of those evicted, destroyed their shelter, and left them without food, water, or assistance (HRW, 20/04/2015). Forced evictions have also been reported in Kismayo, Bosaso, Baidoa, and Luuq (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; ECHO, 25/03/2015; NRC, 18/05/2015; OCHA, 20/07/2015).

SGBV

The lack of privacy for women and girls at the reception centre in Bosaso is a serious protection concern and poses an SGBV risk (UNHCR, 07/07/2015).

Child Protection

125 grave child rights violations were recorded in May (UNICEF, 31/05/2015). More than 1,000 grave violations were recorded January–April 2015. Grave violations include recruitment or use of children, killing, maiming, rape or other sexual violence (UNICEF). Boys are more affected than girls. 291 cases of child recruitment into armed groups and the national army were reported in the first four months of 2015 and 75 cases of sexual violence against children, compared to 370 and 30, respectively, during the same period in 2014 (OCHA, 03/06/2015).

3,545 children have been identified as separated or unaccompanied since January 2015, compared to 708 in the same period in 2014. More than half are yet to be reunited or placed in interim care. Most children are from south-central Somalia (UNICEF, 31/05/2015).

Updated: 28/07/2015

OVERVIEW

Violence has spread across eastern and northern South Sudan since December 2013. Fighting has been focused in the oil-rich northeastern states during the first six months of 2015. 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.

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.

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 2013 has exacerbated tensions, with additional concerns in Khartoum regarding an influx of refugees and arms, as well as disruption of oil flow. Sudan has accused South Sudan of using Sudanese militia groups to fight insurgents. South Sudan has made similar accusations.

National Context

- 6.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2015; 4.6 million people to be assisted by the end of 2015 (OCHA, 08/01/2015; UN, 12/06/2015).
- An estimated 3.6 million are predicted to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and a further 1 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity by the end of July (IPC, 27/05/2015).
- An estimated 250,000 children are severely malnourished (OCHA, 13/06/2015).
- 1.6 million IDPs since December 2013. 166,142 IDPs are sheltering in six sites on UNMISS bases (UNHCR, 24/07/2015; UNMISS, 27/07/2015).
- 265,887 refugees in South Sudan (mainly from Sudan, DRC, Ethiopia, and CAR) (UNHCR, 24/07/2015).
- 607,678 South Sudanese refugees since December 2013 (UNHCR 10/07/2015).
Since violence broke out in December 2013, President Kiir’s government forces (SPLA), who are predominantly Dinka and backed by Ugandan troops, are pitted against a loose alliance of military defectors loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar called the SPLA-in-Opposition, or SPLM-in-Opposition (SPLM-IO) along with ethnic Nuer militia forces. Since the beginning of the conflict there have been several splinter groups forming after leaving the SPLM-IO. Despite a significant reduction in intensity from January 2014, violence persists.

The UN Security Council adopted a resolution setting out criteria for targeted sanctions on individuals or entities threatening security and stability in South Sudan in early March (UN, 03/03/2015). Internationally backed peace negotiations are under way in Addis Ababa. Direct negotiations between Kiir and Machar are scheduled to begin in mid-August (Sudan Tribune 19/07/2015, VOA, 17/07/2015). At least seven ceasefires have been signed and broken since the civil war started in December 2013 (The Daily Star, 29/06/2015).

On 24 March, the South Sudanese Parliament voted to extend President Kiir’s term by three years, cancelling elections scheduled for June 2015 (AFP, 24/03/2015). On 29 May, the Government expelled the UN resident coordinator; no reason was given (The Guardian, 01/06/2015).

Economic Crisis

Oil production is at one-third of its level in 2011. The central bank of South Sudan is allegedly printing money to meet a budget shortfall (Al Jazeera, 27/06/2015). Although the official Bank of South Sudan exchange rate remains pegged at 3.1 South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) to 1 US Dollar (USD), the informal exchange rate reached 8.5 SSP for 1 USD in mid-April (FEWSNET, 18/04/2015). The SSP depreciated by approximately 26% from December 2014 to March 2015. Fuel and food prices continue to increase dramatically (FEWSNET 24/06/2015).

Security Context

Most violence is occurring in the oil-rich northeastern states of Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei. Clashes have intensified since January, with another significant escalation since March.

As of early June, two months of fighting in Unity and Upper Nile have led to significant displacement and access challenges (UNHCR, 02/06/2015). Between 25 May and 12 June, at least 466 civilians were killed and 1,294 injured (WHO, 12/06/2015). At least 50,000 may have died since December 2013, although access restrictions make numbers hard to verify (International Crisis Group, 15/11/2014).

International Military Presence

The UN Security Council voted in December 2013 to increase the number of peacekeepers in the country from 10,000 to 12,500. As of 28 February 2015, there were 11,669 uniformed personnel. The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) current mandate expires on 30 November 2015. On 2 July the UN Human Rights Council sent monitors to South Sudan, following a UNMISS report on atrocities in Unity state (AFP, 02/07/2015).

Border Tensions with Sudan

Sudanese forces moved towards the border with South Sudan’s Unity and Upper Nile states in July, reportedly in an attempt to protect Sudan’s interest in the oil-rich territory that straddles the border (World Bulletin, 13/07/2015). Reports of cross-border raids are not uncommon.

Conflict Developments

The capital of Unity state was transferred from Bentiu to Mankien, Mayom county on 15 April (UNMISS, 15/04/2015).

In May and June, the SPLA launched major offensives against SPLA-IO positions, taking key locations, particularly in Leer and Malakal. The SPLA-IO has retaken the positons since the rainy season began (Small Arms Survey, 01/07/2015).

Burning, looting, and rape have been reported throughout the campaign and hundreds of thousands have been displaced. An UNMISS report released on 30 June accused SPLA troops of targeting civilians. At least 67 civilians have been reported killed and over 250 girls subject to sexual violence (Al Jazeera, 30/06/2015; Radio Tamazuj 30/06/2015; Radio Dabanga, 30/06/2015). Human Rights Watch report records 63 in

Recent Incidents

Clashes between the Government and SPLM-in-Opposition

Unity: Forces allied to Riek Machar claimed they had regained control of Leer and Koch counties on 29 June and 5 July, respectively (Sudan Tribune, 29/06/2015; 05/07/2015). There are unconfirmed reports of armed men illegally entering Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) site (UNHCR, 29/05/2015).

Upper Nile: Malakal is strategic for control of South Sudan’s oil revenue. Six civilians were wounded after an attack by an armed group while travelling in a truck near Malakal (Reuters, 23/07/2015). On 7 July, SPLA forces retook Malakal from the SPLA-IO. Malakal has been captured and recaptured by both sides repeatedly over the last three months (Sudan Tribune, 07/07/2015). On 1 July, a shooting incident directed at the Malakal PoC site killed one and injured eight IDPs (MSF, 03/07/2015).

East Equatoria state: The SPLA advanced along the Uganda–South Sudan border near the town of Nimule on 8 July, before quickly retreating. An unknown number of
Inter-communal Violence

Central Equatoria: On 18 July gunmen attacked vehicles on the Juba–Kajokeji road, killing five and wounding seven. The motivation behind the attack is unknown (Sudan Tribune, 18/07/2015).

Juba: On 22 June, five IDPs from Juba PoC were shot during an incident in the marketplace next to the PoC (UN, 22/06/2015).

Lakes: Inter-communal violence has been reported in counties across Lakes state since September 2014. Attacks on traders and travellers are frequent (local media, 15/06/2015). Between 2 and 5 July, up to 16 people are estimated to have been killed and over 20 wounded in inter-clan clashes in Cueibet county. One aid worker was among the dead (Radio Tamazuj, 04/07/2015; Sudan Tribune, 04/07/2015). On 5 June, armed pastoralists, not reported to be associated with any major armed group, clashed with security personal (local media, 05/06/2015).

Warrap: At least 18 people were killed in clashes between clans of Gogrial East county and Gogrial West county over 14–29 May (local media, 29/05/2015).

Western Equatoria: Sporadic but continuous clashes between tribal and clan groups continue, particularly around Maridi. At least 14 deaths and 16 injuries were recorded in June in clashes related to cattle theft (OCHA, 15/07/2015; Sudan Tribune, 18/06/2015). 196 house were burnt in Maridi and the hospital was looted. Approximately 30,000 people are believed to have been displaced (OCHA, 15/07/2015). On 23 May, armed violence was reported in Mundri town. An unconfirmed number of people, believed to be in the thousands, are displaced and without shelter (OCHA, 29/05/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

6.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2015 (OCHA, 08/01/2015). The delivery of aid is restricted by heavy fighting, logistical constraints, and administrative impediments. The arrival of the rainy season and insecurity have led the ICRC to deliver aid via air drops for the first time in 20 years (ICRC, 30/06/2015).

Administrative Constraints

On 13 May, Parliament passed an ‘NGO Bill’, which requires that organisations sign a ‘country agreement’. Similar agreements have been used before to control organisations in Sudan. The bill would also ban the formation of forums for international NGOs, which could hinder coordination, and allow the Government to impose unspecified fees (IRIN, 13/05/2015).

On 29 May, the Government expelled the UN resident coordinator: no reason was given (The Guardian, 01/06/2015).

Security Constraints

The security situation in Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile remains volatile and continues to restrict humanitarian access, after heavy fighting April–June. Some organisations are returning (ICRC, 27/05/2015; MSF, 29/06/2015; UNHCR, 15/07/2015).

On 21 July, the government shut down the River Nile to food barage, preventing deliveries of food aid to 30,000 IDPs in Malakal. The last food delivery was on 7 July (Radio Tamazuj, 21/07/2015). The only alternative route is by air, but access to the airport is intermittent due to fighting (IOM, 22/07/2015; Reuters, 23/07/2015).

Assault, burglary, harassment, arrest, and detention have all been reported in 2015. Most cases were reported in Juba (Central Equatoria), Bentiu (Unity), and Upper Nile (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

According to a statement by the UN, 27 aid workers have been killed since December 2013 and escalation of conflict in South Sudan (Sudan Tribune, 25/07/2015).

Displacement

As of June 2015, around 2.5 million people have been displaced internally and to neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 11/06/2015). Fluid displacement patterns and limited access to rural areas make numbers difficult to verify (UNHCR 11/07/2014).

IDPs

There are approximately 1.6 million IDPs in South Sudan: 595,500 in Jonglei, 437,600 in Unity, 74,100 in Central Equatoria, 244,900 in Upper Nile, and 125,400 in Lakes (UNHCR, 24/07/2015). An estimated 802,120 IDPs are under 18 (UNICEF, 26/03/2015).

Displacement patterns remain fluid, driven by violence, floods, and the search for emergency assistance (IOM, 03/09/2014). Many IDPs are repeatedly displaced. Since the beginning of May, fighting south of Bentiu, Unity state displaced up to 100,000 people at its peak (UNHCR, 02/06/2015).

Fighting in Upper Nile state reportedly displaced some 25,000 IDPs near Melut. They fled towards Paloch. The status of these IDPs remains unknown (UNHCR, 29/05/2015).

64,000 more people are seeking shelter in PoCs in 2015 than in 2014 (OCHA, 15/07/2015). As of 10 July, 166,142 civilians are in six PoC sites on UNMISS bases, including 103,913 in Bentiu (25,605 new arrivals since 30 June), 28,663 in Juba UN
Refugees in South Sudan

265,887 refugees are in South Sudan: around 235,000 are from Sudan, 15,500 from DRC, 4,900 from Ethiopia, and 2,040 from CAR. Over 134,000 refugees are based in Upper Nile and around 95,500 in Unity (UNHCR, 24/07/2015). There has been over 10,000 new arrivals in 2015 (ECHO, 01/07/2015). Most of the Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile state reside in four refugee camps in Maban county (OCHA, 03/04/2014).

Since 23 December 2014, 13,479 new refugees have arrived in Yida, bringing the total to 70,007 (UNCHR, 30/06/2015). Arrival rates have increased sharply in 2015 (OCHA, 21/02/2015). Refugees cited aerial bombardments, ground attacks and lack of livelihood and education opportunities as reasons for leaving (UNHCR, 30/01/2015).

The South Sudan Government wants to close Yida camp in June 2015 and relocate refugees to other camps further from the Sudanese border. The Government and UNHCR have agreed to expand Ajuong Thok refugee camp to accommodate up to 40,000 people. Since December 2014 14,761 have been transferred from Yida (UNCHR, 30/06/2015). The number of people in Yida is fluid as refugees from Sudan frequently engage in cross-border movement, returning to the camp as the need for resources or safety arises (PI, 03/07/2015). Tensions between refugees and the host community are rising following security incidents between the two communities in June. Subsequently, local authorities have banned refugees from leaving camps to fish and farm (UNCHR, 14/07/2015).

South Sudan Refugees in Other Countries

622,122 South Sudanese have sought refuge in neighbouring countries since the onset of the conflict in December 2013. 68% of South Sudanese refugees are under 17 (UNCHR, 24/07/2015; 10/07/2015). Since the beginning of 2015, over 65,000 South Sudanese have fled the country, with 31,000 seeking refuge in Sudan, predominantly in White Nile state (UNHCR, 26/06/2015).

Sudan: As of 10 July, 198,657 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since December 2013 (UNCHR, 22/07/2015). Around 14,000 new refugees entered over 12–14 June due to fighting in Upper Nile (UNCHR, 18/06/2015).

The Sudanese Government refuses to recognise South Sudanese nationals as refugees and instead considers them to be Sudanese citizens (UNHCR, 03/04/2014). UNHCR declared this constitutes an obstacle to accessing humanitarian assistance.

Ethiopia: 218,026 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 22/07/2015).

Uganda: 159,125 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 22/07/2015).

Kenya: 46,314 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 22/07/2015).

Food Security

The number of people living in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security was expected to reach 3.6 million and 1 million, respectively, by the end of July (IPC, 27/05/2015), but predictions from FEWSNET suggest that the situation may be even worse. This is due to the conflict cutting off access to communities in Upper Nile and Unity, as well as deteriorating macro-economic conditions (FEWNET, 24/06/2015). Fangak, Canal/Pigi, Ulang, Lualkpiny/Nasir, and Longochuk counties were at Emergency as of April (FEWSNET, 20/04/2015; WFP, 15/04/2015; IPC, 27/05/2015).

Logistical constraints make timely delivery of food by WFP to Upper Nile a challenge (UNHCR, 05/06/2015). Fighting forced WFP to stop food distribution to 155,000 food insecure people (UNHCR, 29/05/2015).

Though no assessment has produced figures, Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) food security outcomes are likely in Ayod and Mayendit, where 10% of the population has been observed as severely food insecure (FEWNET, 24/06/2015).

Coping Mechanisms

The affected population, particularly in Unity, Jonglei, and Upper Nile state, have reportedly prepositioned supplies in case of displacement. However, increased use of coping strategies during 2014 due to fighting and difficult lean season has diminished their effectiveness and long-term food security (PI, 01/07/2015).

Agriculture

Planting in Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei remains severely limited for the second consecutive year due to conflict. Below-average harvests are expected, and poor and IDP households are expected to exhaust food stocks by December (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015).

Livelihoods and Markets

In Juba, prices of both locally produced and imported cereals, vegetable oil and sugar increased by 24–69% in the first quarter of 2015, making them 90–100% higher than the normal seasonal levels. For most households, 80–85% of income is spent on food (FAO, 02/07/2015; IPC, 27/05/2015). An estimated 610,000 people, more than half concentrated in Juba and Wau, have severely undermined livelihoods (FAO, 02/07/2015).
4.6 million people need health assistance (UN, 12/06/2015). Responders are unable to conduct the measures necessary to tackle preventable diseases. The response is further hampered as conflict hinders access to health facilities and hospitals are frequently damaged in attacks (International Organisation, 24/07/2015).

Malaria, acute respiratory infections, acute watery diarrhoea, and acute bloody diarrhoea are the main causes of illness among IDPs (WHO, 15/02/2015). The start of the rainy season in June has increased the risk of infection from waterborne diseases, particularly in IDP and refugee camps (UNHCR, 12/06/2015). The case fatality Proportion (CFR) for malaria is higher than the same week in 2014, at 28.9% in contrast to 18.3% (WHO, 19/07/2015). 344 measles cases, including five deaths, have been registered in Bentiu PoC since the beginning of 2015 (WHO, 19/07/2015).

Nutrition

5–8% of citizens have severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (FEWSNET, 24/06/2015). An estimated 250,000 children are severely malnourished, according to an OCHA representative (OCHA, 13/06/2015). Malnutrition remains particularly high among pregnant and lactating women, with an average rate of 26.6% recorded in IDP camps (UNHCR, 26/06/2015).

In Bentiu PoC site, screening of 9,288 children under five revealed a SAM rate of 1.8%. In Jonglei, 10,865 children under-five were screened, and 4.8% were severely malnourished. In Upper Nile, screening of 4,699 children found 0.6% SAM (UNICEF, 21/05/2015).

Malnutrition screening of 22,917 children in January and February in the three conflict-affected states found GAM levels above the emergency threshold of 15% in Upper Nile (17.2%), Unity (18.9%) and Jonglei (26%) (UNICEF, 26/03/2015). Among the traditionally high-burden states in non-conflict areas, GAM rates were highest in Warrap (17.2%) and Northern Bahr el Ghazal (14.6%) (WFP, 12/2014).

6.4 million people are estimated to be in need of WASH assistance (UN, 12/06/2015). Nationwide, 55% of people have access to safe drinking water (OCHA, 15/07/2015). 80% of people in Juba report a lack of access to clean water (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

Only Dabat Bosin refugee site has adequate water supply to reach SPHERE emergency standards of 15L per person per day (UNHCR, 29/05/2015). Water coverage slightly deteriorated in the PoCs in July. In Melut PoC, Bentiu PoC, and Malakal PoC 11, 9.4, and 12 L/person/day were available respectively (IOM, 22/07/2015; 25/06/2015). In Yida refugee camp, crude water coverage was 14 L/person/day (UNHCR, 22/06/2015).

36,500 displaced people are reported to be in urgent need of clean water and sanitation in Wau Shilluk (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

Over 80% of the reported latrines in Ajuong Thok camp (Unity state) lack roofs or doors, and are not gender-separated (UNHCR, 29/05/2015). Sanitation provision has remained stable, with some slight improvement in Malak PoC in July. Malak PoC, Bentiu PoC, and Melut have 44, 21, and 55 people per latrine, respectively (IOM, 22/07/2015; 25/06/2015).

83 schools are occupied by armed groups or IDPs (OCHA, 27/03/2014). Many schools remain closed in Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile (local media, 20/03/2015).

In Ajuong Thok, Napere and Makpandu refugee camps, the pupil: teacher ratio is 72:1, 52:1 and 43:1. All fall short of the UNHCR standard of 40:1 (UNHCR, 24/07/2015; 14/07/2015). The inability to pay teachers’ wages has limited education activities in displacement areas (OCHA, 26/10/2014).

A UN Security Council report stated that all parties to the conflict since December 2013 were responsible for grave violations against children, including killing and maiming, recruitment and use, abduction, and rape and other forms of sexual violence (UN, 30/12/2014). In the second quarter of 2015, there were at least 166
incidents of child rights violations, affecting 4,184 children (OCHA, 01/07/2015). In Unity state alone, 129 children were killed in the last three weeks of May (UNICEF, 17/06/2015).

25,000 children have been separated from their families (UN, 16/06/2015). 13,000 children have reportedly been recruited by armed groups since the beginning of 2014 (OCHA Monitor, 16/06/2015). Since January, UNICEF has released 1,757 children who had been recruited as child soldiers by the Cobra faction (UNICEF, 24/04/2015).

SGBV

Rape has been used as a weapon of war between government and opposition forces (HRW, 21/07/2015). The An UNMISS report released on 30 June accused SPLA troops of abducting at least 172 women and girls and raping an additional 79 during their April–May campaign in Unity state. Some were burnt alive inside their homes after being raped (Al Jazeera, 30/06/2015; Radio Tamazuj 30/06/2015; Dabanga, 30/06/2015). Human Rights Watch has also released evidence of rape and violence in Unity state by government and government aligned forces in April to May (HRW, 21/07/2015). The abduction of IDP women from outside PoCs continues to be reported (UNHCR, 12/06/2015).

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

However, it is difficult to obtain SGBV figures as people collecting information on SGBV face intimidation and threats. This was most recently reported in Central Equatoria (UNHCR, 14/07/2015).

Updated: 27/07/2015

SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

24 July: There have been an increase in the number of people dying from respiratory infections, malnutrition, and diarrhoea-related causes in El Salam locality, White Nile state (UNHCR, 24/07/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 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).
- 1,289,000 million people face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes. Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and West Kordofan are worst affected (IPC, 01/07/2015; FSNWG, 26/05/2015).
- 1.2 million children under five acutely malnourished, an estimated 550,000 are severely acutely malnourished (OCHA, 23/04/2015).
- 3.1 million IDPs. Two million in Darfur prior to 2014, 209,000 displaced in 2015 (OCHA, 15/05/2015).

OVERVIEW

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. 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.

Parliamentary and presidential elections were held 13–15 April, and according to unofficial estimates President Omar al Bashir achieved a landslide victory. Voter
turnout was reportedly extremely low (AP, 13/04/2015; international media, 19/04/2015). The Sudan Revolutionary Front, the National Umma Party, and other opposition groups boycotted the elections (Al Jazeera, 27/04/2015).

Sudanese forces moved towards the border with South Sudan’s Unity and Upper Nile states in July, reportedly in an attempt to protect Sudan’s interest in the oil-rich territory that straddles the border (World Bulletin, 13/07/2015).

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.

The Sudanese Government has accused Juba of using Sudanese militia groups, and the South Sudanese army (SPLA) has accused Khartoum of supporting the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement -in-Opposition. Both the opposition and Khartoum have denied the accusations. In 2014, 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).

Sudan Revolutionary Front

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).

In March 2015, the Sudanese Government and a number of Darfur opposition-group commanders led by Mohamedain Ismail Bashir, formerly the SLM-MM operations commander, signed a peace agreement in N’Djamena, Chad.

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 2014.

Relations between the Government of Sudan and the UN peacekeeping mission deteriorated following the Government’s refusal to allow a African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) investigate mass rape in North Darfur at the end of 2014 (AFP, 30/11/2014). Despite protests from the Sudanese government, the Security Council extended UNAMID’s mandate until June 2016 (Firstpost, 29/06/2015).

Security Context

Extensive military operations aimed to end armed opposition in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile began at the end of 2013. Large-scale violence by pro-government militia against the IDP population in Darfur continues in 2015, and airstrikes by the Sudanese Air Force (SAF) remain frequent. Information on Blue Nile and South Kordofan states is difficult to obtain as government authorities severely restrict access to the fighting zone. According to Human Rights Watch and local media, the Government of Sudan continues to target civilian areas of South Kordofan’s Nuba Mountains. The most recent bombing campaign allegedly began in February 2015 (Nuba Reports, 05/2015; Human Rights Watch, 16/04/2015).

Tribal fighting also intensified in Darfur and Kordofan regions in 2013 and 2014, leading to thousands of deaths and injuries and forcing over 300,000 people to flee their homes.

Conflict Developments

Fighting between SPLM-N and government troops intensified in March in Blue Nile and South Kordofan (SKBNCU, 03/2015). In May, local civil society actors reported an intensification of conflict, as government and SPLM-N forces attempted to gain ground ahead of the rainy season. One organisation reported 665 attacks, 39 civilians killed, 148 people injured, and 347 houses destroyed, displacing thousands. If correct, these figures are an increase on the number of violent incidents in May 2014 (The Sudan Consortium, 05/2015).

Recent Incidents

Darfur

Only 15 July, gunmen opened fire on a UNAMID patrol between Bowa and Turmes villages in North Darfur. No casualties were reported (UNAMID, 17/07/2015). On 15 June, government forces conducted operations to regain control of the former government garrison town of Rokoro, Central Darfur. 38 civilians are reported to have been killed. Fighters attacked the government base in the West Darfur capital of Geneina on 15 June (local media, 16/06/2015). On 12 June, government airstrikes in Central Darfur targeted Solo and Dalo settlements, reportedly killing three civilians (local media, 12/06/2015).
Inter-communal violence: Since 4 July clashes between Rizeigat and Habaniya tribesmen in Sunta locality in South Darfur have killed over 180 people, according to local sources (All Africa, 05/07/2015; Radio Dabanga, 14/07/2015).

Kordofan and Blue Nile

On 25 June, SPLM-N forces attacked the South Kordofan town of Talodi. Dozens were killed and around 100 injured (Sudan Tribune, 05/07/2015). On 12 June, the Sudanese Government bombed Wed Abuk in Blue Nile state (local media, 14/06/2015).

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).

4.4 million people in Darfur, more than half of the region’s population, needed humanitarian assistance. This includes 2.5 million IDPs150,000 returnees (OCHA, 30/06/2015).

In South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, 749,000 need assistance in government-controlled areas and 378,000 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 hampered by insecurity, the presence of mines and ERW, logistical constraints, and government restrictions.

Administrative and Logistical Constraints

Access to areas of active conflict in Darfur remains largely denied (OCHA, 03/06/2015). The government has also banned humanitarian access to areas controlled by opposition groups. Authorities denied UNAMID and humanitarian agencies access to Abu Karinka after conflict there in May (IRIN, 02/06/2015).

East Jebel Marra has been virtually inaccessible since 2010. There has been no humanitarian access from Sudan to opposition-held areas in South Kordofan since October 2013.

August 2013 regulations ban foreign humanitarian groups and UN agencies from working for human rights.

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

An increase in carjacking incidents targeting aid organisations has been reported in 2015, with at least three recorded in mid-May (OCHA, 24/05/2015). On 21 July, a Sudanese UNAMID worker was captured by unidentified gunmen in Darfur, and released five days later (Sudan Tribune, 26/07/2015). Three national aid workers were killed in Blue Nile state and two attacks on aid organisations were reported between January and February 2015 (ECHO, 10/02/2015; MSF, 22/01/2015). 25 aid workers were abducted in Darfur in 2014, the highest number of abduction cases recorded since 2004 (OCHA, 22/01/2015).

Disasters

761 houses were partially or completely destroyed by heavy rains in Kalma IDP camp in South Darfur. Over 3,500 people are reported affected (OCHA, 12/07/2015).

On 16 June, storms in El Abassiya and in Abu Kershola locality, South Kordofan, affected 600 people, damaging schools, clinics and water yards (OCHA, 19/07/2015).

In early June, heavy rainfall in Central Darfur destroyed several houses and caused food stock loss, in particular affecting IDPs (local media, 03/06/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of May 2015, there are 3.1 million IDPs in Sudan: 2.55 million are in Darfur (OCHA, 03/06/2015; UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Up to 210,000 people have been displaced in Darfur since the start of 2015. This is an increase of 67,000 since May (UNICEF, 30/06/2015). Around 27,000 have returned home (OCHA, 30/06/2015). These are similar to figures for the previous year, which saw the biggest displacement for a decade (OCHA, 31/12/2014).

2.4 million IDPs reside in 46 camps and 68 settlements in Darfur (including 82,530 orphans and 52,352 sick and elderly), according to a survey conducted by the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) from December 2013 to April 2014. OCHA reported in June that government policy to prevent the creation of new camps is an obstacle to the verification and registration of IDPs (IRIN, 02/06/2015). The displaced in Darfur report insecurity as a major concern. Other concerns include lack of access to basic services such as water, food, shelter, and medicines (IRIN, 02/06/2015).

Jebel Marra: Up to 100,000 people may have been displaced since the beginning of 2015, however lack of access means humanitarian agencies have been unable to confirm the number or reach the displaced (OCHA, 03/06/2015).

North Darfur: On 7 July, inter-tribal fighting displaced 2,500 towards Mellit town in Mellit locality. Reports suggest the fighting has now ended (OCHA, 12/07/2015).
Central Darfur: Between May and June, over 320 people came to Zalingei camp, Central Darfur, after their homes were burned down by militia groups (OCHA, 21/06/2015). An estimated 15,000 people have returned to their homes in Um Dukhun locality, according to a recent needs assessment (OCHA, 28/06/2015). There were 74,000 verified IDPs at the beginning of January 2015 (OCHA, 31/12/2014).

East Darfur: 35,000 IDPs as of end November 2014 (OCHA, 31/12/2014).

West Darfur: 6,000 IDPs arrived from East Darfur fleeing fighting between the Southern Reizeigat and Maaliya tribes in May (OCHA, 24/05/2015).

Blue Nile and South Kordofan: Over 378,000 people are estimated displaced in SPLM-N territory (OCHA, 03/02/2015). With no presence in SPLM-N territory, the UN is unable to verify these figures (OCHA, 19/05/2014). 40,000 people have been displaced in Blue Nile since the start of 2015 (OCHA, 15/06/2015). Another 16,300 arrived in Blue Nile on 10 June. Approximately 24,500 people need improved shelter, access to safe water, nutrition, and health services (UNICEF, 31/05/2015; OCHA, 28/06/2015). In May, different organisations reported between 7,000 and 26,000 people displaced in South Kordofan (HART, 05/06/2015; The Sudan Consortium, 05/2015).

West Kordofan: More than 52,000 people were reported displaced in 2014 (OCHA, 21/09/2014).

Refugees in Sudan

There are over 310,000 refugees in Sudan (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

As of 22 July, 198,657 are South Sudanese nationals who have arrived in Sudan since 15 December 2013: 119,000 are children (UNHCR, 22/07/2015; UNICEF, 30/06/2015). As of 22 July, 107,191 South Sudanese refugees live in White Nile (33,957 in Khartoum, 33,435 in North and West Kordofan, 20,249 in South Kordofan, 3,661 in Blue Nile, and 164 in East Darfur (UNHCR, 22/07/2015). 91% of households are female-headed (UNHCR, 29/01/2015).

The number of arrivals increased dramatically in June and early July following intense conflict in Upper Nile and Unity states. Over 13–19 July 2,157 refugees arrived in Sudan, at an average rate of 308 people per day (OCHA, 19/07/2015). 5,000 South Sudanese refugees who passed through the transit point at Diftra in Abyei on their way to Sudan require shelter assistance (OCHA, 12/07/2015).

Camps in White Nile are unable to meet the needs of the refugees who arrived in the second quarter of 2015 mainly due to the escalation of violence in Unity and Upper Nile in South Sudan (OCHA, 19/07/2015). IDPs’ conditions in North Darfur remain poor due to lack of basic services (Radio Dabanga, 27/07/2015).

2,496 displaced South Sudanese are living in the disputed area of Abyei (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Sudanese Refugees in Other Countries

As of January 2015, OCHA reported 367,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad, 233,000 in South Sudan, 35,000 in Ethiopia, and 1,880 in Central African Republic (UNHCR, 23/02/2015; OCHA, 03/02/2015).

13,479 refugees from South Kordofan have fled to South Sudan (Yida, in Unity state) since December 2014 (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Food Security

Food security has not deteriorated as much as previously predicted during the lean season, which began in June. 1,289,000 people are reportedly facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes. This is due to improved pasture conditions, abundant production of cereals (IPC, 01/07/2015).

Those areas that remain the worst affected by food insecurity are also affected by conflict, which prevents food distribution. Nearly 80% of households in South Kordofan experienced severe food insecurity during the first quarter of 2015 (OCHA, 19/07/2015). Newly displaced households and IDPs without access to humanitarian assistance are facing Crisis food security (IPC, 01/07/2015).

Coping Mechanisms

The ability of communities to cope has been depleted in South Kordofan, but those who are frequently affected by conflict and displacement in South Kordofan are reportedly pre-positioning supplies in case of displacement or damage by aerial attack. Cross-frontline trading is also believed to be continuing (PI, 03/07/2015).

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.

Mortality from acute respiratory infections, malnutrition, and diarrhoea-related causes has increased in El Salam locality, White Nile state. 12 such deaths were reported between 10 and 24 July (UNHCR, 24/07/2015).

There are indications that the health situation in Darfur is deteriorating; many have no access to healthcare.

Measles

A measles outbreak began in late 2014. As of 24 May, 2,511 confirmed cases and 38 deaths have been reported in 2015, in 17 of Sudan’s 18 states (OCHA, 29/06/2015).
Seven people have died from measles in the densely populated Zamzam IDP camp in North Darfur (Radio Dabanga, 02/07/2015). 167 confirmed measles cases were reported in the week ending 3 May, compared with 101 cases during the previous week. West Darfur is worst affected (653 confirmed cases, nine deaths as of early May). Kassala has had 397 confirmed cases and five deaths, while in Red Sea state, there have been 352 cases and five deaths (WHO, 03/05/2015). According to a 2014 survey, 39% of children have not been vaccinated against measles (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

Nutrition

1.2 million children under five were estimated to be acutely malnourished as of April 2015. This revision of the planning figures is a drop from 2 million estimated at the end of September 2014 (OCHA, 23/04/2015). 500,000 children are severely malnourished in Darfur, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan (ECHO, 01/07/2015). Among localities with IDPs, where 20% of the population face severe consumption gaps, 2.2–7% of population are severely malnourished (IPC, 01/07/2015).

WASH

Across Sudan, approximately one person in nine does not have access to a clean water supply (Kimse Yok Mu, 24/06/2015). All refugee camps, except Dabat Bosin, are below the standard of 20L of water per person per day. There is a similarly low level of sanitation, with no latrine facilities available in Um Sangor camp in White Nile state (UNHCR, 10/07/2015). The situation deteriorated with the recent new influx of refugees from South Sudan (OCHA, 31/05/2015). In Al Alagaya and El Redis II, the population has very limited access to water (UNHCR, 05/06/2015).

20 water pumps have stopped working in El Salam camp, South Darfur, in the past five months, affecting 80,000 people (Radio Dabanga, 04/05/2015). Displaced people have also complained about a lack of available water in Gereida, South Darfur (local media, 22/06/2015). Reports suggest that there has been no regular maintenance of hand pumps in South Kordofan for up to four years (PI, 03/07/2015).

Parts of the capital Khartoum are not receiving water due to poor infrastructure. This has caused protests (local media, 22/06/2015; All Africa, 02/07/2015).

Education

3 million children aged 5–13 are out of school in Sudan. 1.9 million are of primary-school age (UNICEF, 14/04/2015). The majority of the affected children are in Darfur, with high numbers also in Blue Nile and South Kordofan (Radio Dabanga, 14/07/2015). Schools are frequently used as shelter for IDPs (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

Protection

Vulnerable Groups

200 Darfuri students have been injured in attacks at Sudanese universities in 2015. Mainly in Khartoum, the attacks involved students members of the ruling National Congress Party. The believed motivation is perceived Darfuri support for the SLM-MM. The increase in violence correlates with the re-election of President al Bashir in April (ACLED, 10/07/2015).

Kidnapping

On 4 June, 14 Eritrean asylum seekers were kidnapped as they were transported to Shegarab refugee camp in eastern Sudan (AFP, 04/06/2015).

Mines and ERW

250 locations covering an estimated 32km\(^2\) are contaminated by mines and ERW, with the greatest concentrations in Kassala, Gedaref, Red Sea, Blue Nile, South Kordofan, and Darfur (UNMAS). South Kordofan is the most heavily mined area of Sudan, according to the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor.

Sexual Violence

On 18 and 19 May at least three cases of rape were reported during attacks by the RSF in Tawila, North Darfur (local media, 19/05/2015). 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). Rape of IDPs by pro-government militia was frequently reported by the local media in North, South, and Central Darfur and Jebel Marra in 2014.

Legal Status

As of March 2014, 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.

Updated: 27/07/2015

CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

22 July: A suicide attack in Maroua, Far North, left 11 dead. A military force from Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin will deploy by 30 July (AFP).

21 July: The number of Nigerian refugees in Minawao camp is increasing at a rate of 100 per day. The number of unregistered refugees is estimated at 12,000-17,000 (UN).

KEY CONCERNS

- 2.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 17/12/2014).
- 320,330 refugees have arrived from CAR, Niger, and Nigeria (UNHCR, 08/07/2015; OCHA, 31/03/2015; 16/06/2015).
- An estimated 1.08 million people are food insecure in 2015 (OCHA, 16/06/2015).

OVERVIEW

Conflict in both Nigeria and CAR continues to displace vulnerable refugees to Cameroon, and the spillover from the Boko Haram conflict in Nigeria in particular threatens security in Cameroon. Some 2.1 million people, 10% of the population, are in need of humanitarian assistance, primarily in the Far North, North, Adamawa, and East regions.

Security Context

Boko Haram

The armed Islamist group Boko Haram (BH), based in Nigeria, intensified attacks in Cameroon from December 2014 (ECHO, 06/01/2015). BH militants crossed into the Far North region from Lake Chad, attacking towns and villages, military vehicles, kidnapping individuals, and attempting to control army Cross-border raids have continued, aimed at obtaining food and livestock. While attacks are concentrated in the Far North region, they have spread southward (AFP, 06/04/2015). There have been at least 19 BH attacks in northern Cameroon since January 2015 (AFP, 12/05/2015; ACLED, 11/07/2015). A military force from Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin will deploy by 30 July in response to the increasing cross border attacks by BH (AFP, 13/07/2015).

The United States is supplying equipment and logistics training to the Cameroonian military, aiding its efforts to counter BH (VoA, 12/12/2014, Reuters, 17/02/2015).

Operations against BH have included air and ground offensives and are ongoing as of 18 June (Daily Mail, 14/01/2015; New York Times, 05/02/2015).

Recent Incidents

Boko Haram cross-border attacks are increasing, as the group seeks food supplies and escaping Nigerian and regional forces. Authorities believe the militant group is opting for isolated but targeted attacks in villages or highways (OCHA, 15/06/2015). On 22 July, a suicide attack in Maroua, Far North region left 11 dead (AFP, 22/07/2015). On 12 July, twin suicide bombings in Fotokol near an army camp left 11 dead and seven injured (AFP, 13/07/2015).

The Cameroonian army has pushed BH back from Bodo town in Chad (Reuters, 09/07/2015).

On 16 June self-defence forces from Bakari village pushed out attackers from CAR (ICG, 01/07/2015). On 10 June two soldiers were killed in BH attacks in the Far North.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

2.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 17/12/2014).

Access

The limited number of humanitarian actors involved in the response in the Far North has made comprehensive humanitarian intervention almost impossible.

Logistical Constraints

Bad road conditions delay the provision of assistance.

Security Constraints

The deterioration of the security situation has made access to the Far North extremely difficult. Although the Cameroonian army retook the border towns, the area remains insecure, and armed groups are present (OCHA, 10/04/2015). UN agencies have only been undertaking priority activities such as assisting refugees and some host communities, according to WFP (IRIN, 15/08/2014). Organisations like UNHCR do not have access to certain localities where refugees are present (UNHCR, 25/01/2015).

Disasters

Heavy Rains

Heavy rains in Douala have flooded 60,000 hectares of land, displacing 2,000 and directly affecting 30,000 (IRIN, 03/07/2015; Reuters 26/06/2015). The number displaced is a more precise estimate compared to original numbers, which accounted for the population of the area affected.
At June 2015, there were 325,300 displaced people in Cameroon, including 243,600 refugees from CAR and 74,000 from Nigeria (OCHA, 16/06/2015). As of end June, there are approximately 81,700 IDPs in Far North region displaced due to BH attacks (OCHA, 16/06/2015). As attacks increase, people are moving toward central Cameroon (OCHA, 06/01/2015).

**IDPs**

As of June, there were 81,700 IDPs in the Far North region (IOM/UNHCR, 29/06/2015). 33,900 are in Mayo-Tsanaga department, 32,680 in Logone-et-Chari, 12,480 in Mayo-Sava, and 2,630 in Diamare (UNHCR and IOM, 19/06/2015). 36% live with host families, 28% live in shared housing and the rest in improvised, damaged, or public buildings. Food security, WASH, and health are the priority needs (UNHCR and IOM, 19/06/2015). Nearly half of the IDPs are displaced within the same department but a different arrondissement (IOM/UNHCR, 29/06/2015). 35,960 people have returned to their place of origin (IOM/UNHCR, 29/06/2015; OCHA, 16/06/2015).

**Refugees from the Central African Republic**

As of July 2015 there were 246,330 CAR refugees in Cameroon (UNHCR, 08/07/2015; OCHA 22/06/2015; 16/06/2015). 159,900 are in the East, 63,100 in Adamaoua, 10,100 in Centre, 7,700 in Littoral, and 2,800 in North (OCHA, 16/06/2015). 55% live in camps, 45% are with host communities (UNHCR, 05/06/2015). Many refugees have crossed without being registered. A reduced flow of refugees indicates an improved situation in CAR, but many people are reluctant to go home because they are concerned about food security and livelihoods (VoA, 16/03/2015).

**Refugees from Nigeria**

74,000 Nigerians are estimated to have fled to northern Cameroon since May 2013 (UNHCR, 20/04/2015; OCHA, 28/05/2015; 16/06/2015). Due to the heightened security situation in the Far North, the government has begun registering Nigerian refugees in the immediate border area. There are an estimated 12,000-17,000 unregistered refugees (UN, 31/07/2015).

As of 22 July, there are 43,490 Nigerian refugees are registered in Minawao camp, Far North region, originally set up for 15,000 (UNHCR, 22/07/2015). The number of Nigerian refugees in the camp is increasing at a rate of 100 new registered refugees per day (UN, 31/07/2015). The number of daily arrivals had decreased from 400 per day in April-May to 60-70 daily in June (FAO, 30/06/2015). 2,700 individuals arrived in Minawao spontaneously in June, coming from Nigeria and insecure camps along the border (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

There have been 5,150 new arrivals at the camp since 1 April, and 26,000 new Nigerian refugees in total since 30 December 2014 (UNICEF, 28/05/2015; UNHCR, 23/05/2015).

87% of refugees in the camp have access to adequate shelter and the needs among refugees are largely WASH, shelter, health and education (UNHCR, 23/05/2015; UNHCR, 15/04/2015).

There are 12,490 registered refugees living outside the camp (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). People living outside the camp do not receive humanitarian assistance and lack of identification is a concern (UNHCR, 25/03/2015).

In most locations, the number of refugees and third-country nationals exceeds the local population. Host communities and refugees are competing over already inadequate resources and living conditions have become very difficult for host communities (FAO, 11/12/2014).

**Returnees**

20% of individuals arriving from Nigeria are estimated to be returnees (UN, 21/07/2015).

**Food Security**

As of June, 1.08 million people are food insecure, mostly in the Far North, North, Adamawa, and East regions, with 244,000 in severe food insecurity (OCHA, 16/06/2015; Reuters; 29/05/2015). 195,600 people are severely food insecure (OCHA, 16/06/2015). 54% of households in the Far North and North regions face shortages. 70% of farmers in the Far North have deserted their farms and missed out on planting (AFP, 28/01/2015).

Dryness in the Sahel belt and the strain of hosting so many refugees are also affecting food security (ECHO, 06/01/2015).

**Food Security in the Sahel**

In the Sahel and West Africa about 7.5 million people, including 4.5 million in the Sahel, will be in food and nutrition crisis between June and August (Cadre Harmonisé, 06/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically to 24.7 million food insecure people, compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2015).

**Health and Nutrition**

As of September 2014, 6.8 million people are in need of health services (IOM, 09/2014). 69,900 children are suffering SAM (OCHA, 16/06/2015).

Cameroon’s Far North, North, Adamawa, and East regions suffer chronic shortages of health workers. 46% of health centres do not have access to electricity and 70% do not have piped water (Inter Press Service, 19/08/2014).

Acute respiratory infections and malaria are the leading causes of death in refugee camps (UNHCR, 01/03/2015). Malaria is the main health issue among the approximately 30,000 refugees and 40,000 IDPs scattered around Kousseri, the capital of Logone-et-Chari department, Far North region (MSF, 29/05/2015).

CAR refugees mostly suffer from malnutrition, malaria, and respiratory infections, according to an ECHO needs assessment. A number of measles cases have been reported among child refugees.

**Measles**

There have been 5,150 new arrivals at the camp since 1 April, and 26,000 new Nigerian refugees in total since 30 December 2014 (UNICEF, 28/05/2015; UNHCR, 23/05/2015). 195,600 people are severely food insecure (OCHA, 16/06/2015). 54% of households in the Far North and North regions face shortages. 70% of farmers in the Far North have deserted their farms and missed out on planting (AFP, 28/01/2015).
In the Northwest region of Cameroon, a measles epidemic has affected more than 300 children and caused several deaths in the first week of July, as a result of not vaccinating children (VoA, 11/07/2015).

**Nutrition**

There are 70,000 SAM cases nationally, and 190,000 MAM cases among children under five (OCHA, 11/06/2015). 39,000 children under-five in the Far North are severely malnourished (UNICEF, 23/04/2015). There have been 6,320 cases of SAM in districts hosting IDPs since January (UNICEF, 15/05/2015). The prevalence of SAM in the Far North is 2.0%, while global acute malnutrition (GAM) is 9% (UNHCR, 29/03/2015). There were 40% more cases of severe malnutrition in January 2015 compared to the start of 2014 (OCHA, 30/01/2015).

**WASH**

IDPs face a high risk of water-related disease due to lack of adequate water and sanitation facilities in affected areas. In Minawao, refugees have 14L/person/day, 2 more litres than the prior month (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). In East and Adamawa regions, only two out of seven refugee sites have the standard of 20L/person/day (UNHCR, 17/04/2015).

**Education**

Almost 30,000 children internally displaced by BH are deprived of education (AFP, 12/05/2015). 519 schools are open in the Far North, down from 737 before the conflict (IOM/UNHCR, 29/06/2015). Primary school attendance in camps has increased from 44% to 63%. Secondary school attendance has dropped from 67% to 55%, despite advocacy with parents (UNHCR, 09/06/2015). In Minawao camp, there are only three primary schools – 21 classrooms – to accommodate more than 6,600 primary school-aged children (IRIN, 12/05/2015). Only 50% of the primary school-aged children are enrolled in school. There are not enough classrooms nor teachers (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). The majority of people residing in Minawao camp have no formal education or profession (UNHCR, 21/03/2015).

**Protection**

The main protection issues among assessed IDPs are family separation, lack or loss of personal identity documentation, early marriage, and harassment or discrimination (IOM/UNHCR, 29/06/2015). 27 cases of sexual violence have been reported in Minawao camp (UNHCR, 15/04/2015). Approximately 1,500 children have been abducted by Boko Haram in Cameroon since late 2014 (AFP, 04/06/2015). 84 children were illegally detained for six months in the Far North region, after authorities raided Koranic schools under allegations that they were training to join Boko Haram. They were released on 2 July (Amnesty International, 21/06/2015; 01/07/2015).
Security Context

Chad has kept an active security front amidst the ongoing conflicts in the region. Its oil revenues have helped finance the defence spending. It has also served as a base for a French mission fighting armed groups in the Sahel (Reuters, 11/07/2015). Ndjamena serves as a headquarters for an anti-Boko Haram regional force (Reuters, 11/07/2015).

Conflict Developments

International Presence in Chad

In August 2014, France deployed 1,200 troops to Chad to take part in a counterterrorism operation across the Sahel region (international media).

Boko Haram Attacks in Chad

Boko Haram launched its first cross-border attack in Chad in February. Since then, BH has carried out 14 attacks on civilians and soldiers in the Lake Chad region (ACLED, 07/2015). On 15 June, 23 civilians were killed and 101 were injured during two suicide bomb attacks on police stations in Ndjamena (AFP, 15/06/2015). The border with Cameroon was immediately closed. On 17 June Chadian police launched an offensive. On 28 June, 60 suspects were arrested and a cell was dismantled in Ndjamena. At least 11 people were killed on 29 June in a raid targeting BH militants in Ndjamena (ICG, 01/07/2015). Security measures have been reinforced: 395 people of 14 nationalities have been arrested (UNHCR, 14/07/2015). 300 Cameroonians were expelled 26–27 June.

On 11 July, a suicide bomber detonated in Ndjamena, killing 16 (including the bomber) and injuring 80 (Reuters, 11/07/2015). On 13 July, BH attacked Tetewa Island on Lake Chad (ACLED, 13/07/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Three million people need humanitarian assistance due to food insecurity and malnutrition, forced displacement, health emergencies and natural disasters (OCHA, 16/06/2015).

Access

Chad’s President Idriss Déby announced in May 2014 that the southern border with CAR would be closed to all except Chadian citizens until the CAR crisis is resolved. The Government deployed additional security forces to the border, after expressing concern that armed fighters might be infiltrating refugee populations in the area.

Two main roads in Chad, which run through Cameroon and Nigeria and are vital to Chad’s economy, remain insecure and mostly blocked due to violence (AFP, 02/03/2015).

Along the border with Nigeria, Chadian security forces are screening road users and their property. Navigation on the Chari River and its tributary, the Logone, which flow along the border of Chad and Cameroon, has been halted (AFP, 30/04/2015). The humanitarian community continues to have limited access to the population in the Lac Region due to insecurity and ongoing military operations (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Disasters

Recurrent natural disasters affect a Chadian population, causing food insecurity and negatively impacting livelihoods. 772,000 people are affected by drought that was declared in January 2014 and 206,000 are affected by floods in eastern Chad occurring in 2013 and 2014 (OCHA, 26/06/2016). Between 5 and 50% of the normal average rainfall has affected southern Chad, leading to low soil moisture and consequent poor conditions for vegetation (NOAA, 23/07/2015).

Displacement

Displacement is fuelled by the Boko Haram conflict in the western part of the country and the CAR conflict in the eastern part of the country. Heightened security in both areas also cause local populations to be internally displaced. There are 850,500 people displaced in Chad, including Chad returnees.

At end May, an estimated 43,000 people were displaced in Chad due to the violence fuelled by the Boko Haram insurgency (19,000 Nigerian refugees, 13,000 IDPs, and 11,000 Chadian returnees) (UNICEF, 30/05/2015).

After increased insecurity in Niger in May, an influx of refugees, IDPs and returnees has been reported at several camps in Chad (UNHCR, 22/05/2015).

IDPs

Nearly 85,500 IDPs are living in protracted displacement in the east, facing difficulties accessing shelter, land, and income-generating activities (IDMC, 02/2015; OCHA, 19/11/2013).

14,170 IDPs are in Lac region, in the west (UNICEF, 30/06/2015; UNHCR, 31/05/2015). Cross-border attacks from Nigeria have displaced another 5,000 Chadians since late May (USAID, 17/06/2015). At Bagasola and Bol IDP camps, there are 3,398 and 1,494 IDPs, respectively (UNHCR, 22/05/2015; 30/04/2015).

Refugees

As of 26 June, the refugee population was 525,000: 370,000 from Sudan, 91,200 from CAR, 46,000 from Nigeria, and 36,500 from DRC (UNHCR, 25/06/2015; 31/05/2015; UNICEF, 30/05/2015; OCHA, 26/06/2015).

Most refugees are in Wadi Fira (157,500), Ouaddai (114,350), Sila (84,650), and Logone Oriental (47,500). 22,750 are in Dosseye camp and 26,420 in Belom camp, Moyen Chari; 14,170 are in the Lac region, with 7,000 in Dar es Salam camp (UNHCR, 14/04/2015; OCHA, 20/03/2015; WFP, 06/03/2015; UNICEF, 08/04/2015; 30/06/2015).

CAR Refugees

As of June 2015, there are 92,500 refugees from CAR in Chad, including 17,080 who have...
arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR, 02/06/2015; 25/06/2015). 84,030 live in sites in Amboko, Belom, Dosseye, Doholo, Gondje and Moyo (UNHCR, 01/05/2015; 15/05/2015). 6,690 live in host communities (UNHCR, 03/04/2015).

Nigerian Refugees

19,000 Nigerian refugees have entered Chad since 3 January (UNHCR, 31/05/2015; 31/02/2015). Estimates indicate that by December 2015 the number could increase to **30,000** (UNHCR, 22/07/2015). As of 29 May, Nigerian refugees are continuing to arrive (WFP, 29/05/2015). On 14 July, 7,140 Niger and Nigerian refugees were registered in Dar es Salam site: relocating refugees from Lake Chad islands to the Dar es Salam site remains a priority (UNHCR, 14/7/2015; UNICEF, 08/04/2015; UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Resources are limited for both refugees and host communities, especially food, shelter, and essential household items (OCHA, 12/01/2015). At end March, at least 68,000 people in host communities in five prefectures had been affected by the influx of refugees (OCHA, 19/01/2015; UNICEF, 08/04/2015).

Returnees

There are 230,000 Chadian returnees (OCHA, 26/06/2015). Some 30,000 have gone back to their homes (OCHA, 05/05/2015).

There are 130,000 returnees from CAR (UNHCR, 21/03/2015; UNICEF, 30/06/2015). As of 11 May, there were 1,910 in Djako site; 11,446 in Danamadja site; 6,449 in Kobiteye; 8,418 in Logone Oriental villages; 8,513 in Mbondj villages; 18,879 in Sido (now closed); and 16,074 in Maingama (IOM, 11/05/2015; OCHA, 28/03/2015). Pressure on resources is high. The Sido returnee site was vacated by the deadline set and the transfer of returnees to Maingama site is complete. 1,330 people chose to settle in an area to the west of the original site and lack adequate shelter and sanitation facilities (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

1,210 CAR returnees identified in Larmanaye are awaiting transfer to Kobiteye (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

There are 100,000 returnees from Libya (OCHA, 28/02/2015). 8,500 returnees from Nigeria are in Lac region; 2,010 have been registered (IOM, 21/04/2015; OCHA, 21/02/2015).

Food Security

2.4 million people in Chad are food insecure (OCHA, 16/06/2015). The number of severely food insecure people has increased from 339,000 to 428,000 in six months (UNICEF, 15/05/2015; OCHA, 16/06/2015). **Food assistance needs through January 2016 will be higher than last year and the five-year average (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015).**

Rains are 2–3 weeks late in the southern part of the country. Due to a depletion of household stocks, low revenues from agriculture and sale of livestock, and increase in grain prices, poor households of South Guera, part of Wadi Fira, Lac, Kanem, Bahr El Ghazal and Hadjer Lamis are in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes, thanks to humanitarian assistance (FEWSNET, 29/06/2015).

Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad report that food prices have risen and food rations decreased. INGOs and the UN have adopted a policy to make these refugees less dependent on food aid (local media, 10/06/2015). The price of food has increased by 30% compared to the five-year average. The closure of the Nigerian border has also led to a decrease in cattle prices (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

Livelihoods have been further affected by decreased inflows of remittances from family members in Libya due to conflict (IFRC, 30/05/2015).

Regional Outlook: Sahel

In the Sahel and West Africa about 7.5 million people, including 4.5 million in the Sahel, will be in food and nutrition crisis between June and August (Cadre Harmonisé, 06/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically, affecting 24.7 million people, compared to 11.3 million people in 2013 (OCHA, 03/02/2015). The phenomenon of El Niño is expected to last until the end of 2015, reducing the amount of anticipated precipitation (FAO, 30/06/2015).

Health and Nutrition

2.5 million people are in need of healthcare (OCHA, 31/08/2014). Due to the influx of refugees, there is a need to strengthen healthcare activities in host communities and to recruit more qualified medical personnel (UNHCR, 06/03/2015).

Malaria is the leading cause of infant mortality. More than 660,000 people had malaria in 2014 and the number is expected to surpass one million in 2015 (UNHCR, 28/02/2015).

Only 34% of children under one have been vaccinated in returnee sites in eastern Chad (UNICEF, 10/11/2014).

HIV/AIDS prevalence in Lac region is 10.1%, compared to the national rate of 2.7% (UNHCR, 14/04/2015).

180 cases of measles, including three deaths, were reported in Abeche, eastern Chad, in June. The outbreak is related to the return of miners from Sudan, where there is a measles epidemic (OCHA, 08/07/2015).

Nutrition

154,400 children suffer from SAM while 257,000 suffer from MAM, a slight fall from the numbers reported in October 2014 (UNICEF, 30/06/2015; 30/05/2015; OCHA, 10/02/2015).

WASH

1.3 million people are in need of WASH assistance: 55% of the population has access to safe water, compared to 46% in 2012 (UNHCR, 03/03/2015; OCHA, 31/12/2014). Additionally only 4% of households and 50% of health centres have access to standard sanitation facilities (OCHA, 31/12/2014).

Education

An assessment of child refugees from Nigeria showed that 72% of the 296 school-aged children identified had never been to school (OCHA, 21/02/2015; 20/03/2015). The number
of students in Dar es Salam camp, hosting Nigerian refugees, has decreased from 848 to
269, due to insufficient food rations, heat, and distance (UNHCR, 14/04/2015).

Protection

SGBV

One in five women is a victim of physical violence. 35% of girls in Chad are married before
the age of 15 and 44% undergo female genital mutilation (OCHA, 26/06/2015). On 30 June,
the National Assembly of Chad ratified the law, prohibiting child-marriages (marrying
before the age of 18) (UNHCR, 14/07/2015).

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).

Updated: 22/07/2015

DJIBOUTI  Drought, Food Insecurity

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 22/07/2015. Last update: 07/07/2015

KEY CONCERNS

- An estimated 300,000 people need humanitarian assistance, including more than
24,000 refugees (ECHO, 01/08/2014; OCHA, 30/11/2014).
- Humanitarian organisations fear the influx of people from Yemen may worsen an
already difficult humanitarian situation in Obock (ECHO, 20/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement

Yemen Crisis

As of early July, 20,830 new arrivals from Yemen have been reported since late
March. 9,510 are Yemeni nationals, 9,530 are third-country nationals, and 1,790 are
Djiboutian returnees (UNHCR, 18/07/2015). 2,250 have been registered as refugees,
2,100 of which are Yemeni nationals. 1,790 of the registered refugees are staying in
Markazi camp in Obock (UNHCR, 18/07/2015).

Since 26 March, an average of 1,680 people have arrived from Yemen every week (IOM,
04/06/2015). The UN expects to receive more than 15,000 refugees in the next six months
(UNHCR, 14/05/2015).

Migrants

IOM estimates that over 100,000 migrants, the majority from Ethiopia and Somalia, transit
the country every year. Children account for 32% of the migrant population (UNICEF,
15/01/2015). Migrants arrive in dire conditions and vulnerable to a number of protection
issues. Migrants report lack of access to food and water during their transit through Obock
(UNHCR, 12/2014).

Refugees

Prior to the recent influx of people from Yemen, Djibouti was hosting more than 23,700
refugees, the majority of Somali origin (ECHO, 17/04/2015). 70% are women and children
who depend entirely on humanitarian assistance and protection services (UNICEF,
15/01/2015). There are also 4,220 asylum seekers in Djibouti, 3,275 of whom are from
Ethiopia. The refugees are living in two camps: Holl Holl and Ali Addeh, where there is a
reported lack of shelter, sanitation facilities, and essential non-food items (ECHO,
15/04/2015).

Food Security

An estimated 162,000 people are expected to be facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security
outcomes between June and September 2015, primarily in Southeastern and Obock
regions; typical of the dry and lean season (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group,
20/05/2015; FEWSNET, 30/06/2015). One in 10 people in Djibouti are severely food
insecure; 60% of which live in rural areas (FAO, 22/06/2015). In Obock, almost 60% of the
households are food insecure (FAO, 22/06/2015).

The purchasing power of poor households is impaired by limited labour opportunities and
poor rainfall from March–May (FEWSNET, 30/05/2015; 30/06/2015). The poor October
–February season has worsened the food security situation (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015).

Food assistance needs through January 2016 are expected to remain the same as last
year and the five-year average, with the majority of the country facing Stressed (IPC
Phase 2) food security outcomes (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015).

Health and Nutrition

In 2014, OCHA reported that 300,000 people were in need of health services. Rates of
communicable diseases are high, including diarrhoeal disease. A lack of medicine has
been reported at health facilities (WHO, 27/04/2015).

In Markazi camp, cases of diarrhoea have increased. Women have also reported not
receiving milk or diapers for their children (UNHCR, 10/07/2015).
Nutrition

According to OCHA, 277,700 people were in need of nutritional aid in 2014, compared to 195,400 in 2013. The SAM rate is 6.1% (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 20/05/2015). In Obock region, GAM has been estimated at 29.9% and severe acute malnutrition at 12.1% (UNICEF, 17/04/2015).

WASH

In Obock region, only 40% of the population have access to safe water and only 25% have access to adequate sanitation facilities (UNICEF, 17/04/2015). In Obock, emptying pit latrines is a challenge as there is no functioning waste management system (UNHCR, 04/07/2015).

Shelter

The Migration Transit Centre, hosting Yemeni nationals and third country nationals, closed. Some transferred to Obock while others remained in the city (UNCHRA, 10/07/2015).

Sandstorms in Obock damaged parts of infrastructure in the region and in Markazi refugee camp (UNHCR, 21/06/2015).

The Government has not authorized the request to relocate Yemeni refugees from Markazi camp to Holl Holl camp (UNHCR, 10/07/2015).

Education

As of January 2015, 41.6% of girls and 33.3% of boys aged 6–10 are out of school (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

Updated: 22/07/2015

ETHIOPIA FOOD INSECURITY

KEY CONCERNS

- 2.9 to 3.9 million people will require food assistance in 2015. The most affected regions are Oromia, Somali, Amhara, Tigray, and Afar (ECHO, 11/06/2015; OCHA, 09/03/2015).
- 1.2 million people are in need of improved access to safe water and water sources (UNICEF, 31/10/2014).
- Ethiopia hosts some 704,800 refugees; mainly Somalis, South Sudanese, Eritreans, and Sudanese (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).
- A majority of refugee camps have reached full capacity. Main concerns include overcrowding, malnutrition, critical shortfalls in humanitarian aid.
- 264,500 SAM cases are expected to require assistance in 2015; 446,800 pregnant and breastfeeding women need nutrition interventions (OCHA, 15/03/2015; 20/04/2015).

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.

General elections were held on 24 May. According to the African Union Election Observation mission, they were peaceful and credible (Government, 26/05/2015). Results announced indicate that the ruling party Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) and its allies have won all of 546 seats declared. The opposition claims their supporters were harassed and intimidated (Al Jazeera, 27/05/2015; 23/06/2015; BBC, 22/06/2015).

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. Ethiopian troops are currently part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which has launched an offensive against Al Shabaab, together with the Somali National Army.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

General food distributions are ongoing at a very slow pace and were not completed in
some areas, due to congestion at Djibouti port and a shortage of trucks (OCHA, 21/07/2015). Purchased nutrition supplies are also stuck at the port due to limited transport availability (OCHA, 06/07/2015).

Disasters

Drought

Belg rains started late in most areas, and there have been several dry spells (FEWSNET, 27/06/2015). The March–May belg rainy season has already ended, and rainfall has been poorly distributed since March, which is affecting areas of SNNPR, central and belg-producing areas in the west. Continued drought and water shortages are likely, impacting crops further (FEWSNET, 19/06/2015). Drought conditions also continue in parts of Afar, Amhara, and Somali regions. More than 577,000 people are affected as of late June (OCHA, 13/07/2015; ECHO, 10/07/2015). Many planting activities have been delayed. In western regions, heavy rains are expected in the last week of July, but rainfall will remain suppressed in northern and central areas (NOOA, 23/07/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of June 2015, there are 470,261 IDPs in Ethiopia (IOM, 09/07/2015). They mostly live in Somali region (IOM through OCHA, 11/02/2015; USAID, 2014). More than half are in protracted displacement (OCHA, 2014).

Refugees in Ethiopia

As of 30 June, Ethiopia hosts some 704,816 refugees; mainly South Sudanese, Somalis, Eritreans, and Sudanese. 36,733 refugees arrived in the first six months of 2015 (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). The majority are staying in camps in Gambella, Dolo Ado and Shire (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). Environmental degradation in camps, the fragile ecosystem, and scarce resources have led to tensions between host communities and refugees in some locations (UNHCR, 20/01/2015).

South Sudan: 214,348 people have entered Gambella region since December 2013, including 22,963 who have arrived since 15 December 2014. 66% are children. 69% of the adult population are women (UNHCR, 21/07/2015). An additional 3,135 refugees are in Benishangul-Gumuz region near Assosa. 64,282 South Sudanese refugees were in Ethiopia before December 2013 (UNHCR, 19/06/2015).

After a spike in new arrivals in May – 6,100 new refugees were registered – arrivals decreased to 2,500 in June. New refugees continue to arrive at an average rate of 110 people per day. The majority are fleeing generalised violence and food insecurity in Jonglei and Upper Nile states (UNHCR, 30/06/2015; 21/07/2015). They are mainly arriving through Pagak, Akobo, Bumbeley, and Raad entry points. As of 21 July, more than 10,000 South Sudanese were awaiting transfer to camps at entry points (UNHCR, 21/07/2015). In the week to 14 July, 571 people were transported from Akobo entry point to Bumbeley. An additional 1,875 are registered to be transported to camps from Akobo (IOM, 14/07/2015).

Pugnido camp now hosts 62,154 refugees (UNHCR, 12/05/2015). Pugnido II, 4km away, is being developed to host new arrivals from South Sudan (UNHCR, 19/06/2015). 35,602 refugees are living within host communities (UNHCR, 07/07/2015).

Somalia: As of June, there are 247,700 Somali refugees in Ethiopia, including 2,285 who have arrived since January 2015 (UNHCR, 07/07/2015). Most are located in Dolo Ado camps (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Eritrea: As of April, Ethiopia hosts 135,246 Eritrean refugees, including 33,000 arrivals in 2014 (ECHO, 17/04/2015; UNHCR, 30/04/2015). There was a spike in daily arrivals in the last quarter of 2014: about 8,588 refugees arrived in October and November (OCHA, 24/11/2014).

Sudan: As of April, there are 36,606 Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Ethiopian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 1 January, there were 3,275 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers in Djibouti (UNHCR, 31/01/2015).

As of 1 March, there were 30,630 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya (UNHCR, 14/04/2015).

Returnees

More than 3,400 vulnerable Ethiopians have returned from Yemen, including people who were injured in the conflict, and people in need of transport and shelter (IOM, 26/05/2015; 23/07/2015). 159 Ethiopian refugees have returned from Djibouti (IOM, 07/04/2015).

Food Security

Households in northeast Ethiopia are facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) food security outcomes (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 22/05/2015). Estimations indicate an increase from 2.9 to 3.9 million people in need of assistance (UNHCR, 20/01/2015).

38% of households in need of assistance are expected to be in Oromia and 31% in Somali region (WFP, 30/05/2015). Belg-dominant areas in SNNPR and northeast Amhara will be facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes from July to September. Delayed and poorly distributed belg rains have delayed the harvest. Income from agricultural activities has decreased, and stocks are depleting (FEWSNET, 27/06/2015).

Food insecurity is expected to worsen in the coming months, as the ongoing El Niño phenomenon will continue to negatively affect rainfall throughout 2015 and in the first months of 2016 (OCHA, 30/06/2015).

Agriculture and Livelihoods
The belg harvest has been delayed to July or August, instead of June, and will be far below average (FEWSNET, 31/05/2015). In SNPPR, the belg harvest is one month delayed and maize production is well below average. The region received 20–50% less rain than in a typical year, and the planted area is less than 60% (FEWSNET, 26/06/2015).

In Afar, Jijiga, and Sitti and Fafan zones in Somali region, two consecutive seasons of below-average rain and well-below average rain since March have led to very low pasture, browse and water availability, resulting in poor livestock body conditions and low productivity. In Afar and Sitti zone, unseasonal livestock migration and livestock deaths have been reported. Poor livestock conditions and productivity are also reported in the lowlands of central and eastern Oromia. Household incomes have not increased as they normally would after the start of the rains (FEWSNET, 31/05/2015; ECHO, 10/07/2015).

People have migrated towards areas which have received more rainfall. This has led to a shortage of grazing land and the conditions of rangeland and livestock to remain fragile in pastoral areas. This will cause an over-reliance on coping mechanisms, damaging long-term food security and the availability of water (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 22/05/2015; ECHO, 11/06/2015).

Markets

Staple food prices have been increasing since March, contrary to a usual seasonal decrease from June onwards, increasing the pressure on vulnerable households (ECHO, 10/07/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Acute malnutrition is increasing amid a nationwide measles outbreak.

The majority of new South Sudanese arrivals in Gambella region are suffering from malaria, diarrhoea and skin diseases (MSF, 01/06/2015). Malaria is the main illness in refugee camps (UNHCR, 19/06/2015).

Measles

A nationwide measles outbreak is ongoing. As of 8 June, 14,272 suspected cases have been reported, 11,675 of which have been confirmed. The first six months of 2015 has registered 90% of the number of cases registered in the whole of 2014. Most active outbreak sites are in Oromia region. The outbreak continues to expand, with 173 outbreak sites reported as of 2 June, compared to 165 two weeks before. The most affected age groups are under-fives (34%) and 5–15 years (42%). Preventing the spread of measles is of particular concern in areas with increasing rates of acute malnutrition (OCHA, 25/05/2015; 08/06/2015). A measles vaccination campaign for all children under 15 is planned for October, but faces a USD 23.5 million funding gap (USAID, 22/06/2015).

Nutrition

Acute malnutrition is rapidly increasing. In some areas, a more than 20% increase in acute malnutrition cases has been reported (ECHO, 10/07/2015). Priority areas are mostly in Afar, Oromia and Amhara regions. 348 woredas have been identified as high priority areas as of 15 May (OCHA, 04/06/2015). In February there were 90 priority areas (OCHA, 08/06/2015).

As of early July, 21 of 97 priority 1 woredas have no ongoing nutrition intervention. The largest gaps are in Sitti zone of Somali region, south and east Oromia, Afar and Tigray regions (Nutrition Cluster, 16/07/2015). Priority 2 woredas, which are across the country, are expected to deteriorate into priority 1 areas in September without timely intervention, increasing the number of children in need of emergency nutritional support, due to continued water shortages and below-average and delayed harvests (OCHA, 30/06/2015; 06/07/2015). In May, more than 26,000 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases were admitted across the country, compared to 18,300 in January (OCHA, 13/07/2015). Based on the number of admissions to therapeutic feeding programmes, the current situation has not yet reached the critical levels seen in the drought of 2011 (Nutrition Cluster, 17/06/2015).

Refugee camps: In Gambella, the nutrition situation has improved somewhat, though it remains critical, with 20.9% GAM and 4.8% SAM in 2015, compared to 29.3% and 8.9%, respectively, in 2014. Tierkidi has 28.3% GAM and 8.6% SAM, Kule 21.3% and 5.2%, and Pugnido 24.2% and 4.8%. In Okugo camp, the nutrition situation is classified as serious, with 10.1% GAM and 0.8% SAM (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

In Dolo Ado camps, malnutrition rates are serious. According to a March assessment, GAM is 13.7% and SAM 2.1% in Bokolmayo; 19.5% and 3.1% in Melkadida; 15.1% and 2.2% in Kobe; 19.9% and 2.9% in Hila waxen; and 20.5% and 2.7% in Buramino (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 22/05/2015).

WASH

Critical water shortages reported in May have somewhat improved in northern Somali region and eastern and central lowlands of Oromia region. Shortages prevail in Afar, where people depend on water trucking in Berhale, Kori, Elidar, Dubti and Gewane woredas. Acute water shortages are reported in Erepti and Bidu woredas (WFP, 31/05/2015; OCHA, 25/05/2015; 08/06/2015). 14 woredas in SNPPR and more than 40 kebeles in Sitti zone of Somali region have requested water trucking support (OCHA, 13/07/2015).

Gambella: Water supply is below the UNHCR standard of 20L per person per day in most camps: 22L in Okugo, 18L in Tierkidi, 16L in Kule, 16L in Pugnido (UNHCR, 29/05/2015). Sanitation has improved, and latrine to user ratios in the camps are lower than the UNHCR standard of 1:50: 1:27 in Tierkidi, 1:14 in Kule, 1:32 in Pugnido and 1:8 in Okugo (UNHCR, 29/05/2015). Water quality and quantity meet minimum standard in Gambella and Dolo Ado camps. But in Gambella, inadequate sanitation services and poor hygiene practices continue to negatively affect the nutrition status of refugees (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Shelter and NFI

Refugees in Jewi camp, who were relocated from Leitchuor and Nip Nip camps, still need shelter support. They are living in temporary shelters, which have a short life span. Other priority needs are food and security (NRC, 23/07/2015).

Protection
**Child Protection**

There are more than 36,000 unaccompanied and separated minors in Ethiopia: 19,501 are South Sudanese children in Gambella (UNHCR, 21/07/2015; 07/07/2015).

*Updated: 24/07/2015*

**GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanitarian crisis</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
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See the methodology note for details.

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No new significant developments this week, 22/07/2015. Last update: 14/05/2015.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Over March–May, 412,000 people were in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) food insecurity, and 101,000 were in IPC Phases 3-5 (Crisis – Famine) food insecurity. Numbers are projected to increase over June-August 2015 (FAO/WFP, 31/03/2015).

- 10,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 10/02/2015; 13/02/2015).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

At 2% of the requested USD 24 million, the humanitarian appeal for the Gambia is the least funded in the world (Financial Tracking System, 06/2015).

**Displacement**

Refugees in the Gambia

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

**Food Security**

406,000 people are projected to be in Crisis–Famine (IPC Phases 3–5) and 126,000 in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes over the June–September lean season. Over March–May, 101,000 were in Crisis–Famine, and 412,000 people were Stressed (FAO, WFP, 31/03/2015).

Aggregate cereal production in 2014 dropped by 75% compared to 2013, to about 57,000 metric tons, due to irregular rains causing poor growing conditions. Production of groundnut, the main cash crop, is estimated to have declined by more than 80%. Access to food is further constrained by high cereal prices and 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 led to a 60% decline in tourism, a significant source of income (Reuters, 12/02/2015).

**Agriculture and Markets**

2014–2015 cereal production was 16% lower than the previous year, which has increased food prices (FEWSNET, 03/04/2015; IFRC, 13/05/2015). The late onset and deficit of rains has also negatively impacted livestock production, which makes up 25% of annual agricultural GDP (IFRC, 13/05/2015).

**Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview**

During the lean season (June–August), 7.4 million are projected to be in Crisis and Emergency food insecurity across the Sahel and West Africa, and 26.6 million to be Stressed (Cadre Harmonisé, 04/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically to 24.7 million food insecure people, compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2015).

**Health**

**Nutrition**

10,220 children are severely malnourished as of February 2015, an increase compared to 8,000 severely malnourished in mid-2014 (OCHA, 02/2015; 09/2014).

**Protection**

Dozens of friends and family members of people suspected of involvement in an attempted coup that took place in December 2014 remain in detention without charge (Human Rights Watch, 27/05/2015).

*Reviewed: 22/07/2015*

**KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanitarian crisis</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
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See the methodology note for details.

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

22 July: Kenyan forces are involved in a new military offensive in Somalia, targeting Al Shabaab (BBC).
KEY CONCERNS
- Violence in the capital Nairobi, as well as northeastern and coastal areas; two-thirds of attacks attributed to the Somali Islamist Al Shabaab movement.
- Inter-communal tensions are running high: Inter-communal violence in Kenya caused 310 deaths, 214 injuries and displaced 220,200 in 2014 (OCHA, UNHCR, 12/2014).
- More than 591,101 refugees, including at least 420,000 Somalis and 90,000 South Sudanese (UNHCR 31/05/2015).
- 1.6 million people are acutely food insecure (05/2015, Food Security and Nutrition Working Group).

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.

Security Context
The frequency and scale of militant attacks in Kenya have increased dramatically since 2011, when Kenyan troops began operating in Somalia. The nature of the violence has also changed. 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. Non-Muslims continue to be targeted. Since April 2013, more than 400 people have been killed by Al Shabaab in Kenya (Reuters, 26/05/2015; The Guardian, 26/05/2015). Kenyan forces are involved in a new military offensive targeting Al Shabaab in Somalia’s Gedo region, along the Kenyan border (BBC, 22/07/2015).

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

In addition, deadly inter-communal violence remains common in a number of areas, particularly in Turkana and Baringo.

Conflict developments
Al Shabaab-related Violence

Al Shabaab activity and military response in Kenya has escalated over several months (Reuters, 26/05/2015; The Guardian, 26/05/2015). Most of the violence occurs in eastern and northeastern counties along the border with Somalia, including Wajir, Mandera, and Lamu. The deadliest attack so far happened in April in Garissa, when 148 people were killed (BBC, 07/07/2015).

Inter-communal Violence
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 northern Rift Valley and northeastern regions are most affected. As of the end of November 2014, inter-communal violence in Kenya had caused 310 deaths, 214 injuries, and displaced 220,200 (OCHA, 31/11/2014). In early May 2015, some 75 people were killed in four days of raids and revenge attacks between tribes in Turkana and East Pokot, and in Marsabit, Samburu, and Baringo (international media, 06/05/2015).

In Samburu county, the Samburu, which make up 80% of the county’s population, and the minority Turkana communities agreed to a peace deal in May (BBC 22/05/2015).

Recent incidents
Al Shabaab-related Violence
On 13 July, suspected Al Shabaab militants killed at least five people in a roadside bomb attack in Lamu county. Al Shabaab is believed to have fighters in Boni Forest (AFP, 14/07/2015). On 7 July, unidentified militants attacked a convoy of passenger buses and their army escorts near the town of Mpeketoni, Lamu region. The town has been a previous target of Al Shabaab attacks. No casualties were reported (AFP, 07/07/2015). The same day, suspected Al Shabaab militants killed at least 14 people outside Mandera town. At least 11 were injured (AFP, 07/07/2015). On 21 June, three Kenyan soldiers were injured in Lamu county, when their truck hit a bomb said to have been planted by Al Shabaab militants. A week earlier an attack was carried out on a military base in the same area (international media, 21/06/2015). A government administrator was killed on 20 June in Wajir county, by suspected Al Shabaab militants (AFP, 21/06/2015).

Inter-communal Violence
Between 16 and 17 June, there was an escalation of inter-clan conflict between the Garre and Degodia along the Kenya–Ethiopia border in Mandera county. The fighting resulted in at least five deaths and 30 injuries, though exact numbers are unknown (Kenya Daily Nation, 17/06/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs
Access
42 MSF staff have been relocated from Dadaab to Nairobi, following a series of incidents. Two of four health posts have closed and some medical services, including antenatal care, have been suspended (MSF, 27/05/2015). The Kenya Red Cross has moved staff from the camp to Dadaab town. International NGOs residing in Dadaab town have temporarily suspended movement to the camps (OCHA, 15/06/2015).

Disasters
Drought
The Government has warned of a severe drought in Mandera county in the coming months, due to poor rains April–May. Few parts of the county received near-normal rain: the majority experienced a severe rain deficit. Due to livestock migration in search of water and pasture, areas that received rain have dried up. Pastoralists are moving along the Daua River to Ethiopia and to parts of Wajir county. In areas with a high concentration of livestock, the only water source are boreholes; water pumps have dried up (Kenya Daily Nation, 30/06/2015).

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

On 11 February, Kenya had 309,200 IDPs (OCHA, 11/02/2014).

Some 9,500 people in the Mau Forest, Rift Valley, were evicted in May and relocated to Kipchoge, Olapa, and Arorwet camps in Narok South subcounty. Pneumonia, diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases have been reported (local media, 21/05/2015).

**Refugees**

As of 1 April, Kenya is hosting more than 591,101 refugees and asylum seekers. 222,626 are in Dadaab, 126,947 in Alinjugur, 184,108 in Kakuma and 57,420 in Nairobi (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

**From Somalia:** As of May, 423,244 Somali refugees are in Kenya (UNHCR, 22/05/2015). 1,362 new refugees have been registered since January 2015 (UNHCR, 06/05/2015). 13,162 arrived in 2014, indicating a considerable drop in arrivals (UNHCR, 01/04/2015; 06/05/2015). Most are in the northeastern Dadaab refugee camp complex (UNHCR, 15/03/2015). They remain almost completely dependent on humanitarian aid (local media, 19/06/2015). Security in Dadaab and along the border with Somalia is volatile, with frequent incidents and implications for the safety of humanitarian workers (ECHO, 17/04/2015).

The Tripartite Agreement between the Kenyan and Somali Governments and UNHCR, signed in November 2013, establishes the legal framework for Somali refugees wishing to return home (IOM, UNHCR, 09/12/2014). As of 12 July, 2,841 returnees had arrived in Somalia, with 150 returning in between 6 and 12 July (UNHCR, 12/07/2015).

**From South Sudan:** As of 15 July, 46,237 South Sudanese refugees have registered in Kenya since mid-December 2013 (UNHCR, 20/07/2015). They are mainly living in Kakuma camp. 64% are children (UNICEF, 05/02/2015). The total population of South Sudanese refugees in Kenya is over 91,500 as of 10 July 2015 (UNHCR, 10/07/2015). The trend of daily arrivals remains low (UNHCR, 10/07/2015).

On 19 June, land for a new camp in Kalobeyei, some 20km from Kakuma camp, was officially handed over by the local government in Turkana county. The camp will be able to accommodate 80,000 people. Kakuma camp, which has far exceeded its capacity of 125,000, hosting 184,527 refugees as of 25 June. 50% of Kakuma camp’s residents are South Sudanese (UNHCR, 26/06/2015; Reuters, 20/06/2015). The overpopulation and burden on services is causing friction among communities (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

**From Burundi:** As of 1 June, there are 7,046 refugees from Burundi, mostly in Kakuma camp. They arrived before electoral violence began in Burundi in 2015 (UNHCR, 08/06/2015).

**From DRC:** As of 31 March, there are 21,643 DRC refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

**From Ethiopia:** As of 31 May, there are 30,872 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

**From Eritrea:** As of May, 1,595 Eritrean refugees reside in Kenya (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

**From Sudan:** As of 31 May, there are 10,367 refugees and asylum seekers from Sudan in Kenya (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

**Kenyan Refugees in Neighbouring Countries**

1,350 Kenyans have been living in Kiryandogo, Uganda, for seven years. Ugandan and Kenyan authorities have reached an agreement to return all refugees in 90 days (local media, 01/05/2015). At the end of May, 1,231 refugees had returned (Daily Nation, 30/05/2015).

**Food Security**

As of May 2015, conflict-affected areas in the northeast are facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) food security outcomes. Food security is categorised as Minimal in western Kenya, but Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in most pastoral areas. At least 1.6 million people are acutely food insecure, due to constrained food access, high food prices, and below-average rains (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 22/05/2015; UNICEF, 05/02/2015).

In eastern pastoral livelihood zones, severe food insecurity reaches 64% (WFP, 27/05/2015). Wajir, Garissa, Isiolo, Madera, and Marsabit counties, and agropastoral areas in Kajiado, Laikipia, and Kitui counties are most affected. A longer than usual lean period is expected, from May to July (FEWSNET, 13/06/2015; Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, 22/05/2015). In parts of northern Isiolo and western Wajir, the rains have been well below average and poorly distributed. Households in the direst areas continue to face Crisis (Phase 3) food security outcomes (FEWSNET, 23/06/2015). Milk production and livestock conditions in Mandera have been affected by drought. Market prices for milk have increased, and livestock prices are decreasing (Kenya Daily Nation, 30/06/2015).

March–May rains were near average in most areas, except in localised parts of pastoral areas and southeastern and coastal marginal agricultural areas. In high- and medium-potential agricultural areas in the west and southwest, and in localised parts of the coastal strip, rains will continue through August and will be average to above-average.

WFP cut food rations by 30% in mid-June in Kakuma and Dadaab camps due to limited resources (WFP, 11/06/2015). Further ration cuts might be necessary in Dadaab camps to stretch available resources (WFP, 10/07/2015).
Cholera continues to affect 14 counties (Government, 30/06/2015). The incidence of cholera and malaria has declined in Kakuma camp (UNHCR, 26/06/2015).

Eleven of 26 health facilities in Mandera have closed because staff have left the county (UNICEF, 05/02/2015).

Cholera

The cholera outbreak, which began in December 2014, is still active in 14 counties: Nakuru, Nairobi, Murang'a, Mombasa, Embu, Machakos, Narok, Kiifi, Trans Nzoia, Kiambu, Homa Bay, Kirinyaga, Baringo and Turkana. As of 29 June, 4,938 cases have been reported, including 97 deaths. In the last week of June, 64 new cases were reported and one death, compared to 112 the previous week (Kenya Daily Nation, 30/06/2015; Government, 30/06/2015). The overall case fatality rate (CFR) is 1.9% (OCHA, 15/06/2015). The highest CFRs are in Trans Nzoia (14.3%) and Machakos (6.3%) counties (Government, 30/06/2015).

MSF has warned that the outbreak may worsen and last much longer due to high population mobility and overcrowding in the most affected parts of Nairobi, where cholera has spread to almost all subcounties and informal settlements (local media, 14/05/2015; 19/05/2015; 21/05/2015; MSF, 02/06/2015; UNISDR, 10/06/2015). The Ministry of Health, however, has since said it expects the outbreak to end in July (Kenya Daily Nation, 30/06/2015).

Nutrition

Since a peak in February there has been a continued reduction in the number of admissions to therapeutic feeding programmes (WFP, 27/05/2015). Global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates in February 2015 were highest in Wajir West (22.6%), Wajir East and South (17.4%), northern Garissa (15.2%), and Isiolo (13.2%).

WASH

As of 10 July, Kakuma 4 camp residents have access to an average of 18L of water per person per day (UNHCR, 10/07/2015). The latrine to user ratio is 1:15, conforming to the UNHCR minimal standard (UNHCR, 26/06/2015).

Education

Access to education has been disrupted for 9,000 schoolchildren in Mandera (UNICEF, 05/02/2015). Teachers are still not reporting to work due to insecurity. Secondary schools are most affected, but primary schools along the Kenya–Somalia border are also without teachers (local media, 21/05/2015).

More than 1,000 teachers have refused to go back to Baringo, Mandera, Garissa and Wajir since January due to insecurity (local media, 26/05/2015).

More than 20 schools have reopened in Baringo, West Pokot, Samburu and Turkana counties due to improved security. They had been closed since the start of second term in May, due to violence along the borders between the counties (AllAfrica, 01/07/2015).

Protection

In January, Human Rights Watch issued a report highlighting serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions and torture by security forces (HRW, 29/01/2015). There are reports of Somali refugees being mistreated by security forces in their efforts to confront Al Shabaab (BBC, 01/06/2015).

Child Protection

30,892 unaccompanied minors are among the refugee population (UNHCR, 31/05/2015). In Kakuma camp, the cumulative number of separated and unaccompanied children is 15,507 (UNHCR, 25/06/2015).

Trafficking of separated South Sudanese children is a growing phenomenon in Kenya. Traffickers find the children on their way to or inside refugee camps and take them to southern Africa, often Malawi, where they are used as slaves (Jesuit Refugee Service, 14/01/2015).

Updated: 24/07/2015

LIBERIA FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 22/07/2015. Last update: 15/07/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- The Ebola outbreak that began in 2014 in Liberia was declared over on 9 May, 10,666 Ebola cases had been reported in Liberia, including 4,806 deaths (WHO, 09/05/2015). The utility of case numbers has been questioned; statistics are reported to be highly unreliable (CDC, 09/2014; international media, 20/11/2014).

- A new Ebola outbreak was declared in Liberia as of 29 June following the confirmation of a new case. There have been three confirmed and one probable new cases declared in total since June 29.

- 16% or 640,000 Liberians are food insecure; 5% are reported to be severely food insecure, which equates to around 200,000 people (LFSA, 30/06/2015).
There is insufficient capacity to meet non-Ebola medical needs, leading to an increase in non-Ebola related morbidity and mortality.

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

Security Context

In mid-June, an armed group of 200 people crossed into Liberia from Côte d'Ivoire and seized control of an area in the heavily forested border region. They are reportedly from the Mossi tribe. Reports suggest they have displaced some 2,000 people (AFP, 12/06/2015).

The Security Council has extended the mandate of the UN Mission in Liberia until 30 September 2015, in light of the consequences of the Ebola outbreak for national reform (UNSC, 15/12/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Liberia’s rainy season began in late May and is due to end in October (FEWSNET, 31/05/2015). It will be difficult to reach hospitals and clinics, electricity will not be available for long periods, and water and sanitation infrastructure will be disrupted (Plan, 07/04/2015).

Displacement

Refugees in Liberia

Liberia is hosting around 40,038 refugees, asylum seekers and others of concern, including 38,102 refugees from Côte d’Ivoire who fled electoral violence in 2010 (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). On 12 March, UNHCR, Liberia, and Côte d’Ivoire agreed to resume voluntary repatriation, after it was suspended due to Ebola (UNHCR, 23/04/2015; international media, 23/04/2015). Repatriation has not started, but is scheduled to begin before elections take place in Côte d’Ivoire in October (international media, 23/06/2015). It is unclear whether the most recent outbreak will affect the schedule for repatriation.

Food Security

According to the Liberia Food Security Assessment, in June, 16% or 640,000 Liberians are food insecure. 5% are severely food insecure, which equates to around 200,000 people (LFSA, 30/06/2015). As Liberia has entered the lean season, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes for poor households are expected until September 2015 (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015).

Conditions improved, particularly in rural areas, after the harvest, and there was a reduction in the use of coping strategies in May (WFP, 31/05/2015). Nonetheless, 18% of households report using emergency coping strategies such as begging (LFSA, 30/06/2015). Severely food insecure households have very limited or no rice stocks, making them particularly vulnerable to the ongoing lean season (June–September) (LFSA, 30/06/2015).

Increased unemployment rates are likely contributing to reduced household food access (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015). 33% of respondents reported less wage opportunities than average for this time of year (FEWSNET, 08/07/2015). WFP reports that urban households tend to use fewer coping strategies than rural ones (WFP, 31/03/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Over 21% of respondents to a FEWSNET survey reported that the most important market in their area was operating at reduced levels. This has been attributed to high transport costs linked to the rainy season (FEWSNET, 08/07/2015).

In April, 21% of traders reported that rice cultivation was taking place at below-average levels (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015). The southeastern region, particularly River Gee and Grand Kru, is among the areas most affected by food insecurity. They report restricted access to markets to purchase or sell surplus produce (LFSA, 30/06/2015).

35% of households with access to farmland did not harvest last season. 21% have reported a decrease in rice production (LFSA, 30/06/2015). Overall, rice production is estimated to have dropped by 5% in 2014 due to Ebola, seasonal wage rates have fallen by 3%, and purchasing power fell by 3% (World Bank, 15/04/2015; WFP, 30/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Nearly all health facilities in the country are open, but most are operating at reduced levels compared to before the outbreak (UN 25/03/2015).

The Ebola outbreak has significantly reduced vaccination rates. DTP3 (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) vaccinations have decreased by 53% since 2013 (UN, 26/03/2015).

Over 3% of health workers have been infected by Ebola; 2% of health workers have died of the disease (UNICEF, 29/04/2015).

Ebola

On 29 June, a new case of Ebola was confirmed, seven weeks after Liberia was declared Ebola-free (NYT, 29/06/2015). The case was discovered post mortem in Nedowein, a town close to the international airport. Nearly all of the 133 contacts...
identified are being traced as of 13 July. 115 are in Margibi and 17 in Montserrado (UNMEER, 14/07/2015). As of 15 July, seven cases have been reported, of which two have died (WHO, 15/07/2015).

The outbreak had been declared over on 9 May, and reported 10,666 Ebola cases, including 4,806 deaths (WHO, 09/05/2015). The utility of case numbers has been questioned; statistics are reported to be highly unreliable (CDC, 09/2014; international media, 20/11/2014).

Containment measures: The Government has threatened to shut down all schools and restaurants that lack WASH facilities (All Africa, 30/04/2015).

Regional Ebola Outbreak

27,706 cumulative Ebola cases have been reported across the region, including 11,269 deaths (WHO, 15/07/2015).

More border points with Guinea and Sierra Leone are opening officially on both sides, although there are concerns about critical gaps in infection control supplies, particularly on the Guinean side (UNMEER, 15/03/2015; UNMEER; 15/04/2015). In recent weeks, there has been an increased in the number of cases in Sierra Leone along the border of Liberia; as of 24 June there are no plans to close the borders (USAID, 16/06/2015; International Media, 24/06/2015).

Maternal Health

In the three most-affected countries, deliveries in health facilities and the number of assisted births have decreased. Antenatal consultations had decreased by 40–43%, while institutional deliveries decreased by 37–38% by the end of 2014, compared to 2013 (UN, 26/03/2015, MoH, 07/04/2015).

Measles

As of 2 June, more than 850 cases of measles have been confirmed, including seven deaths across ten counties. 67% of cases were among children under five. Grand Bassa (160), Margibi (85), and Montserrado (65) reported most cases (OCHA, 01/05/2015; WHO, 02/06/2015).

There are reports of people suspected to have measles abandoning their homes to avoid specimen collection and testing (UNMEER, 27/03/2015).

A mass vaccination campaign took place between 8–14 May, targeting around 700,000 children for both measles and polio (WHO, 02/06/2015; All Africa, 24/04/2015).

Mental Health

There is a need for access to mental health and psychosocial support remains, especially for survivors, orphans, and the bereaved (UNMEER, 22/02/2015).

There is only one psychiatrist and there are no psychologists in Liberia (PI, 21/03/2015).

Nutrition

The six counties prioritised by responders for nutrition interventions are those who reported the highest Ebola case numbers during the height of the crisis: Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Nimba, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa (UNICEF, 15/04/2015). 52,000 children are estimated to be at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Relative to trends observed from 1992–2012, malnutrition prevalence is forecast to increase by 2.8–5.3% between 2014 and 2016 (UN Development Group, 11/03/2015).

WASH

According to a recent assessment of health facilities, 50% do not have a protected year-round source of water, and 20% do not have any protected source on site. 49% do not have any bulk water storage on site. Only 61% of facilities report hand-washing facilities at the toilet. 23% have a drainage system and only 45% have a functioning soak pit for liquid waste (WASH Cluster, 10/04/2015).

17% of Liberians have access to improved sanitation. The number drops to 4% in rural areas. 32% don’t have access to an improved drinking water source (WASH Cluster, 13/04/2015).

Protection

Best estimates suggest there are currently around 2,000 Ebola survivors in Liberia (VOA, 30/03/2015). Many return home to find their possessions have been destroyed to prevent the spread of the virus. Landlords have terminated leases and some people have lost their jobs (VOA, 30/03/2015; All Africa, 04/05/2015). Women and girls, who have poorer access to jobs and education, are especially vulnerable (UNFPA, 03/02/2015). Some Ebola survivors say traders are refusing to accept their money (All Africa, 04/05/2015). Approximately 20,000 former healthcare workers and volunteers who were associated with the Ebola response continue to face discrimination (IRIN, 11/06/2015).

Child Protection

401 of the 450 rape cases reported in Liberia since the beginning of the EVD outbreak were committed against children under 17 years of age (UNICEF, 15/04/2015).

As of 6 May, 3,323 children have lost one or both parents to Ebola since the outbreak began in March 2014 (UNICEF, 06/05/2015).

Social workers have raised fears of child trafficking and exploitation, after some
LIBYA DISPLACEMENT, CIVIL WAR, POLITICAL UNREST

Updated: 22/07/2015

LIBYA

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

21 July: Clashes between Tuareg and Toubou tribes in Sabha, southern Libya, left 40 dead and four wounded (Reuters).

KEY CONCERNS

- 2.4 million non-displaced affected people (OCHA, 30/06/2015).
- 550,000 IDPs (Save the Children, 18/06/2015).
- 250,000 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in need of assistance (OCHA, 30/06/2015).
- Indiscriminate shelling and targeting of civilian areas (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).
- Access is a major concern (OCHA, 03/09/2014).

OVERVIEW

It is estimated that two million people have been affected by the conflict, which has generated shortages of food, fuel, water, medical supplies, and electricity, as well as reduced access to healthcare and public services.

The rapidly deteriorating security situation has caused waves of displacement, particularly in the western outskirts of Tripoli and the eastern city of Benghazi. The prices of food and basic items, such as cooking fuel and wheat flour, have doubled.

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

Political Context

Libya has two rival parliaments and governments, with militias exerting much control on the ground. The political crisis led to worsening armed conflict over 2014. Struggle over resources and a sharp drop in oil production have exacerbated the crisis (Financial Times 19/03/2015). Islamic State (IS) has exploited the volatile security situation (Asharq Al Awsat 04/05/2015). Profiting from the deterioration of the political and security situation, smugglers have also taken control over some areas, notably Sabrata and Zuwara towns near the Tunisian border west of Tripoli, making use of official ports for smuggling operations (BBC, 29/04/2015).

The House of Representatives (HoR) was elected in June 2014, and moved to Tobruk in early August (AFP, 12/11/2014). The Islamist-dominated General National Congress (GNC), which preceded the House of Representatives and had never stood down, reconvened and voted to replace the House on 25 August. It is supported by an alliance of groups called Libya Dawn.

Prime Minister Al Thani’s Government, from the House of Representatives, was sworn in in September. In October, the House of Representatives officially endorsed former General Haftar and his Operation Dignity (now known as the Libyan National Army). On 6 November, Libya’s Supreme Court ruled the House of Representatives unconstitutional.

Economic Crisis

The Libyan economy contracted over 23% in 2014, and is expected to contract an additional 10% in 2015, depending on domestic stability as well as international oil prices. Insecurity-induced supply chain disruptions are likely to contribute to increased inflation in 2015. Unless the political crisis is resolved, the increasing financial constraints could pose serious risks to Libya’s ability to provide essential services (UNICEF, 03/2015).

Peace Talks

Over 6–8 March, the rival parliaments held their first direct meeting, led by the UN (AFP, 06/03/2015; 11/03/2015). A new round of peace talks began on 26 June (Reuters, 29/06/2015). Talks continue even though the parliament in Tripoli rejected a UN proposal to resolve Libya's political crisis (AFP 07/07/2015). On 11 July, Libyan political parties agreed on a UN-proposed peace accord, in the absence of the GNC (AFP, 12/07/2015).

Security Context

The surge in violence since July 2014 has affected more than two million people (UN, 03/09/2014). Since the beginning of 2015, over 1,100 violent deaths have been reported (ACLED, 18/05/2015). In 2014, there were 2,383 reported fatalities from battles and remote violence (ACLED, 15/01/2015).

While the beginning of May saw heightened tensions between Libya Dawn forces and Operation Dignity in the west, the second half of May witnessed a shift in violence, to the central city of Sirte and the eastern city of Benghazi. Libya Dawn alliance played a lesser...
role in violent conflict in May, reflected in several reconciliatory efforts and prisoner swaps in Zintan, Misrata, and Gharyan (ACLED, 05/06/2015).

Main Stakeholders

Libya Dawn

The Libya Shield brigades, tied to the city of Misrata, are allied to Islamist political forces, as are the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries, a Benghazi-based alliance including Ansar al Sharia, Libya Shield units and other armed groups. Together with insurgents from Tripoli and other towns including al Zawiya and Gheryan, these groups make up Libya Dawn. Some factions are wary of the threat of IS to regional and local interests; others are willing to cooperate with IS to defeat Haftar and the Libyan National Army (ACLED, 03/2015).

Libyan National Army

Former General Khalifa Haftar launched Operation Dignity in May 2014, in support of the House of Representatives and aiming to break the strongholds of Islamist forces. Operation Dignity and its supporters have since been renamed the Libyan National Army (LNA), with Haftar as army chief (ICG, 05/01/2014; Middle East Eye, 24/02/2015). Support comes from the Al Qa’qa’ and Al Sawari’ brigades, allied with the city of Zintan, and fighters from the Warshefana region west of Tripoli. The House of Representatives has repeatedly appealed to the international community for more weapons (AFP, 05/01/2014).

Islamic State and Allies

The Islamic Youth Shura Council has declared an Islamic emirate in the eastern city of Derna and pledged allegiance to Islamic State (Al Arabiya, 06/10/2014). The Battar Brigade, based in Derna, pledges allegiance to Islamic State. They are not affiliated with either of the rival governments and have warned all governments and militia groups not to interfere with its activities. IS has set up training camps in eastern Libya, according to US officials (BBC, 04/12/2014).

Regional Involvement

In October 2014, Prime Minister Al Thani announced that Egypt would help to train the Libyan army. In February, Egypt carried out airstrikes on Derna (Reuters, 23/02/2015).

Islamist fighters pushed out of Mali are 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). Palestinian, Sudanese, and Syrian nationals have been banned from entering Libya (Libya Herald, 05/01/2015). Bangladeshi workers have also been banned from entering Libya (Reuters, 16/05/2015).

Tuarag from Mali and, reportedly, Tebu from Chad, have joined their respective Libyan tribe members in fighting over Ubari (Al Jazeera, 05/12/2014).

Conflict Developments

Tripoli and Western Libya

Tripoli is largely under the control of Libya Dawn. On 20 March, the LNA announced an assault to recapture Tripoli (Reuters, 23/03/2015). In April, as peace talks were starting, forces loyal to the HoR carried out airstrikes on Mitiga airport and other targets in western Libya (Reuters, 15/04/2015). According to local officials, IS was behind attacks on the Spanish, South Korean, and Moroccan embassies in April (International Business Times, 13/04/2015; AFP, 21/04/2015). Tunisian consulate staff kidnapped on 12 June were released a week later, in exchange for Libya Dawn brigade leader Walid Kalib, who had been detained in Tunisia (Middle East Monitor, 23/06/2015).

Misrata: On 31 May, IS claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing at a checkpoint west of Misrata that killed five people and injured eight (Reuters, 31/05/2015). On 21 May, IS claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing at another checkpoint in Misrata that killed two guards (Reuters, 21/05/2015).

Sirte: On 29 May, IS seized Sirte airport and the Great Man Made River water project, which supplies water to Libyan cities (BBC, 29/05/2015). On 21 May, for the first time since fighting began in May 2014, Misrata’s 166 Battalion and forces of the HoR conducted a joint security operation against IS in Sirte (ACLED, 05/06/2015). It was reported that IS, backed by local militias and militias from Misrata, had seized control of Sirte in March (NYT, 10/03/2015).

Benghazi and Eastern Libya

Between mid-October and January, 600 people were killed due to fighting in the city, according to medical staff (Reuters, 18/01/2015). Operation Dignity began an offensive to take Benghazi from the Shura Council in October (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). The Libyan National Army claims to have almost full control of Benghazi’s Lahiti district, central Benghazi’s port area, as well as part of the neighbouring Suq Al Hout district (Libya Herald, 06/01/2015).

Heavy fighting erupted again on 18 May between pro-HoR forces and Islamist groups (Reuters, 18/05/2015). IS appears to have expelled Benghazi, joining the fight against the LNA. Libyan military sources said an airstrike on a farmhouse on 13 June in Ajdabiya city near Benghazi killed seven members of Ansar al Sharia (Reuters, 15/06/2015). As of 22 June, clashes in Benghazi continue (Middle East Eye, 23/06/2015). On 8 July, a rocket fell inside Al Jala hospital in Benghazi, killing one and injuring three (local media, 08/07/2015).

Derna: IS has reportedly been pushed out of its stronghold as of 15 June. Abu Salim Martyrs Brigade, linked to Al Qaeda, are among the militias fighting IS, and they have been joined by civilians (VoA, 15/06/2015). On 30 May, four people were killed in two explosions near Derna (Libya Herald, 30/05/2015). Derna has been hit by airstrikes several times, both by pro-HoR and Egyptian planes (Reuters, 05/05/2015; 23/02/2015).

Inter-communal Violence

Intermittent violence in the south, linked to inter and inter-ethnic rivalries, has been exacerbated by geopolitics and shifting allegiances. Fighting has occurred between the Tebu and the Taurag since last September. On 1 June, two people were killed when...
clashes broke out in Ubari (Libya Herald, 01/06/2015). On 3 June, a preliminary ceasefire was agreed (Libya Herald, 03/06/2015). 40 were killed in inter-ethnic clashes between the Toubou and Tuareg in Sabha, southern Libya (Reuters, 21/07/2015; AFP, 22/07/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Areas with highest humanitarian needs are Benghazi, in northeastern Libya, Ghat, Ubari and Sabha in the south, and Warshafana, Ziltan and Nalut in the northwestern area of the country. Priority needs are health, protection and education for the northwest and northeast and health, food security, and shelter for the south (Save the Children, 18/06/2015).

Access

Indiscriminate fighting has led to movement restrictions. Violence and checkpoints along the route to Zawia from Tripoli are preventing people from reaching the Tunisian border. The Salloum border crossing between Libya and Egypt has been closed indefinitely (Libya Herald, 21/01/2015).

Armed groups lack knowledge of humanitarian organisations and restrict access. Most humanitarian agencies have left. The national agency tasked with leading the humanitarian response evaluates its own response capacity as almost non-existent (IRIN, 07/08/2014).

The humanitarian impact on the civilian populations within Benghazi is becoming catastrophic (OCHA, 05/06/2015).

Fuel shortages are further limiting access (AFP, 19/05/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of end-June 2015, the IDP population is estimated at 435,000 in 35 locations (OCHA, 30/06/2015). Most require support, including non-food items and medicine. Those staying in schools and other public facilities need alternative shelter (OCHA, 16/06/2015). At least 56,544 IDPs are displaced since the 2011 conflict (IDMC, 23/09/2014).

IDPs’ physical security has been seriously threatened by indiscriminate shelling, attacks on IDP camps, and sieges.

As of March, there were 269,000 IDPs in and around Tripoli (IDMC, 30/03/2015). Near Tripoli, an estimated 83,270 people are living in settlements, schools and abandoned buildings (UNHCR, 16/01/2015).

About 105,000 IDPs are in Benghazi (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). More than 8,700 displaced Tawerghas, mostly women and children, are staying in nine camps in Qasr ben Ghashir, Abu Salim, Janzur in Tripoli, Ajdabiya, Bani Waleed, Tarhuna and Benghazi (UNICEF, 01/06/2015).

18,492 people from Ubari are displaced in six towns: Sabha, Wadi Shati, Jufra, Ghat, Murzuq, and Lewenat (IDMC, 30/03/2015; UNHCR, 16/01/2015). Services have been severely disrupted by fighting: Schools, hospitals and markets are completely inaccessible (UNHCR, 16/01/2015).

Migrants, Refugees and Asylum-seekers in Libya

As of June 2015, there were 250,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Libya in need of assistance (OCHA, 30/06/2015). In January, IOM estimated at least 150,000 migrant workers were also in the country, 5,000 of whom might be vulnerable and in need of evacuation assistance, health services, and psychosocial support (IOM, 08/01/2015).

Third-country nationals face extreme difficulties leaving the country as passage through Libya’s borders with Egypt and Tunisia is restricted. Migrants continue to embark on unseaworthy vessels to reach Italy. More than 40,000 people have tried to cross the Mediterranean so far in 2015, most of them using Libya as their starting point, and nearly 1,800 are feared to have died in the attempt (IOM 31/05/2015). The Libyan Naval Coast Guard intercepts many boats, which has increased the number of migrants in need of urgent assistance in Libyan ports (IOM, 12/05/2015). In 2014, 170,000 migrants departed from Libya and arrived in Italy. An estimated 3,200 people died crossing the sea (IOM, 31/03/2015).

Food Security

Insecurity is affecting the food supply chain, with some estimates indicating a substantial decline in food imports into eastern Libya. The HoR has reported it had started tapping into the country’s strategic wheat reserves to ensure bread supplies. Some bakeries in Tripoli and Benghazi have closed or reduced production (Reuters, 04/02/2015). Warehouses (both public and private) are situated in conflict areas, and fuel shortages are aggravating the situation. The price of basic food items has tripled since the start of the crisis (Save the Children, 18/06/2015). Basic food items in Benghazi are only available in areas controlled by the LNA (Save the Children, 18/06/2015).

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.

Many IDPs and migrants do not have access to health services (Save the Children, 18/06/2015). Access to health services has become a major concern mainly in Benghazi. Ongoing fighting has led to restrictions of movement for people and health workers in the conflict areas (WHO, 24/11/2014).

The hospitals that remain operating in Tripoli and Benghazi have been overstretched dealing with casualties. Many national medical personnel have not been able to work due to insecurity. Tripoli hospitals have been hit by shelling, leading to suspension of services. Ambulances have been stolen (ICRC, 17/09/2014).

WASH

Lack of adequate WASH facilities has been reported in detention centres in and outside Tripoli (Human Rights Watch, 21/05/2015). Inadequate sanitation and hygiene conditions...
are reported in the nine displacement camps hosting Tawerghas (UNICEF, 01/06/2015).

**Education**

Half of the children in Libya are without education. In Benghazi, 75% of boys and girls have no access to education (Save the Children, 18/06/2015). At December 2014, 21% of IDP school-aged children were not attending school due to insecurity, closed school and lack of space (UNICEF, 03/2015). Many of the schools in the northeast and south are occupied by IDPs (Save the Children, 18/06/2015).

**Protection**

Abductions, looting, burning of homes and other acts of revenge have all been frequently reported (UN Security Council, 05/09/2014). In some districts of Benghazi, civilians are reporting that militants patrolling the area are not allowing them to leave (Human Rights Watch, 26/05/2015). Human rights defenders and justice sector officials are targeted, intimidated, and frequently attacked (UNSMIL/OHCHR, 25/03/2015).

**Detention**

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, including whippings, beatings and electric shocks, has also been reported (Human Rights Watch, 21/05/2015). As of May, 16,000 people, mainly African migrants, were reported to be in detention, mainly in the Tripoli region and in Misrata (Reuters, 24/05/2015). There are 18 government-run detention centres and 21 operated by armed militias (PI, 05/2015; Save the Children, 18/06/2015). The centres are reported to be overcrowded and lack adequate WASH facilities (Reuters, 24/05/2015).

Abduction

On 3 June, IS abducted 86 Eritrean Christian migrants from Tripoli (International Business Times, 05/06/2015). On 19 April, IS released a video showing the beheading of 12 Ethiopian Christians and the execution of 16 more Ethiopian Christians by gunshot (AFP, 19/04/2015). 21 Coptic Christians were victims of a similar incident in February (HRW, 24/02/2015). On 9 March, nine foreign oil workers were reportedly kidnapped by IS, during an attack on Al Ghani oil field in which several guards were killed (BBC, 09/03/2015).

Mines and ERW

Incorrectly armed fuses or faulty ammunition have resulted in large quantities of unexploded ordnance in conflict areas (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).

Reviewed: 23/07/2015

**MALAWI FLOODS**

![Humanitarian crisis severity graph]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Minimal</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Severe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-crisis vulnerability</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>% population affected</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>Humanitarian access</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See the methodology note for details.

**Disasters: Floods**

High rainfall in January and February caused the Shire River to reach its highest level in 30 years and led to severe flooding (IFRC, 30/06/2015). More than 1.1 million people were affected, 230,000 displaced, 104 people died and 645 were injured, with the southern districts of Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe, and Zomba most affected. 1,220km of roads and 185 bridges have been damaged or destroyed. Private housing is the greatest need, followed by transportation, agriculture, and WASH.

A 0.6% decrease in GDP is expected for 2015 as a result of flood damage (Government, 18/06/2015).

**Displacement**

Flood-affected IDPs

As of 20 May, an estimated 107,000 people remain displaced in 131 open sites, mostly in Nsanje, Chikwawa, and Phalombe districts. This is a 32% decrease on April numbers. 56% are female, and 55% children. 88% of IDPs have remained within their area of origin. NFIs, shelter, WASH and health needs persist (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015; 29/04/2015).

**Returnees**

As of 23 April, around 400 Malawian refugees had returned from South Africa and 3,200 had been registered in displacement sites awaiting repatriation, following a wave of xenophobic attacks (Government/UN, 23/04/2015).
In May 2015, there were 21,768 refugees and asylum seekers in Malawi, mostly from DRC, Burundi, and Rwanda, residing in Dzaleka camp in Dowa district in central Malawi, or among host communities (UNHCR, 05/2015).

Food Security

2.8 million people are estimated to be at risk of food insecurity in 2015 as a result of the combined effect of floods and drought in 25 districts of Malawi, according to the preliminary results of a VAC report. Southern districts are most affected (OCHA, 13/07/2015).

620,000 people in 17 districts affected by January floods are projected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security until September unless they receive assistance. They have experienced reductions or total loss of livelihoods. An additional 180,000 affected by below-average rainfall in the south since February are expected to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes from July to September. Households affected by drought in the northern and central regions are expected to face Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food security outcomes over the same period (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015).

Households in 49 displacement sites reported having no access to food in May (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015).

Agricultural Outlook

Production in surplus-producing districts in central and northern regions is projected to be 20–50% below the five-year average, while the overall 2015 harvest is expected to be 30–40% lower than last year (FEWSNET, 01/06/2015; 24/05/2015). Estimates indicate that maize production is 28% lower than 2014 (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015).

16 out of 28 districts across Malawi experienced below-average crop production during the 2014/2015 season. Dry conditions in the highly productive northern and central regions since February have also reportedly caused some wilting and drying of crops (UNICEF, 08/04/2015; FEWSNET, 17/04/2015).

Around 83,110 hectares of cropland have been destroyed by the floods, affecting at least 116,000 farmers (Government, 18/06/2015; Government/UN, 03/02/2015).

Livelhood

Current maize prices are about 47% above the three-year average. Staple food prices across the country also remain around 50% above the five-year average, limiting food access for households in southern and central regions (WFP, 04/05/2015; 10/04/2015).

Almost half of the districts in southern Malawi are experiencing limited agricultural labour opportunities, reduced income from crop sales, and reduced access to irrigated farming crops and income due to dry conditions since February. These are expected to diminish households’ purchasing power during the peak of the August –February lean season, resulting in food consumption gaps and unsustainable coping (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015; 30/06/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Cholera: As of 23 June, 693 cases of cholera, including 11 deaths, have been confirmed since the outbreak began mid-February, including 225 cases and three deaths in Nsanje, 374 cases and four deaths in Chickwawa and 65 cases and four deaths in Blantyre (IFRC, 30/06/2015). Incidence fell in June. The outbreak was linked to a cholera outbreak in Mozambique (UNICEF, 08/04/2015).

23 health facilities and significant medical supplies have been damaged or destroyed by floods (Government, 18/06/2015). Malaria, respiratory infections, and diarrhoea were the most prevalent health problems in IDP camps in May. The long distance to health facilities (over 3km) is a challenge in more than half of IDP sites (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015).

Nutrition

There has been a significant increase in the number of malnourished children as a result of the floods and poor harvests. At least 107 sites report that no supplementary feeding is available for pregnant and lactating women, while 81 sites lack supplementary feeding for children (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015; Government/UN, 08/03/2015).

25,313 children aged 6–59 months were suffering from SAM as of July 2014 (Government/UN, 08/03/2015; UNICEF, 27/09/2014).

WASH

2,990 boreholes and six water treatment plants have been damaged or destroyed by floods (Government, 18/06/2015). At end April, 35% of IDP sites reported that drinking water was still poor quality, while 8% reported less than 15L of water per person per day. WASH needs are greatest in Chikwawa and Nsanje, where the current sanitation ratio is one drop hole for 130 people (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015; 29/04/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

523,350 houses have been damaged or destroyed by floods, making this the largest recovery need (Government, 18/06/2015).
75% of IDP sites are spontaneous, while 22% of IDPs have sought refuge in planned displacement sites. In 16 sites, 25% of IDPs live outside without shelter, while in 124 sites, no one has access to electricity (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015). Many on the east bank in Nsanje are waiting to be allocated land, but lack resources to rebuild their homes (Government/UN, 07/04/2015).

NFI, including kitchen sets and blankets, remain a primary need among populations in IDP sites (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015).

**Education**

508 schools have been damaged or destroyed by the floods, and 350,000 students have been affected; many schools are being used as camps (Government, 18/06/2015; IOM/Government, 29/04/2015). Ndione school in Nsanje remained submerged at 10 June (UNICEF, 10/06/2015).

**Protection**

23 of the 192 remaining open IDP sites do not have separate bathing areas for male and female IDPs, which may raise protection issues (IOM/Government, 20/05/2015; 29/04/2015).

Reports of rape and cross-border trafficking between Malawi and Mozambique are a concern (Government/UN, 07/04/2015).

**Updated: 22/07/2015**

**MALI CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanitarian crisis</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

18 July: Seven civilians were killed in Mondoro Commune, Mopti. Some sources say it was a case of inter-communal violence; others, an act of banditry (MaliWeb, 19/07/2015; 20/07/2015).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Security, particularly in the north, remains volatile, and access is limited for aid workers.
- 181,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 10/02/2015).

- 2.86 million people are affected by moderate and severe food insecurity as of June, including 451,000 facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes (Government, 07/2015).
- 690,000 people are in need of health assistance and 840,000 are in need of WASH (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

**Political Context**

The state lost control of the north of the country in 2012, after Tuareg groups from the northern region known as Azawad began a campaign for greater autonomy, and a separate coup d’état further destabilised the country. However, the fragile alliance between Tuareg and Islamists was quickly broken, and Islamists took control of key northern cities. Civilian rule was re-established in mid-2013, with the aid of French and African Union troops, and a UN mission, MINUSMA, was set up, 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.

On 20 June, the Azawad Movement Coalition (AMC), the main partner in the Algiers peace negotiations, signed the Algiers peace agreement, which had previously been signed by the Government and minor armed groups (international media, 20/06/2015; UN, 20/06/2015). The Government and the AMC have been involved in peace talks since the Algiers Declaration in June 2014. The main Islamist armed groups operating in the country had been excluded from the negotiations.

Gaps in the June 2015 agreement regarding the recognition of Azawad territory lead to a possible risk of violence in the future, particularly as there are concerns that both parties do not have absolute control over their forces (ACLED, 10/07/2015).

**Security Context**

Attacks by and clashes between rival armed groups, including separatist Tuareg movements, government forces and Islamist militants, continue to hamper security in the country. In addition to the northern provinces of Kidal, Gao, and Timbuktu, security incidents have been reported in the central regions of Mopti and Segou since January, and more recently in the south. Three Islamist attacks were reported in the south in June. Civilians are affected, despite rarely being targeted. Landmines and improvised explosive devices (IED) are a particular threat, as well as rockets. Between late March and early June, nine civilians were reportedly killed and 41 injured (UN, 11/06/2015). It is often unclear who is responsible for the attacks.

The main challenge is Islamist violence, which has become more widespread, with every province having reported at least one attack in 2015. Previously, such activity was limited to the northern regions. The intensity of the violence, however, remains much lower than it was at the peak of the insurgency in 2012. Trends indicate that violence is increasingly directed at targets in the south, and is mainly targeting foreigners, including civilians and international forces (ACLED, 10/07/2015). Concerns have been raised about possible impending attacks, as the end of the month of Ramadan approaches (local media,
Stakeholders

Tuareg Armed Groups

The Azawad Movement Coalition, comprising 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), has been the main actor carrying out attacks in northern and central regions. They strive for more autonomy of the territory they call Azawad, which includes Timbuktu, Gao, Kidal and parts of Mopti.

Islamist Armed Groups

The Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), which split from Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in 2011, and Ansar Dine, are among the main Islamist groups active in Mali. Their attacks mainly target pro-government and international forces. The focus has mostly been in the north, but since June, several attacks have been carried out in the south.

International Armed Forces

The stability of the Sahel region relies on the presence of foreign troops. In addition to Malian forces, there are French forces, MINUSMA, and the EU military training mission (EUTM), mainly in Bamako and in northern cities such as Kidal, Gao, Timbuktu, and Menaka (OCHA, 31/05/2014).

MINUSMA's mandate has been extended until 30 June 2016 (UN, 29/06/2015). Attacks on MINUSMA vehicles, camps, and peacekeepers have spiked since mid-August 2014 (AFP, 21/09/2014). Most have been carried out in Gao, but some in Timbuktu, Mopti and Kidal regions. 41 peacekeepers have died since the start of the UN mission in July 2013 and more than 150 have been wounded in close to 80 attacks (local media, 30/05/2015; AFP, 02/07/2015).

On 1 August 2014, 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).

Conflict developments

In June, when the peace agreement was signed, the number of recorded violent incidents and fatalities was significantly lower than in the previous months. Some 20–25 violent events and around 70 deaths were reported in April and May, whereas June saw around 10 events leading to some 30 fatalities (ACLED, 10/07/2015).

Since the signing of the peace agreement, there are no reports of attacks or clashes involving AMC members. Pro-government GATIA militia retreated from Menaka town, Gao region, on 19 June in anticipation of AMC signing the peace agreement. Control was handed over to MINUSMA and the Malian army. GATIA had been in control of Menaka since they seized it from Tuareg armed groups in late April (AFP, 19/06/2015; However, local media report that insecurity remains, with sustained presence of armed bandits in Dire, and taking of hostages, attacks on civilians and stealing of livestock in Goundam (MaliWeb, 16/07/2015).

Security incidents in the south have increased in June, and some have been claimed by Islamist insurgent group Ansar Dine (AFP, 30/06/2015; 27/06/2015; UN, 29/06/2015; local media, 11/06/2015).

Recent Incidents

On 18 July, seven civilians were killed in violence in Mondoro commune, Mopti. Some sources say this was an inter-communal conflict between pastoralist Peul and agricultural Dogon, who are competing for land in the region. Clashes between the two communities also occurred several weeks ago. Other say, however, that these are acts of banditry (MaliWeb, 19/07/2015; 20/07/2015). On 15 July, armed men hijacked an ambulance on the road from Bourem to Gao. Two people were injured, three are still missing (MaliWeb, 15/07/2015).

On 2 July, six MINUSMA soldiers were killed on the road to Goundam, 45km west of Timbuktu, one of the deadliest attacks on UN peacekeeping missions. Five other soldiers were wounded. AQIM claimed responsibility for the attack (AFP, 02/07/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

The security situation continues to hamper humanitarian access in the north of Mali. Since the beginning of 2015, OCHA has recorded 31 access constraints, compared to 22 in the whole of 2014. 50% were related to violence against humanitarian personnel, assets or facilities, and 50% were linked to the conduct of hostilities. At least 14 humanitarian organisations had to temporarily suspend activities or relocate staff between February and April (OCHA, 04/05/2015). ACF Spain has suspended its activities in northern Mali; an ACF worker was killed in Tin Hama on 22 May (international media, 22/05/2015).

Humanitarian air services have been disrupted in Kidal region since January, due to insecurity and needs for repair (OCHA, 04/05/2015; 21/05/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

There were 90,218 IDPs in Mali at 17 June. Between April and May, the number of IDPs in the country more than doubled, but between 3 and 17 June, the number fell by 12,128. Altogether, 47,117 have been newly displaced in Gao, Mopti, and Timbuktu regions since early May. Many are in need of food, water, shelter, and psychosocial support (IOM, 17/06/2015; OCHA, 15/06/2015).

Timbuktu hosts most new IDPs (40,972) (OCHA, 15/06/2015). Since 3 June, Goundam district has received 11,055 more IDPs, who fled Essakane and Tonka after armed-group attacks, bringing the total of new IDPs in the district to 20,354. In Gourma Rharous
district, 6,555 remain displaced and 22,659 have returned to their place of origin. 9,024 new IDPs are in Timbuktu and 5,039 in Niafunke district (IOM, 17/06/2015). Most are staying with host families, putting extra stress on already limited resources; others are camping along the Niger River in critical conditions. They are in urgent need of water, food, NFIs, shelter support and healthcare. No aid is available in Goundam (ECHO, 27/05/2015; local media, 10/06/2015; CARE, 12/06/2015).

Gao has 4,062 new IDPs. Between 31 May and 2 June, 1,021 people were displaced from Tin-Hama town, Ansongo district. They have settled in Ansongo and Tassiga towns. In addition, there are 2,083 newly displaced in Mopti (IOM, 17/06/2015).

As of April, 43,100 people remain displaced since the start of the conflict in 2012. This is a decrease from 61,000 recorded in December 2014 (OCHA, 08/06/2015). 10,100 are in Timbuktu, 6,760 in Gao, and 5,660 in Kidal. 11,600 are in Bamako, and 4,730 in Koulikoro. Mopti and Segou regions each host about 2,000 IDPs (Government, USAID, IOM, 30/04/2015; 17/06/2015).

In a survey, 46% of protracted IDPs indicated a wish to return home. Of the 52% not wanting to return, more than half cited insecurity as the main reason and 26% a lack of financial means. More than half of displaced households said they needed food, 15% shelter, and 8% NFIs (Government, USAID, IOM, 30/04/2015). Households returning to Mopti and Gao regions often have no shelter, and lack access to basic services such as water and education (ACTED, 10/07/2015).

**Refugees in Mali**

As of May, Mali hosts some 15,400 refugees, mainly from Mauritania and Côte d’Ivoire (UNHCR, 26/05/2015).

**Returnees**

Some 35,000 Malian refugees have returned: more than 10,000 from Burkina Faso, over 12,000 from Niger, around 7,300 from Mauritania, and 2,200 from Algeria (OCHA, 31/01/2015; UNHCR, 14/08/2014).

**Malian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries**

As of 30 May 2015, 135,686 Malian refugees are in neighbouring countries. The number of refugees has stayed relatively stable since March 2014 (OCHA, 10/06/2015). As of 1 June, 49,478 Malian refugees are registered in Mbera camp, Mauritania; 50,222 were in Niger in May (UNHCR, 05/06/2015). Burkina Faso hosts 33,703 Malian refugees (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

More than 500 people have crossed the border into Niger, Mauritania, and Burkina Faso since the end of May because of renewed violence in the northern regions (WFP, 27/05/2015; UNHCR, 26/05/2015).

**Food Security**

2.86 million people are food insecure as of June, including 451,000 people facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes, according to the Cadre Harmonise. This corresponds to 2.8% of the population, and is an increase from the 410,000 severely food insecure projected in March (Government, 07/2015).

The majority of people facing Crisis or worse food security outcomes are in Timbuktu (143,000), Gao (104,000) and Mopti (85,000), mainly due to low levels of food stocks, an extended pastoral lean season, and insecurity. The most affected areas are Goundam and Gourma Rharous in Timbuktu, and Bourém and Ansongo in Gao (Government, 07/2015).

Pastoral households in the north are experiencing decreased revenue due to deteriorating livestock conditions, and are facing Stressed (Phase 2) food security outcomes. In the absence of humanitarian aid, their situation would be worse. Poor agropastoral households in riverine areas of Gao and Bourém districts (Gao region), the lake zone in Goundam, Haoussa in Niafunke (Timbuktu region) and the north of Youwarou (Mopti region) have resorted to negative coping strategies, and are facing Stressed food security outcomes in the presence of humanitarian aid until September (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015). A fodder deficit, aggravated by poor rainfall and insecurity, has resulted in early transhumance and exceptionally high cattle concentrations in Timbuktu, Gao, and Mopti regions. The state of herds has deteriorated (OCHA, 15/06/2015; FEWSNET, 30/06/2015). In Goundam and Niafunke, the normal pasture areas for the dry season are inaccessible due to insecurity (Government, 04/06/2015). In Gao region, it is estimated that more than 100,000 people (more than 16,000 livestock-breeding households) are affected (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

All newly displaced households assessed in Gourma Rharous and Bourém districts of Timbuktu region were in need of food assistance end of May. Many households only had one meal per day and were depending on assistance from host families (NRC and Handicap International, 18/06/2015).

A rain deficit in the south during May–June has delayed the start of the agricultural campaign in northwest Kayes, southeast Sikasso, northern Koulikoro and northern Segou (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015).

**Livelihoods and Markets**

During the lean season, about one household in six will need livelihood support (OCHA, 15/06/2015). Theft of livestock has been reported after displacement in several towns, including in Serere commune (Timbuktu region), and income-generating activities have slowed (Government, 04/06/2015).

Trade ruptures have been reported in all regions of the north, mainly due to increasing food prices. Terms of trade for livestock have deteriorated, decreasing household revenue (Government, 31/05/2015). Insecurity in Menaka, Goundam and Rharous has decreased household access to markets and decreased commercial influx to markets (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015). Timbuktu is the most expensive market for most staple foods (millet, sorghum and maize).

**Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview**

During the lean season (June–August), 7.5 million people will be facing Crisis and
Emergency (Phases 3 and 4) food security outcomes across the Sahel and West Africa, of whom 4.5 million in the Sahel. 26.6 million will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes (Cadre Harmonisé, 04/2015; CLISS, FEWSNET, WFP, FAO, 01/07/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically to 24.7 million food insecure people, compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2015).

Health and Nutrition

A measles outbreak has been confirmed in Tessalit and Kidal districts of Kidal region, with 148 confirmed cases as of 28 May, according to the Ministry of Health (OCHA, 15/06/2015). So far, one death has been confirmed. There is no permanent humanitarian health actor in the region (OCHA, 21/05/2015; WHO, 29/05/2015; UNICEF, 31/05/2015). There is a lack of medication, qualified personnel, and means for emergency evacuation. People in remote villages cannot access health services (local media, 21/04/2015). The number of measles cases has also exceeded the epidemic threshold in Segou region (OCHA, 15/06/2015).

Eight cases of meningitis were reported in Gao district between 25 and 31 May. Though the epidemic threshold had not been reached as of 5 June, there is an increased risk as neighbouring countries Niger and Burkina Faso are facing meningitis epidemics (OCHA, 15/06/2015).

Nutrition

An estimated 181,000 children are expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) across the country in 2015, and 534,000 from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) (OCHA, 15/06/2015). SAM rates are highest in Mopti (3.7%), Segou (3.4%) and Koulikoro (2.7%). MAM rates are highest in the northern provinces (FEWSNET, WFP and FAO, 28/02/2015; ACF, 31/12/2014).

In Gao region, a SMART survey showed 11.3% GAM and 2.3% SAM. Malnutrition is more severe in urban than in rural areas. Priority districts are Gao and Bourem, with 2.9% and 2.1% SAM, respectively (UNICEF, 31/03/2015; OCHA, 16/04/2015).

In Kidal, malnutrition rates have been stable since 2011, with 5.7% GAM and 1.0% SAM (UNICEF, 31/03/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

An assessment among new IDPs in Gourma Rharous and Bourem districts (Timbuktu) found 60% live in makeshift shelters: including 28% of IDPs living in the open air or finding shelter among trees, 22% in traditional tents, and 22% in improvised tents. The surface area per person varies between 0.7 and 1.4m². 10% of households indicated shelter and NFIs as their priority need. Most are asking for blankets, kitchen utensils, and tarpaulins or tents. Most people have hardly any household items (NRC and Handicap International, 18/06/2015).

WASH

The WASH situation among new IDPs in Gourma Rharous and Bourem districts is severe. 59% of households cite a lack of drinking water as a main concern. Between 67% and 88% of households use surface water as their main water source, increasing the risk of waterborne disease. 71% of households have no access to latrines. More than 80% practice open defecation (NRC and Handicap International, 18/06/2015).

Education

281,690 children in Mali are in need of education (OCHA, 10/06/2015).

23,000 children in the north have no access to education. Some 450 schools are closed due to insecurity in Gao, Kidal, Mopti, Segou, and Timbuktu regions (OCHA, 15/06/2015). Final examinations have been disrupted for 1,300 students in Gao, Timbuktu, and Mopti (OCHA, 08/06/2015).

Protection

There has been a considerable decrease in the number of casualties from ERW since 2015, but IED casualties are increasing. Since 2013, IEDs have caused 136 civilian casualties, nearly half of which were recorded in the first half of 2015 (OCHA, 15/06/2015). Explosive remnants of war (ERW) caused 101 casualties from 2012 to June 2014 (OCHA, 30/06/2014).

Three armed groups (Ansar Dine, MNLA and MUJAO) are reportedly recruiting and using children, and are listed for rape and other forms of sexual violence (OCHA, 16/04/2015).

For IDPs living in Bamako, destruction or loss of official documents, such as birth certificates, is a major challenge (OCHA, 16/04/2015).

More than 7,800 children born to Mauritanian refugees in western Mali have no birth certificates, making them unable to receive state services (IRIN, 18/06/2015).

Updated: 21/07/2015

MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 28/07/2015. Last update: 23/07/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 458,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes in June. 795,000 are facing Stressed (Phase 2) outcomes (Cadre Harmonise, 08/2015).
- 33,760 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (IFRC, 01/07/2015).
- Malnutrition is rising in Mbera camp, due to interruption of food aid (MSF, 13/07/2015).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Displacement**

**Malian Refugees**

Mauritania hosts 51,400 Malian refugees as of 13 July, including 49,888 in Mbera camp and 1,512 urban refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR, 13/07/2015). The increase of nearly 400 refugees in Mbera camp since the end of May is mainly due to the registration of newborn babies (UNHCR, 13/07/2015). 226 Malian refugees arrived in Mauritania in May due to fighting in Mali, the highest number since September 2014; 93 arrived in June (UNHCR, 31/05/2015; 13/07/2015). Mbera camp is a remote desert location on the border that has significant security challenges, and where food insecurity and malnutrition are high. According to UNHCR, 80% 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 (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Security problems and inaccessibility to areas of northern Mali make it difficult to obtain return figures, however UNHCR is reporting a small number of spontaneous returns to Mali (UNHCR 30/04/2015).

**Food Security**

As of June, 458,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, compared to a March projection of 465,000 people facing Crisis and Emergency (Phase 3 and 4) outcomes. The number of people facing Stressed (Phase 2) food security outcomes is also somewhat below projections: 795,000 instead of a projected 851,000. Seven out of 14 wilayas in the south and southeast are classified as Crisis (Cadre Harmonisé, 06/2015).

In central and southern areas of Brakna, eastern Assaba, and northern Gorgol, humanitarian assistance is reducing the number of households facing Crisis (Phase 3) food security outcomes. However, insufficient response programmes and poor spatial distribution will lead to an increasing population facing Crisis from July to September. Very poor households in western agropastoral zones and in the central valley are expected to face Emergency (Phase 4) outcomes. Areas relying on rain fed crops and pastoral zones will be facing Stressed (Phase 2) outcomes at least until September, despite increased pasturing ending the pastoral lean season, as pastoralists will have to wait until the next calving to improve their situation (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015).

2014/2015 crop production was between 30–80% below average in areas that experienced poor rainfall last year, causing household food stocks to deplete earlier than normal and lengthening the period when households depend on market purchases. Cereal production, predominantly millet, sorghum, and maize, decreased by 36.5% in 2014 compared to 2013, and by 61% compared to the last five-year average (IFRC, 15/05/2015). Below-average incomes from crop sales and reduced milk availability are also limiting food access. To cope, households are selling additional livestock, increasing debt, engaging in more wage labour, migration, fishing, and forestry product sales, and reducing the quantity and quality of their meals (FEWSNET, 04/05/2015).

As of late June, agricultural activities had only started in the Hodh regions; in normal years they would take place throughout zones relying on rain-fed crops (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015). Erratic rains have affected pasture regeneration and level of water points in several pastoral areas, particularly in Hodh el Chargui, Hodh el Gharbi, Gorgol, Brakna and Tagant regions (WFP, Government, 28/04/2015). The food situation for livestock, the main source of income of households in rural areas, is difficult because of the low availability of pasture and water in the southeast (WFP/FAO, 31/03/2015; IFRC, 15/05/2015).

**Food Security in the Sahel Region**

During the lean season (June–August), 7.5 million will be facing Crisis and Emergency (Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes across the Sahel and West Africa, of whom 4.5 million live in the Sahel, and 26.6 million to be Stressed (Cadre Harmonisé, 04/2015; CLISS, FEWSNET, WFP, FAO, 01/07/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically to 24.7 million food insecure people, compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2015).

**Health and Nutrition**

**Nutrition**

An estimated 129,760 children are expected to be acutely malnourished, including 33,760 severely, according to ECHO. As of March, there was 6.2% global acute malnutrition (GAM) countrywide. No region exceeded the 10% threshold, but Hodh El Chargui, Guéli, Brakna and Gorgol were the most affected regions (IFRC, 01/07/2015).

GAM rates are increasing in Mbera refugee camp. WFP is cutting monthly food rations, due to a lack of funding. This follows an already precarious situation, as food rations were previously cut from 12kg to 4.5kg per person, and entirely cancelled during March 2015 (MSF, 02/07/2015). Admissions for nutrition have increased more than 100% according to MSF, with 79 malnourished children admitted per month since the interruption of food aid, compared to 30 per month before (IRIN, 13/07/2015).

**WASH**

In Mbera camp, refugees have access to 30L of water per day. On average, a latrine is shared between 22 people (UNHCR, 13/07/2015).

**Education**

Lack of access to education has been reported in Mbera camp, in particular affecting girls and minorities (UNHCR, 30/04/2015; 13/07/2015).

**Protection**

In Mbera camp, 2,269 children have been in the camp for two years, resulting in overlapping emergency and medium-term needs (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).
Incidents of sexual violence have been reported in Mbera camp (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

Updated: 23/07/2015

NIGER 
FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

15 July: 16 people were killed and four injured in Boko Haram (BH) attacks near Bosso town in Diffa region (AFP, 18/07/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- An estimated 3.6 million people are food insecure in 2015, including 2.5 million severely (OCHA, 31/05/2015).
- 1.3 million acutely malnourished children, including 366,858 with SAM (OCHA, 01/2015).
- More than 105,000 Nigerian refugees in Diffa region (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).
- Cases of meningitis tripled over 24 April–15 May. 11 districts have crossed the epidemic threshold, including all five districts in Niamey. Cases have been declining but risk remains (WHO, 12/06/2015).

Security Context

Insecurity has been rising in Niger and across the region due to crises in Nigeria, Mali and Libya. Terrorist threats from Boko Haram (BH), Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, and the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) are all of concern.

A state of emergency was declared in Niger in February in response to BH attacks, and was extended until end August, with motorcycle traffic banned from 2000-0600 (UNHCR, 29/05/2015; AFP, 27/05/2015; 26/02/2015). Thousands of troops from Niger and Chad launched a major ground and air offensive against BH in southeastern Niger in March (AFP, 14/03/2015). Niger soldiers have also been deployed to support a regional offensive against the group (BBC, 10/02/2015). On 30 April, Niger authorities ordered populations out of the Lake Chad islands in order to launch military operations against BH (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Recent incidents

16 people were killed and four injured in BH attacks near Bosso town in Diffa region on 15 July (AFP, 18/07/2015). Five civilians were killed in a BH attack in Dagaya village in Diffa region on 10 July (AFP, 10/07/2015). A BH attack on Assaga village in Diffa killed ten and wounded nine on 27 June (OCHA, 03/07/2015). A suspected BH attack on Yebi village in Diffa on 23 June killed five, wounded four, and affected around 1,000 people; more than 100 homes and motorcycles, and food stocks were burnt (OCHA, 26/06/2015). A BH attack on Lamana, Boulamare and Ngoumao villages in Diffa region killed 38 people and wounded three on 18 June, affecting nearly 6,000 inhabitants; 80% of houses were burnt in Lamana, the most populated village (OCHA, 19/06/2015). An assault by the group on Karamga Island on 25 April left at least 74 people dead (AFP, 01/05/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Movement within Diffa, and northern parts of Zinder, Tahoua, and Tillabery regions is possible only with military escorts (OCHA, 16/02/2015). Access to displaced populations in Bosso department is still restricted, with its southeastern part nearly inaccessible (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). The presence of landmines along the border between Niger and Nigeria, especially around Komadougou River, is preventing access to certain areas (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Displacement

Boko Haram Crisis

Out of more than 150,000 displaced people in Niger’s Diffa region, 105,580 are Nigerian refugees who have arrived since May 2013, including nearly 63,350 children (OCHA, 30/06/2015; UNHCR, 31/05/2015). Up to 130,000 Nigerian refugees could be in Niger by the end of 2015 (UNHCR, 01/07/2015).

At least 30,000 people in Diffa are entirely reliant on humanitarian aid: priority needs are for food, WASH, nutrition, health and protection (ECHO, 08/06/2015). Shelter is also a concern during the June–September rainy season (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Mali Crisis

More than 50,000 people were displaced from islands around Lake Chad between 30 April and 20 May. 75% are Nigerians and third-country nationals. 47% are women and 37% children. 10,000 are in Kimegana site in Nguigmi, 13,000 in Yebbi camp in Bosso in Diffa region, and more than 16,000 have returned to Nigeria. Priority needs for new IDPs in Diffa are for shelter, WASH, protection, and health (UNICEF, 16/07/2016; 15/06/2015; MSF, 10/06/2015).
As of 30 June, 51,690 Malian refugees are in Niger, having fled insurgency in their country, including 14,490 in Intikane camp, and 13,280 in Abala camp in Tillabery region. 55% are female and 62% children (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Food Security

An estimated 3.6 million people will be food insecure during the May–September lean season. Areas of concern are Tillabery, Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi, Niamey, and Diffa (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Around 200,000 people in Diffa region are likely to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes until September due to limited trade opportunities and high food prices (WFP, 07/05/2015; FEWSNET, 20/05/2015). Recently displaced populations from Lake Chad, including IDPs and Nigerian refugees, are Stressed (IPC Phase 2); 63% are estimated to have insufficient access to food, while the majority are deprived of livelihood means (FEWSNET, 28/05/2015; ACTED, 01/06/2015; IFRC, 28/05/2015). Security constraints have forced food assistance programmes to be scaled back (FEWSNET, 01/04/2015).

In some agropastoral and agricultural zones of Zinder, Tillabery and Tahoua, poor households will be Stressed (IPC Phase 2) until September due to high cereal prices and early stock depletion (FEWSNET, 29/06/2015). As of end 2014, 2.6 million of the rural population in Niger is food insecure (15.7%), including 2.5% in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or above. 5.5 million are at risk of food insecurity (33.3% of rural population) (WFP, 30/04/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Irregular rainfall in June and July in areas affected by drought conditions in 2014 has led to a delay of up to 30 days in the growing season; drier than average conditions are forecast until September (WFP, 01/07/2015).

Cereal stocks are expected to significantly decrease by September, as well as overall food stocks in May–June in southern departments (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015). 68% of villages in Diffa have a cereal deficit (OCHA, 20/05/2015). Cereal prices were stable in July, except in Agadez market, where sorghum and maize prices rose 10% and 9%, respectively (Afrique Verte, 18/07/2015).

Livelihoods

In Diffa region, insecurity has led to a decrease in demand for workers and lowered wages. This has particularly affected livelihoods of households growing pepper, who are also unable to sell because of insecurity (FEWSNET, 01/04/2015).

Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview

At least 7.5 million are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes across the Sahel and West Africa through August, and 26.6 million Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes (Cadre Harmonisé, 06/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically to 24.7 million food insecure people, compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Health services are overcrowded in Diffa region with the arrival of new IDPs, and lack medicines and qualified personnel (OCHA, 20/05/2015). Predominant illnesses include parasitic diseases, eye infections, and respiratory infections (UNHCR, 29/05/2015).

Fire damage to UN warehouses in Niamey on 2 June destroyed most stocks intended for immediate use. Vaccines to counter the meningitis epidemic, as well as supplementary feeding programmes for at least 10,000 children in urgent need of support during the lean season, will be severely affected (ECHO, 05/06/2015).

Measles

As of 17 May, 4,870 measles cases, including 14 deaths, have been recorded in 2015 in all eight regions of Niger. 60% of cases were in Zinder region (UNICEF, 31/05/2015). 12 out of 44 health districts have epidemic outbreaks (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

Meningitis

As of 8 July, 8,500 suspected cases of meningitis, including more than 573 deaths, have been recorded in 2015; 2,182 new cases were recorded over 4–10 May, but incidence has since decreased. 13 districts crossed the epidemic threshold, including all five districts in Niamey (WHO, 08/07/2015). 70% of those infected are 2–15 years old (international media, 22/04/2015). The whole country is under quarantine. At least 281,000 people are at risk of infection; the risk of transmission will persist over the next October–April dry season (MSF, 10/06/2015; IFRC, 02/06/2015).

Nutrition

In Diffa region, GAM is at 28% among Nigerian refugee children and pregnant and breastfeeding refugee women, exceeding the 15% crisis threshold; GAM within host populations is also critical, at 19.5% (UNHCR, 22/07/2015).

1.3 million children are acutely malnourished in Niger; 366,858 of them are severely malnourished, and 9,629 of these are in Diffa (OCHA, 14/04/2015; 22/12/2014). Admissions of children suffering from SAM to therapeutic feeding programmes rose by 22% in Dosso and 129% in Diffa between 2014 and 2015 (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

As of August 2014, GAM among children under five was at 14.8% nationwide, and exceeded the 15% emergency threshold in Maradi region (OCHA, 09/2014). Other regions of concern were Agadez (14.0%), Tahoua (14.7%), Tillabery (13.4%), and Diffa (13.8%).

Shelter

35% of households in Diffa live in shelters that do not meet minimum standards. Each host family hosts around 17 people. 60% of IDPs in sites are homeless (OCHA, 20/05/2015). Shelter issues are of increasing concern as the rainy season starts in June (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).
Access to safe water remains limited in certain sites hosting IDPs. Hygiene and sanitation conditions are precarious in some areas (OCHA, 20/03/2015). 43% of recently displaced populations from Lake Chad are estimated to have insufficient access to water sources (ACTED, 01/06/2015).

Protection

82% of 13,000 Nigerian refugees surveyed in Diffa did not have identity documents, according to an IOM assessment (IOM, 23/02/2015). Unaccompanied children have been reported arriving from Nigeria (OCHA, 28/11/2014).

Updated, 22/07/2015

**SENEGAL FOOD INSECURITY**

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No significant developments this week, 22/07/2015. Last update: 31/05/2015.

**KEY CONCERNS**

- Over 3.8 million people are food insecure, including 1,040,000 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) due to erratic rains in 2014 (FAO, 09/07/2015).

- 332,300 children suffering from acute malnutrition, 68,650 from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

4.3 million people are in need of assistance in 2015 in Senegal (31% of the population), a 266% increase compared to 2013. Needs are mostly due to climatic conditions, a rise in food prices, and reduced cross-border exchange (UN, 16/02/2015).

**Displacement**

As of February, there are 17,085 refugees in Matam, Saint Louis, and Tambacounda, mostly from Mauritania. 52% are seeking naturalisation in Senegal (UN, 18/02/2015).

**Food Security**

A reassessment of the food security situation in Senegal determined that 639,709 people were facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, 2.4 million people were facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes and 7.9 million were facing Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food security outcomes in June (Cadre Harmonise, 06/2015). 3.8 million people are food insecure and 30% of rural households suffer from severe food insecurity, mainly as a result of 2014/2015 crop production shortfalls due to below-average rainfall, and reduced income (Red Cross, 02/06/2015). Poor agropastoral households in central and northern areas of Senegal, including Podor, Matam, and Tambacounda, will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes through September; they had already been resorting to atypical coping strategies long before the June start of the lean season (FEWSNET, 01/07/2015; 31/05/2015; 21/04/2015).

Shortfalls in household incomes and below-average crop and animal production during 2014/15 have extended the lean season (FEWSNET, 01/07/2015). By November, it is expected that no one will be in Crisis and between 100,000 and 490,000 people will be Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (FEWSNET, 20/05/2015). The project food assistance needs through January 2016 are lower than the five year average, even taking into consideration the lean season (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015).

**Agriculture and Markets**

Aggregate 2014 cereal production was 20% lower than the five-year average and is expected to cover about 51% of needs in 2015 (FAO, 09/07/2015; Red Cross, 02/06/2015). Production of millet, the most important staple crop, is estimated to have dropped by 38% compared to the five-year average, while production of groundnut, the main cash crop, declined by 21%. This is reducing food availability and purchasing power (FAO, 31/03/2015; GIEWS, 08/05/2015). The price of food has fallen to its lowest level since 2009 (FAO, 30/06/2015).

Movement of livestock to grazing areas with better pastoral conditions in the groundnut basin and the southeastern part of the country has led to 15% and 28% rises in retail livestock prices in Dakar and Thiès (FEWSNET, 31/05/2015).

Central areas of Senegal, already affected by drought in 2014, have received less than half the usual rainfall in 2015. Rains arrived in early July, but the growing season is delayed by 10-30 days. The July-September rainy season is expected to be drier than average (WFP, 01/07/2015). Decreased pasture growth slows down transhumance and presents the risk of conflict between herders and farmers (OCHA, 15/07/2015).

**Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview**

In the Sahel and West Africa about 7.5 million people will be in food and nutrition crisis between June and August, including 4.5 million in the Sahel, (Cadre Harmonisé, 06/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically to 24.7 million food insecure people, compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2015). The El Niño phenomenon is due to last until the end of 2015, reducing rainfall (FAO, 30/06/2015).

**Nutrition**

332,300 children are acutely malnourished, including 68,650 suffering from SAM. Matam,
Saint Louis (Podor department in particular), and Tambacounda regions are most affected (UN, 16/02/2015).

Updated: 22/07/2015

SIERRA LEONE FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

19 July: In the week to 19 July, four new Ebola cases were confirmed: two in Freetown and two in Port Loko district (WHO, 22/07/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- As of 21 July, Sierra Leone has reported 13,262 cumulative Ebola cases, including 3,949 deaths (WHO, 23/07/2015).
- The cumulative number of reported Ebola cases across the region has reached 27,723, including 11,273 deaths (WHO, 23/07/2015). The numbers of registered cases and deaths are largely inaccurate.
- 43% of the population is food insecure, including 7% severely. This corresponds to around 440,000 people severely food insecure (WFP, 26/06/2015).

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

Political Context

The state of emergency has been extended for 90 days, despite calls from opposition to ease restrictions (international media, 12/06/2015). There are concerns that the state of emergency measures are being used by the ruling party against the opposition. Police have been accused of using excessive force, protests have been banned, journalists have been arrested for criticising the response, and political figures have been arrested (local media, 26/04/2015; Amnesty International, 04/05/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

All response activities are restricted by poor terrain and a lack of transport (Doctors of the World, 04/05/2015).

Food Security

43% of the population is food insecure, including 7% severely, according to a WFP emergency food security assessment. This corresponds to around 440,000 people severely food insecure (WFP, 26/06/2015). In a recent simulation, 747,000 people were estimated to be food insecure at the end of June, with this number predicted to increase to a peak of 1.6 million in the lean season (June–August). This is based on a Shock Impact Simulation Model, assuming that national food production has seen a modest decrease in 2014/2015, household incomes have decreased, and food prices will continue to increase, particularly in the lean season. People in rural areas are expected to be more vulnerable: more than 30% of the rural population are forecast to be food insecure during the lean season (WFP, 23/06/2015).

Those facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes include poor households in the areas where disruptions to agricultural production and market activities have been most severe, including Kailahun, Kenema, Kono, Tonkolili, Bombali and Port Loko districts (FEWSNET, 01/06/2015). These households are continuing to reduce their food intake throughout the lean season, as food stocks have depleted (FEWSNET, 09/07/2015).

In most areas, food stocks have depleted one to two months earlier than normal (BRAC, 21/05/2015; FEWSNET, 01/06/2015). Kambia and Port Loko reported the highest levels of negative coping strategies. Rural households use more, and more severe, coping strategies than urban households (WFP, 28/05/2015). The majority of households report a decrease in frequency of meals, and smaller meals (BRAC, 21/05/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

46% of people surveyed reported that the most important market in their area was closed or operating at reduced levels in early May, similar to December 2014. 28% of traders reported that agricultural activities continue at below-average levels (FEWSNET, 01/06/2015).

Livelihoods

The economic slowdown due to Ebola has resulted in low income levels and weak household purchasing power (FEWSNET, 09/07/2015). Typical livelihood activities remain below average. 53% of traders surveyed said there had been fewer agricultural labour opportunities than in a normal year, particularly in Bombali, Kono, and Rural Western Area (FEWSNET, 01/06/2015).

An assessment in five districts indicated decreased household incomes and more unemployment were among the main effects of the Ebola outbreak, in households with and without members being infected. More than 80% of respondents reported a decreased income compared to before the outbreak (BRAC, 21/05/2015).

Though the economy is not fully recovered, employment is returning to levels seen in the July–August 2014 Labour Force Survey. People’s working hours are still below baseline (World Bank, 15/06/2015).

Health and Nutrition
Health infrastructure is very fragile and unresponsive. During the Ebola outbreak, many health facilities were temporarily closed and people were reluctant to seek health care due to fear of infection.

As a result of the Ebola outbreak, no mass immunisation activities have been taking place, and thousands of children have not been vaccinated. The risk of preventable outbreaks remains, as pockets of disease are already reported (Government, 08/06/2015). It is likely there has been an increase in morbidity and mortality of other diseases, including malaria, diarrhoea, TB, and HIV. Under-five mortality rates are estimated to have increased by 19%, up to 191 per 1,000 live births, according to calculations by the World Bank, based on pre-Ebola mortality rates and the number of health workers who died of Ebola (World Bank, 08/07/2015).

As of May, Ebola had caused the death of 0.06% of the total population, and 6.85% of health workers. This means a 5% reduction in the number of doctors and a 7% reduction in nurses and midwives (World Bank, 08/07/2015). 306 health workers have been infected. 221 have died of Ebola; approximately one in ten of the country’s health workers (WHO, 15/07/2015).

As of 21 July, 13,262 cumulative Ebola cases have been reported in Sierra Leone, including 3,949 deaths (WHO, 23/07/2015). The decline in case incidence and the contraction of the geographic area affected by Ebola transmission throughout April and early May has stalled (WHO, 10/06/2015). Ten of 14 districts have been declared Ebola-free, having gone 42 days without reporting any new cases (WHO, 17/07/2015).

In the week to 19 July, four confirmed Ebola cases were reported, compared to 14 the previous week. Two cases were reported in Freetown, including one health worker, and two cases in Port Loko. Three cases were registered contacts (WHO, 22/07/2015). Fear, fatigue, and denial of the disease continue to allow the virus to spread (BBC, 18/07/2015). Some people still resist infection prevention and control measures, such as safe burials (BBC, 14/07/2015).

Containment measures: In Kambia and Port Loko districts, a curfew has been decreed and movement restrictions implemented in chiefdoms that continue to report Ebola cases. Military and police are in charge of enforcement. Restrictions on trading have been eased (UNMEER, 12/06/2015). Curfews in the worst affected communities have been extended indefinitely (AFP, 08/07/2015).

Porous borders between Sierra Leone and Guinea are posing a challenge to surveillance (UNMEER, 15/04/2015). Officials from both countries have agreed to share information and established screening protocols at border points between areas of active Ebola transmission (UNMEER, 07/04/2015; 15/04/2015).

Regional Outbreak

The cumulative number of reported Ebola cases across the region has reached 27,723, including 11,273 deaths (WHO, 23/07/2015).

Updated: 24/07/2015

MATERNAL HEALTH

Delivery of maternal health services has improved: the percentage of households reporting that a member gave birth in a clinic increased to 89% in May, compared to 64% in January–February, and 28% in November (World Bank, 15/06/2015).

However, the loss of health workers is expected to have had an impact on maternal health. The World Bank estimates a maternal mortality ratio of 1,916 per 100,000 live births in May 2015, based on calculations using the number of health workers who died of Ebola and pre-Ebola mortality rates. This is a 74% increase compared to 2013 (World Bank, 08/07/2015).

Paediatric malaria admissions decreased by 80% in Moyamba; this is likely to have led to greater under-five mortality (Doctors of the World, 03/05/2015).

EDUCATION

The majority of school-aged children have returned to school. 87% of households reported all children were attending school in May. Of those who were not attending, less than 2% cited the school was still closed or was unsafe due to Ebola (World Bank, 15/06/2015). In another survey, 46% of households who reported not sending a child to school cited the school was still closed or was unsafe due to Ebola (World Bank, 15/06/2015).

Protection

There have been allegations of beatings by police during the Ebola outbreak (Voice of America, 22/06/2015).

Child Protection

Due to limited household resources, children are predisposed and sometimes forced to engage in income-generating activities. There are reports of girls turning to sex work for income. Orphans are considered particularly vulnerable (The Guardian, 28/04/2015). Visibly pregnant girls were not allowed to return to school, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Education (Ebola Deeply, 14/03/2015; Voice of America, 13/04/2015).

Updated: 24/07/2015

ANGOLA DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
No significant developments this week, 21/07/2015. Last update, 10/06/2015.

KEY CONCERNS
- Prolonged dry conditions are affecting at least 460,000 people in Cunene (FEWSNET, 06/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement

Refugees
As of 30 May, nearly 8,130 irregular refugees in Soyo and Cabinda provinces have been expelled in 2015, including 1,846 women and 1,391 children (local media, 08/06/2015).

Returnees
As of 23 April, at least 15,520 Angolan refugees have returned from DRC since 20 June 2014 via voluntary repatriation (Government, 30/04/2015). The latest process, begun in February, was interrupted on 6 June due to organisational issues (Government, 08/06/2015).

Food security

Households in Cunene, Huíla, and Namibe provinces are expected to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity between May and September due to the effects of drought (FEWSNET, 01/06/2015).

An estimated 460,000 people in Cunene province are affected by prolonged dryness, through crop losses or livestock deterioration and death (FNS working group, 01/06/2015). Availability of preferred foods in some areas of Cunene is severely limited, while food prices have increased significantly, especially in Huíla, though this is also partly due to an increase in fuel costs late 2014 (FAO, 18/05/2015).

Agriculture

Prolonged dryness has caused around 60–80% loss of the cereals planted in western Huíla and Cunene provinces; maize prices in Cunene rose by 20% in May compared to April. Traditional income sources, including agricultural labour and sale of cereals, are affected (FEWSNET, 01/06/2015).

Torrential rains in March/April caused around 40% loss of the planted area in Ganda and Cubal in Benguela province (FEWSNET, 01/06/2015).

Protection

ERW

According to government sources, 42 areas in the municipalities of Cazengo, Cambambe, Golungo Alto, Samba Cajú, Ambaca, Ngonguembo and Quiculungo remain mined from the Angolan civil war (1975–2002) (Government, 05/07/2015).

Reviewed: 21/07/2015

BURKINA FASO FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS
No significant developments this week, 22/07/2015. Last update: 10/06/2015.

KEY CONCERNS
- Long-term displacement of 34,030 Malian refugees continues to put pressure on the resources of host communities (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

- More than 1.5 million people likely to be food insecure during the June–August lean season (WFP/FAO, 31/03/2015). Abnormal dryness is negatively affecting cropping activities (NOAA, 22/07/2015).

- 499,000 children suffer from acute malnutrition, of whom 149,000 are severely malnourished (UNICEF, 30/03/2015).

Political Context

Political tensions rose at the end of June when the Presidential Security Regiment called for the resignation of the Prime Minister. President Michel Kafando decided on 17 July to maintain Isaac Zida as Prime Minister (AFP, 17/07/2015; RFI, 13/07/2015).

Burkina Faso is being ruled by a transitional Government until the beginning of October, when presidential and legislative elections will be held. The transitional government has
confirmed its will to keep to the calendar despite logistical challenges (UNICEF, 30/03/2015; AFP, 02/06/2015). Nationwide demonstrations in October 2014 against President Blaise Compaoré’s attempt to pass a bill extending his term of office culminated in the dissolution of Parliament and the resignation of the President. The transitional Government was set up in November 2014.

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Displacement

Refugees

As of 30 June, there are 34,030 refugees in Burkina Faso. 33,700 are Malian refugees, more than half of whom children. 76% of Malian refugees are residing in camps in Mentao, Goudehou, Bobo Dioulasso and Ouagadougou in northern Burkina Faso; Saag-Nioniogo refugee camp was closed in March, with refugees relocated to other camps (UNHCR, 30/06/2015; WFP, 30/04/2015). Malian families mainly arrive from Gao and Timbuktu regions, fleeing political tensions and social unrest (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Food Security

During the June–August lean season, 371,000 people are likely to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 1.2 million in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes, compared to 79,000 and 669,000 between March and May (WFP/FAO, 31/03/2015). Abnormal dryness is expected to continue through the end of the year (FEWSNET, 24/06/2015).

Poor households in Tin-Akoff commune in Oudalan province, and Nassoumbou and Koutougou communes in Soum province in the Sahel region, have faced Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes since April; food stocks in these areas have been depleted since January due to below-average 2014 harvests and reduced livestock prices. Households have resorted to coping mechanisms such as selling part of their livestock (FEWSNET, 30/04/2015; FEWSNET, 22/05/2015).

Disruptions in the functioning of the main drilling hole providing water to the Sahel region of Burkina Faso between April and May has caused the death of some 2,000 cattle, affecting the food security vulnerability of their owners (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Agriculture

Pastoral conditions are a concern in the north due to abnormal dryness, especially in Oudalan province; livestock mortality is increasing (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015). Rainfall in July and August will be essential for crops to recover from delays at the start of the growing season, but forecasts are unfavourable (WFP, 01/07/2015).

Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview

At least 7.5 million are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes across the Sahel and West Africa through August, and 26.6 million Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes (Cadre Harmonisé, 06/2015). In 2014, food insecurity rose dramatically to 24.7 million food insecure people, compared to 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2015).

Nutrition

In 2015, 499,000 children are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition (8.6% of the under-five population), including 149,000 from SAM (UNICEF, 30/03/2015). Two out of three children suffering from undernutrition receive inadequate medical assistance (WFP, 23/06/2015).

Reviewed: 22/07/2015

BURUNDI

FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, POLITICAL UNREST

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

21 July: Presidential elections were held in Burundi, two days after the Government withdrew from mediation to solve the political crisis. President Nkurunziza is on track for a near-certain victory. Blasts and shooting were heard at polling stations. (AFP).

20 July: At least two people, including a police officer, were killed in a string of explosions and gunfire (AFP).

19–20 July: Around 3,620 Burundians fled the country, compared to a weekly average rate of 2,000 so far in July (UNHCR).

16 July: Two people were wounded in clashes between police forces and demonstrators in Bujumbura (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- More than 171,860 Burundians fleeing political unrest have been registered as refugees in Rwanda, DRC, Tanzania, and Uganda since April (UNHCR, 21/07/2015).

- 100,000 Burundians require urgent food assistance from mid-June to mid–September. Priority areas for intervention include Kirundo, Makamba, and Bujumbura (WFP, 15/06/2015).

Political Context

Political instability and violence have been ongoing since April, when President Nkurunziza announced his intention to run for a third term (Reuters, 20/03/2015). Large protests have been held, mostly in the capital Bujumbura where military forces have been deployed, but also in some communes in Bujumbura Rural and Bururi provinces (OCHA, 12/05/2015; AFP, 05/06/2015; Reuters, 18/05/2015). A coup, led by the former head of intelligence, was
attempted in May, but failed after two days of intense clashes in the capital (BBC, 13/05/2015). Western (Cibitoke, Bubanza, Burujuma, Bururi, Makamba) and northeastern provinces (Kirundo and Muyinga) are at highest risk of escalating socio-political unrest and violence (FEWSNET, 13/06/2015).

Presidential elections were held on 21 July, after the Government withdrew from mediation efforts to solve the crisis. Three out of eight candidates had pulled out of the race, leaving Nkurunziza on track for a near-certain victory (AFP, 19/07/2015; 18/07/2015). The elections’ postponement from 15 July was denounced by 17 aid NGOs as too short, as it would not allow time for a real democratic dialogue and could spark major political violence (RSF, 15/07/2015; AFP, 11/07/2015).

The ruling party won a majority of seats in controversial parliamentary elections held on 29 June; a boycott by 17 opposition groups kept the turnout low, especially in Bujumbura. The polls were condemned by the EU and AU for taking place in an inappropriate context (AFP, 07/07/2015; Al Jazeera, 29/06/2015).

Several top officials have fled the country, including the Vice President and head of Parliament end June (AFP, 28/06/2015; 25/06/2015). The UN Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi remains the only international observation entity (OCHA, 29/06/2015).

Security Context

Around 100 people have been killed, including eight children, over 500 injured, and 310 arrested, including 14 minors, since the outbreak of violence in April (UNSC, 07/07/2015; AFP, 11/07/2015; 25/06/2015).

Bujumbura: Violence intensified in the capital ahead of the presidential elections. Blasts and shooting were heard at polling stations on 21 June. At least two people, including a police officer, were killed in a string of explosions and gunfire the day before (AFP, 21/07/2015). Two people were wounded in clashes between police forces and demonstrators in Bujumbura on 16 July (AFP, 16/07/2015). Violence also rose ahead of and following the 29 June parliamentary elections: six people were killed in Cibitoke district on 1 July (AFP, 01/07/2015). At least three people were killed in a spate of grenade attacks targeting polling stations in the capital on 28 June; grenades were also thrown at provincial voting centres (AFP, 29/06/2015; 28/06/2015). Between 19 and 22 June, four people were killed and over 41 people were injured, in clashes and grenade attacks between protesters and police in the capital (AFP, 22/06/2015).

Kanyanza: 31 gunmen died and 221 were captured in clashes with government troops in Kanyanza province, near the border with Rwanda, on 11 July. The clash is believed by some to be a precursor to an insurgency by a section of the army that backed the failed May coup against Nkurunziza (OCHA, 16/07/2015; Press TV, 13/07/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

The political turmoil is exacerbating a chronic situation of unmet humanitarian needs. A contingency plan has been activated, with 270,000 thought to be currently affected, including those displaced to neighbouring countries (OCHA, 06/06/2015; WFP, 26/06/2015). Priority areas are Kirundo and Makamba provinces, and the city of Bujumbura (OCHA, 06/06/2015).

Access

The Mayor of Bujumbura denied access to humanitarian actors in neighbourhoods most affected by protests and police clamp-downs, resulting in information gaps on the humanitarian situation (OCHA, 06/06/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

Internal displacement has been minimal: some people have moved to different neighbourhoods of Bujumbura or to their home villages until the crisis ends (OCHA/UNHCR, 25/06/2015). 200 people were reported to have returned home as calm was restored in the area (OCHA, 16/07/2015). 250,000 people could be displaced in the first six months of an election crisis and related violence in Burundi (HCT, 24/04/2015; START Network, 05/05/2015).

As of January 2015, Burundi had 77,600 IDPs, living in and around 120 sites in northern and central Burundi. IDPs are mostly ethnic Tutsis displaced by inter-ethnic and inter-communal violence in the past years (IDMC, 31/01/2015).

Returnees

79,000 Burundian returnees were going through slow reintegration processes in April 2015, including 43,000 who had been forcibly repatriated from Tanzania. Most have not been registered due to a lack of reception facilities, while tensions rose with host communities over land ownership issues (IOM, 01/2014; HCT, 24/04/2015).

Refugees

As of September 2014, Burundi is host to 49,800 refugees, mostly from DRC (UNHCR, 31/11/2014). Refugees are mainly located in the border regions of Ngozi (alongside Rwanda), Ruyigi, Muyinga, and Cankuzo (alongside Tanzania) and Bubanza (alongside DRC). Since the beginning of the political crisis, refugees are requesting to be relocated (UNHCR, 05/06/2015).

Burundian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 20 July, nearly 171,860 Burundian refugees have registered in Rwanda, DRC, Uganda, and Tanzania since early April. Around 3,620 Burundians fled the country between 19–20 July, ahead of the presidential elections (UNHCR, 21/07/2015). The numbers of Burundian refugees in neighbouring countries had increased steadily in July, at a rate of 2,000 per week, compared to a peak of 37,730 arrivals between 27–30 June; the majority of arrivals are women and children (WFP, 13/07/2015).

Rwanda: 67,880 Burundian refugees have registered in Rwanda. The majority are in Mahama camp, Bugesera and Nyanza reception centres, and Nyagatare transit centre
Tanzania: Around 79,450 Burundian refugees have arrived since April. They are being transferred to Nyarugusu refugee camp, which is overcrowded (UNHCR, 21/07/2015; 26/06/2015). 4,435 cholera cases, including 31 deaths, had been recorded in refugee camp as of end May (UNHCR, 28/05/2015).

Uganda: Nearly 11,165 Burundian refugees have been registered in Uganda since April. The majority are in two sites in Mbarara (Nakivale camp) and Misiera villages (UNHCR, 21/07/2015; 28/06/2015). As of 1 September 2014, 14,367 Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers were residing in Uganda, mostly in Nakivale and Oruchinga (UNHCR, 19/06/2015).

DRC: Around 13,370 Burundians have been registered in DRC since April, and are being relocated from host communities to Lusenda refugee site in South Kivu (UNHCR, 21/07/2015). There are fears that the new influxes could destabilise volatile relationships between ethnic groups (Cordaid, 20/07/2015). As of 30 September 2014, 9,233 Burundian refugees were residing in DRC (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).

Food Security

About 100,000 people affected by political instability require urgent food assistance from mid-June to mid-September (WFP, 22/06/2015). Priority areas for intervention include Kirundo, Makamba, and Bujumbura (WFP 16/06/2015).

50,000 people in Kirundo are newly food insecure as harvests failed after late rains in the first half of the year; the province is facing an alarming humanitarian situation, which is expected to worsen in August (WFP, 03/07/2015; OCHA/UNHCR, 25/06/2015). Needs are also expected to grow in southern and western provinces even if the political situation is resolved (WFP, 15/06/2015).

Agriculture and markets

Insecurity and displacement is disrupting June season B harvests in some areas, in particular Kirundo, Muyinga, and Ngozi provinces. Staple food prices either declined or remained stable in most markets in June due to increased food availability and supply from season B harvests. However, prices remain much higher than the five-year average, particularly in Bujumbura, Ruyigi, Muyinga, and Gitega markets (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015; 31/03/2015).

Livelihoods

Economic activities in Bujumbura are significantly hampered by protests, with most businesses and banks closed, raising concern for the impact on an already fragile economy (OCHA, 04/05/2015). Foreign aid has also significantly decreased since the onset of the crisis (OCHA, 16/07/2015).

Health and Nutrition

As of 14 July, 180 cases of cholera have been reported, including five deaths, in Nyanza Lac commune of Makamba province. The outbreak has reportedly been contained, but the prevention campaign in Nyanza Lac commune was delayed due to insecurity. Prevention coordination is required as cholera in endemic in September and October (UNICEF, 15/07/2015).

In Bujumbura, health facilities need support for protest-related injuries, including increased surgical capacity (OCHA/UNHCR, 25/06/2015). The psychological needs of children have also been rising as a result of the prolonged crisis (UNICEF, 15/07/2015).

Nutrition

Malnutrition and food insecurity are key concerns in Kirundo province as a result of below-average rainfall in the past months. GAM in Kirundo province is 6%, including 1.5% SAM (OCHA, 29/06/2015).

WASH

Non-availability of soap, including due to high prices, is a barrier to handwashing for households and a concern in the context of cholera (UNICEF, 15/07/2015).

Education

Schools in Bujumbura had closed because of the violent protests; some have reopened but attendance is low due to displacement (UNICEF, 06/06/2015). 12 students have reportedly been excluded from secondary school in Muyinga province on the grounds of their political affiliation (UNICEF, 15/07/2015).

Protection

Police and intelligence services have been involved in the beating, wounding, and killing of protesters and prisoners (HRW, 29/05/2015). Burundians are reporting incidents of harassment and disappearance of family members associated with the political opposition (ICG/UNHCR, 17/04/2015). Many children caught up in protests have also been detained (OCHA/UNHCR, 25/06/2015). Most of those arrested have been subjected to torture and cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment (UNSC, 07/07/2015).

The Imbonerakure is accused of severe abuse including torture, threats and intimidation, as well as the illegal arrest and detention of protesters (Fondation Hirondelle, 21/05/2015; Reuters, 21/05/2015; UNHCR, 09/06/2015).

Increasing violations and incidents affecting the exercise of public freedoms, including the rights of peaceful assembly, association, and expression, is a major concern (UNSC, 07/07/2015). Privately owned media remain closed (RSF, 15/07/2015). Journalists are reportedly facing violence and intimidation from authorities and members of the Imbonerakure (RSF, 30/04/2015; HRW, 22/01/2015).

Child Protection

70% of the refugees fleeing into neighbouring countries are under 18 and a significant number has been separated or is unaccompanied (UNICEF, 12/04/2015; IFRC,
10/06/2015). There are 2,000 children living in the streets of Bujumbura (UNICEF, 06/06/2015).

Updated: 21/07/2015

GUINEA FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

21 July: Concerns are growing about contacts of confirmed Ebola cases being lost to follow-up (USAID).

19 July: 22 new Ebola cases were confirmed in the week to 19 July: 13 in Conakry, seven in Forecariah, and two in Coyah (WHO, 22/07/2015).

**KEY CONCERNS**

- As of 22 July, 3,787 cumulative Ebola cases, including 2,517 deaths, have been reported in Guinea. The cumulative number of reported Ebola cases across the region has reached 27,724, including 11,274 deaths. (WHO, 24/07/2015). The numbers of registered cases and deaths are largely inaccurate.

- Priority needs include health, food security and nutrition support (OCHA, 09/07/2015).

- 1.9 million people are food insecure, including 59,000 severely. Kindia, Nzerekore, Boke, Kankan, Labe, and Faranah are most affected. More than half of all food insecure people are in Labe and Nzerekore. Contrary to a multi-agency assessment, a FEWSNET remote assessment indicates Minimal (Phase 1) food security outcomes in Boke region, where the agricultural season is progressing as usual with average to good rainfall (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015). Nonetheless, the lean season progresses, moderate and severe food insecurity are expected to increase.

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

**Political Context**

The Ebola response has increased tensions between President Condé’s ethnic group, the Malinke, who make up about 35% of the population, and the Fulani ethnic group, about 40% of the population, who mainly support the opposition (local media, 18/10/2014).

Presidential elections are scheduled for 11 October 2015 (BBC, 25/07/2015). In January, and again in April, the opposition staged violent protests, demanding the revision of the electoral calendar. Local elections, which could galvanise support for the opposition, have been scheduled for March 2016, after planned presidential elections (local media, 10/05/2015; International Crisis Group, 01/02/2015). The opposition has indicated new protests might be staged in the coming months (L’express Guinee, 08/07/2015; Africa Guinee, 21/07/2015).

**Security Context**

**Resistance to Ebola Response**

The Prime Minister has announced measures against resistance to the Ebola response, including prosecution of those who hide patients from medical teams or those who hold medical teams hostage (international media, 12/01/2015). Security forces are enforcing penalties, including imprisonment, for disobeying burial policies. In May, six people were imprisoned for 21 days after attempting to smuggle a corpse out of Forecariah (BBC, 25/05/2015).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

7.5 million people are living in areas worst affected by the Ebola crisis. Priority needs include health, food security, and nutrition support (OCHA, 09/07/2015).

**Access**

Poor road infrastructure means many communities outside the capital are extremely difficult to reach (OCHA, 16/09/2014). The onset of the rainy season is making field operations more difficult. Community resistance in western prefectures also continues to challenge response activities (UN, 03/06/2015).

Resistance to the Ebola response

Hostility towards health workers continues to hamper response efforts (OCHA, 01/07/2015). Rumours about Ebola persist. Though community and family resistance to the response have decreased, the main challenge remains resistance at the individual level, which can lead to unsafe burials or refusal to take a sick relative to an Ebola treatment centre (UNICEF, 16/07/2015). In Telimele prefecture, access constraints were reported in several localities, including resistance to contact tracing and a lack of implementing Ebola prevention measures (UNMEER, 26/06/2015). A Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice study concluded that 75% of resistance stems from lack of information or misinformation (USAID, 25/02/2015).

**Food Security**

As of May, 1.9 million people are food insecure, including 59,000 severely. Kindia, Nzerekore, Boke, Kankan, Labe, and Faranah are most affected. More than half of all food insecure people are in Labe and Nzerekore. Contrary to a multi-agency assessment, a FEWSNET remote assessment indicates Minimal (Phase 1) food security outcomes in Boke region, where the agricultural season is progressing as usual with average to good rainfall (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015). Nonetheless, the lean season progresses, moderate and severe food insecurity are expected to increase.

Food insecurity is, however, substantially lower than in 2012 and 2009, as the drop in local demand and export demand has resulted in an increase in food availability in production
zones, and some 7% of households received food distributions during the outbreak. (WFP, FAO, IFAD, Government, 01/07/2015).

The current situation is driven by the disruption of trade due to the Ebola epidemic (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015). Most households will continue to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes, particularly those directly affected by Ebola. Households that have lost one or more members to Ebola continue to see a decrease in revenue. In areas that remain unaffected by Ebola, food insecurity is mainly due to effects of the outbreak on economic activities, productivity and livelihoods (WFP, FAO, IFAD, Government, 01/07/2015).

Households in Guinea are using more negative coping strategies than in Sierra Leone and Liberia, according to a WFP remote survey in June. The highest level of coping strategies was observed in Nzerekore, which was most affected by quarantines during the Ebola outbreak. Boke, Faranah and Kankan were also affected. The start of the lean season is likely to have an additional impact. Conakry reported the lowest level of negative coping strategies. Respondents’ perceptions of the food security situation seem to be better in Guinea than in the other Ebola-affected countries (WFP, 30/06/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Despite the start of the lean season, markets are well supplied with cereals. Export of agricultural products to neighbouring countries remains low due to fears of Ebola (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015).

Health and Nutrition

The availability and accessibility of health services has fallen as resources have been redirected to the Ebola response. Maternal health services and child vaccination programmes have been most affected (OCHA, 09/07/2015). The loss of healthcare workers could result in a 38% increase in maternal mortality in Guinea, based on calculations using the number of health workers who died of Ebola and pre-Ebola mortality rates (AFP, 08/07/2015; World Bank, 08/07/2015).

Ebola

As of 22 July, 3,787 cumulative Ebola cases, including 2,517 deaths, have been reported in Guinea (WHO, 24/07/2015). Low-intensity transmission continues due to incomplete contact tracing, and inadequate management and detection of new cases (ECHO, 30/06/2015).

In the week to 19 July, 22 new Ebola cases were confirmed. 13 cases were reported in Conakry, all were registered contacts of previous cases. Seven cases were reported in Forecariah, one of which came from an unknown chain of transmission, and two were identified post-mortem in the community. Two new cases were reported in Coyah, which were contacts of a previous case from Forecariah. These are the first Ebola cases in Coyah since April (WHO, 22/07/2015).

A lack of trust in the response remains, resulting in some cases still evading detection. This increases the risk of hidden transmission (WHO, 08/07/2015). Concerns are growing about the number of contacts being lost to follow-up in hotspot areas, particularly due to reports of contacts travelling to other prefectures to evade surveillance. As of 14 July, 33 contacts were missing, including 16 classified as high risk contacts (USAID, 21/07/2015).

Containment measures: On 20 July, a quarantine targeted 90 households that included high risk contacts in Matam and Ratoma communes of Conakry (USAID, 21/07/2015). Four infection hotspots in Forecariah, Dubreka, and Boke are also under quarantine (WHO, 01/07/2015; Reuters, 24/06/2015).

Healthcare provision: Two new healthcare worker infections were reported in Conakry in the week to 19 July, bringing the total to 194 infections and 97 deaths among health workers (WHO, 22/07/2015). Before the Ebola outbreak, 5,395 health workers were registered in Guinea (World Bank, 08/07/2015). The loss of health workers represents a decrease of around 1.8%.

Regional Outbreak

27,724 cumulative Ebola cases have been reported across the region, including 11,274 deaths (WHO, 24/07/2015).

Malaria

Untreated malaria has surged, due to fear resulting from the Ebola epidemic, and has probably caused many more deaths than Ebola itself. At the height of the outbreak (December 2014), the number of malaria patients receiving oral and injectible medication decreased by 24% and 30%, respectively, compared to 2011. The decrease was largest in Ebola-affected areas. Extrapolation of the results indicates an estimated 74,000 malaria cases have gone untreated (AFP, 23/06/2015).

Measles

As of 14 June, 2,029 suspected measles cases have been reported in 2015, including ten deaths (ALIMA, 03/07/2015). Peaks have been observed in Lola, Macenta, and Nzerekore prefectures. 80% of confirmed cases are among children under five, and 14% of confirmed cases have been vaccinated (WHO, 20/05/2015). In 2014, 266 measles cases were reported in Guinea (WHO, 11/02/2015).

Nutrition

In the first four months of 2015, 12,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were identified in health facilities. Projections of a total SAM caseload of 36,000 by the end of the year represents a nearly 13% increase compared to 2014 (OCHA, 09/07/2015).

Protection

As of 8 July, 6,104 children have been identified as having lost one or both parents to Ebola (UNICEF, 08/07/2015). All 773 children who lost both parents have been placed with
Health workers and survivors are stigmatised (MSF, 26/01/2015). There are reports of recovered patients not being accepted into their communities, despite awareness-raising in the community (USAID, 18/03/2015).

Increases in cases of SGBV have been reported in certain areas with a high Ebola caseload, particularly in Nzerekore, where the number of reports increased four-fold, and Kankan, where rape specifically had doubled in 2014, compared to 2013 (OCHA, 09/07/2015).

Updated: 27/07/2015

MADAGASCAR
DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

No new significant developments this week, 21/07/2015. Last update: 14/07/2015.

KEY CONCERNS
- 579,000 severely food insecure; 200,000 require immediate food assistance (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, and other, 15/06/2015; FAO, 11/05/2015).
- Currently experiencing the worst drought conditions in six years (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, and others, 15/06/2015; FAO, 11/05/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Food security Coping Strategies

579,000 people are severely food insecure in seven southern regions, according to a food security assessment. 200,000 people require immediate food assistance, particularly in the drought-affected regions of Androy and Anosy. The worst drought conditions in six years, combined with below-average crop production, the early exhaustion of food stocks, and reduced effectiveness of coping strategies because of last year’s lean season, has caused the increase in food insecurity (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, and others, 15/06/2015; FAO, 11/05/2015).

Most households stocks will not last beyond August–September, and many households currently in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes are expected to reach Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes between October–December if current trends continue (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Agricultural production fell due to a prolonged dry spell from mid-January to May. This is the second consecutive annual decrease, with production now at a five-year low: 9% less rice has been produced than the average year, 11% less maize, and 13% less cassava. In markets, staple food prices have doubled in the worst-affected regions of Androy and Anosy, and have increased 40% nationally (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, and others, 15/06/2015; FAO, 11/05/2015).

Coping Strategies

Poor households are engaging in some atypical coping strategies, such as increased consumption of cactus fruit in the post-harvest period, and some are starting to borrow to access food (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015).

Reviewed: 21/07/2015

UGANDA
DISPLACEMENT

20 July: 12,853 refugees have arrived from Burundi since April: more than 1,000 have arrived in the last ten days (UNHCR, 21/07/2015).

15 July: A malaria outbreak is confirmed in the north, affecting ten districts. 162 people have died in less than two months (AllAfrica, 16/07/2015).

KEY CONCERNS
- 226,880 DRC refugees and 156,762 South Sudanese refugees are in Uganda; rapid refugee influxes from Burundi are putting pressure on existing facilities (UNHCR, 10/07/2015; UNHCR, 04/06/2015).
**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

**Access**

A proposed new law would give Ugandan authorities the right to supervise, approve, inspect, and dissolve all NGOs working in Uganda, in addition to imposing severe criminal penalties for violations. According to Human Rights Watch, NGOs working on politically sensitive issues have reportedly also previously been subject to intimidation and threats (IRIN, 10/07/2015; HRW, 02/07/2015).

**Displacement**

IDPs

As of March, Uganda has 30,136 IDPs (OCHA, 19/05/2015).

**Refugees in Uganda**

As of May, there were 433,030 refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda, including 226,880 refugees from DRC; nearly 61% are children (UNHCR, 04/06/2015; IRIN, 04/06/2015; UNICEF, 21/05/2015). There are also 29,053 Somali refugees in Uganda (UNHCR, 07/07/2015). Refugees are hosted in settlements in Adjumani, Kyirandongo, Kampala, Moyo, Nakivale, and Arua districts (UNHCR, 24/11/2014).

As of 20 July, 12,853 refugees have arrived from Burundi since April, fleeing political instability. More than 1,000 arrived in the ten days up to 20 July (UNHCR, 21/07/2015; 09/07/2015). Daily arrivals have halved from more than 400 in early June to around 150 –200. Some Burundians have also fled deteriorating conditions in refugee camps in Tanzania and Rwanda (UNHCR, 26/06/2015; UNICEF 17/06/2015). Refugees are being relocated to Nakivale refugee settlement in Isingoro district, and Nyakabande transit camp in Kisoro district. An increase in the number of arrivals in Nakivale has led to the opening of a new refugee site in Misiera. Priority needs are for food, nutrition, health, and WASH (WFP, 16/07/2015; 13/07/2015; IRIN, 04/06/2015; UNHCR, 28/05/2015). Up to 20,000 could arrive in the coming months (WFP 13/07/2015).

As of 15 July, 156,762 South Sudanese refugees have fled to Uganda since December 2013, including more than 15,000 in 2015 (UNHCR, 10/07/2015; 20/07/2015). 65% are children (IOM, 18/03/2015). 210,000 South Sudanese refugees are expected by the end of 2015 (WFP, 10/07/2015). Priority needs are NFIs, livelihood and psychological support. The number of South Sudanese refugees has increased in May and June: refugees cite continued insecurity, economic hardship and lack of food as their reason for fleeing (UNHCR, 03/07/2015; WFP, 26/06/2015; ACT, 15/04/2015).

**Ugandan Refugees in Neighbouring Countries**

At 1 April, there were 1,669 Ugandan refugees in Kenya (UNHCR, 01/04/2015).

At 30 June 2014, there were 1,211 Ugandan refugees in DRC (UNHCR, 30/06/2014).

**Food Security**

In Karamoja, food access and availability continue to decline. Below-average rainfall in April/May is likely to slow crop development and delay harvests. About 180,000 people are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes at least next the harvest in August, which is four months later than usual, especially in Moroto and Kaabong districts, where food stocks were depleted 2–3 months earlier than usual (FEWSNET, 03/06/2015, 31/05/2015; FAO, 27/04/2015).

Poor households do not have sufficient income to maintain adequate food consumption in Kaabong, Moroto, and northern parts of Nakapiripirit. 20% of poor households will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes through September, as a result of limited purchasing power (FEWSNET, 03/06/2015). The lean season began in January, four months earlier than normal. Below-average rainfall has also decreased labour demand and lowered incomes.

**Health and Nutrition**

The rapid expansion of refugee camps has strained health services (UNFPA, 16/02/2015).

Health centres affected by the refugee influx require immunisation support, as well as medical infrastructure and supply support, especially in Arua (UNICEF, 15/04/2015; UNHCR, 20/01/2015). Health education related to HIV counselling and testing among refugees is also needed (UNHCR, 18/03/2015).

The number of measles cases is increasing in Kampala and Kamwenge. Kamwenge has confirmed a measles outbreak. Both districts reported more than ten cases in the week to 4 July (Government, 20/07/2015).

**Cholera**

As of 15 July, 246 cumulative cholera cases have been reported in Kasese district since March, including two deaths (CFR 0.8%). In the week to 4 July, ten new cases were reported (Government, 20/07/2015).

**Malaria**

The Ministry of Health has confirmed a malaria outbreak, which is affecting ten districts in the north. As of 15 July, 22,873 cases have been reported. 162 people have died in less than two months. Kitgum district is currently most affected, with 210,000 South Sudanese refugees expected by the end of 2013, including more than 15,000 in 2015 (UNHCR, 10/07/2015; 20/07/2015). 65% are children (IOM, 18/03/2015). 210,000 South Sudanese refugees are expected by the end of 2015 (WFP, 10/07/2015). Priority needs are NFIs, livelihood and psychological support. The number of South Sudanese refugees has increased in May and June: refugees cite continued insecurity, economic hardship and lack of food as their reason for fleeing (UNHCR, 03/07/2015; WFP, 26/06/2015; ACT, 15/04/2015).

**Typhoid**

More than 10,230 cases of typhoid have been confirmed in Kampala, Wakiso, and Mukono districts in 2015, due to consumption of contaminated water. Six deaths have been reported. The outbreak was declared under control on 16 June (local media, 16/06/2015). The number of cases continues to decline, with 2,245 reported in the week to 4 July, compared to 2,400 cases the previous week. Kampala reported the highest number of cases, with 421 cases in one week (Government, 20/07/2015).

**Nutrition**

In Karamoja, GAM rates of 13.4% are the highest recorded in the last five years, while SAM remains above 3% (UNICEF, 23/01/2015).
GAM among South Sudanese refugee children reaches 20.3% and SAM 4.6% (UNICEF, 21/05/2015).

In Karamoja, GAM rates of 13.4% are the highest recorded in the last five years, while SAM prevalence remains above 3% (UNICEF, 23/01/2015).

Shelter

Urgent food, NFIs, and shelter needs have been identified within the new Mahiga site in Rwamwanja refugee settlement, Kamwenge district. There are 11,200 refugees in Mahiga and new arrivals continue to overstretch capacities (ACT, 05/06/2015).

Education

In Isingoro district, the influx of Burundian refugees to Nakivale refugee settlement is expected to strain the resources of local schools. Language barriers also make it difficult for refugee children to access education (UNICEF, 17/06/2015).

Updated: 23/07/2015

OVERVIEW

Natural disasters and armed conflicts in Afghanistan have caused humanitarian crisis. Assistance needs include food, healthcare, and protection.

The Afghan Government faces internal and external challenges to its capacity, legitimacy, and stability. The security environment is highly volatile and expected to deteriorate as international troops gradually withdraw from the country.

Political Context

Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah were sworn in as Afghanistan’s President and Prime Minister, respectively, in September 2014 (Reuters, 29/09/2014). The pair were rival presidential candidates in disputed elections, but are struggling to maintain a unity government (Reuters, 08/07/2015; AFP, 26/09/2014). Leaders of ethnic groups have criticised Ghani for filling key government posts to Pashtun kin (Reuters, 08/07/2015; AFP, 26/09/2014). Parliamentary elections scheduled for April 2015 were postponed because of security concerns and disagreements over vote procedure. The current Parliament’s mandate has been extended until a vote can be held (Reuters, 19/06/2015; local media, 01/04/2015).

Peace Talks with the Taliban

Afghan officials and Taliban met in Islamabad in Pakistan on 8 July and have agreed to meet again end July, potentially in China. Informal talks in recent months have not brought any breakthrough (AFP, 24/07/2015; 08/07/2015). Taliban leader Mullah Omar
has expressed his support for the peace talks (The Guardian, 15/07/2015).

Security Context

As of 22 June, nearly 4,200 civilians have been killed in 2015, a 16% increase on the same period in 2014 (USAID, 02/07/2015). 3,699 civilians were killed and 6,849 injured in all 2014 (UNAMA, 18/02/2015). Incidents in 2015 have been concentrated in Helmand and Kabul, with intense fighting between Afghan forces, the Taliban, and other anti-government groups also reported in northern provinces in recent months, including Kunduz, Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Faryab, Baghlan, and Nuristan (Cordaid, 07/07/2015; RSF, 07/07/2015; local media, 16/07/2015).

Stakeholders

Taliban

Remote parts of southern and southeastern Afghanistan, near the border with Pakistan, remain under Taliban control. The group has intensified attacks since April, especially in the north, in particular in Badakhshan and Faryab (local media, 16/07/2015; Al Jazeera, 13/06/2015). The group is increasingly financed by criminal enterprises including heroin laboratories, illegal mining, and kidnaping (UNSC, 02/02/2015).

Islamic State (IS)

Militants fighting under the IS banner in Afghanistan, including an unknown number of Taliban defectors and foreign fighters, have reportedly seized territory from the Taliban in at least six of Nangarhar’s 21 districts. Uncertainty remains regarding their links with IS in the Middle East (Reuters, 29/06/2015).

International Military Presence

NATO formally ended its combat mission in Afghanistan on 31 December 2014, moving to the Resolute Support mission made up of 9,800 US troops and 3,000 soldiers from other member states. The focus of the mission is on supporting Afghan forces’ fight against the Taliban, along with US counter-terrorism operations (Reuters, 01/01/2015).

Conflict Developments and Incidents

Helmand: A suicide attack on police headquarters in Lashkar Gah killed three and wounded more than 50 on 30 June (international media, 30/06/2015). An explosion in Marka district on 20 June killed 14 people and wounded five (AFP, 20/06/2015).

Kabul: Two Taliban suicide attacks targeting a NATO convoy and a branch of the National Directorate of Security killed one and wounded five on 7 July (AFP, 07/07/2015). A Taliban suicide attack targeting NATO troops killed two and wounded 26 on 30 June (international media, 30/06/2015). At least two people were killed and 31 wounded in a Taliban attack on the Afghan Parliament on 22 June, when President Ghani was to introduce his Defence Minister nominee (AFP, 22/06/2015).

Kunduz: Intense fighting has been reported between Afghan forces and the Taliban in the province in recent months. An explosion in Kunduz city killed two and wounded four on 12 July (AFP, 12/07/2015). Taliban offensives took place in five districts on 2 and 3 May (AAN, 3/05/2015). The Taliban, supported by foreign fighters, have come close to the provincial capital, cutting it off in May (BBC, 07/05/2015).

Faryab: A suicide attack killed 19 people and injured at least 28 in Almar district on 22 July (UNAMA, 22/07/2015). Since early July the Taliban has seized more than 100 villages in Qasyar, Almar, and Shirin Tagab districts (local media, 16/07/2015). 40 houses in Almar were set on fire (UNAMA, 15/07/2015).

Baghlan: At least 20 people were killed and eight wounded in a gunfight at a wedding ceremony in Deh Salah district on 27 July (International Media, 27/07/2015). At least 40 civilians were wounded by a bomb attack targeting a mosque in Baghlan province on 13 July (UNAMA, 14/07/2015).

Other incidents: A suicide attack near the military base of Camp Chapman in Khost province killed at least 33 people, mostly women and children, and wounded six on 12 July (AFP, 12/07/2015; BBC, 13/07/2015). An explosion in Tagab district, Kapisa, killed ten and wounded six on 12 July (AFP, 12/07/2015). An explosion in Kandahar on 11 July killed three (AFP, 11/07/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Planning figures are for 6.9 million Afghans in need of humanitarian aid in 2015, including 2.8 million children, compared to 7.4 million in 2014 (UNICEF, 21/01/2015). Badghis, Helmand, Kunar, Nangarhar, and Wardak most need assistance (OCHA, 25/11/2014).

Access

Humanitarian access is a key operational concern: tens of thousands of civilians remain trapped in conflict zones as of end June (USAID, 02/07/2015). Deteriorated security conditions in Helmand significantly hamper the delivery of assistance (OCHA, 15/07/2015). Journalists have had to withdraw from Badakhshan and Nangarhar due to insecurity (RSF, 07/07/2015). Commercial flights to Kunduz were suspended in May. Conflict in Chardara district in particular makes it increasingly difficult for civilians to reach Kunduz city to access basic services (MSF, 25/06/2015; AFP, 08/05/2015).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers
Aid workers were assaulted by Afghan forces in a health facility in Kunduz on 1 July (MSF, 03/07/2015). 14 aid workers were killed in 27 incidents reported against national and international organisations across the country in June, including nine national NGO workers in Balk province on 2 June, and five incidents involving health facilities and health staff (OCHA, 15/07/2015; Reuters, 02/06/2015). 11 aid workers were killed in 21 incidents involving violence against humanitarian staff or damage to NGO facilities in May (USAID; 02/07/2015).

In 2014, there were 293 incidents against aid workers, including 57 killed (UN, 11/04/2015; OCHA, 31/12/2014).

Disasters

107,451 people were affected by floods, landslides and heavy snowfall in 2015, mostly in February; 513 people were killed, and 14,460 houses damaged or destroyed. Badghis, Faryab, and Nangarhar provinces were most affected (OCHA/IOM, 02/07/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

Increasing insecurity has led to a rise in internal displacement. As of end June, 947,870 IDPs were recorded, compared to 805,409 in December 2014. 223,280 are in the south (24%), 220,430 in the west (23%), and 169,960 in the centre (18%). Priority needs are for water, food, housing, and employment (IDMC, 16/06/2015; UNHCR 31/12/2014). The security context challenges access and identification of IDPs (UNCHR, 24/05/2015).

Fighting in the north of Kunduz province since May has displaced more than 134,000 people, including 32,960 to Kunduz city, and significant numbers to Badakhshan, Badghis, Baghlan and Faryab provinces (OCHA, 25/06/2015; 28/05/2015).

By 31 March, 13,840 Afghans had reportedly been displaced by military operations in Helmand in 2015 (OCHA 19/04/2015).

Refugees

Displacement from Pakistan to Afghanistan’s Khost and Paktika provinces has been ongoing since mid-June 2014. As of 8 June, these provinces were hosting around 205,440 refugees from Pakistan, the majority in Khost (including 10,210 families in Gulan camp) (UNHCR, 11/06/2015). There are concerns about the host communities’ ability to support the refugee population, in particular in terms of food, shelter, and education. A recent influx of 700 refugee families has been reported, but not verified (UNHCR, 15/06/2015). Spontaneous returns of refugees to Pakistan have been reported, although the number is unknown (UNHCR, 14/04/2015).

An additional 600,000 Baloch refugees who have fled insurgency activities in Pakistan since 1986 are living in precarious conditions, notably in Nimroz (AAN, 31/12/2014).

Returnees

The number of reported Afghan returnees from Pakistan vary between 42,385 and 139,500 (OCHA, 15/07/2015; UNHCR, 30/06/2015). Returns have increased following security incidents in Pakistan, particularly the December 2014 Taliban attack in Peshawar. Returnees report an increasing number of protection issues as the main reasons for return: eviction notices by authorities, discrimination, movement restrictions, settlement closure, and harassment (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

30–40% of undocumented returnees are vulnerable and in need of assistance; 80% of Afghanistan is reportedly not safe for people to be sent back to (BBC, 16/07/2015; OCHA, 15/07/2015). In 2014, only 17,000 people returned from Pakistan (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

Afghan Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

Some 2.6 million Afghan refugees remain in neighbouring countries, including 1.5 million in Pakistan (UN, 29/06/2015).

Food Security

Approximately eight million people are food insecure, including 2.1 million severely, according to a recent vulnerability assessment (USAID, 02/07/2015). By November 2015, it is estimated that 500,000 to 990,000 people will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security or worse (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015).

As of April, Badghis province is facing Crisis. Badakhshan, Nuristan, Ghor, Daykundi and Bamyan are Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (FEWSNET, 01/05/2015). Severe food gaps are reported in fourteen villages of Arghanjkhah district of Badakhshan, affecting 17,940 people (Food Security Cluster/USAID, 14/07/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

36% of irrigated crops and 5% of rain-fed crops were damaged by late frost in Bamyan province end May; potatoes and fruit – the main sources of cash for households – were most impacted. This is likely to affect food security (Solidarités Internationales, 16/06/2015).

The 2015 wheat harvest is expected to be above the previous two years’, except in Ghazni, Bamyan, Daikund, Kandahar, Hilmam, Zabul, Uruzgan, Paktya, Paktika and Khost (FAO, 03/07/2015; FEWSNET/WFP, 07/06/2015).

Livelihoods
Refugees in Khost and Paktika have exhausted short-term coping mechanisms and need livelihood opportunities to face long-term displacement (UNHCR, 26/05/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Conflict-related injuries and damage to health facilities both increased in May (WHO, 02/07/2015). There is a shortage of trained surgeons, anaesthetists, and trauma capacity in conflict-affected areas (OCHA, 25/11/2014). Nearly 80% of maternal and reproductive health needs are unmet (WHO, 10/12/2014). Tuberculosis is a high burden for Afghanistan, but many new cases were missed in 2014 due to lack of close monitoring (Government, 24/03/2015).

Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

Ten suspected CCHF outbreaks were reported from Herat province in May. The case fatality rate has reached an alarming 40% (WHO, 02/07/2015).

Measles

Nine measles outbreaks were reported from Paktika, Ghor, and Uruzgan provinces in May (WHO, 02/07/2015). In the first quarter of 2015, 445 laboratory-confirmed cases of measles were reported, compared to 581 cases in all of 2014 (WHO, 26/04/2015).

Nutrition

Nearly 517,600 children suffer from SAM (UNICEF, 21/01/2015). An estimated 45% of all child deaths in refugee and IDP camps are linked to malnutrition (UNICEF, 21/01/2015). The presence of common animal diseases in areas of Khost and Paktika has reduced the availability of meat and milk products to Pakistani refugees and host communities (FEWSNET, 11/02/2015).

Polio

Three cases of polio have been reported so far in 2015 (GPEI, 03/06/2015). 28 cases were reported in 2014, mostly in conflict-affected areas, compared to 14 in 2013 and 37 in 2012 (WHO, 26/04/2015; Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 25/02/2015).

WASH

1.9 million Afghans are in need of better access to safe WASH facilities (UNICEF, 21/01/2015).

Refugee influxes have stretched already limited water and hygiene resources and infrastructure in Khost and Paktika; lack of solid waste management and latrines are major challenges, while access to latrines and potable water remains a challenge in Urgun district, Paktika (UNHCR, 15/06/2015; 08/04/2015).

Shelter

A growing number of IDPs live in informal settlements in major Afghan urban centres, in substandard and crowded accommodation, with insufficient WASH facilities, food, education, and employment opportunities. Women are particularly at risk, with reduced access to education, health, and livelihood opportunities, and facing significant unmet mental health needs (NRC, 23/03/2015).

1,300 people in informal settlements in Kabul have received eviction warnings for end June. 40,000 people remain in 50 informal settlements in Kabul (USAID, 02/07/2015).

Education

Language barriers are a challenge for refugees (UNHCR, 31/05/2015). Educational facilities in Khost are overstretched, with 344 schools employing 6,000 teachers and teaching around 360,000 children. There are 50,000 school-aged refugee children in Khost (Institute for War and Peace Reporting, 05/11/2014).

In provinces most affected by fighting, schools have closed over the fear that students might get caught in crossfire. In northern Baghlan, for example, at least 18 schools were closed in May (Reuters, 31/05/2015).

Protection

Afghan local police has reportedly been involved in intimidation, physical abuse or violence, bribe-taking, salary fraud, and theft. Incidents of rape, drug trafficking, drug abuse and the selling or renting of local police weapons and vehicles have also been reported (ICG, 05/06/2015).

Child Protection

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 (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict 02/05/2015). Children have also been used as suicide bombers by armed groups (UNSC, 15/05/2015).

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is underreported because of the social stigma attached to it and lack of access to Taliban-controlled areas. Between January 2014 and January 2015, UNAMA registered 44 cases (UN Security Council, 15/04/2015).

Mines and ERW

559km² (4,321 hazardous areas) are contaminated by minefields and explosive remnants of war (ERW). In 2015, there has been an average of 103 total casualties per
month from mines, IEDs and ERW (UNMAS/MAPA, 30/06/2015).

Updated: 27/07/2015

IRAQ CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST, DISPLACEMENT

For the latest Briefing Notes, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

For information relating to the Syria crisis, see SNAP’s latest reports.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 July: Rising temperatures have led to critical WASH needs for displaced people and populations in conflict areas (OCHA).

26 July: Humanitarian access in Salah al Din is severely restrained (OCHA).

22 July: Two bombings in Bayaa and Al Shaab districts in Baghdad killed 21 and wounded 46 (AFP).

21 July: A bombing in Mandali in Diyala killed at least four (AFP).

21 July: Two Islamic State (IS) attacks targeting Shi’ite militia in Baghdad killed 23 and wounded 53 (AFP).

20 July: At least 10 were killed and 16 wounded in attacks in Hudaid village in Diyala governorate. 13 people have been reportedly kidnapped in the area a few days before, including a Sunni tribal leader (Reuters, 20/07/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- Around 1,470 deaths recorded in June, including around 665 civilians, an increase on May. 12,000 people were killed in 2014, corresponding to the worst levels of violence since 2006–2007 (UNAMI, 01/07/2015; 01/01/2015).

- 8.6 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 3.2 million in host communities (OCHA, 26/07/2015).

- Access continues to be severely constrained in large parts of Anbar, Salah al Din, Diyala, Kirkuk, and Nineawa (OCHA, 26/07/2015).

- 251,500 registered Syrian refugees are in Iraq; 64% are women and children (UNHCR, 15/07/2015).

OVERVIEW

The IS insurgency has compounded an already fragile political and humanitarian 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. Priority needs are food, water, shelter, fuel, and access to healthcare. Access constraints and human rights violations, particularly in IS-controlled areas, are of major concern.

Political Context

The perceived marginalisation of Sunni groups by former President Maliki’s Government is considered one of the main drivers of the current conflict. A unity government, led by President Abadi, was formed in September 2014, and a plan for national reconciliation is under consultation (UNAMI, 22/07/2015). While trying to balance sectarian tensions inside the country, Abadi has been seeking to garner international support for the fight against Islamic State (IS), including from neighbouring Sunni Arab states (Foreign Affairs, 16/01/2015).

Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I)

Masoud Barzani’s Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) have ruled the autonomous KR-I through a coalition government since 2005. Barzani’s term has been extended to August 2015, a move denounced as illegal by the opposition. A budget agreement between Baghdad and Erbil around oil revenues was incorporated into Iraq’s 2015 national budget law late January, but differences persist over the interpretation of the agreement (UN, 13/07/2015; local media, 26/04/2015).

Security Context

Around 1,470 Iraqis were killed and 1,690 injured in acts of violence in June, including 665 civilians killed and 1,030 injured, an increase on May. Baghdad was the most affected, with 974 casualties (UNAMI, 01/07/2015). At least 12,000 people were killed and more than 23,000 injured in 2014, in the worst violence since 2006–2007. Casualty numbers are hard to verify in conflict areas (UNAMI, 01/01/2015).

Stakeholders

Islamic State (IS): In June 2014, IS declared the establishment of a Sunni caliphate, covering the area between Aleppo in northern Syria and Diyala in eastern Iraq. Abu Bakr al Baghdadi was declared caliph and leader for Muslims worldwide. IS now controls nearly 300,000km$^2$ of territory in Syria and Iraq (AFP, 01/06/2015). It has attracted more than 20,000 foreign fighters (ICSR, 21/01/2015; NBC, 02/2015).
**Government forces:** Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), made up of around 48,000 troops, are involved in offensives around Baghdad, and in central governorates (Foreign Policy, 28/03/2015). Falling global oil prices have led to significant budget deficits, hampering the government’s capacity to undertake military operations and finance basic services for affected populations (Deutsche Welle, 11/06/2015).

**Shi’a militias:** Three militias have been supporting government forces on all major fronts against IS since the beginning of the insurgency, as part of the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF): Asa’ib, Kata’ib Hezbollah, and the Badr Brigades. PMF number around 100,000 fighters, including 30,000 reportedly backed by the Iranian Government (Al Jazeera, 23/01/2015).

**KR-I Forces:** The Kurdish Peshmerga, supported by Kurdish fighters from Syria and Turkey, are engaged in a counteroffensive against IS. Kurdish fighters receive training and equipment from multiple countries, including the United States (AFP).

**International Involvement:** In August 2014, US forces started airstrikes on IS locations. On 15 September, 30 additional countries pledged to help Iraq fight IS. Iran has dispatched members of its elite Revolutionary Guard and reportedly carried out airstrikes against IS (The Economist, 03/01/2015; The Guardian, 05/01/2015, 04/12/2014).

**Conflict Developments**

IS has intensified its attacks against ISF and associated militias in northern and western Iraq since June, especially in Anbar, Kirkuk, Diyala and Salah al Din (ISW, 06/07/2015). ISF and Peshmerga forces had regained territory in early 2015, recapturing populated areas of Diyala in January, and Al Baghdadi in Anbar early March (AFP, 26/01/2015; 08/03/2015). Peshmerga forces are fighting IS in Kirkuk.

**Recent Incidents**

**Anbar:** Falluja has become a primary objective for Iraqi forces and associated militias in Anbar, and an operation was launched on 5 July (ISW, 10/07/2015). Airstrikes and armed clashes continue along the Ramadi–Falluja corridor (OCHA, 26/07/2015). IS captured Ramadi on 17 May, killing at least 500 people; ISF was still surrounding the city as of 10 July, and is trying to cut IS supply lines (ISW, 10/07/2015).

Baghdad has seen an increase in attacks in July. Two bombings in Bayaa and Al Shaab districts killed 21 and wounded 46 on 22 July (AFP, 22/07/2015). Two IS attacks targeting Shi’ite militia in al Jadida and Zafaraniya districts killed 23 and wounded 53 on 21 July (AFP, 22/07/2015). A series of bomb explosions killed at least 21 and wounded 62 in Shi’ite-dominated neighbourhoods of Baghdad on 12 July (AFP, 12/07/2015). Two bombings killed 11 people and wounded at least 27 on 4 July (Reuters, 04/07/2015).

**Diyala:** A bombing in Mandali killed at least four on 21 July (AFP, 22/07/2015). At least 10 were killed and 16 wounded in attacks in Hudaid village on 20 July. 13 people have been reportedly kidnapped in the area a few days before, including a Sunni tribal leader (Reuters, 20/07/2015). An IS attack targeting Shi’ite militias in Khan Bani Saad killed at least 90 people and wounded 120 on 17 July, as people were celebrating the end of Ramadan (AFP, 18/07/2015). An IS explosion targeting Shi’ite militias in Khalis killed five and wounded 11 on 14 July (AFP, 14/07/2015).

**Kirkuk:** ISF asked residents to leave Al Riyadh subdistrict on 2 July, ahead of military operations (ECHO, 03/07/2015). Peshmerga and Popular Mobilisation Forces began operations to dislodge IS from areas of southwestern Kirkuk in February (ISW, 18/03/2015). This cooperation is significant (ISW, 13/03/2015; Ekurd Daily, 17/02/2015; The Daily Beast, 17/02/2015).

**Ninewa:** IS continues to carry out security operations south of Mosul, to control resistance and safeguard one of its most important areas of control (ISW, 06/07/2015).

**Salah al Din:** An attack in Touz district killed 12 and wounded 45, mostly Shi’ites, on 25 July (Reuters, 25/07/2015). Coordinated IS suicide bombings near Baiji killed 11 and wounded 27 on 13 June (AFP, 13/06/2015). IS was expelled from areas around Baiji oil refinery after intense clashes in May and June, but maintains control over supply routes from unliberated areas to Mosul and other areas in northern Iraq (UN, 13/07/2015; ISW, 08/05/2015). By end March, Iraqi forces and supporters had reportedly recaptured Albu Ajil, Tal Ksaiba, Al Alam, Al Dour, and Tikrit from IS (local media, 31/03/2015; WSJ, 13/02/2015; Al Jazeera, 08/03/2015). Tensions then rose between government forces and allied militias (Reuters, 04/04/2015).

**Humanitarian Context and Needs**

As of end July, 8.6 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, compared to 5.2 million end February; the number is projected to reach 9.9 million by end 2015 (OCHA, 26/07/2015; OCHA/UNCT, 04/06/2015; UNICEF, 28/02/2015).

**Access**

Access to the estimated 5.1 million people in areas under armed opposition groups’ control is limited (IOM, 10/06/2015). Several INGOs have suspended activities in IS-controlled areas, or provide emergency assistance through local partners. High insecurity and UXO also hinder access, as do long delays in obtaining clearance from Iraqi authorities (OCHA, 05/12/2014). Limited storage capacity is reported, especially in central governorates (WFP/Logistics Cluster, 07/07/2015).

**Border crossings:** The Ibrahim Khalil border crossing has been closed to Syrians from Kobane since 2 March; most refugees have entered via the Peshkabour crossing (UNHCR, 15/03/2015). Insecurity prevents most civilian movement at the IS-controlled Al Qa’im and Al Waleed crossings, as well as at Rabia (Reuters, 23/11/2014; UNHCR, 28/02/2015; 15/01/2015).

**IDP movement restrictions:** New IDPs from Anbar face serious restrictions accessing neighbouring provinces: Kerbala is closed to them; Baghdad, Babylon, Kirkuk and Diyala have implemented strict security policies: access across Bzbiz bridge to enter Baghdad, in particular, remains unpredictable; IDPs attempting to enter KR-I by land require a local guarantor. 55 families are stranded at Daqqu checkpoint (for entry to Kirkuk governorate) as of 14 July, and are in urgent need of assistance (OCHA, 26/07/2015; 14/07/2015; UNHCR, 29/05/2015).
Anbar remains largely inaccessible (UNICEF, 03/06/2015). Tens of thousands of people are reportedly trapped in Falluja and Ramadi districts due to ongoing military operations; IS is preventing civilians from leaving Falluja, with an increasing number of checkpoints reported in the area (OCHA, 14/07/2015). Control of the roads towards Al Baghdadi continues to shift between ISF and IS, which has delayed transportation of food and medical supplies to both Al Baghdadi (including Al Obaidy refugee camp) and Haditha districts (OCHA, 28/04/2015). Only three UN agencies and eight national and international organisations are operating in Anbar, along with government ministries (OCHA, 14/07/2015).

Diwala: UN staff members were abducted by unidentified gunmen end April (UN, 08/05/2015).

Nineawa: Access to Mosul is impossible for humanitarian actors and communications with areas outside the city are allegedly cut off. Conditions have dramatically deteriorated since IS took control (OCHA, 02/03/2015; WFP, 02/02/2015).

Salah al DIn: Humanitarian presence remains limited. Roads are only usable from the south through Baghdad and Samarra. Abductions of people on their way from Kirkuk to Tikrit have been reported. IEDs are a concern for returnees to recaptured areas (OCHA, 26/07/2015; 14/07/2015).

Displacement

There are more than 3.1 million IDPs, 3.2 million people in host communities who are affected, and 251,500 Syrian refugees (OCHA, 26/07/2015).

IDPs

As of 2 July, there are more than 3,112,000 IDPs in 3,613 locations. 28% are in KR-I (865,730) including 430,790 in Dahuk and 272,560 in Erbil. Anbar hosts 552,470 IDPs, Baghdad 526,360, and Kirkuk 281,700. 67% of IDPs are living in private settings, 21% in critical shelter arrangements (mainly in Anbar and Salah al Din), and 8% in 102 IDP camps, mainly in KR-I (OIM, 25/07/2015; UNHCR/CCCM, 16/07/2015). 35% of IDPs in critical shelter arrangements are under 15 years of age (OIM, 30/06/2015). The number and spread of IDPs pose a major challenge to needs assessment and assistance (IOM, 02/12/2014).

Anbar: More than 78,300 people have been displaced from Saqlawiyah in Falluja district since 8 July (OCHA, 26/07/2015). More than 300,000 people are believed to have been displaced from and within Anbar since operations began on 8 April, including 154,180 from Ramadi district over 15 May–23 June (IOM, 15/07/2015). Of those displaced since April, 43% went to Baghdad, 14% to Erbil and 33% stayed in Anbar. A high concentration of IDPs are in Falluja district and Khaldiya subdistrict in Ramadi. Ramadi displaced are in need of health, shelter, food and NFI support (IOM, 15/07/2015; WHO, 07/06/2015). Many civilians have not been able to flee to safer areas due to ad hoc entry restrictions and insecurity (NRC, 21/05/2015).

Salah al DIn: Nearly 20,450 people were displaced in Samarra, Tikrit, Balad, and Dujail districts due to conflict 14–30 June (IOM, 15/07/2015). Populations have begun returning to Tikrit and Alam, where the cities’ local police force and militia are keeping order (local media, 23/06/2015). Around 98,000 returnees to Tikrit since April need NFI and shelter repair support (OCHA, 04/07/2015; 23/06/2015). Dour and Albu Ajil, where many people supported IS, remain empty (local media, 23/06/2015).

IDP Returnees

900,000 IDP returnees are in need of assistance throughout Iraq (OCHA/UNCT, 04/06/2015).

Between 27 March and 2 July, 246,774 IDPs returned to their place of origin, including 37% to Salah al Din, 25% to Ninewa, 23% to Diwala, and 13% to Anbar. A 37% increase in the number of returnees was reported between 4 June and 2 July, with Baghdad, Salah al Din and Kirkuk experiencing the highest increases. 16% are in critical shelter arrangements (IOM, 15/07/2015). Heavily disrupted basic services and infrastructure, mines, insecurity, and lost documentation all increase the risks for returnees (UNHCR, 15/04/2015).

Refugees in Iraq

As of 15 July, 251,500 Syrian refugees were registered in Iraq, including 30,380 who arrived in 2015; 43% are female, and 42% children. KR-I hosts an estimated 97%, with 113,307 in Erbil, 99,566 in Dahuk and 30,305 in Sulaymaniyah; 4,512 were last known to be in Anbar and 1,575 in Ninewa (UNHCR, 15/07/2015). Arrivals through the Peshkhabour border crossing have significantly decreased in June, with only 174 arrivals in a month, compared to 100 per week in May (UNHCR, 09/07/2015; 25/05/2015).

38% of refugees live in nine camps; over half of these are in Domiz camp in Dahuk (47,320), 10,160 in Kawergosk, and 10,290 in Darashakran in Erbil (UNHCR, 15/07/2015). The number of Syrian refugees in Al Obaidy camp, in IS-controlled Al Qa'im in Anbar significantly decreased January–March, to 851; access constraints make it difficult to fully understand the situation (UNHCR, 15/03/2015, 04/03/2015).

As of end May, nearly 7,060 Syrian refugees have returned to Syria in 2015. Reasons for return include high living cost in the KR-I, lack of job opportunities and family reunification (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

There are 41,700 non-Syrian refugees (UNHCR, 23/04/2015).

Iraqi Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

Around 180,000 Iraqi refugees are thought to be residing in neighbouring countries, mostly in Turkey and Jordan (UNHCR, 04/06/2015).

Food Security

4.4 million people need food assistance (OCHA/UNCT, 04/06/2015). Food security is deteriorating, particularly for IDPs and people living in unfinished housing or camps. In a May assessment, 16% of IDP households had poor or borderline food consumption, compared to 3% of non-displaced households (WFP, 26/06/2015). One-third of new IDPs in Anbar have borderline food consumption (WFP, 01/06/2015).
Agriculture

The October–November 2014 and April–May 2015 agricultural seasons were significantly affected by conflict, especially in major producing areas such as Salah al Din, Ninewa, and Anbar; government seed distributions were delayed end 2014, impacting planting (FAO, 27/05/2015). Below-average wheat production is expected in 2015 (OCHA, 14/07/2015). IS controls major wheat storage silos in Ninewa and Salah al Din (FAO, 10/02/2015).

Livelihoods

3.4 million people are in need of emergency livelihood support, compared to 800,000 end February (OCHA/UNCT, 04/06/2015; UN, 18/02/2015). IDPs’ financial conditions are deteriorating, and unemployment is rising in IS-controlled areas (UNHCR, 15/03/2015; OCHA, 02/03/2015). In conflict-affected areas, casual labour opportunities are limited and wage rates are low (WFP, 11/03/2015).

Food prices are high in Anbar, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Salah al Din, and Dahuk due to conflict and blocked supply lines. As of June, prices in Anbar were 58% higher than in Baghdad (WFP, 01/06/2015). Government support via the Public Distribution Centre is limited in conflict areas; 80% of households reported having received no rations in April (WFP, 01/06/2015; FAO, 27/05/2015).

Refugees: Refugees are resorting to more negative coping mechanisms in Dahuk due to high food prices (UNHCR, 15/04/2015). Sustainable job opportunities are still severely limited. As of February, only 5% of refugees targeted for access to wage employment in 2015 had been reached (DRC/UNDP, 28/02/2015).

Health and Nutrition

More than 7.8 million people need health support, including 6.9 million in critical need (WHO, 04/06/2015).

At least 14 major hospitals and more than 170 other health facilities are non-functional or destroyed, while functioning facilities are overburdened. 45% of health staff have been displaced. Key concerns include: the lack of specialised services; recurrent shortages of essential medicines and other supplies, especially in Anbar, Salah al Din, and Ninewa; disruption of treatment for patients with chronic illnesses; mental health support, and the risk posed by communicable diseases (WHO, 04/06/2015). Low vaccination coverage in Najaf is a concern (WHO, 28/06/2015).

Diarrhoea and respiratory infections have been gradually increasing since end May due to high temperatures. Acute diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, and scabies remain the most common illnesses among refugees and IDPs in camps (WHO/Government, 28/06/2015).

Anbar: Critical shortages of essential medicines are reported by functioning health structures (ECHO, 16/02/2015). Most health facilities in Khalidiya are reported closed since the departure of health workers in June (WHO, 07/06/2015). Ramadi’s main hospital came under IS control on 16 May, and the city hospital in Hit district is no longer accessible for civilians (OCHA, 17/05/2015; 05/05/2015). Shortages of fuel have affected healthcare delivery. Increased acute illnesses and chronic diseases are reported from Al-Baghdadi district, while health concerns are rising in Habbaniya and Abu Ghrabib district due to inadequate sanitation (OCHA, 26/05/2015; 15/05/2015).

Ninewa: The majority of health facilities in Sinjar remained closed end June due to infrastructure damage, and lack of staff and medical equipment (WHO, 28/06/2015).

Salah al Din: None of the three hospitals in Tikrit were functioning end April (WHO, 27/04/2015).

Refugees: 20% of the non-camp population has difficulty accessing health services, due to cost and perceived availability (WHO/UNHCR, 28/02/2015). Access to specialised primary services, including mental healthcare and control of communicable diseases, remain priorities in camps (UNHCR, 15/05/2015).

Measles

As of July, 966 measles cases have been recorded in 2015, compared to 493 and 563 during the same periods in 2013 and 2014. Most cases are in Baghdad and Babylon (WHO, 15/07/2015).

WASH

7.1 million people need WASH support, including 4.1 million in critical need (OCHA, 14/07/2015). Rising temperatures are aggravating the already critical water access problem in areas affected by conflict or controlled by armed groups (OCHA, 26/07/2015; WHO, 01/02/2015).

The rater of water flow in the Euphrates River has more than halved since IS took control of the dams in Ramadi and Falluja in Anbar early June. This is threatening access to drinking water in Anbar and in Kerbala, Babylon, Najaf, and Qadisiyah (WHO, 28/06/2015).

Urgent WASH support is required for at least 9,600 IDPs in sites in Abu Ghrabib, Karkh, and Mahmoudiya districts in Baghdad, as well as for 3,300 IDPs in sites and at Bzbib bridge in Anbar; shortage of fuel and chlorine is reported in Falluja, undermining efficient water supplies to displaced populations (OCHA, 14/07/2015).

Refugees: Transition to safe water supply and sanitation in Qushtapa, Kawergosk, Darashakran, and Basirma camps is ongoing, but challenged by funding. In Basirma, the latrine ratio is 23:1, while garbage collection remains an issue in camps in Erbil (UNICEF/UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Around 2.9 million people require shelter and NFI support, mainly in non-camp settings in central and southern Iraq (OCHA/UNCT, 04/06/2015). IDPs in critical shelter arrangements are of highest concern (IOM, 30/06/2015). 13 camps are under construction for an additional capacity of 327,154 people (UNHCR/CCCM, 16/07/2015).

New IDPs from Anbar are living in overcrowded conditions in Habbaniya and Falluja,
without access to clean water and proper sanitation (UNHCR, 29/05/2015).

Many people outside Al Hwesh IDP camp in Salah al Din, which reached full capacity, are in urgent need of shelter (OCHA, 16/06/2015). Abart IDP camp in Sulaymaniya hosts 13,000 people instead of the planned 4,800: access to basic services is of major concern; close to 3,700 people have been relocated to the new Ashti IDP camp, and an additional 2,500 will be relocated in August (OCHA, 14/07/2015).

Refugees: Refugees in Erbil and Dahuk are seeking to move to camps, due to increasing cost of living, limited employment prospects, and high rents (UNHCR, 31/05/2015). 26% of shelters in refugee camps in KRI are unimproved (Government/UNHCR, 31/05/2015). Basirma, Kawergosk, Akre, Darashakran, and Domiz camp’s capacities are exhausted; overcrowding in Erbil is an increasing concern (Government/UNHCR, 31/05/2015). In Sulaymaniya, refugees renting houses are facing eviction due to pressure on accommodation (UNHCR, 15/03/2015).

Education

More than three million children did not attend the full 2014/2015 school year, including more than 650,000 who have received no schooling at all (UN, 30/06/2015). 45% of school-aged IDP children in camps are enrolled in schools, compared to only 30% of those out of camps (Education Cluster, 10/06/2015). Challenges include lack of teachers, and schools operating on several shifts to accommodate increasing demand (OCHA, 04/07/2015).

Refugees: 53% of school-aged refugee children are attending school (UNHCR, 25/06/2015). Challenges include limited capacity in schools with an Arabic curriculum, shortages of Syrian teachers, increasing demand for schooling, and insecurity (UNHCR, 31/12/2014; 12/02/2015). Syrian refugee teachers have been unpaid since at least April, due to KR-I’s limited budget (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

Protection

Over eight million people are in need of protection support (OCHA, 14/07/2015).

IS has committed targeted attacks, killings, torture, rape, forced religious conversion, and child conscription. Sharia courts have been established in IS-controlled territories, carrying out extreme punishments against men, women, and children (UN, 19/03/2015; 20/01/2015). As many as 3,000–3,500 people, predominantly from the Yezidi community and other ethnic and religious groups, remain in IS captivity (UN, 13/07/2015). ISF and associated militias have allegedly carried out looting, killing, torture, and abduction during their counter-offensives against IS (Reuters, 04/04/2015; 21/03/2015; Amnesty, 02/04/2015).

Documentation

Lack of documentation among IDPs is a key concern, especially as it is a prerequisite for residency permits and difficult to obtain outside a person’s area of origin: many children born in displacement lack birth registration, while up to 50% of IDP families are reportedly missing at least one important personal identity document (OCHA, 14/07/2015). There are reports of IDPs from Diyala and Kirkuk having their documentation confiscated and being forced to return to their province of origin (OCHA, 04/07/2015).

Refugees: Refugees are in need of targeted registration and documentation support. Residency in urban areas is being denied to Syrian asylum-seekers lacking original ID documents (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 01/02/2015). Many of the 37,500 Syrian refugee children aged 0–4 lack birth registration documents because their parents do not have any (UNHCR, 25/05/2015).

Sexual Violence

Accurate numbers of women and girls affected by abuse across Iraq are hard to obtain. Reports show an increase in sexual violence, abduction, trafficking, and forced recruitment of women. IS reportedly carried out systematic sexual violence against Yezidi women and girls in northern Iraq (HRW, 15/04/2015).

Child Protection

Around 2.4 million children are living in the most affected governorates of Iraq. Grave violations against children, including sexual violence, maiming, and forced recruitment, are prominent (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 20/06/2015). IS has reportedly sold children as sex slaves, is using minors as suicide bombers, and providing military training to schoolchildren in Syria and Iraq (AFP, 08/06/2015; OCHA, 06/02/2015). The group also abducted 400 children in Anbar during the last week of May (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

ERW and Mines

The Government estimates more than 1,730km² of land is contaminated by landmines and UXO. IS is reportedly planting more (MAG, 07/2015).

Updated: 27/07/2015

SYRIA DISPLACEMENT, CIVIL WAR

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

27 July: Kurdish groups claim that Turkish forces are targeting both IS and YPG positions near Kobane (BBC).
24 July: Turkey began airstrikes in northern Syria (BBC).
24 July: The opposition alliance Southern Front launched a new offensive on Dar’a city (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS
- Over 230,000 deaths documented March 2011–June 2015, including over 108,000 civilians, more than 11,000 of them children (SOHR, 06/2015). In the first six months of 2015, 11,000 people were killed (SNHR, 01/07/2015).
- 12.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including 5.6 million children (OCHA/UNICEF, 12/2014).
- 7.6 million IDPs (OCHA, 28/12/2014).
- 4.8 million people live in hard-to-reach areas (OCHA, 12/2014).
- 4,013,292 Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries as of 9 July (UNHCR, 09/07/2015). Children make up 52% of the refugee population.
- 711 of 1,921 primary health centres and 37 of 92 public hospitals are out of service (Syrian Ministry of Health/UNFPA, 30/11/2014).
- 13,000 people have died in detention since March 2011, including more than 100 children, reportedly from torture (SOHR, 13/03/2015).

OVERVIEW

The conflict has killed over 230,000 people and caused large-scale displacement. 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 because access is obstructed.

For more information, see the SNAP project’s latest reports.

Political Context

On 4 May, the Geneva III conference began. UN officials are holding separate consultations with the Syrian Government, some opposition groups, and regional powers such as Turkey and Iran. The talks are due to conclude in July (AFP, 10/06/2015).

Security Context

The conflict in Syria has been ongoing since 2011, when fighting broke out between pro-government and opposition forces. The conflict later developed as more actors became involved, in particular Jabhat al Nusra (JAN), Islamic State (IS), and Kurdish armed groups such as People’s Protection Units (YPG).

Widespread conflict and high levels of violence continue, including indiscriminate aerial bombing by government forces and indiscriminate shelling by armed opposition (UNSC, 23/06/2015). Civilians have been subject to direct and indiscriminate attacks, including the widespread use of barrel bombs and other explosives in populated areas (UNSC 18/06/2015). Aleppo, Idlib, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Quneitra, and Dar’a governorates are all high-frequency conflict locations (SOHR in SNAP, 03/2015).

During June, 2,137 people were killed, including 1,722 civilians (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 01/07/2015). 6,657 people were killed in May, making it the deadliest month of 2015: 1,285 were civilians (SOHR, 01/06/2015). Over the first six months of 2015, 11,090 people were killed, according to the Syrian Network for Human Rights. Government forces are believed to be responsible for 77% of the deaths, including 6,928 civilians (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 01/07/2015).

In 2014, 76,000 people were killed in conflict, the highest toll since the war began. 18,000 civilians, including at least 3,500 children, were among the victims (SOHR, 02/01/2014). At least 6,550 civilians died in airstrikes, half of them in Aleppo. More than 230,000 people have been killed since fighting began in March 2011 and more than one million people have been wounded or suffered permanent disability (SOHR, 08/06/2015; UNICEF, 03/2015).

Stakeholders

Government forces have control of several areas near Aleppo city, in and around Homs city, and several areas in the Qalamoun region in Rural Damascus. Government forces also control Tartous governorate, parts of As-Sweida, Dar’a, Hama, Lattakia and Quneitra governorates, and some areas in Al Hasakeh, Deir-ez Zor, and Idlib governorates (ISW, 19/06/2015).

Islamic State (IS, formerly the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant): Ar-Raqqa governorate is IS’s stronghold in Syria, and has been under IS control since October 2014. IS holds significant swathes of territory in Aleppo, Al Hasakeh, and Deir-ez-Zor, and is also fighting in Rural Damascus, Damascus, and Homs (ISW, 19/06/2015).

Democratic Union Party (PYD) and People’s Protection Units (YPG): Syrian Kurds have been in de facto control of Kurdish zones in the north since government forces withdrew mid-2012. This includes large areas of the northern parts of Al Hasakeh, Ar Raqqa, and Aleppo governorates (ISW, 19/06/2015).

Opposition alliances: The Al Qaeda-affiliated Jabhat al Nusra (JAN) controls areas in Idlib governorate (ISW, 19/06/2015). In March, JAN joined forces with several other Islamist groups to create the Jaysh al Fatah Operations Room, mainly active in Idlib governorate (ISW). In April, Ahrar al Sham, Jaysh al Islam, and five other Aleppo-based opposition groups announced the formation of the Aleppo Conquest Operations Room in Aleppo city (ISW, 28/04/2015). The Aleppo Conquest Operations Room later extended its membership to include 31 opposition groups, including factions based in Idlib and Hama (ISW, 20/05/2015). In early July, JAN and 13 other Islamist groups formed the Ansar al Sharia Operations Room in Aleppo governorate (BBC, 03/07/2015).

International intervention: As part of a multinational campaign against Islamist militant groups, a US-led coalition began airstrikes on IS and JAN military installations in September 2014. More than 2,500 people have been killed by coalition airstrikes so far, the vast majority of them IS fighters, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR, 23/05/2015).

Turkey began airstrikes in Syria on 24 July, following an alleged IS suicide bombing
in the Turkish city Suruc on 20 July (BBC, 24/07/2015). Turkey has agreed to open Turkish airbases for coalition aircraft (ISW, 25/07/2015).

Conflict Developments

In June 2015, opposition alliances launched offensives against both Dar’a and Aleppo cities. According to analysts, if opposition groups seize control over either city, the stalemate that has long characterised the conflict could be overturned (ISW, 09/07/2015).

Government forces are struggling to secure and hold terrain (ISW, 24/06/2015). Since the seizure of Palmyra on 21 May, IS is in control of more than 50% of Syrian territory (SOHR, 21/05/2015). The YPG, supported by other armed groups and coalition airstrikes, are challenging IS in the north (ISW, 25/06/2015).

Aleppo: Kurdish groups are claiming that Turkish forces are targeting both YPG and IS positions near Kobane (BBC, 27/07/2015). On 2 July, the Aleppo Conquest Operations Room and the Ansar al Sharia Operations Room launched a joint assault against government forces in Aleppo city. Government forces responded with a series of airstrikes (BBC, 03/07/2015). Over 25–27 June, YPG forces repelled an IS attack on Kobane (BBC, 27/06/2015).

Al Hasakeh: On 30 June, frontlines largely stabilised in Al Hasakeh: government forces regained control over Gwerian neighbourhood and YPG regained control over Azizyeh neighbourhood. Sporadic fighting continues between government forces and IS forces in western and southern areas (OCHA 05/07/2015). On 25 June, IS launched an assault on Al Hasakeh city, following a series of suicide attacks on 24 June (ISW, 25/06/2015). As of 4 June, IS had seized all military checkpoints south of Al Hasakeh city (AFP, 04/06/2015).

Ar-Raqqa: On 6 July, clashes broke out between YPG and Turkish forces, reportedly after militants attempted to cross the border into Turkey near Tal Abyad (SOHR, 06/07/2015). On 1 July, IS forces entered the town of Tal Abyad, but YPG forces repelled the attack. YPG seized the town from IS on 15 June (Reuters, 01/7/2015; AFP, 15/06/2015). On 5 July, the US-led coalition carried out a series of airstrikes on Ar-Raqqa city, in one of its largest assaults so far (BBC, 05/07/2015). More than 35,000 people have reportedly fled fighting between YPG and IS in northern Ar-Raqqa since early June (AFP, 17/06/2015).

Damascus: Shelling continues to kill and injure civilians on a regular basis (SOHR, 22/06/2015). IS and JAN continue to fight Palestinian groups over control of Yarmouk refugee camp, which currently hosts around 18,000 Palestinian and Syrian refugees (AFP, 25/05/2015).

Dar’a: On 24 July, the opposition alliance Southern Front launched a new offensive on Dar’a city (AFP, 24/07/2015). Government airstrikes in Dar’a governorate have intensified over July (ECHO, 24/07/2015; AFP, 24/07/2015; 02/07/2015).

Homs: IS continues to expand southward from Palmyra, and is advancing towards the Eastern Qalamoun Mountains (ISW, 19/06/2015). IS took Palmyra on 21 May (BBC, 21/05/2015). Over 22–26 May, IS seized Jazal oilfield northwest of Palmyra; Sawwanah, Khunayfis, and Buhairi, west of Palmyra; and the last remaining border crossing under government control, Al Tanf (ISW, 22/05/2015; 27/05/2015).

Idlib: As of early June, government forces have lost control over most of Idlib (AFP, 04/07/2015). On 6 June, the Jaysh al Fatah Operations Room seized a number of government-held towns and villages (ISW, 19/06/2015). On 28 May, it seized the government stronghold Ariha, south of Idlib city (ISW, 28/05/2015).

Lattakia: On 19 July, government forces launched a new offensive to retake villages and cut off opposition supply lines from Turkey (Reuters, 19/07/2015).

Rural Damascus: On 5 July, government forces, supported by Lebanese Hezbollah, entered Zabadani town, considered the final JAR stronghold in Qalamoun region (Al Jazeera, 05/07/2015).

Quneitra: On 17 June, the Government claimed to have repulsed a major offensive by FSA-affiliated groups around Quneitra town (Reuters, 17/06/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Some 12.2 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including 5.6 million children. The humanitarian situation appears most critical in the governorates of Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Rural Damascus, and Deir-ez-Zor (SNAP, 28/01/2015).

Access

4.8 million people are living in 137 hard-to-reach areas, including up to two million children (UNICEF, 12/2014; UNFPA, 31/05/2015).

There is a trend of tit-for-tat blocking of access between IS and its opponents, making IS-controlled areas hard to reach, particularly from northern Al Hasakeh, underlining the importance of cross-border access (OCHA, 16/01/2015). Similarly, stakeholders do not allow assistance to reach people perceived to be affiliated with opposing parties, for example in government-controlled areas of Lattakia, Hama, and Idlib. Siege tactics are used by all actors in the conflict. Parties to the conflict continue to target public infrastructure and facilities, including water supply (UNICEF, 15/02/2015).

In northern Syria, fuel shortages are severely limiting transportation (MSF, 22/06/2015).

The UN's response efforts are chronically underfunded: As of 1 July, 24% of the Strategic Response Plan for 2015 has been funded (Financial Tracking Service, 01/06/2015).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

Ten aid workers have been killed and three injured since the beginning of 2015 (OCHA, 30/04/2015; Aid Worker Security Database, 20/04/2015). 77 humanitarian workers have been killed in the conflict since March 2011 (OCHA, 30/04/2015). 27 UN staff (including 24 UNRWA staff) have been detained or are missing (UNSC 21/11/2014).

Trapped and Hard-to-Reach Communities

4.8 million people live in hard-to-reach communities; an estimated 2.7 million of these live in IS controlled areas where humanitarian access continues to deteriorate (OCHA,
422,000 civilians are living in besieged areas (OCHA, 22/06/2015). An estimated 228,000 civilians are under siege in Deir-ez-Zor (OCHA, 21/04/2015). 212,000 people remain besieged in Nubul and Al Zahra in rural Aleppo; Eastern Ghouta, Daryya, and Moaddamiyeh in Rural Damascus; the Old City in Homs; and Yarmouk camp in Damascus (UNSC, 21/11/2014; UNICEF, 12/2014).

Armed clashes and restrictions imposed by armed groups are hampering assistance, particularly in Al Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, and rural Hama (UNICEF, 30/04/2015). Al Hasakeh remains inaccessible by road (ICRC, 18/06/2015).

Ar-Raqqa: IS has closed the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and several small local charities, and appropriated warehouses and equipment (OCHA, 30/01/2015). Ar-Raqqa could not be reached by WFP in the first quarter of 2015 (WFP, 31/03/2015).

Damascus: As of April, a significant percentage of the 18,000 civilians in Yarmouk camp were in the area controlled by armed groups, according to UNRWA. There are no operational hospitals or medical facilities for the civilian population trapped inside the camp (Save the Children, 07/04/2015; WHO, 10/04/2015). The UN has removed Yarmouk from its list of besieged areas, despite UNRWA not having been able to deliver aid for four months (IRIN, 24/07/2015).

Deir-ez-Zor: IS has cut off access to government-controlled areas of Deir-ez-Zor, leaving an estimated 228,000 civilians under siege since February. Minimal relief supplies have been airlifted into the city (UNICEF, 30/04/2015). Deir-ez-Zor could not be reached by WFP in the first quarter of 2015 (WFP, 31/03/2015).

Homs: As of 21 April, three inter-agency convoys have reached Homs governorate (Talbiseh, Al Wa’er and Ar-Rastan). Prior to this, Ar-Rastan was last reached in March 2014 (OCHA, 21/04/2015). Under partial siege since October 2013, over half of Al Waer’s 350,000 residents are IDPs; most are living in substandard accommodation (WFP, 22/10/2014).

Idlib: As of 14 April, lack of access due to insecurity continues to significantly hamper tracking of population movement, safe registration of IDPs, identification of lifesaving needs and provision of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 14/04/2015). 20,000 predominantly Shia in Foah and Kefraya towns in Idlib are cut off and surrounded (OCHA, 08/04/2015).

Rural Damascus: Zabadani town has not been accessed by humanitarian actors since 2012, and lack of food and medical supplies is reported, with fighting worsening the situation (OCHA, 07/07/2015). 40,000 people are in urgent need of basic services in Moaddamiyeh town, which has been cut off for several months. Little to no food or water is available; access to healthcare is lacking; and there is no electricity (ICRC, 18/06/2015).

Border Restrictions

Over the inconsistent application of regulations at border crossings. Palestinian refugees are particularly affected by closed borders and forced returns from neighbouring countries (UN 24/11/2014). The closure of the border crossing with Jordan in April has disrupted the delivery of water treatment supplies into Syria (UNICEF, 10/07/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

There are 7.6 million IDPs within Syria; 50% are children (OCHA 25/11/2014). There are 147 IDP camps in northern Syria, and 175,520 IDPs are sheltering in camp settlements (OCHA, 30/01/2015).

1,755,000 people are displaced in Aleppo; 1,388,000 in Rural Damascus; 918,000 in Idlib; 584,000 in Lattakia; 493,000 in Homs; 464,000 in Deir-ez-Zor; 453,000 in Hama; 437,000 in Damascus; 391,000 in Dar’a; 249,000 in Al Hasakeh; 202,000 in Tartous; 168,000 in Ar-Raqqa; 73,000 in As-Sweida; and 57,000 in Quneitra (OCHA, 02/04/2015).

Over 25-30 June an estimated 120,000 people were displaced by fighting in Al Hasakeh city (UNHCR, 12/07/2015). 16,000 people have returned after frontlines largely stabilised on 30 June; including IDPs who were unable to pass through Kurdish-controlled checkpoints as they lacked sponsorship from host communities (OCHA, 05/07/2015).

705,068 people were displaced in the first five months of 2015: 208,647 fled to Turkey, 36,922 to Lebanon, 15,641 to Iraq, and 5,295 to Jordan (OCHA, 02/06/2015). The remaining 438,563 are internally displaced (OCHA, 02/06/2015). In Aleppo, 28,000 people were displaced in June. In Da’ra city, 30,000 people were reported displaced, with some remaining in the governorate and some moving towards Jordan. In Idlib, at least 150,000 people have reportedly been displaced since late March (WFP, 17/07/2015). These numbers include people who have been displaced several times since the conflict broke out (UNICEF, 30/04/2015).

Refugees

Palestinian refugees in Syria (PRS): There are 560,000 Palestine refugees (OCHA, 21/04/2015). 470,000 Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA are in need of assistance (UNRWA, 21/04/2015). Over 50% have been displaced within Syria (UNRWA 28/10/2014). On 16 June, Khan Eshieh camp in Rural Damascus was hit by several explosive munitions, killing one Palestinian refugee and injuring an unknown number (UNRWA, 18/06/2015).

Iraqi refugees: There are an estimated 29,000 Iraqi refugees in Syria (UNHCR, 25/11/2014).

Syrian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

4,013,292 Syrians are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries as of 9 July; a million more than in September 2014 (UNHCR, 09/07/2015). Children make up 52% of the
refugee population.

**Turkey**: 1,805,255 registered refugees (UNHCR, 09/07/2015). 23,135 refugees were registered in Turkey mid-June, having fled fighting in Tal Abyad, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor (ECHO, 17/06/2015).

**Lebanon**: 1,172,753 refugees (UNHCR, 06/07/2015). Lebanon’s borders have been closed to Syrian refugees since October 2014. Since January 2015, Syrians wanting to enter Lebanon must apply for a visa (BBC, 05/01/2015).

**Jordan**: 629,128 refugees (UNHCR, 17/06/2015).

**Egypt**: 132,375 refugees (UNHCR, 05/07/2015).

**Iraq**: 251,499 refugees (UNHCR, 15/07/2015).

**PRS**: 42,000 have been recorded with UNRWA in Lebanon, 14,348 in Jordan (UNRWA, 02/03/2015) and 860 in Gaza. Around 4,000 are reportedly in Egypt (UNRWA 28/10/2014).

IDP Returnees

Almost 30,000 IDPs returned to their areas of origin (mostly in Dar’a) in March (OCHA, 21/04/2015). Reportedly, around 70,000 people have returned to Kobane (IRIN, 07/05/2015).

**Food Security**

9.8 million people require food, agriculture, and livelihoods-related assistance, according to the Food Security and Livelihoods sector. Of these, around 6.8 million people live in high-priority districts and need critical food assistance (WFP, 26/03/2015).

**Agriculture and Markets**

Wheat production in 2015 is estimated to be 40% lower than pre-conflict levels, although higher than in 2014. It is the smallest estimated harvested wheat area since the 1960s (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015).

Crop production has been adversely affected by high prices or lack of agricultural inputs (such as seeds, fertiliser, and fuel); damage to agricultural machinery, irrigation systems, and storage facilities; disruptions in electricity supply; and destruction of standing crops (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015; FAO, 17/06/2015).

Food prices increased sharply in early 2015 (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015). Since 2011, the average monthly prices of wheat flour and rice have increased 301% and 629%, respectively. In besieged areas, wheat flour and rice prices have risen by 689% and 560%, respectively. Subsidised bread prices have risen by 180%, and commercial prices by 220% (WFP, 05/2015).

**Livelihoods**

Unemployment stood at 57% the last quarter of 2014; an 8% increase since early 2014 (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015). Gross domestic product has contracted by more than 40%, and exports have fallen by 90%. Oil production has dropped by 96% (World Bank/IMF/AFP, 02/12/2014). Insecurity is hampering transportation, preventing farmers from selling their products (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015).

**Health and Nutrition**

Over 2.4 million people are in need of health assistance, with highest numbers reported from Ar-Raqqa (627,600), Aleppo (475,270), and Al Hasakeh (356,200).

**Capacity**

The number of available health professionals has fallen to approximately 45% of 2011 levels and there are severe shortages of surgeons, anaesthetists, laboratory professionals, and female health professionals (WHO, 27/03/2015). Local production of medicines has fallen by 70% and many lifesaving treatments are not available (WHO, 27/03/2015). Hospitals are unable to cope with the demand for surgery, due partly to the increase in the number of injured – averaging 25,000 each month (PHR, 10/2014).

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

Only 43% of hospitals are fully functioning (UNICEF, 29/01/2015). Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Homs, Dar’a, and Deir-ez-Zor have the highest number of non-functional public hospitals. In early July, four hospitals in Dar’a governorate closed after days of intensive airstrikes (AFP, 02/07/2015).

Health facilities in Hama and Idlib governorates have closed or drastically limited their capacity due to a lack of fuel for generators and transportation (MSF, 22/06/2015).

In Ar-Raqqa, no obstetric, gynaecological, or paediatric services are reportedly available for the 1.6 million people living there (PHR, 27/02/2015). Little to no mental health services are available (PHR, 27/02/2015).

In Idlib governorate, all three Ministry of Health-run hospitals are either non-functional or inaccessible. All pharmaceutical warehouses have been destroyed (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

**Attacks on Health Workers and Facilities**

In May, 15 attacks on medical facilities were registered, and ten medical personnel were killed, making it the worst month for attacks on health facilities since conflict started. According to Physicians for Human Rights, government forces were responsible for all the attacks (PHR, 18/06/2015). Missile attacks on ambulances in Aleppo have also been reported (MSF, 18/06/2015).

Since 2011, Physicians for Human Rights has recorded the killing of 633 medical personnel and 271 attacks on 202 medical facilities. Government forces were found to be responsible for 90% of attacks on medical facilities – including 51 attacks with barrel bombs – and 97% of medical personnel deaths – including 142 deaths by torture or execution (PHR, 18/06/2015).

**Waterborne disease**
As of July 2015, 105,866 cases of acute diarrhoea have been reported since the beginning of the year. Children are particularly at risk. The incidence of waterborne diseases will likely increase over the summer months (UNICEF 10/07/2015).

Since January 2015, 1,000 hepatitis A cases have been recorded per month (UNHCR, 10/05/2015). Some 31,400 cases of hepatitis A were reported in 2014. Hepatitis A is linked with lack of safe water and poor sanitation.

In the first weeks of July, at least 3,000 cases of diarrhoea were reported among children in Aleppo city (UNICEF, 22/07/2015).

**WASH**

4.6 million people are in need of WASH assistance. Six out of ten governorates report major problems in the WASH sector.

The availability of safe water is at a third of pre-crisis levels (WHO, 27/03/2015). The reliability of urban piped water is severely reduced and the quality of drinking water cannot be guaranteed due to a lack of testing facilities. Fuel shortages also affect water supply (UNICEF, 10/07/2015). Inhabitants of Aleppo were without water for three weeks due to fighting. Access was re-established on 17 July (Reuters, 18/07/2015). Water pumping stations in Idlib governorate are operating only two hours a day (UNICEF, 10/07/2015).

One-third of water treatment plants no longer function, and sewage treatment has halved (PHR, 10/2014; WHO/UNICEF, 22/07/2014). New waves of displacement have put further strain on water and sanitation networks (UNICEF, 10/07/2015).

**500,000 people in Aleppo are struggling to access water** (UNICEF, 22/07/2015).

**Shelter**

In late 2014, 1.6 million people were in need of shelter assistance (MSNA, 30/10/2014). At least 1.2 million houses have been damaged, 400,000 of which have been totally destroyed (UNHCR, 30/10/2014). Only IDPs in government-controlled areas receive shelter response, through collective shelter rehabilitation and private shelter upgrade (UNHCR, 20/11/2014).

#IDPs from Dar’a report shelter as their priority need. Thousands of IDPs living in fields outside Dar’a city have no protection against the weather or other natural threats (OCHA, 27/06/2015).

In IDP camps in northern Syria, assessments have found that the proliferation of snakes and scorpions is a continuing issue (Assistance Coordination Unit, 31/05/2015).

**Education**

Between 2.1 and 2.4 million school-aged children are currently out of school (OCHA, 22/06/2015).

In areas of prolonged active conflict, education enrolment is estimated to be around 6% (Save the Children, 03/2015). The primary reason for student drop-out is the need to work to support the family. Around 90% of schools in Idlib city have stopped functioning due to violent conflict (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

Between 5,000 and 14,000 schools have been damaged, destroyed or occupied since March 2011 (Save the Children, 03/2015).

**Protection**

Non-state armed groups continue to commit violations, including summary executions. Ethnic and religious communities in IS-occupied areas have been targeted directly (UN Human Rights Council 11/2014). Human and organ trafficking are reported (UNHCR 20/11/2014).

According to Human Rights Watch, IS forces deliberately targeted civilians when they entered Kobane on 25 June. Around 250 civilians were killed; the vast majority believed to be Kurds (HRW, 03/07/2015).

**Vulnerable Groups**

The Druze population, a religious minority that makes up about 3% of Syria’s population, is increasingly targeted. On 11 June, JAN forces shot and killed 20 Druze in Idlib governorate (Reuters, 11/06/2015).

**Children**

Various opposition groups, including JAN, Kurdish groups, and IS have been found to recruit children (NOREF, 16/02/2015). In 2015, IS has trained over 400 children as fighters (AFP, 24/03/2015). 52 children recruited by IS have been killed so far in 2015 (31 in July alone), including 16 who were used in suicide bombings (SOHR, 15/07/2015). The YPG has recruited 59 children since June 2014 (HRW, 15/07/2015).

**Abduction and Detention**

Over June, 59 people were reported to have died from torture in official and unofficial detention centres, with government forces responsible for 57 cases (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 03/07/2015). Since the start of the conflict, 11,500 people have died from torture while in detention; government forces were responsible for 99% of cases (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 26/06/2015).

200,000 people are estimated to be in government detention, including 20,000 detainees who are unaccounted for (SOHR/HRW, 02/12/2014). 13,000 people have died in Government detention since March 2011, including more than 100 children, reportedly from torture (SOHR, 13/03/2015).

Some 7,000 government troops held by opposition forces are unaccounted for (SOHR, 07/2014). Another 1,500 IS, other opposition, and Kurdish fighters were kidnapped during battles in the first half of 2014 (AFP, 07/2014).

IS is holding more than 400 civilians in Deir-Ez-Zor, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Al Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Rural Damascus (SOHR, 28/06/2015).
Sexual and Gender-based Violence

Forced marriage of girls to IS fighters and the selling of abducted girls into sexual slavery have been reported (UN Human Rights Council, 14/11/2014).

Chemical Weapons

Kurdish forces reported that IS used chemical weapons in late June when attacking their positions. The attacks could not be verified (Reuters 18/07/2105).

Several chemical attacks have been reported in 2015, including chlorine-filled barrel bombs (Syrian American Medical Society Foundation, 08/05/2015, HRW, 03/06/2015). In May, OPCW inspectors reported having found traces of VX and sarin nerve agents at an undeclared site (AFP, 08/05/2015).

Mines and ERW

Large quantities of unexploded ordnance and many booby-trapped houses in the eastern sector of Kobane city and the surrounding countryside are preventing return (OCHA, 17/02/2015). Since late January, there have been 45 explosions and 66 people killed, the vast majority of them civilians, according to a demining NGO (IRIN, 07/05/2015).

Media

Journalists and other media workers are systematically targeted. Over May, ten media activists were reported killed, three kidnapped and 12 injured (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 02/06/2015). Updated: 28/07/2015

YEMEN COMPLEX, CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

25 July: The Saudi-led coalition declared a unilateral ceasefire, although fighting continues (AFP).

23 July: Intense fighting has moved from Aden, after it was taken by government forces on 17 July, to Taizz, Lahj, Abyan, and Al Dhalee governorates (IRIN; OCHA).

21 July: 365 children have been reported killed since conflict escalated in March (UNICEF).

KEY CONCERNS

- 21.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 10/06/2015).
- 12.2 million people are directly affected by the conflict (OCHA, 10/06/2015).
- 12.9 million people are food insecure (IPC Indicative Analysis, 18/06/2015). Six million people are estimated to be severely food insecure (OCHA, 05/06/2015).
- More than 15 million people lack access to healthcare (OCHA, 03/06/2015).
- 1 million children under five are acutely malnourished; 280,000 are severely malnourished (OCHA, UNICEF 06/2014).
- At least 20 million people lack access to clean water. Since the escalation of the crisis, 9.4 million people have lost access to safe water (OCHA, 05/06/2015).
- 1,267,590 IDPs and 258,000 refugees in the country (OCHA, 06/07/2015; 16/05/2015).

OVERVIEW

80% of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance. The highest priority humanitarian needs include WASH, food, and access to health services. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee has declared Yemen a Level 3 emergency based on the severe humanitarian situation.

Yemen’s political transition has turned into armed conflict between Houthis from the north and the Government. Southern secessionists, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), and Islamic State activity throughout the country compound the security and political challenges.

Political Context

Instability and violence continue across the country. In February 2015, the Houthis dissolved Parliament and replaced the Government with a presidential council. The move was condemned as a coup by other parties and Yemen’s neighbours. President Hadi fled to Aden, and later to Saudi Arabia (BBC, 27/03/2015; AFP, 21/02/2015). Members of the cabinet were released in March, after almost two months of house arrest (NYT, 16/03/2015).

Several peace talks have been conducted with no agreement. The last round of UN-led talks including government and Houthi representatives concluded in Geneva on 19 June, with no agreement (AFP, 19/06/2015).

Security Context

As of 13 July, there have been 3,560 registered deaths from conflict and 15,811 injuries since March (OCHA, 13/07/2015; 06/07/2015). Civilians account for 1,528 of those killed
and 3,605 of the injured (OHCHR, 07/07/2015). These numbers are expected to be much higher due to underreporting (OCHA, 25/05/2015). Between 17 June and 3 July, at least 92 civilians were killed and 179 civilians were injured (OHCHR, 07/07/2015).

On 25 July, the Saudi-led coalition declared a five-day unilateral ceasefire, but fighting continues (AFP, 26/07/2015; 25/07/2015). A six-day humanitarian pause between 11–17 July failed to hold (AFP, 13/07/2015).

Conflict escalated significantly from 23 March, affecting 20 of Yemen’s 22 governorates (IOC, 22/05/2015). After Aden was taken by pro-government troops on 17 July, intense fighting has now moved to Lahj, Taizz, Abyan, and Al Dhalee governances (OCHA, 20/07/2015; BBC, 17/07/2015). Houthi control Sa’ada, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, Amran, Sanaa, Al Jawf, Dhamar, and Ibb governorates. They also control most of Lahj governorate.

Stakeholders

Pro-Government Forces

The pro-government forces, supported by Saudi-led coalition airstrikes, are aiming at regaining control over Houthi- and AQAP-controlled areas. President Hadi is in charge of government forces from his exile in Saudi Arabia, however several ministers have returned to Aden as of late July (Al Jazeera, 23/07/2015). The Yemeni army is deeply divided, with units loyal to President Hadi fighting pro-Houthi units (ABC 15/04/2015).

Houthis

The Houthis, also referred to as Ansar Allah, are based in Sa’ada governatore. The Houthis seized the capital in September 2014. They have taken up arms before, citing political, economic, and religious marginalisation (Al Jazeera, 16/11/2009). Certain factions in the Yemeni army have allied themselves with the Houthis against President Hadi, including members of the former central security force, a unit seen as loyal to former President Saleh (Reuters, 12/03/2015; ABC, 23/03/2015). Estimates put the number of Houthi militants at around 20,000–30,000 (Al Jazeera, 04/03/2015).

International Involvement

A Saudi-led coalition began airstrikes in support of pro-Hadi forces on 26 March. UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, and Egypt are also participating in the coalition (CNN, 29/03/2015). Saudi Arabia claims that Iran backs Houthi militants financially and materially, a claim the Iranian Government denies (Amnesty 26/03/2015).

Security Incidents and Conflict Developments

Cluster munitions have been used by the Saudi-led coalition in airstrikes on Sa’ada governorate (Human Rights Watch, 03/05/2015). In some areas, there have been reports of indiscriminate shelling of houses (OCHA, 04/05/2015). Clashes and airstrikes continue.

Sanaa: On 6 July, the Saudi-led coalition targeted the offices of the GPC. Over late June and early July, IS claimed responsibility for several bombs targeting Shi’ite mosques (France24, 21/07/2015; AFP, 07/07/2015; ABC, 20/06/2015).

Aden: On 23 July, Aden airport was hit by rockets, allegedly fired by Houthi militants, one day after reopening (AFP, 23/07/2015). The city has been taken by pro-government forces, with support from Saudi-led airstrikes (BBC, 17/07/2015).

Al Jawf: Heavy ground fighting continues (Logistics Cluster, 19/06/2015). On 14 June, Houthis took control of Al Hazm, the main city of the governorate (AFP, 15/06/2015).

Hadramaut: On 11 July, a US drone strike killed ten suspected AQAP militants in Mukalla (AFP, 11/07/2015).

Lahj: Intense fighting continues between Houthi and pro-government forces. Lahj is considered the new frontline (IRIN, 23/07/2015).

Sa’ada: Airstrikes and clashes continue (AFP, 12/07/2015). Sa’ada city has been experiencing indiscriminate aerial bombardment. Civilian infrastructure, including the post office, bank, the main market area and phone network have been hit, and civilians have fled (OCHA, 05/2015).

Taizz: Fighting in Taizz city has intensified in the last weeks (ECHO, 22/07/2015; AFP, 12/07/2015; 11/07/2015). Houthi forces seized part of Taizz city and its military airbase on 23 March (BBC, 22/03/2015; ABC, 23/03/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

An estimated 21.1 million people, 80% of the population, are in need of humanitarian aid (OCHA, 10/06/2015). 50% are under 18 years old (OCHA, 05/03/2015). 12.2 million people are estimated to be directly affected by the conflict (OCHA, 10/06/2015).

Access

Insecurity and fuel shortages are significantly hampering humanitarian operations (OCHA, 30/06/2015). Humanitarian access constraints are particularly severe in Sa’ada, followed by Lahj, Aden, Al Dhalee, Taizz, Abyan, Shabwah, Marib, and Al Jawf (OCHA, 19/06/2015).

It is extremely difficult to move within the country (MSF, 01/04/2015). An estimated
490,000 people in Sa’ada cannot be reached by humanitarian assistance, most of whom have limited or no access to medical services, clean water, food, and communication (OCHA, 22/05/2015). Other northern governorates such as Hajjah and Amran also have limited access (OCHA, 29/05/2015). Roads in and around Aden are either inaccessible or difficult to access due to insecurity (Logistics Cluster, 06/07/2015).

Many aid agencies have suspended activities and evacuated their staff (IRIN, 27/03/2015). The arms embargo on the Houthis has also impacted the supply of humanitarian relief (AFP, 02/05/2015).

Since violence escalated, three volunteers with the Yemen Red Crescent have been killed (OCHA, 07/04/2015).

**Logistical Constraints**

Delivering supplies by road is becoming increasingly difficult due to numerous checkpoints and roadblocks (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Roads connecting Sanaa to Aden, Taizz, Al Dhalee, and Lahj have become gradually inaccessible (WFP, 27/04/2015).

The closure of airspace over Yemen is severely restricting air operations, as are other limitations in neighbouring airspace zones (Logistics Cluster, 06/07/2015). Sanaa and Seiyun are the only open airports (Logistics Cluster, 19/07/2015). Aden airport reopened on 22 July (AFP, 22/07/2015).

The Yemeni government-in-exile has formally banned ships from entering the country’s waters without prior inspection (IRIN, 17/04/2015). Access to Aden’s ports is still limited. An 11-day delay is reported at Al Hudaydah for offloading cargo. The delays are caused by fuel and staff shortages in addition to an increase in traffic. Mokah, Al Salif and Al Mukalla ports are operating with limited access and delays (Logistics Cluster, 19/07/2015). Congestion at Djibouti port is also a major constraint in delivering humanitarian assistance, with an average delay of 11 days (Logistics Cluster, 11/07/2015).

The amount of fuel currently in Yemen is estimated to be 20% of what is needed (Oxfam, 14/07/2015). Diesel prices are 1,056% higher than before the conflict (OCHA, 13/07/2015). The fuel shortage is creating severe challenges for the transportation of food, water, and medical supplies, and the operation of water pumps and generators (ECHO, 14/05/2015). On average, Yemenis have less than one hour of electricity per day, due to fuel shortages (OCHA, 05/06/2015). Water processing plants in Sanaa city have closed (Logistics Cluster, 30/04/2015). Telephone networks continue to be subject to extended cuts or outages (UNICEF, 19/05/2015).

**Displacement**

Several waves of conflict, lack of access, and the fluidity of displacement make it extremely difficult to estimate displacement figures and needs.

**IDPs**

As of early July, 1,287,590 people have been internally displaced since the escalation of conflict, a 24% increase since mid-June (OCHA, 06/07/2015). This includes 298,788 people in Hajjah, 227,414 in Al Dhalee, and 184,100 in Aden (IOM, 09/07/2015).

IDPs and host community members are in urgent need of food, shelter, health services, and fuel in several governorates, including Hadramaut, Al Mahwit, and Taizz (IOM, 23/07/2015).

Most IDPs are staying with friends and family (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Hajjah (300,000), Al Dhalee (227,000) and Aden (184,000) host the largest number of IDPs (OCHA, 13/07/2015). Internal displacement has put 200,000 host community members in need of assistance themselves (OCHA, 10/06/2015).

**Refugees and Migrants**

Estimates indicate that over 883,000 returnees, refugees, and migrants in Yemen currently require assistance, including Yemeni migrants deported from Saudi Arabia (OCHA, 12/06/2015). There are 257,645 registered refugees in Yemen: most are Somali (236,803); 5,934 are Ethiopian (Mixed Migration Secretariat, 28/02/2015). At least 2,000 Syrian refugees have been registered in Yemen since August 2014: more than 10,000 Syrians are thought to be in the country (OCHA, 05/11/2014).

10,500 people have arrived in Yemen since March, mostly from Somalia and Ethiopia (UNHCR, 14/07/2015). In June, around 400 migrants and refugees arrived, in contrast to 4,000 in April, and approximately 10,000 in March (IOM, 03/07/2015; OCHA, 12/06/2015). Many recent new arrivals reported that they were unaware of the security situation in Yemen before arriving. Others reported that they were aware of the situation, and still preferred it to the situation in their country of origin (UNHCR, 03/07/2015). In 2014, nearly 91,600 refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants arrived in Yemen, a 40% increase compared to 2013, according to IOM. Migrants and refugees have reported abduction, torture, physical assault, and rape as common forms of abuse (Mixed Migration Secretariat, 28/02/2015).

Conflict in areas close to refugee-hosting sites have resulted in further displacement of refugees and asylum seekers, loss of livelihoods, and a breakdown in basic services (OCHA, 19/06/2015). In Kharaz refugee camp in Lahj governorate, food rations have run out, the school is closed, health facilities are shutting down, and a general lack of basic services is reported (UNHCR, 19/06/2015).

**Yemeni Refugees and Migrants in Other Countries**

Since March 2015, almost 50,000 people, consisting of Yemenis, returnees, and third-country nationals (TCNs) have left Yemen (UNHCR, 03/07/2015). As of 23 July, 21,204 have arrived in Djibouti and 25,002 in Somalia (IOM, 23/07/2015).

**Food Security**

12.9 million people are food insecure, 2.3 million more than before the escalation of the crisis in March (Indicative IPC Analysis, 18/06/2015). 6.07 million people (22.7% of the population) face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes, mainly in Saa’da, Aden, Abyan, Shabwah, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Taizz, Lahj, Al Dhalee, and Al Bayda, while 6.8 million people (25.7%) are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), according to the June 2015 IPC.
Analysis. This has been a 21% increase in food insecurity since last year (Indicative IPC Analysis, 18/06/2015). The situation is expected to further deteriorate as long as insecurity continues to severely constrain access and household purchasing power falls (Indicative IPC Analysis, 18/06/2015; FEWSNET, 30/06/2015).

While Yemen ordinarily imports 90% of its food, imports of staple foods, such as cereals, have almost completely ceased since the escalation of conflict (OCHA, 29/05/2015). Cooking gas is unavailable in Aden and Taizz and only sparsely available in 13 other governorates (OCHA, 13/07/2015). The price of cooking gas has increased by more than 300% since March (OCHA, 17/06/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

In the worst conflict-affected areas, including Sa’ada, Lahj, Taizz, Al Dhalee, and Abyan, crops, storage, and irrigation facilities have been significantly damaged (FAO, 23/06/2015). Lack of fuel and insecurity are preventing the delivery of goods from ports to markets (FEWSNET, 18/06/2015).

Food prices have increased by 40–100% since the start of the crisis, with the highest prices in southwestern governorates (FAO, 08/07/2015). Acute fuel shortages have affected food prices (WFP, 10/04/2015). **Damage to greenhouses in the northwest is likely to affect vegetable production (FAO, 21/07/2015).**

Wheat is unavailable in Aden and only sparsely available in 14 other governorates (OCHA, 13/07/2015). Grain milling has ceased for lack of fuel (OCHA, 19/06/2015). It is increasingly difficult to store and transport fruit and vegetables due to fuel shortages. Fuel shortages have also affected transportation of livestock (FAO, 23/06/2015). In the Tihmah coastal region, livestock vaccines are no longer available. Lack of fuel has halted animal feed production (FAO, 23/06/2015).

95% of local supermarkets are reportedly closed, affecting in particular people in urban settings (OCHA, 22/05/2015). Most bakeries in Aden have shut down due to wheat and fuel shortages (OCHA, 30/06/2015).

Livelihoods

Incomes in IDP and host communities are dwindling, affected people are resorting to negative coping mechanisms, such as selling their belongings, to meet everyday needs (OCHA, 10/06/2015). Many families have lost their sources of income, and can no longer afford sufficient or nutritious food (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Farmers are struggling to sustain their income due to high input costs and low output prices (FAO, 23/06/2015). More than 500,000 people have been affected by disruption of fishing, caused by insecurity, lack of fuel causing spoilage, and market disruption (OCHA, 06/07/2015; FAO, 08/07/2015).

Health and Nutrition

About 15.2 million people lack access to basic healthcare, 40% more than in March (OCHA, 03/06/2015; 14/06/2015). At least 160 health facilities have been closed since March (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Mobile health teams in Amran, Al Baydah, Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf and Sa’ada governorates are unable to operate (OCHA, 22/05/2015). In Taizz governorate, 122 of 200 health facilities remain functional (UNICEF, 21/07/2015). Health staff are increasingly unable to report to work. Non-Yemenis make up at least 25% of health workers and their evacuation has added to shortages (WHO, 27/04/2015). Prior to the escalation of the crisis, qualified medical staff were already in short supply.

Since the escalation of the conflict, there have been nine incidents of violence against staff and in health facilities and care workers and 65 incidents against health facilities (OCHA, 14/06/2015). There are also reports of ambulances being commandeered by militias (OCHA, 29/05/2015). 53 health facilities have been damaged since March, including 17 hospitals (WHO, 19/06/2015).

Ambulance services are non-functional in most areas heavily affected by conflict due to fuel shortages and security threats (OCHA, 14/06/2015). Medicines for diabetes, hypertension and cancer are no longer available and there are acute shortages in critical medical supplies – trauma kits, medicines, blood bags and other necessities (OCHA, 12/06/2015). The only operational hospital in Amran governorate has reported that it is on the verge of running out of medical supplies (OCHA, 06/07/2015). Prior to the conflict, Yemen imported 80% of its medical supplies (OCHA, 30/06/2015). The only oxygen generating plant in Yemen has ceased to function due to lack of fuel (OCHA, 19/04/2015).

Outbreak response, including surveillance and early response, is no longer functioning (OCHA, 13/07/2015; 14/06/2015). 900 health facilities, 25% of Yemen’s health facilities, are no longer conducting routine vaccination (UNICEF, 07/07/2015). 87 out of 333 districts lack a functioning cold room to keep vaccines cold (UNICEF, 07/07/2015). Fear of disease outbreaks may lead to further displacement (OCHA, 30/06/2015).

Dengue and Malaria

A significant surge in suspected dengue fever has been reported in six governorates: Al Hudaydah, Taizz, Aden, Lahj, Shabwah, and Hadramaut (WHO, 21/06/2015). Poor WASH conditions are a contributing factor (OCHA, 30/06/2015). Over 8,000 cases of dengue, including 590 deaths, have been reported in Aden since April (OCHA, 30/06/2015). On average, 150 new cases of dengue fever are reported every day in Aden, with 11 deaths daily (OCHA, 30/06/2015). Insecurity has prevented awareness campaigns in the affected areas (UNICEF, 07/07/2015). The population is afraid of seeking health services if the situation is not life threatening (UNICEF, 07/07/2015).

The malaria season is expected to begin in July, and insecurity is preventing vector control (OCHA, 30/06/2015). Due to lack of electricity and medical supplies, laboratory testing for dengue and malaria is challenging (OCHA, 30/06/2015).

Measles and Rubella

Possible measles outbreaks are currently being investigated in Al Jawf and Sa’ada governorates (40 and almost 300 suspected cases, respectively). Over 365 cases of measles and over 90 cases of rubella have been diagnosed in Yemen over the past year (OCHA, 14/06/2015). 12 cases of measles were reported between 3 and 9 July (OCHA, 13/07/2015).

Nutrition

Incomes in IDP and host communities are dwindling, affected people are resorting to negative coping mechanisms, such as selling their belongings, to meet everyday needs (OCHA, 10/06/2015). Many families have lost their sources of income, and can no longer afford sufficient or nutritious food (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Farmers are struggling to sustain their income due to high input costs and low output prices (FAO, 23/06/2015). More than 500,000 people have been affected by disruption of fishing, caused by insecurity, lack of fuel causing spoilage, and market disruption (OCHA, 06/07/2015; FAO, 08/07/2015).
1.6 million children under five are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition, including 400,000 potential SAM cases (OCHA, 13/07/2015; 12/06/2015). Since March, there has been a 150% increase in hospital admissions for malnutrition (WHO, 19/06/2015). 1.6 million children and pregnant or lactating women are in need of services to treat or prevent acute malnutrition (UNICEF, 07/07/2015). In 2014, 840,000 children under five were acutely malnourished, according to the Nutrition Cluster; 170,000 were severely malnourished (Comprehensive Food Security Survey, 11/2014).

WASH

At least 20 million people lack access to clean water (WHO, 19/06/2015). Since the escalation of the crisis, 9.4 million people have lost access to safe water due to fuel shortages (OCHA, 05/06/2015). Diesel needed to deliver public water and sanitation is either not available or only sporadically in 20 of 22 governorates (OCHA, 13/07/2015). Millions of people are receiving less than an hour of uninterrupted water supply per day.

Public water networks in eight major cities are at imminent risk of collapse (OCHA, 19/06/2015). In the south, the lack of power combined with damaged water pumps has forced people to resort to water collection from unprotected and abandoned wells. Water trucks do not have fuel to make deliveries (OCHA, 22/05/2015). The high price of water is a major concern for poor households (Thomson Reuters Foundation, 29/06/2015). Solid waste collection has been suspended and sewage treatment plants have reduced operations in several major cities (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Garbage has been accumulating on the streets (UNICEF, 07/07/2015).

Lack of drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities have been reported in sites hosting IDPs in Al Jawf and Marib governorates (OCHA, 23/05/2015). Prior to the escalation of the crisis, 12.1 million were without access to improved sanitation, and 4.4 million lacked access to adequate sanitation (OCHA, 28/02/2015).

Shelter

1.2 million people are in need of emergency shelter or essential household items (OCHA, 12/06/2015).

The majority of IDPs are hosted by relatives. Some families are reportedly hosting up to six or seven displaced (IOM, 22/05/2015). IDPs in Sanaa staying with host families are reporting overcrowding and lack of adequate WASH facilities (OCHA, 22/05/2015).

In southern Yemen, IDPs are staying in public buildings, such as schools or health facilities, open spaces or makeshift shelters (IOM, 22/05/2015). In Amran, many IDPs are reported to be living in the open; fear of airstrikes is preventing them from taking shelter in public buildings (OCHA, 10/05/2015). Members of the marginalised Muhamasheen community and other vulnerable IDPs have settled in old houses and other inadequate structures (OCHA, 10/06/2015).

In Al Jawf and Marib governorates, IDPs are primarily staying with host families or in abandoned facilities, including schools. Overcrowding and lack of food and adequate WASH facilities have been reported (OCHA, 23/05/2015). In Hajjah, Al Hudaydah and Abyan governorates, IDPs are living in open spaces or in tents and other improvised shelters. Many IDPs in Lahj live in schools or health facilities (OCHA, 19/04/2015).

Refugees who were previously self-reliant are now dependent on humanitarian assistance and unable to afford adequate shelters in urban areas, leading to overcrowding (OCHA, 19/06/2015).

Education

2.9 million children require emergency access to education (OCHA, 10/06/2015). 47% of school-aged children are out of school due to disruptions linked to the conflict (UNICEF, 21/07/2015). Over 5,150 schools – 70% of all schools – have closed since March (OCHA, 13/07/2015; Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, 11/06/2015). No schools are operating in Sanaa city, Sa’ada, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Mahwit, Aden, Al Bayda or Marib governorates. In Taizz governorate, more than 160,000 children are unable to attend school due to conflict (OCHA, 29/05/2015).

248 schools have been damaged by the conflict, 68 schools are occupied by armed groups, and 270 are hosting IDPs (UNICEF, 21/07/2015). The Saudi-led coalition has stated that schools are legitimate targets if used for military purposes, and have targeted school buildings claimed to be hosting military equipment (Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, 11/06/2015).

In schools hosting IDPs, classroom equipment, such as desks and benches, is being used for firewood (UNICEF, 23/06/2015). Prior to the conflict, an estimated 2.5 million children were not in school (OCHA, 04/2014).

Protection

11.4 million people are in need of protection assistance, including about 7.3 million children (OCHA, 12/06/2015).

Use of explosive weapons in populated areas, attacks on civilian infrastructure, increased recruitment of children, and attacks against humanitarian workers have been reported since the conflict escalated in March (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Protesters against the Houthi takeover have been illegally detained and tortured, according to several reports (AFP, 14/02/2015; Amnesty, 16/02/2015).

Vulnerable Groups

Over January, 1,490 migrants and refugees arriving in Yemen were reportedly abducted. 234 were women. A further 243 migrants and refugees reported being physically assaulted and 63 reported robbery or extortion (RMMS, 31/01/2015).

Due to their marginalisation, the Muhamasheen minority have greater humanitarian needs than the average population (UNICEF, 20/02/2015).
Children

As of 21 July, 365 children have been reported killed and 484 injured (UNICEF, 21/07/2015).

Up to 30% of fighters in armed groups are children (OCHA, 22/12/2014). Since the escalation of the conflict, 159 boys have been confirmed as recruited by armed groups (OCHA, 12/06/2015). Houthis, Ansar al Sharia, AQAP and state forces are all recruiting children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 01/10/2014). Armed children guard checkpoints throughout Sa’ada, Ibb, Hudaydah, and Amran (UNICEF, 31/12/2014; 20/01/2015).

SGBV

About 100,000 women are predicted to require support related to gender-based violence in 2015. GBV in Yemen remains critically underreported (OCHA, 22/12/2014).

Mines and ERW

Landmines and explosive remnants of war are a major concern in northern governorates. Since March, incidents of civilians wounded in cluster munition attacks in Sada’a governorate have been reported (Human Rights Watch, 31/05/2015). In Lahj, local partners report that AQAP has placed landmines in Al Hamra area of Al Hawta district in order to guard against any Houthi advance (OCHA 31/03/2015). The Yemen Executive Mine Action Center (YEMAC) has confirmed the presence of cluster munition remnants in four districts on the border between Sada’a governorate and Saudi Arabia (Cluster Monitor, 04/12/2014).

Updated: 28/07/2015

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanitarian crisis</th>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Severity</td>
<td>Missing data</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>Severe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DPRK is categorised as a humanitarian crisis, based on the number of people affected and level of humanitarian access. Lack of information prevents inclusion of pre-crisis vulnerability.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

15 July: Food rations have been reduced from 410g per person per day in June to 250g in mid–July (OCHA, 15/07/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- Information on the food security situation remains limited. An estimated 18 million people (70% of the population) are dependent on government rations. 1.8 million people are in particular need of food assistance (UN, 01/04/2015).
- DPRK is disaster-prone, regularly experiencing intense rain, floods and droughts.
- Humanitarian access remains extremely limited (UN, 01/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Humanitarian access remains extremely limited. Humanitarian agencies do not have the ability to freely access communities, conduct assessments, or run monitoring and evaluating processes. International sanctions are further complicating assistance, in particular due to the suspension of banking channels for fund transfers (UN, 01/04/2015).

Disasters

Drought

A prolonged dry spell during the planting season, which lasted from April to early June, has adversely affected crops and the yield potential of 2015 food crops (FAO, 17/06/2015). So far in 2015, all provinces have experienced less rainfall than the yearly average (OCHA, 01/07/2015). The provinces of North and South Hwanghae, which contribute to the largest share of the national cereal output, have been most affected (FAO, 17/06/2015). According to South Korean officials, June rainfall has alleviated the drought in other areas (AFP, 10/07/2015).

Food Security

1.8 million children, older people, and pregnant and lactating women are in particular need of food assistance (UN, 01/04/2015). An estimated 18 million people, of a total population of 24.6 million, are dependent on government rations and highly vulnerable to shortages in food production (UN, 01/04/2015). These food rations have been reduced from 410g per person per day in June to 250g in mid–July. Though reductions are normal, this year’s has come one month earlier, leading to speculation about a possible decrease in the overall harvest yield for 2015 (OCHA, 15/07/2015).

Most households are estimated to have borderline and poor food consumption rates (FAO, 01/06/2015). Decreased production of vegetables and soybeans, a major source of protein, contributes to a lack of food diversity for the general population (UN, 01/04/2015).

The food system in DPRK remains highly vulnerable to shocks and serious shortages exist, particularly in the production of protein-rich crops. Lack of agricultural inputs, such as seeds, fertiliser and plastic sheets, is a fundamental challenge for food
production (UN, 01/04/2015). After three consecutive years of strong growth, aggregate 2014 food production is estimated to remain stagnant (FAO, 01/06/2015).

Agriculture

Potato, wheat, and barley crops, which are currently being harvested, could be reduced by up to 40–50% in drought-affected areas, compared with normal levels. Rice planting has been significantly affected by reduced rainfall in 2014, and output is forecast to be 12% lower than last year. Maize and soybean production is also expected to be affected (FAO, 17/06/2015).

According to some sources, the new farm management system, which allows smaller groups of farmers to share a plot of land and keep a greater amount of their crops, coupled with a general improvement in food supplies over recent years, may lessen the effect of drought on food insecurity (Reuters, 31/05/2015).

9% of agricultural land has become unarable due to the 2014 drought; in North and South Hwanghae 33% of land is considered unusable for agricultural purposes (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

Health and Nutrition

An estimated six million people need access to essential health services, including vaccines. Other medical products and lifesaving equipment, such as ambulances, remain limited. Health facilities often lack functioning water systems, increasing the risks of hospital infections and the spread of disease (UN, 01/04/2015).

Indicators suggest that health facilities are stretched by an increase of diarrhoea cases, as access to safe water is diminishing during the drought (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

Tuberculosis and malaria are considered major health challenges, with 2, 500 people dying of TB every year (UN, 01/04/2015). A joint field observation mission in June found an increase in waterborne diseases (OCHA, 22/06/2015).

Nutrition

According to FAO, 10.5 million people were undernourished in 2014 (FAO, 27/05/2015).

Food shortages peak during the lean season, between July and September, and households resort to coping mechanisms such as receiving support from families on cooperative farms; reducing meal sizes; gathering wild foods; and diluting meals with water (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

Chronic and acute malnutrition remains one of the major contributors to maternal and child mortality (UNICEF, 26/01/2015). According to the 2012 National Nutrition Survey, acute malnutrition is at 4% among under-fives (National Nutrition Survey, 03/2013). Micronutrient deficiencies are of particular concern (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

WASH

An estimated seven million people need access to clean water and sanitation. There is a notable lack of adequate sanitation in rural areas and in social care institutions and education facilities (UN, 01/04/2015).

The quality and availability of water in domestic water wells – which many communities rely on - has been impacted by the drought. Waterborne diseases are expected to increase (OCHA, 01/07/2015). According to reports, wells are dry and water levels in reservoirs are 20–30% of 2013 levels (NRP, 18/07/2015). Irrigation activities have been disrupted by the April–June dry spell (FAO, 17/06/2015). Rainfall in 2014 was also 40–60% below 2013 levels (Reuters, 30/05/2015).

Education

Lack of teaching/learning materials in addition to the lack of adequate sanitation facilities in school buildings remain a challenge (UNICEF, 26/01/2015).

Protection

Forced labour is a major concern. According to Human Rights Watch, DPRK authorities arbitrarily arrest and unfairly prosecute citizens (Human Rights Watch, 08/06/2015).

Updated: 21/07/2015

LEBANON DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

30 June: 28,258 new refugees from Syria arrived in June 2015 (OCHA, 30/06/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- The Government has instructed the temporary suspension of registration with UNHCR (UNHCR, 06/05/2015).
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, and employment.

Political Context

The Lebanese Parliament has extended its mandate until June 2017, claiming that elections would present too much of a security risk (Daily Star, 12/11/2014). Lebanon has been without a president since President Sleiman’s term expired in May 2014. Parliament has failed to elect a president 24 times in the last year (Daily Star, 17/06/2015).

Security Context

Hezbollah’s involvement in Syria, and the alleged presence of Jabhat al Nusra (JAN) and Islamic State (IS) in Lebanon, has raised destabilisation concerns in Lebanon. Longstanding tensions between Lebanon and Israel have flared occasionally in the context of the Syrian civil war. The security situation in many Palestinian refugee camps across Lebanon remains tense, with the outbreak of sporadic conflict between various armed factions.

Conflict Developments

Hezbollah and the Syrian army offensive against insurgents in the Qalamoun mountains along the Syrian-Lebanese northeastern border continues. Fighting has intensified since May (ICG, 01/07/2015; Al Jazeera, 10/07/2015). The Government of Syria continues to conduct cross-border air raids (UN Security Council, 22/04/2015). A Palestinian joint security force deployed to the southern refugee camp of Mieh Mieh in late March, less than a year after a similar security plan was implemented in Ain al Hilweh (Daily Star, 24/03/2015).

Recent Incidents

Bekaa Valley: On 26 June, the Lebanese Army killed two suspected JAN militants on the outskirts of Arsal (Daily Star, 26/06/2015). This represents an escalation in violence, following concerns about the possible infiltration of JAN in Arsal (L’Orient le Jour, 22/05/2015). On 28 May, local media reported rising tensions between IS and JAN near Arsal (L’Orient le Jour, 28/05/2015).

Palestinian refugee camps: Ain al-Hilweh, Lebanon’s largest Palestinian refugee camp, is a site of frequent tensions and armed clashes. Four people were injured during clashes between Fatah and Islamist groups in two separate incidents, 1 July and 18 June (Daily Star, 18/06/2015; 01/07/2015).

South Lebanon: On 1 July, eight people were injured during armed clashes between an armed group linked to Hezbollah and residents of the coastal village of Chouf (Daily Star, 01/07/2015). On 13 May, Hezbollah moved part of its military infrastructure to villages in South Lebanon. Israel is accusing Hezbollah of using civilians as human shields and said it will strike villages if necessary (L’Orient le Jour, 13/05/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Some 3.3 million people in Lebanon, including 1.2 million children, are directly affected by the Syria crisis (UNHCR 16/12/2014). Lebanon is also hosting 270,000 long-term Palestinian refugees (UNICEF 12/12/2014).

Access

Refugees live across 1,750 different locations in Lebanon, making the delivery of humanitarian assistance challenging (UNHCR 10/2014). Northern Bekaa, Tripoli, and Akkar are areas of higher risk, and the UN will only carry out critical missions to parts of those areas (WFP, 03/12/2014).

Border Restrictions

Registration with UNHCR has been temporarily suspended since early May, upon government instruction. The Government formally decided to stop welcoming displaced people in October 2014, barring exceptional cases. The policy raises serious protection concerns (UNHCR, AFP 24/10/2014; UNHCR 07/2014; UNCHR, 20/04/2015).

Since January, Syrians wanting to enter Lebanon must apply for a visa (UNHCR, 25/01/2015). An average of 13% of registered refugees have entered through unofficial border crossings and are not able to pay the prohibitive regularisation fees (UNHCR 10/2014).

Displacement

Refugees in Lebanon

The temporary suspension of refugee registration beginning 6 May is likely to reduce cross-border movements and may have contributed to the fall in the number of registered refugees from a high of 1,185,241 at 10 April to 1,172,753 at July 6 (UNHCR
Regardless, 28,258 new refugees arrived in 2015 as of June (OCHA, 30/06/2015). The Bekaa Valley is currently hosting 410,269 refugees; Beirut, 343,904; North Lebanon, 283,587; and South Lebanon, 137,993 (UNHCR 06/07/2015). 26% of refugees are women, and 53% children (UNHCR 09/2014). The number of Syrians in Lebanon not registered with UNHCR is unknown.

Palestinian refugees from Syria: 45,185 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) reside in Lebanon (UNHCR, 28/02/2015). PRS entry to Lebanon is now almost entirely limited to those transiting to a third country. An increasing number of PRS remain in Lebanon illegally, and face an array of protection concerns (OCHA 01/09/2014).

Host Communities

Host communities have reported inadequate or insufficient access to water, waste water management systems, affordable housing, and employment opportunities (OCHA 09/2014).

Food Security

As of 6 May, 1.5 million people are in need of food assistance (WFP, FAO, Food Security cluster, 31/03/2015; UNHCR, 06/05/2015). The highest levels of food insecurity are found in North Lebanon (Akkar) and the Bekaa Valley (WFP, 01/07/2015).

The average cost of the referential food basket remained stable from April-June (WFP, 15/07/2015).

Because of a funding shortfall, WFP has cut the amount of money provided on cards to refugees, from USD 27 per month to in January to USD 13.50 per month in July. This reduction has caused a higher use of negative coping strategies (WFP, 16/06/2015). 69% have reduced the number of meals eaten each day, 58% have limited their portion size and 77% are borrowing to buy food (WFP, 30/06/2015).

One in five households with school-aged children have withdrawn their children from school due to increased food insecurity (WFP, 02/06/2015).

Livelihoods

700,000 people are in need of livelihood assistance (UNDP, 31/01/2015; UNHCR, 06/05/2015).

39% of households are part of Lebanon’s agricultural population. This sector of society has seen its livelihood sources and food security diminish over the past two years, as the agricultural yields have been in decline, mainly due to a an increasing lack of access to water over the last two years (FAO, 10/07/2015).

Kerosene and diesel prices slowly increased from January-March, by 8% and 10% respectively (WFP, 15/07/2015).

Almost half of the refugee population lives at or below the Lebanese poverty line of USD 4 per day, with a third living with under USD 2–3 per day and unable to meet basic needs (UNHCR, 09/06/2015).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: 75% of PRS have reported cash assistance as their main source of income (UNRWA, 15/05/2014).

Health and Nutrition

3.3 million people are in need of healthcare (WHO/UNHCR, 31/01/2015; 06/05/2015). Health services are available, but costly. Short opening hours and lack of trained health personnel further limit access (WHO, 01/2015).

72% of primary health centres assessed by UNICEF in 2014 lacked sufficient essential drugs, 67% lacked sufficient medication for chronic diseases, and 49% lacked sufficient antibiotics for children (UNICEF, 08/2014).

WASH

3.3 million people are in need of WASH assistance (UNICEF/UNHCR, 05/05/2015). WASH conditions are worse for refugees in informal settlements and in difficult-to-access locations in the Bekaa Valley and the north. Informal settlements have limited or no sanitation facilities (UNHCR, 07/2014).

Environmentally friendly and safe disposal of wastewater is a huge challenge in Lebanon, especially for the majority of locations across the country that are not connected to functioning treatment plants. This is exacerbated in Arsal where security concerns have prohibited the provision of services (WASH Cluster, 04/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

1.8 million people are in need of shelter assistance (UNHCR, 05/05/2015).

Refugees are spending up to 90% of their monthly income to live in substandard housing such as garages, sheds, and in unfinished buildings (NRC, 18/06/2015). An assessment found that 50% of refugees live in poor conditions, including accommodation without adequate WASH facilities, or adequate protection against weather. An additional 18% were found to live in temporary shelters without access to basic services (NRC, 18/06/2015).

The number of refugees forced to move to tents in informal shelters continues to grow (MSF, 26/01/2015). Informal tented settlements are usually substandard. Humanitarian agencies are unable to make substantial improvements to...
the sites, as they are located on private land (UNHCR, 09/06/2015).

In Beirut, many Syrian refugees have settled in Palestinian refugee camps, where WASH and shelter conditions are often substandard (IFRC, 03/02/2015).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: The Palestinian population has increased from 110,000 to 140,000 since 2011: 44,000 are Palestinian refugees from Syria (OCHA 09/2014; 01/2015). PRS households are residing in overcrowded 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. The USD 100 housing assistance for more than 43,000 PRS will be suspended July 2015 (UNRWA, 22/05/2015).

Lebanese returnees: As of 6 May, 50,000 Lebanese nationals had returned from Syria since the beginning of the crisis (UNDP, UNHCR; 06/05/2015). Assessments in 2014 indicated that at least 51% of returnees are shelter insecure (IOM/OCHA 09/2014; UNHCR 07/2014).

Education

750,000 children are in need of education assistance (UNICEF, UNHCR, 31/01/2015, 06/05/2015).

Protection

Forced evictions: By February, the Lebanese army had ordered 17,000 refugees in eastern Bekaa Valley to vacate informal tented camps, reportedly to prevent infiltration by militants (Daily Star, 07/02/2015). As of 1 May, 5,981 people had been evicted and relocated from 61 sites; 6,422 individuals remain at risk of eviction (UNHCR, 10/05/2015).

De-registration of refugees: As of 24 April, refugees who entered after 5 January and have been subsequently registered should be deregistered according to new Government regulations. As of 31 May, 2,626 persons have fallen into this category. In May, the Ministry of Social Affairs further notified UNHCR that all new registrations should be suspended until a mechanism to deal with those who seek registration is established (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Undocumented refugees: Increasing numbers of refugees are undocumented, as they are unable to renew legal residence due to unaffordable fees and complicated administrative procedures. Rental agreements are required to obtain legal residence, however only about 15% of refugees have rental contracts (NRC, 18/06/2015). Registered refugees are not allowed to work, which further deters refugees from seeking legal status. Concern is raised over undocumented refugees’ ability to freely move and access services, and an increased risk of abuse and harassment (ECHO 20/06/2015; NRC, 18/06/2015).

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 were born in Lebanon. An estimated 72% do not possess an official birth certificate (UNFPA 30/11/2014).

Child Protection

According to ILO estimates, between 210,000 and 320,000 refugee children of school age who are not in school, are involved in some form of child labour (VoA, 23/01/2015). Social exclusion, vulnerability of households, the influx of Syrian refugees, and organised crime and exploitation are all leading children to live or work on the streets (ILO et al., 16/02/2015).

Mines and ERW

On 25 June, a Syrian boy was killed and three others wounded when an ERW exploded in south Lebanon (Daily Star, 26/06/2015). Lebanon has nearly 1,400 confirmed minefields and 520 cluster munitions strike areas, including in areas hosting refugees. A significant number of landowners and workers still enter contaminated areas, stating they have no choice (Mine Advisory Group, 01/06/2015).

Updated: 15/07/2015

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

19 July: Six bombs believed to be targeting Hamas and Islamic Jihad detonated in northern Gaza (Al Jazeera, 19/07/2015). It is suspected that IS or groups who support IS, may be responsible; this has not been confirmed (Al Jazeera, 21/07/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.9 million people need humanitarian assistance; 1.3 million in Gaza and 600,000 in the West Bank (OCHA, 31/03/2015).

- 1.45 million people, or 33% of the people in oPt, are estimated to be food insecure (WFP, 19/12/2014). 868,000 people in Gaza alone require food aid (UNRWA,
05/02/2015).

- 1.4 million people are in need of WASH assistance, particularly access to water (OCHA, 12/05/2015).
- 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.

Political Context

The Palestinian unity government, made up of members of both Hamas and Fatah, resigned in June, a year after its formation in 2014. Its mandate was to arrange a general election, which never materialised. Hamas remains dominant in the Gaza Strip and Fatah in the West Bank (Al Jazeera, 17/06/2015).

On 16 January, the ICC launched a preliminary examination of the events of the 50-day war (ICC, 16/01/2015). Palestine became an official member of the ICC on 26 March (AFP, 26/03/2015). The United States and Israel opposed the move, citing that oPt is not a sovereign state.

Security Context

Incidents between Israeli security forces and Israeli settlers against Palestinians gradually increased during the second quarter of 2015. In the West Bank, the majority of injuries and fatalities are caused by protests at Israeli settlements and checkpoints. In Gaza, injuries most frequently occur in the Access Restricted Area (ARA), caused by Israeli forces opening fire on groups accused of entering the restricted area. There are growing tensions between actors within oPt, particularly between Hamas and various smaller armed groups or ‘brigades’ in Gaza (OCHA, 01/06/2015).

Stakeholders

Hamas: is an Islamist organisation that was established in 1987 in the first Palestinian Intifada – The Uprising (1987–1993), with the aim of resisting the Israeli occupation. It provides some social welfare programmes, and uses its military wing, the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, to fight against Israel. In 2006 Hamas won political office in Gaza; tensions between its secular rival Fatah erupted in 2007, when Hamas set up a rival government in the Gaza Strip. Hamas has regularly fired rockets into Israel and conducted attacks against Israeli military and civilian targets.

Fatah: was founded in the late 1950s for the purpose of launching commando raids on Israel. Despite being expelled from Jordan, and then Lebanon, it eventually became the controlling power behind the Palestinian Authority, which was founded in the 1990s after the first intifada. Fatah lost control of Gaza in 2007 to Hamas. Fatah has greatly reduced the number of violent attacks in last two decades, with the exception of the second intifada (2000–2005).

Conflict Developments

On 30 June, Islamic State (IS) declared its intentions to replace Hamas as the main power in Gaza. No action followed, but Sinai, the Egyptian territory adjacent to Gaza, has been the site of major clashes between Egyptian and armed groups allied to IS. Armed groups in Egypt have allegedly been supplied by armed groups in Gaza who are sympathetic to IS (Independent, 01/07/2015; Al Jazeera, 01/07/2015).

As of 22 June, 13 people have been killed and 993 wounded by Israeli forces in oPt so far in 2015 (OCHA, 01/06/2015). An average of over 40 Palestinians are injured by Israeli forces every week (OCHA, 25/06/2015).

Recent Incidents

Gaza

On 19 July, six bombs believed to be targeting Hamas and Islamic Jihad, an armed group associated with Hamas, detonated in northern Gaza (Al Jazeera, 19/07/2015). It is suspected that IS or groups who support IS, maybe responsible; this has not been confirmed (Al Jazeera, 21/07/2015).

Incidents of inter-communal violence are increasing in Gaza. In two separate incidents on 7–8 July, three people were killed and one other injured in clashes (UNRWA, 14/07/2915).

It was reported on 9 July that two Israeli citizens are believed to be held in the Gaza Strip by Hamas (BBC, 09/07/2015). Hamas has demanded the release of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for two Israelis (AFP, 17/07/2015).

Israeli forces opened fire into the Access Restricted Area (ARA) around Gaza 11 times in the week ending 13 July (OCHA, 13/07/2015). There has been a consistent trend of Israeli forces firing into the ARA in 2015, and the number of injuries and fatalities resulting from these incidents increased in the second quarter of 2015 (OCHA, 08/06/2015). Israeli and Egyptian naval forces have also repeatedly fired at fishermen at sea (OCHA, 01/06/2015).

Palestinian armed groups continue to test-fire rockets into the sea and fire rockets towards Israel. In early June, four rocket attacks on Israel were claimed by the Salafist group Supporters of the Islamic State. Israel responded with airstrikes. No casualties were reported on either side (UNRWA, 19/06/2015; AFP, 25/05/2015).
In the week ending 13 July, nine Palestinians were injured by Israeli forces in the West Bank. The majority of incidents were related to protests (OCHA, 13/07/2015).

On 3 July, a senior Israeli military officer shot and killed a Palestinian near Qalandiya checkpoint (AFP, 03/07/2015). On 29 June, an armed assailant shot at a car north of Ramallah, killing one Israeli settler and injuring three (Middle East Eye, 30/06/2015). This pattern of ‘lone–wolf’ attacks on Israeli security personal and settlers is growing, with three incidents in mid-to-late June being recorded. On 21 June a Palestinian stabbed a police officer then was shot and killed (Al Jazeera, 21/06/2015). On 19 June, one Israeli was killed and another injured when their vehicle was reportedly shot by an armed Palestinian near an illegal settlement near Ramallah (AFP, 19/06/2015). On 1 June, one person was killed in violent clashes between residents and police in the Jenin refugee camp (AFP, 10/06/2015).

In response to these ‘lone–wolf’ attacks, Israel cancelled all permits granted to Gazans to visit Jerusalem for Ramadan, while narrowing the age-criteria allowing access from the West Bank (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

Settler-related Violence

In the week ending 6 July, five Israeli settler attacks resulted in damage to Palestinian property. This is slightly above the weekly average for 2015. 100 incidents of settler-related violence have resulted in Palestinian casualties or property damage. This is less than 2014, when tensions escalated following the conflict in Gaza (OCHA, 25/06/2015).

As of 22 June, 281 structures have been demolished so far in 2015, with 282 people subsequently displaced. If current trend continue, the rate of demolitions will roughly match the number recorded in 2014 (OCHA, 25/06/2015).

Material for reconstruction in Gaza continues to be restricted and delayed, but the situation has improved in recent weeks (OCHA, 25/06/2015).

Critical Infrastructure

There is currently a 55% energy deficit within Gaza (OCHA, 06/07/2015). Fuel shortages and infrastructure restrictions mean 12–18 hours of blackout per day (UNICEF, 26/03/2015). As of 1 July, the power supply in Rafah governorate in the south of the Gaza strip has diminished as power cables from Egypt have been damaged by fighting in the Sinai area (OCHA, 06/07/2015).

Displacement

As of 19 June, 215 IDPs remained in UNRWA Collective Centres. Around 100,000 people remain displaced following the 2014 July-August conflict. Many are believed to be staying within the host community but their exact location and shelter requirements, and other needs are unclear (UNRWA, 19/06/2015; IFRC, 06/03/2015; OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Food Security

1.45 million, or 33% of Palestinians, are food insecure: 57% of the population of Gaza and 19% of the population of the West Bank (WFP, 19/12/2014). 868,000 people in Gaza require food aid (UNRWA, 01/06/2015).

Electricity shortages have impacted food production and refrigeration. Delays at crossings are complicating deliveries. Destruction of tunnels bringing inexpensive goods has also impacted access to food and supplies.

Livelihood

Unemployment in oPt was at 29.1% in December 2014. Unemployment in the West Bank was 17%, and Gaza 44% (UN, 08/05/2015; 21/04/2015).

The Israeli navy limits fishing to a three nautical-mile zone off Gaza’s coast, negatively impacting livelihoods (Inter Press Service, 08/06/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Between 300,000 and 400,000 children are in need of mental health support in the Gaza Strip (UNICEF, 26/02/2015, World Vision, 13/04/2015).

WASH

1.4 million people are in need of WASH assistance, particularly access to water (OCHA, 12/05/2015).
90% of the water in Gaza fails WHO standards for safe drinking water (UNWRA, 24/03/2015). Up to 90 million litres of partially treated sewage are being discharged into the Mediterranean Sea every day, partially due to electricity and fuel shortages (OCHA, 06/07/2015). This is exacerbating the contamination of the aquifer.

More than 70% of households in Gaza are being supplied with piped water for 6-8 hours once every two to four days, due to insufficient power supply (OCHA, 06/07/2015).

Although solid waste is being collected in most areas, it is being left in temporary sites rather than dumped in designated landfills.

Shelter

An estimated 500,000 Palestinians are in need of shelter assistance (OCHA, 31/03/2015). Rebuilding of the 9,161 Palestine refugee houses considered totally destroyed by Operation Projective Edge began in late June (AFP, 24/06/2015) As of 13 July, 51,039 families are yet to begin the first phase of repair works on their homes (UNRWA, 13/07/2015).

Education

90% of the 252 UNRWA schools in Gaza run on a double shift basis, and some on triple shifts, affecting some 400,000 students (UNRWA, 29/01/2015; OCHA, 12/02/2015).

Protection

18,000 Palestinians live in or near the 18% of the West Bank designated by the Israeli authorities as “firing zones”, areas of land claimed by the Israeli military for training and security purposes. Palestinians who live in these zones face severe access restrictions, recurrent demolition, and incidents of forced displacement and home demolition (OCHA, 12/01/2015). On 29 and 30 April, 410 were displaced for planned military manoeuvres (OCHA, 25/05/2015). Most of the around 7,450 Palestinian Bedouins and herdsmen, some 60% of them children, have demolition orders pending against their homes, and over 85% lack connection to the electricity and water networks (OCHA, 06/05/2015; 30/04/2015).

Child Protection

Approximately 30 children were injured by live ammunition in the first quarter of 2015 (Defence for Children International, 23/03/2015).

The Israeli army continues to arrest or detain Palestinian children as young as 11 (HRW, 20/07/2015). As of December 2014, a monthly average of 185 Palestinian children were in Israeli detention (OCHA, 31/03/2015).

Mines and ERW

On 14 May in the Gaza Strip, 74 members of the Palestinian security forces were injured in an attempt to defuse unexploded ordnance near Beit Lahia, while two civilians were injured in another ERW incident southeast of Gaza City (OCHA, 18/05/2015). On 6 May, two children were injured by ERW in Gaza City. In April and March, 11 Palestinians were injured and one killed by ERW across oPt (OCHA, 30/04/2015; 16/04/2015; 02/03/2015; UNRWA, 11/05/2015; 12/03/2015).

It is estimated that more than 1,900 ERW have yet to be secured (UNRWA, 23/09/2014).

Journalists

Over 15-17 May, two journalists were injured by Israeli forces during Nakba Day protests (international media, 16/05/2015). On 2 May, five journalists were injured by Israeli forces during a march marking World Press Freedom Day near Bethlehem (OCHA, 06/05/2015; local media, 02/05/2015). It has been alleged that an increasing number of journalists are being targeted and injured by Israeli forces during clashes, due to a policy change. Rubber bullets and live ammunition have been used. Palestinian journalists have been the most affected (AFP, 08/04/2015).

Updated: 21/07/2015

PAKISTAN CONFLICT, DROUGHT, DISPLACEMENT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

23 July: Two people were injured in a blast in the Lehri area of Quetta in Balochistan (DAWN).

16–22 July: Flooding has affected at least 322,000 people and killed 22 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh, and Gilgit Baltistan provinces; significant damage to infrastructure and crops has been reported, especially in Chitral district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (AFP, IFRC, OCHA).

17 July: Shelling in the second week of July reportedly killed four and wounded five in Kashmir (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.8 million IDPs in Pakistan, half of whom were displaced by military operations in
OVERVIEW

Priority humanitarian needs are health, nutrition, and food assistance. IDPs and Afghani refugees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are of particular concern. The security situation remains volatile due to militant attacks in urban centres and military operations against the Taliban in the tribal areas.

Security context

Several armed conflicts are ongoing in Pakistan. As of 12 July, 569 civilians have been killed in 2015 (SATP, 12/07/2015). 1,781 civilians were killed in conflict-related violence in Pakistan in 2014, compared to 3,001 in 2013 (SATP, 01/01/2015).

A military offensive was launched in June 2014 against the Pakistani Taliban in North Waziristan following the unravelling of peace talks. Government military operations in tribal areas have further escalated since end 2014, notably since the Taliban attack on an army-run school in Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in December 2014, which killed 145 people (ICG, 05/01/2015; BBC News, 17/12/2014).

Sectarian violence is mounting against Shi’ites, especially in Sindh. Security incidents are also frequent in Balochistan, due to a prolonged separatist insurgency.

India, Pakistan, and Kashmiri insurgent groups have fought over control of the disputed region of Kashmir since the Indo-Pakistan War. While thousands have died as a result of this conflict, the situation has become less deadly in recent years. Shelling in the second week of July reportedly killed four and wounded five (AFP, 17/07/2015).

In May, Islamic State claimed its first attack in Pakistan, after 43 people were killed and 30 injured in a gun attack targeting a bus carrying members of the Shi’ite Ismaili minority (AFP, 13/05/2015).

Balochistan

Several armed groups, including the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF), have been fighting for greater autonomy since 1948. 2014 saw a sharp rise in acts of violence, which has persisted in 2015. Attacks by Islamist armed groups are also increasing.

Two people were injured in a blast in the Lehri area of Quetta on 23 July (DAWN, 24/07/2015). On 10 July, nine people were killed in two separate fights between armed groups in Turbat (DAWN 10/07/2015).

Quetta has seen a rise in targeted killings and bomb explosions in the last months, and in early July security forces launched a crackdown on militants both within and outside the city (DAWN, 07/07/2015). On 13 July, two policemen were killed by militants in Quetta. No one claimed responsibility for the attack (DAWN 14/07/2015). The attack comes after two incidents in early June in which eight policemen were targeted and killed (DAWN, 11/06/2015; 06/06/2015). On 6 July, a bomb explosion in Quetta killed one person, believed to be the suicide bomber, and injured 19 (DAWN, 06/07/2015). On the same day, security forces killed three suspected militants in a gunfight in the eastern outskirts of Quetta (DAWN, 07/07/2015). On 1 July, three people originating from Punjab were killed in Quetta; the police believe this was an ethnically motivated attack (DAWN, 01/07/2015).

On 4 July, five suspected militants and one soldier were killed in several clashes in Kecharwada, Barkhan, and Sibi districts (DAWN, 09/07/2015).

Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

In June 2014, the Taliban vowed to start all-out war on the Government, and the Government launched Operation Zarb-e-Azb in North Waziristan. A second operation began in October in Khyber Agency, and was expanded mid-March 2015 to cover Landi Kotal, Jamrud, and Bara districts. The military claims to have cleared two-thirds of the tribal regions of militants (local media, 30/03/2015; 23/03/2015). The first phase of the operation in North Waziristan has been completed, while the operation in Khyber is reportedly over (Alhasan Systems, 22/07/2015).

On 11 July, four security personnel and nine militants were killed in clashes in the Pre Ghari area on the border between North and South Waziristan. Security forces are reportedly advancing in the remote areas of South Waziristan and have taken over several Taliban strongholds. These claims are difficult to verify, as reporters are not allowed access into the region (DAWN, 12/07/2015).

On 8 July, two people were injured in an IED explosion in Peshawar (DAWN, 08/06/2015). On 5 July, 12 suspected militants and four soldiers were killed in clashes in Datta Khel in North Waziristan (DAWN, 05/07/2015).

At least 94 incidents of terrorism were reported in Peshawar district in the first five months of 2015: 31 civilians and six members of security forces were killed (local media, 05/06/2015).

Sindh

A report from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan highlights that in Sindh, killing, including both terror attacks and other crime, fell 54% in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 (local media, 21/04/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Pakistan’s disaster management authority is facing serious staff and funding shortages, limiting its ability to reach people affected by disasters (local media, 19/05/2015).
On 16 June, the Government gave INGOs working in Pakistan three months to re-register under new regulations (DAWN, 17/06/2015).

Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

A peace committee volunteer was killed by an improvised explosive device in Mohmand Agency on 7 May (local media, 11/05/2015). Three peace volunteers in Khyber Agency and two bomb disposal technicians in South Waziristan lost their lives in bomb blasts in February and April, respectively (DAWN, 03/02/2015; local media, 06/04/2015).

Attacks on polio vaccination teams have killed nine and injured one in 2015, mainly in Balochistan (DAWN, 20/05/2015; 05/02/2015; AFP, 17/03/2015; 18/02/2015; 04/02/2015; OCHA, 03/03/2015).

Disasters

Floods

Heavy monsoon rains leading to flooding over 16–22 July have affected at least 322,000 people and killed 22 in 292 villages in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh, and Gilgit Baltistan provinces. (AFP, 23/07/2015; IFRC, 22/07/2015; OCHA, 22/07/2015). Chitralt district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been the worst hit, with 275,000 people affected and significant damage to houses, and transport, water, and irrigation infrastructure; crop damage is as high as 60% in some areas. The district has reportedly been cut off from other parts of the region (ECHO, 23/07/2015; DAWN, 24/07/2015; Government, 23/07/2015). Relief camps have been set up in affected areas in Punjab (DAWN, 21/07/2015). The River Indus, flowing from Kashmir to Karachi, is at risk of causing more flooding (AFP, 22/07/2015).

On 12 July, flooding from heavy rains was reported in 32 villages in Pasrur and Zafarwal in Punjab. Hundreds of acres of agriculture were damaged, and local roads also sustained damage (DAWN, 12/07/2015). In Nasirabad district in Balochistan, two people were killed in flash floods (DAWN, 12/07/2015). On 7 July, two people were killed in flash floods in Quetta (DAWN, 08/07/2015). On 22 June, flash floods caused by heavy rain in Balochistan damaged electrical towers and an unknown number of houses (DAWN, 22/06/2015).

On 26 June, nine people were killed by flash floods in Upper Dir district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (DAWN, 26/06/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of 30 June, there were 1.8 million IDPs in Pakistan, half of whom were displaced by military operations in 2014. The biggest IDP populations are located in Bannu (85,147 households), Peshawar (59,415 households), and Dera Ismail Khan (44,083 households) (OCHA, 30/06/2015; UNHCR, 05/06/2015). The majority of the IDPs live in host communities, with only 2% living in camps (UNHCR, 05/06/2015).

IDP returnees

The phased return of IDPs in FATA started mid-March. As of 9 July, 285,278 people (40,754 households) have returned: 35,034 families to Khyber Agency, 2,482 to North Waziristan and 3,238 to South Waziristan (OCHA, 13/07/2015). Immediate needs include food security, WASH, and livelihood support (OCHA, 25/05/2015).

Refugees in Pakistan

As of 7 May, 1.6 million Afghan refugees are estimated to live in Pakistan, mostly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, although numbers are difficult to ascertain. The majority live in host communities (UNHCR, 29/12/2014; OCHA, 7/05/2015). Registration of undocumented Afghan refugees is due to begin on 25 July. According to officials, about a million undocumented Afghan refugees are living in Pakistan (DAWN, 20/06/2015).

There are 600,000 registered refugees of other nationalities (OCHA, 07/05/2015). The number of undocumented Afghans returning home has increased following security incidents in Pakistan, particularly the Taliban attack in Peshawar last December. Pakistani authorities have alleged that the Taliban attack was planned in Afghanistan, and included the repatriation of refugees in its new anti-terrorism action plan (AAN, 09/03/2015). The number of reported Afghan returnees vary between 42,385 and 139,500 (OCHA, 15/07/2015; UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Pakistani Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 8 June, Khost and Paktika provinces in Afghanistan are hosting 205,434 refugees from Pakistan (UNHCR, 11/06/2015).

Food Security

Ten districts are in Emergency (Phase 4) food insecurity, 28 are in Crisis (Phase 3), and 67 are Stressed (Phase 2). Crisis and Emergency districts are mostly in Balochistan, Sindh, and FATA (Food Security Cluster, 24/04/2015). As of February, 1.83 million people were in need of food assistance (Food Security Cluster, 04/02/2015).
Only 28% of returnee households in FATA were found to have acceptable food consumption in April (Food Security Cluster, 24/04/2015).

Health and Nutrition

1.1 million IDPs are in need of basic health and quality maternal and child health services (OCHA, 31/01/2015). The IDP population 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).

Polio

25 new polio cases have been reported so far in 2015 from Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Khyber Agency, FATA, and Sindh. The number represents a 70% drop from the same period last year. In 2014 306 cases were confirmed nationwide (Alhasan Systems 12/07/2015; Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 01/07/2015).

Four cases of polio had been reported in Balochistan in 2015, as of 2 July (DAWN, 02/07/2015). In Balochistan, 84% of children are not vaccinated against polio, according to data from the Emergency Operation Centre (DAWN, 02/07/2015). The Taliban has previously banned immunisations and attacked polio vaccination teams. Polio campaigns in the province are subject to suspensions for security reasons (DAWN, 02/07/2015).

Dengue

As of 17 June, 544 cases of dengue, including 192 deaths, have been reported so far this year in Sindh; the vast majority in Karachi (DAWN, 17/06/2015).

Nutrition

An estimated 2.86 million children and pregnant and breastfeeding women are undernourished in Pakistan, including one million IDPs (OCHA, 31/01/2015). In FATA, GAM reaches 16% and SAM 5.6% (Nutrition Cluster, 30/04/2015).

WASH

1.1 million people are in need of WASH, including 500,000 IDPs (OCHA, 31/01/2015). Over 80% of water resources in Pakistan’s southern Tharparkar district are unsafe for drinking due to the drought (Reuters, 02/02/2015).

Water shortages in Karachi are forcing people to rely on expensive water trucking (local media, 05/06/2015). In Punjab, water reserves are low and have been declining for years (Reuters, 10/06/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

1.1 million people are in need of emergency shelter, including 530,000 IDPs (OCHA, 31/01/2015). Inadequate shelter, overcrowding, harsh weather conditions, and high rental charges are key challenges for the displaced (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

Education

450,000 children lack access to education, including 205,000 displaced children. Educational supplies are a major gap in the education response (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

Almost 275 schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are non-functional, due to lack of staff, land disputes, and security issues.

In Balochistan, schools reportedly lack basic facilities such as drinking water and toilets. Teachers are also reported to lack adequate education (DAWN, 22/06/2015). Around 33% of children in the province are out of school (DAWN, 13/03/2015; 20/02/2015).

The majority of school-aged Afghan refugees in camps in Pakistan are unable to attend school after sixth grade (around age 11) due to lack of means (Inter Press Service, 22/12/2014).

Protection

An estimated 1.08 million people are in need of protection, including 500,000 displaced people. 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, 31/01/2015).

Following the Taliban attack in Peshawar in December 2014, allegedly planned in Afghanistan, harassment of Afghan refugees has escalated and arbitrary arrests of Afghan refugees have been reported (AAN, 09/03/2015; BBC, 26/02/2015).

About 21,500 civilians have been killed as a result of direct violence since 2001 (Brown University, 29/05/2015).

Updated: 24/07/2015

JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

- 629,128 Syrian refugees in Jordan (UNHCR, 17/06/2015).

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 23/07/2015. Last update: 16/07/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 629,128 Syrian refugees in Jordan (UNHCR, 17/06/2015).
- 54,384 other refugees are registered with UNHCR, including 47,554 Iraqis (UNHCR, 31/05/2015, 02/05/2015).
- Syrians continue to face increasing difficulty accessing Jordan. Official border points have closed or become inaccessible, and entry restrictions have increased (RRP6, 2014-2015).

Security Context

Concerns over spiralling crises in Iraq and Syria and extremist infiltration have increased since Jordan joined the US-led airstrikes against Islamic State (IS) in September 2014, and reinforced its participation following the assassination of a captured Jordanian pilot on 3 February (ISW, 19/02/2015; Al Jazeera, 12/02/2015).

Tensions between refugees and host communities are a concern, primarily due to a sense of competition over housing, jobs, and assistance (Mercy Corps, 12/2014).

Recent Developments

On 25 June, one person was killed and another four injured when mortar shells from southern Syria fell into Ramtha, a town in Jordan close to the border. The mortar shelling is believed inadvertent, resulting from clashes inside Syria (Kuwait News Agency, 25/06/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

The influx of Syrian refugees has placed significant additional stress on Jordan’s already-strained public services. Public health and education services are particularly affected (Government, 12/2014).

Access

International NGOs working in Jordan are required to get all projects approved by the Government, which can be a lengthy process. Aid agencies assisting Syrians also need to include vulnerable Jordanians as 30% of their beneficiaries; some have faced pressure to increase this proportion to 50% (PI, 06/2014).

Tension between humanitarian agencies and the Government may increase, as the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) 2015–16 attempts to channel the bulk of international assistance to Syrians through government institutions, rather than humanitarian actors (JRP, 12/2014). On 28 May, only 7.3% of the funding for the JRP has been secured (Government, 28/05/2015).

Displacement

As of 30 June, 684,386 refugees are registered with UNHCR in Jordan (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Syrian Refugees

As of 17 June, there are 629,128 Syrian refugees in Jordan (UNHCR, 17/06/2015). There were 6,263 new arrivals in the first six months of 2015 (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). In June, the majority of refugees arrived from Aleppo, rural Damascus, Dara’a, and Raqqa (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

52% are children.

Around 84% live in urban areas (UNHCR, 09/06/2015; 27/04/2015). 143,215 refugees live in Irbid governorate, 175,368 in Amman governorate, and 157,839 in Mafraq governorate. The remainder live in three camps: 82,000 live in Zaatari camp, Mafrak. The population of Azraq camp, Zarqa governorate, was 17,000 as of May It increased by 9,000 since December 2014 (UNICEF 30/06/2015). The Emirati-Jordanian Camp hosts 5,989 refugees (Al Jazeera, 01/06/2015).

Syrian refugees now constitute 38% of the population of Mafraq city and Ba’lama sub-districts (UNHCR, 31/05/2015, 13/07/2015). Another 100,000–200,000 refugees may be unregistered (PI, 12/11/2014).

76,000 Syrian refugees have reportedly returned to Syria since the beginning of the crisis (Jordan Times, 10/02/2015). As of 27 April, 100–150 people are returning to Syria every day. Drivers include reunion with family members, increasing vulnerability with reduced aid, lack of livelihood opportunities, and a desire to continue education. (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)

UNRWA have recorded 14,736 PRS who have approached the agency for support since the start of the Syrian conflict, 82% of which are vulnerable or extremely vulnerable (UNRWA, 03/12/2014; 15/05/2015).

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, confiscation of documents and, for those with Jordanian citizenship, de-nationalisation (HRW 05/2014, 04/07/2012). As of 15 May, 41 forced returns to Syria have been reported to UNRWA since January 2015. UNRWA reports 106 cases of PRS deported in 2014, a 40% increase on 2013, but warns the actual number of deportations is likely much higher (UNRWA, 03/12/2014; 15/05/2015).

Non-Syrian Refugees

As of 31 May, UNHCR had registered 54,383 refugees, including 47,554 Iraqis (UNHCR, 31/05/2015; 02/05/2015). A surge in the registration of Iraqi refugees was reported between September and December 2014, but new registration numbers have
significantly decreased in 2015 (UNHCR, 23/09/2014; PI, 11/03/2015).

Only 1% of Iraqi refugee needs are funded. The most urgent issues are lack of access to schooling (34% of Iraqi refugees are of school age), lack of access to healthcare and, for the most vulnerable refugees, heavy reliance on cash assistance (UNHCR, 13/05/2015).

Food Security

Food insecurity among refugees has risen in 2015. Only 15% of households are now food secure, down from 52% in the same period in 2014. More than half of Syrian refugees are living below the national poverty line (WFP, 30/06/2015). WFP food vouchers to Syrian refugees outside camps have been almost halved since the last quarter of 2014, due to funding shortfalls (WFP, 31/05/2015). Negative coping mechanisms following this reduction in assistance include reducing the number of meals, borrowing food or relying on help from relatives and friends, and sending children to work (Inter-sector working group, 19/05/2015). WFP has warned that further cuts are expected, which would further increase food insecurity (WFP, 31/05/2015).

Within host communities, there has been a 37% increase in the number of food insecure compared to 2014, and 68% live below the poverty line, representing a 24% increase since 2014. There has also been a 32% increase in the number of households using negative coping strategies since 2014, rising to 67% (WFP, 30/06/2015).

Livelihoods

The unemployment rate among active Syrian refugees is as high as 57% (ILO, 11/05/2015). 86% of Syrian refugees in urban areas are living below the Jordanian poverty line of USD 96 per month and 10% are below the abject poverty line of USD 37. More than 80% are resorting to reducing their food intake, sending family members out to beg, or engaging in high risk or illegal activities to earn money. Over 60% of refugee families outside camps are in debt (VAF, 15/06/2015; UNHCR, 15/06/2015). An estimated 1,750 Syrians are reported to be living in extremely poor conditions on the eastern border of Jordan (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

As of May, the labour force participation rate for Jordanians is similar to before the Syrian crisis, but unemployment has increased from 15% to 22% (ILO, 11/05/2015). A study suggests that Syrians may have crowded Jordanians out of the construction sector (ILO, 11/05/2015).

Health and Nutrition

The Government decision to halt free access to health services for refugees in November 2014 led to a reduction in the number of Syrians accessing public healthcare. This reduction is partly compensated by an increased reliance on NGOs and Red Crescent facilities (Inter-sector Working Group, 19/05/2015). Three in ten families could not access healthcare services when needed between October and March due to financial reasons. Maternal health is of particular concern: half of pregnant women were unable to afford antenatal care, and 60% of new mothers could not afford postnatal care. Refugee women in Zaatari camp are reported to be in particular need of better postnatal care (CARE, 06/04/2015; UNICEF 30/06/2015). Lack of mental health services and vaccination are also an issue (IMC, 16/03/2015; UNHCR, 10/03/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Refugees in Host Communities

Most of the 84% of Syrian refugees living outside camps are concentrated around the major urban areas of the northwest, such as Amman and Irbid. Lack of adequate shelter is the main concern for Syrian refugees. Available shelter is often not adequate, affordable or secure (NRC, 17/06/2015). An assessment in northern Jordan showed that one in five refugee households live in accommodation that does not provide basic protection from the elements. Housing is often overcrowded, and half of the families assessed share accommodation with at least one other family to save costs (NRC, 17/06/2015). Threat of eviction is another concern (NRC, 17/06/2015).

In Mafraq governorate, almost half of refugee households have no heating and a quarter have unreliable electricity (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

Camps

Since the beginning of 2015, significant numbers of refugees have been returning to Zaatari camp from urban areas as a result of their increased economic vulnerability. Since 2012, at least 320,000 refugees have left the camp through both official and unofficial channels (including returns to Syria) (UNICEF, 28/05/2015).

Scalding summer temperatures, a lack of electricity and soaring food prices have deterred people from settling in Azraq camp (UNHCR, 28/05/2015).

WASH

Reports suggest that the public water system is under significant strain in areas with high concentrations of Syrians (Government, 17/03/2015). Municipal sewage and garbage removal services are also under stress (REACH, 12/11/2014).

Two out of five Syrian refugees live in poor sanitary conditions; only one in five has a functioning toilet. People in informal shelters are particularly affected (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

Education
40% of Syrian school-aged children in Jordan, approximately 80,000, are not receiving formal education (International Peace Institute, 28/05/2015). Over 65% of all school-aged children in Za'atari camp attend school and 57% of children in Azraq camp are not attending school (UNICEF, 30/06/2015). Barriers to attendance and reasons for dropping out include distance; overcrowding; safety in and on the way to school; lack of resources to pay for school material, and needing to work for household income (UNHCR, 31/03/2015; REACH, 03/2015). A survey showed that 60% of Syrian refugees over 15 have never completed basic schooling; only about 15% have completed secondary education (ILO, 11/05/2015).

37.5% of Iraqi refugees were not enrolled in schools in 2014, and non-attendance was reported among 40% of those enrolled, mostly for financial reasons (UNHCR, 31/01/2015).

Children with disabilities: Over 3.3% of children in Za'atari camp are reported to have at least one form of disability or chronic disease. Two-thirds are not attending school due to their condition (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

Protection

Entry Restrictions

The average number of Syrians able to enter Jordan has dropped significantly since 2013 (RRP6, 2014–2015). The number and accessibility of entry points has been limited, and entry restrictions have increased, forcing Syrians to travel to remote informal crossing-points in the eastern desert (IOM, 2014). Refugees report a waiting period of up to two months and lack of sufficient shelter, sanitation, and medical support (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

There was increasing evidence in the second part of 2014 that the Government is returning screened refugees to Syria. Jordanian officials maintain that the border is open to refugees, and that Jordan is simply instituting security measures to exclude people connected to “terrorist organisations” (Al Ghad, 14/12/2014; Jordan Times, 11/12/2014). The most vulnerable refugees likely include those without identity documents, or with forged documents, and those who had previously returned to Syria (PI, 29/09/2014).

Encampment

Since early 2014, the Government appears to have been implementing a more rigorous approach to its encampment policy of Syrian refugees. Significant numbers of refugees are being forcibly returned to camps (NRC-IRC, 13/11/2014; PI, 03/12/2014, 12/11/2014). This has often resulted in separation of family members between camp and urban settings (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

Refugees in camps and who wish to move to urban areas must obtain “bail” from the government. However, large numbers of refugees have left the camps without obtaining bail. The Government has asked UNHCR not to issue asylum-seeker certificates to Syrians in urban areas who left the camp after 14 July 2014 and who did not obtain bail (PI, 16/07/2014 R1; PI, 07/2014 R1).

Registration

An urban verification exercise, which requires biometric registration of all Syrians outside camps and the reissuing of key documents, has been ongoing since 15 February. As of 27 April, 54,794 Ministry of Interior (MoI) cards had been issued, covering 11% of the urban refugee population (UNHCR, 13/05/2015). A lease agreement is one of the preconditions for registration and for the issue of the MoI card, yet many Syrians outside of camps lack rental contracts (NRC, 17/06/2015). The card is required to access basic health and education services or register marriage, births, or deaths. The Government has instructed humanitarian agencies not to provide assistance to Syrians who do not have service cards. There is no sign this decision has been enforced, but it creates a vulnerability (PI, 08/01/2014, 03/12/2014).

Child Protection

The prevalence of child labour, often resulting in children withdrawing from school, raises concerns (UNHCR, 28/04/2015). 8% of the boys aged 9-15 are economically active and 3% are employed. In the 15–18 age group, 37% are economically active and 14% are employed (ILO, 11/05/2015). Child marriage is a concern among Syrian refugees.

Working Conditions

Only about 10% of employed Syrians have obtained formal work permits, and almost all Syrian refugees working outside camps do not have work permits. Since the beginning of the crisis, Jordanians have faced deteriorating work conditions. However on average, Syrian workers are still paid less, work longer hours, and have poorer contracts compared to Jordanians in the same sector (ILO, 11/05/2015).

SGBV

Many among the Syrian refugee community face domestic violence, early marriage, and sexual violence. 32.7% of all marriages were child marriages in 2014 and in 2013 13% of marriages involved girls younger than 18. In 2014, 50.7% of people seeking support services for physical assault and physiological abuse report the harm was caused by a spouse or primary caregiver (UN, 02/07/2015).

Updated: 23/07/2015
LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

14–20 July: Flooding has affected 57,101 people in Sagaing region and 2,116 in Kachin state. Seven people have died (ASEAN, 22/07/2015; Irrawaddy, 20/07/2015).

11–20 July: Fighting between the KIA and government troops around Sumpra Bum township, northern Kachin state, displaced 1,100 civilians. They have been cut off from aid for over a week (Irrawaddy, 20/07/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- An estimated 540,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance, 230,000 of whom are displaced (USAID, 16/06/2015).

- Repeated bloodshed between Buddhists and Muslims in Rakhine state since 2012, with human rights abuses reported against the Muslim minority (UN).

- 244,000 IDPs, resulting from years of internal conflict, including 146,000 mainly Rohingya Muslim IDPs in Rakhine state (OCHA, 27/02/2014).

Political Context

Myanmar’s first democratic election in 25 years will take place on 8 November 2015 (Myanmar Times, 08/07/2015). Foreign observers will be invited to monitor the election (Reuters, 24/03/2015). A 25 June referendum on changes to the constitution, which could have lifted Aung San Suu Kyi’s ban from the presidency and reduced the military’s power in parliament, did not reach the 75% majority needed to carry the motion (BBC, 25/06/2015).

Peace Negotiations

In 2013, the Government made peace deals with a number of ethnic groups involved in armed insurgency. The Government and 16 ethnic opposition groups are yet to agree on a draft text for the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) which was due to be completed in March (ICG, 01/07/2015). The Government has made clear that the agreement will only apply to those armies taking part in negotiations, but participants have said they will not sign unless other groups are also permitted to sign (AFP, 11/05/2015; ICG, 01/07/2015). Ceasefire talks will resume on 22 July (Mizzima, 17/07/2015).

On 17 March, the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) met with the President and affirmed its commitment to the peace process (Government, 17/03/2015). On 6 July the Tang National Liberation Army (TNLA) declared a unilateral ceasefire and its intention to join the national ceasefire agreement (Democratic Voice of Burma, 06/07/2015).

Security Context

Despite peace negotiations, the security situation remains tense in parts of Myanmar. In April–May, over 100 armed clashes took place, causing hundreds of casualties (Free Burma Rangers, 23/06/2015). The Myanmar Peace Monitor recorded 28 armed clashes in June, mainly in Shan and Kachin (Myanmar Peace Monitor, 30/06/2015).

In December 2014, the United Nationalities Federal Council, the largest coalition of ethnic armed organisations, announced the establishment of the Federal Union Army. The status of the army is unclear, but it has said that it will not interfere with the national elections in November 2015 (Democratic Voice of Burma, 16/07/2015).

Recent Incidents

Kachin State

The KIO still has administrative control over several key areas of Kachin, and there are intermittent clashes between its army (the KIA) and the Myanmar army (local media, 06/10/2014). Security incidents have been reported regularly since fighting resumed in April 2014 (OCHA, 16/05/2015). Fighting intensified around Sumpra Bum Township in mid-July (Irrawaddy, 20/07/2015). Intermittent clashes near Hpakant throughout June and July displaced hundreds of people (Local Media, 17/06/2015; Irrawaddy, 01/07/2015).

Kayah State

Conflict between the government army and the Karenni National Progressive Party continues, and civilians find their movement further restricted as both forces have bases in a number of villages, and are denying farmers access to farmland (local media, 18/05/2014; 17/05/2015).

Kayin State

Sporadic, low-intensity fighting between the Myanmar Army and the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) broke out in southern Kayin state 4 July and was continuing as of 16 July. Clashes have mainly taken place along a highway that connects Myanmar with Thailand through the eastern border town Myawaddy. Civilians injuries are being reported but the number is unconfirmed (Radio Free Asia,
Indian forces began attacks on positions in Myanmar’s Sagaing region on 9 June, after armed groups associated with the Naga ethnic group in Myanmar carried out cross-border attacks on Indian army patrols and convoys (BBC, 19/06/2015). As of 1 July, parallel Indian and Myanmar army operations are underway in the area (Irrawaddy, 01/07/2015).

Shan State

On 18 June, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) declared a unilateral ceasefire (local media, 18/06/2015). Fighting broke between Myanmar’s army and the MNDAA in early February, displacing tens of thousands of people (AFP, 10/02/2015; Radio Free Asia, 23/02/2015).

On 4–5 July, two soldiers were killed and one wounded during an attack on a military outpost around 50km northwest of the Shan state capital Lashio (Democratic Voice of Burma, 07/07/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access

Access in Myanmar’s highland areas is restricted by difficult terrain and poor infrastructure, and further limited during the monsoon season (May–September). Many areas are heavily mined, mainly Kachin and northern Shan states, and particularly eastern Bago region (Norwegian People’s Aid, 09/06/2015; UNICEF, 30/11/2014). Frequent conflict, predominately in Kachin and Shan state, also prevents access to people in need.

Flooding has restricted access since 25 June in Rakhine state, Tanintharyi region, Kachin state, Ayeyarwaddy region and Bago region. As of 8 July, floodwaters were receding and access conditions improving (OCHA, 07/07/2015; ASEAN, 04/07/2015; Irrawaddy, 01/07/2015).

Kachin state: There has been little to no cross-line humanitarian assistance to non-government-controlled areas in Kachin. Some 50,000 IDPs have had little to no humanitarian access since September 2014 (local media, 05/12/2014; OCHA, 15/06/2015). Recent fighting around Hpakant and Sumpra Bum has further restricted access. Around 1,100 people have reportedly been without access since 11 July, with some reports suggesting armed groups are actively denying access to humanitarians groups (Irrawaddy, 17/06/2015; 20/07/2015).

Rakhine state: 350 IDPs near the Chin state border town of Paletwa have been without access to humanitarian relief since April, as of 16 June (local media, 16/06/2015).

Shan state: In July, UN teams were able to access the Kokang region in northeastern Shan state for the first time since February. Suspended humanitarian operations, such as WFP distributions which stopped in May, are yet to fully resume (Myanmar, 15/07/2015; WFP, 31/05/2015).

Disasters

Torrential rains began on 14 July in Kachin state and Sagaing region, causing widespread flooding, particularly in the low-lying floodlands (Irrawaddy, 20/07/2015). 57,101 people were affected in Sagaing and 2,116 in Kachin. Seven people had died as of 20 July (Association of Southeast Asian Nations, 22/07/2015; Irrawaddy, 20/07/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

An estimated 662,400 people are in protracted displacement. There are approximately 97,000 displaced people in Shan and Kachin states as of May 2015 (OCHA, 21/06/2015) as well as 147,000 displaced in Rakhine as of April 2015 (OCHA, 23/06/2015). An estimated 20,000 people have been newly displaced in 2015, mainly in Kachin and northern Shan (OCHA, 16/06/2015).

Shan and Kachin: 1,000 people have been displaced to avoid forced recruitment by the KIA in Shan (local media, 01/06/2015).

Since fighting intensified between the KIA and government troops on 11 July around Sumpra Bum Township, Kachin state, 1,100 civilians have been displaced. They have
been cut off from aid for over a week (Irrawaddy, 20/07/2015). In June and early July, clashes near Hpakant, Kachin state displaced at least 200 people (Irrawaddy, 01/07/2015; 17/06/2015).

Rakhine: 350 people remain displaced after 450 fled the villages of Pinglong, Aung Lan Chaung, Dan Chaung and Kalakya to the village of Zapazeik, Kyauktaw Township, following clashes between Arakan Army and government troops (local media, 22/04/2015; 16/06/2015).

Around 130,000 people, mainly Rohingya Muslims, are in protracted displacement in Rakhine (USAID, 16/06/2015). Many live in closed camps following inter-communal violence in 2012 (OCHA, 27/02/2015).

According to UNHCR, as of late March, over 415,000 refugees originate from Myanmar (AFP, 30/11/2014).

China: Between January and February 2015, around 60,000 people are believed to have fled to China Refugees move back and forth across the border to seek shelter, food, and employment, according to aid agencies (OCHA, 30/05/2015; RFA, 23/03/2015).

Bangladesh: An estimated 30,000 Rohingya refugees live in official camps and receive assistance from aid agencies (local media, 09/11/2014). An additional 300,000–500,000 Rohingya reside in precarious conditions, either in unofficial camps or villages where they get little or no humanitarian assistance and almost no protection from human rights abuse. Most Rohingya are denied refugee status (UNHCR, 12/06/2015; AFP, 06/06/2015; AFP, 29/05/2015).

Malaysia: As of end December, 40,700 Rohingya registered with the UN are in Malaysia. Rohingya activists say a roughly equal number are unregistered. Rohingya migrants are frequently kept in trafficker camps along the border, where they are held for ransom, tortured, and raped (AFP, 30/11/2014: international media, 30/12/2014, Reuters, 01/06/2015).

Thailand: In July, biometric verification found around 110,000 refugees from Myanmar in nine camps in Thailand, along the Thailand–Myanmar border (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). Other sources place the number as high as 150,000 (US Government, 2015). Since June 2014, movement restrictions have been more strictly enforced; Myanmar refugees are banned from leaving camps, confined to their homes 1800–0600, and threatened with deportation if they do not comply (Refugees International, 29/08/2014). Authorities have pledged to send about 100,000 refugees back to Myanmar. Thai officials have been accused of tugging boats carrying Rohingya out to sea, away from their coast (CNN, 20/05/2015; UNHCR, 01/2015). Rohingya are subject to human trafficking. Many are held for ransom and abused (international media, 01/06/2015; 02/06/2015).

Food Security
429,000 people are in need of food assistance (OCHA, 01/2015).

Livelihoods
The trend for poppy cultivation in Shan state, which was on course to be wiped out ten years ago, has reversed. Poppy cultivation has tripled since 2006, with close to 60,700 hectares of poppy farms, according to UN surveys (NYT, 03/01/2015).

Rohingya fishermen of Maungdaw township, Rakhine state, have been barred from fishing since 7 November (local media, 10/11/2014).

Shelter
Approximately 120,000 protracted displaced are without access to improved shelter across Myanmar (USAID, 16/06/2015).

Health and Nutrition
Access to healthcare is a major challenge in Rakhine (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 hospital.

Dengue Fever
As of 17 June, the number of dengue fever cases in 2015 has reached 8,475, causing 37 deaths – this is more than double the number during the same period in 2014. Incidence has been increasing since April. Mon state, Yangon, and Irrawaddy regions are the most affected (Eleven, 18/06/2015; local media, 22/06/2015).

Nutrition
In Rakhine state, GAM is above 20% in some areas. In June 2014, 2.1% SAM and 6.8% MAM was found among 32,000 children under-five screened in Rakhine (UNICEF, 01/02/2015).

Shelter and NFIs
In Rakhine state, 15,000 people are in need of assistance to repair shelters. In Kachin, there is a major need to scale up maintenance and repair work (OCHA, 31/10/2014).
Displaced people and vulnerable communities in Rakhine have limited access to cooking fuel and energy. The situation is particularly difficult for over 80,000 IDPs who have been in camps in Sittwe Township for over two years. Households in camps and isolated villages are using shelter materials or unsustainable and hazardous materials as fuel, exchanging food rations for fuel, and over-exploiting surrounding forest and woodland (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

WASH

In Rakhine state, a general deterioration in the WASH situation in camps is aggravating health problems and increasing the risk of waterborne disease (USAID, 16/06/2015).

Education

In total, 184,000 children are in need of education assistance, with up to 124,000 in Rakhine state alone (OCHA, 01/2015).

Protection

The KIA continues to forcibly recruit people from villages in Shan state (local media, 11/11/2014; (local media, 01/06/2015). Local media has accused government troops of rape, beatings, and shooting of unarmed civilians in the Kokang region, Shan state (RFA, 25/03/2015).

Legal Status of Rohingya

Massive human rights infringements against the Rohingya minority in Rakhine state continue to be reported. Over 800,000 people – mostly Rohingya – are estimated without citizenship in northern Rakhine (UNHCR). In early April, the Myanmar Government started taking back temporary identity cards, expired end March, from people without full citizenship, including Rohingya (international media, 18/06/2015). These identity cards were part of a citizenship application process (AFP, 11/02/2015). In June, the government began issuing two-year ‘green cards’ to some Rohingya, but they have to provide documentation, which the majority do not have, and renounce their Rohingya identity (international media, 18/06/2015). For those who refuse registration of adequate documents, the plan was for Rakhine authorities to construct temporary camps (local media, 12/10/2014). Rights advocates say this could put thousands of Rohingya at risk of indefinite detention.

Myanmar states that the Rohingya are migrants from neighbouring Bangladesh, thus excluded from citizenship under the 1982 Citizenship Law. Myanmar authorities have started the process to send Rohingya to Bangladesh, while they stay in camps close to the Bangladeshi border (AFP, 08/06/2015). Over 300 have been repatriated to Bangladesh as of 22 July (Irrawaddy, 19/07/2015). Bangladeshi officials state that Rohingya are citizens of Myanmar and that Rohingya living in Bangladesh should be sent to Myanmar (Reuters, 02/06/2015).

Rohingya in the Bay of Bengal

The Thai Government began a major operation to shut down human trafficking along its border with Myanmar in April, leading people smugglers to abandon migrants at sea (Reuters, 02/06/2015). 25,000 Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants have attempted to cross the Bay of Bengal in 2015. An estimated 300–1,000 have died during the journey (USAID, 19/06/2015; Human Rights Watch, 27/05/2015). As of 12 July, Myanmar authorities have collected and returned more than 1,000 Rohingya Muslims and Bangladeshi migrants to the mainland. Over 100 migrants were picked up by the navy between 30 June and 12 July (VICE, 14/07/2015; AFP, 08/06/2015; local media, 18/06/2015).

As of 8 June, an estimated 4,788 people have arrived in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand (OCHA, 08/06/2015). An unknown number remain stranded or in transit at sea.

Children

On 4 June, 51 children were discharged from the Myanmar Armed Forces, bringing the total of children discharged since the beginning of 2015 to 93 (UNICEF, 04/06/2015). From 2013 to January 2015, a total of 723 cases of underage recruitment by the Myanmar Army have been reported to the UN (Child Soldiers International, 01/2015). The amount of children that remain within the ranks of the Myanmar army, or within other armed ethnic groups is unclear.

SGBV

Rape has been repeatedly used as a weapon by armed groups, including the Myanmar army. In 2014, the Women’s League of Burma released a report that documented more than 118 victims of sexual violence at the hands of the Myanmar army since Thein Sein’s government took power (local media 26/11/2014).

Cross-border trafficking for the purposes of domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, and forced marriage was identified as a major protection concern by respondents during an assessment (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

Mines and ERW

Around five million people live in mine-contaminated areas (Mines Advisory Group, 05/2014). Eastern Bago is believed to be the most contaminated region (Norwegian People’s Aid, 09/06/2015).

An assessment in Kachin and northern Shan states concluded that the majority of reported landmine victims over the second half of 2014 were male farmers, and 56% were displaced people. Most accidents happened when people travelled on foot to areas they visit often, such as fields (UNICEF, 30/11/2014).
According to local media, citing intelligence reports by the Bangladeshi border security forces, Myanmar security forces have planted mines along the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh (local media, 23/11/2014).

**Updated: 23/07/2015**

### PHILIPPINES  CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYphoon

#### Situation of concern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-crisis vulnerability</th>
<th>% population affected</th>
<th>Humanitarian access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**22 July:** Several clashed involving New People’s Army and other militia, and Philippines armed forces were reported in Luzon and Mindanao between 17 and 22 July (Philstar).

**21 July:** Heavy rains continue to cause flash floods, affecting more than 42,500 people in Luzon and Visayas (ECHO).

#### KEY CONCERNS

- Over 26,000 people remain displaced ten months after Typhoon Haiyan and more than two million lack adequate shelter or housing (FAO, 09/10/2014).

- 38,200 people who fled fighting in Zamboanga in September 2013 are still displaced (OCHA, 01/06/2015).

- 10,000 remain displaced in Maguindanao as of 3 July, after a month-long military campaign against BIFF in March (OCHA, 13/07/2015).

- 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 had been relatively stable until January 2015, when fighting broke out in Maguindanao. Although tensions remain high, the peace deal with MILF has not derailed. Those displaced by fighting in Maguindanao and Zamboanga are facing protection issues and many are in need of safe water and shelter support.

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

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### Political Context

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. The proposed 2014 Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro, which is yet to be passed in Parliament, paves the way for the creation of a new Muslim autonomous entity, replacing the current Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. On 16 June, MILF began the first phase of the decommissioning process, in an attempt to encourage the passing of the bill in Parliament (AFP, 16/06/2015).

### Security Context

Various armed groups, among them the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), which split from MILF in 2008, IS-affiliated Abu Sayyaf, and the Maoist New Peoples’ Army (NPA) continue their violent opposition against the state. Since July, especially the NPA have increased their number of attacks.

In February, the national army launched a military offensive against BIFF in Mindanao, following clashes in which 44 police officers, 11 militants and two civilians were killed. Troops were sent to Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, and Maguindanao. 139 insurgents were killed, 12 captured, and bomb-making bases seized during a five-week campaign (AP, 30/03/2015).

Recent incidents

**Several clashes between armed forces and NPA and other militia were reported in Mindanao and Luzon between 17 and 22 July. 13 people were killed and several wounded, including six civilians (PhilStar, 17/07/2015; 20/07/2015; 21/07/2015; 22/07/2015).**

Suspected NPA militia clashed with security forces on 12 July in Quezon province, Calabarzon region. Three people were killed and five injured (PhilStar, 14/07/2015). On 11 July, one person was killed and three wounded by suspected NPA in South Cotabato (PhilStar, 11/07/2015). In Maguindanao, a local official was killed and a soldier wounded by suspected BIFF fighters on 10 July in Salibo town (PhilStar, 10/07/2015).

In June and early July, Aby Sayyaf and BIFF carried out several attacks in Mindanao, mainly on police and security forces. Five people were killed, including two civilians, and more than 20 were injured (PhilStar, 16/06/2015; 19/06/2015; 02/07/2015; 06/07/2015; 09/07/2015).

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

#### Access

Insecurity in parts of Mindanao and nearby areas is limiting humanitarian access.

#### Disasters

**Volcanic Eruption**
Bulusan volcano in Sorsogon province in Luzon, has emitted ash and smoke several times in the past weeks. The latest emissions were on 17 July and were weaker than previous ones (PhilStar, 19/07/2015). More than 34,000 people in five municipalities in Sorsogon were affected by eruptions in June (local media, 25/06/2015; international media, 21/06/2015; Government, 20/06/2015).

**Floods and Landslides**

Heavy rains have led to 42,500 people on Luzon and Visayas. The regions of Central Luzon and Calabarzon, NCR, CAR and Ilocos are particularly affected. As of 21 July, 21 people have died, two had been injured, and six were still missing (Government, 11/07/2015; 14/07/2015; ECHO, 21/07/2015; 14/07/2015). 1,738 remain in 11 evacuation centres in Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Ilocos and CAR regions (Government, 21/07/2015).

As of 5 July, 126,340 people in Mindanao have been affected by moderate to heavy storms since late June. 235 houses were damaged (Government, 05/07/2015). As of 2 July, five people had died (OCHA, 06/07/2015). Several dikes, bridges, and more than 1,900 hectares of agricultural land have been damaged (ECHO, 27/06/2015).

**Tropical Storms**

On 4 July, tropical storm Linfa (locally known as Egay) made landfall over Palanan, Isabela province, northern Luzon, affecting 11 coastal towns. The storm caused four landslides and 16 flooding incidents, which made major roads impassable. No casualties were reported. As of 7 July, 48,310 individuals were affected. 95 houses were damaged (Government, 08/07/2015; ECHO, 06/07/2015; AFP, 05/07/2015).

**Dry Spell**

El Niño conditions continue, with a chance of deteriorating conditions toward the end of the year. Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao are affected by the dry spell (Government, 27/05/2015). Agricultural production in southern and central Philippines was already affected in April (local media, 21/04/2015). Affected crops include maize, rice, high-value crops, and vegetables (Government, 22/04/2015).

**Displacement**

As of May 2015, there are at least 119,000 IDPs in the Philippines (IDMC, 06/2015). About half of IDPs are from conflict-affected areas of Mindanao. In 2015, the total number of people displaced by conflict and violence has reached its lowest level since 2011 (IDMC, 10/02/2015). In 2014 some 3 million people were displaced, around 80% by natural disasters.

Maguindanao

As of 3 July, around 10,000 people remain displaced after fighting between January and March. Some 8,500 are in evacuation centres, the others are staying within host communities (OCHA, 13/07/2015). Water, shelter, and protection are priority needs (OCHA, 01/06/2015; IOM, 22/05/2015). The prolonged dry season is further affecting the health and incomes of the IDPs (ICRC, 20/04/2015). Many of the IDPs who have returned home (125,000 were displaced initially) still require assistance (OCHA, 01/06/2015).

**Zamboanga**

As of June, 28,200 people remained displaced after fighting between Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and government forces in September 2013. 1,907 people are in evacuation centres, 15,083 in transitional sites and 11,300 are staying with host families or renting temporary homes (OCHA, 01/06/2015). Mid-July, some 800 people returned home (PhilStar, 17/07/2015). Some of the transitional sites, including Mampang, which hosts 7,000 IDPs, are disconnected from livelihood opportunities and have irregular and insufficient access to water and electricity (OCHA, 31/05/2015; 22/06/2015). The majority of IDPs are from landless Muslim minorities (OCHA, 03/07/2015).

**Typhoon Haiyan**

Little information is available about the needs of the approximately four million people who have returned home since the typhoon hit in November 2013, although it is believed that livelihood, food, and housing needs remain considerable in Haiyan-affected areas (IDMC, 10/02/2015). Around 38,100 houses were destroyed and 203,600 partially damaged (OCHA, 15/12/2014). Less than 20% of households indicate that one and half years after the typhoon, their lives have returned to normal. 32% of the returned households are able to provide for their basic needs, and 74% have experienced a decline in their livelihood situation (Brookings Institute and IOM, 24/06/2015). Shelter support continues, as thousands of people are still restoring their homes, but remoteness and isolation of affected communities make assistance difficult (international media, 21/07/2015). Longer-term assistance is required, such as assistance with safer reconstruction and enabling access to healthcare, schools, and livelihood opportunities (UNHCR, 30/09/2014). Shelter gaps persist in Western Leyte (EU Red Cross, 20/03/2015).

**Food Security**

For 85% of IDPs in Maguindanao, food security is a main concern, and they are in need of livelihood support (IOM, 22/05/2015). Food remains a priority need for people affected by Typhoon Haiyan, more than a year after the event. Food prices are inflated and thousands of people still do not have the means to buy food or lack sufficient access to markets (EU Red Cross, 20/03/2015).

**Health**

In nine of the 62 return sites in Maguindanao, health and nutrition facilities have been partially damaged, and one completely destroyed (OCHA, 01/06/2015). Main health concerns among remaining IDPs are influenza, skin diseases, and diarrhea (IOM, 22/05/2015).

**Nutrition**

Little information is available about the needs of the approximately four million people who have returned home since the typhoon hit in November 2013, although it is believed that livelihood, food, and housing needs remain considerable in Haiyan-affected areas (IDMC, 10/02/2015). Around 38,100 houses were destroyed and 203,600 partially damaged (OCHA, 15/12/2014). Less than 20% of households indicate that one and half years after the typhoon, their lives have returned to normal. 32% of the returned households are able to provide for their basic needs, and 74% have experienced a decline in their livelihood situation (Brookings Institute and IOM, 24/06/2015). Shelter support continues, as thousands of people are still restoring their homes, but remoteness and isolation of affected communities make assistance difficult (international media, 21/07/2015). Longer-term assistance is required, such as assistance with safer reconstruction and enabling access to healthcare, schools, and livelihood opportunities (UNHCR, 30/09/2014). Shelter gaps persist in Western Leyte (EU Red Cross, 20/03/2015).
A SMART survey of displaced communities of Zamboanga indicated high malnutrition rates among children under five (ACF, 20/03/2015).

**WASH**

Only 29 of 62 return sites in Maguindanao have access to water as of 1 June, compared to 59 before the conflict. 37 sites have access to toilets, compared to 46 before (OCHA, 01/06/2015).

**Education**

Conflict and displacement in Maguindanao since February–March continues to affect the education of over 14,000 students (OCHA, 03/07/2015).

**Protection**

In Zamboanga, IDPs’ dependency on food assistance has increased tensions and the risk of SGBV. Women and children are particularly exposed to harassment, threats, and theft (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Protection is a critical concern for IDPs in Maguindanao, particularly those in Datu Salibo and Datu Saudi Ampatuan municipalities, where the presence of military forces and militant groups is threatening security (OCHA, 31/05/2015). In almost all IDP sites, protection services, including referral pathways, psychosocial services, and legal documentation support, are still not available (IOM, 22/05/2015).

Many armed groups are accused of recruiting children. The Philippines army has identified some 340 child soldiers currently fighting with the NPA, though the number may be higher in reality. BIFF and Aby Sayyaf are also reported to recruit children and teenagers (IRIN, 20/05/2015).

Updated: 23/07/2015

**EUROPE**

**UKRAINE**

**CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT**

For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

20 July: Some 8,000 people affected by HIV in non-government areas face a critical shortage of medicine; supply will run out mid-August if access is not improved (AFP).

19 July: Shelling was reported for the first time since the February ceasefire in Donetsk city, highlighting a deteriorating security situation in the region (AFP).

14 July: Over 470,000 people, including 118,000 children, are facing serious problems accessing safe water in non-government areas of Luhansk region (UNICEF).

10 July: Mariupol in Donetsk region is receiving only 10% of its normal water intake from the Donbas canal (OCHA).

### KEY CONCERNS

- Five million people are affected by the crisis, and more than 1.6 million need humanitarian support. The situation is most severe in non-government areas (MSNA, 30/03/2015).

- Nearly 1.4 million people have been displaced internally and nearly 922,650 externally. It is difficult for civilians to escape contested areas (UNHCR, 13/07/2015).

- Conflict, as well as administrative and logistical constraints are impeding access and response (OCHA, 06/2015).

- Access to food, health, and WASH are key concerns (MSNA, 30/03/2015).

### Political Context

Ukraine and pro-Russian separatist forces signed a peace roadmap on 12 February, introducing a full bilateral ceasefire from 15 February, the establishment of a buffer zone around the frontline, and the release of hostages and illegally detained prisoners (BBC, 12/02/2015). The ceasefire has been broken repeatedly, with fighting intensifying along the frontline during May.

The Government introduced changes to the Constitution in July granting more power to regions, but these efforts were denounced as insufficient by opposition groups (AFP, 16/07/2015). A law granting special status to non-government-controlled areas was approved by Parliament in March, but rejected by leaders of the two self-declared republics (local media, 17/03/2015). The list of areas beyond government control was...
extended end April, with all budgetary payments terminated (OCHA, 01/05/2015). State services and payments to non-government-controlled areas were halted late 2014 (international media, 15/11/2014; UN, 15/12/2014).

Security Context

As of 10 July, at least 6,764 people have been documented as killed and 16,877 wounded since the beginning of the conflict, including 1,960 killed in 2015; the number of casualties decreased between February and April due to the ceasefire, but has risen again since May with increased clashes. The death toll may be higher, since access to conflict-affected areas is restricted (OCHA, 10/07/2015).

Armed groups control most of eastern Donetsk region, including Donetsk’s airport and Debaltseve, and a small area of southern Luhansk region (Government, 13/01/2015; international media, 22/01/2015). Non-government forces reportedly comprise around 35,000 to 40,000 fighters, including up to 10,000 Russian fighters (AFP, 23/03/2015).

Sporadic violence has been reported around Donetsk city and airport since April, but since May, fighting has intensified and spread to other areas. Clashes on 3 June left at least 34 people dead and 180 wounded in the conflict zone, mainly around Maryinka and Krasnogorivka, in one of the worst outbreaks of violence since February (OSCE, 19/06/2015; 04/2015; AFP, 04/06/2015). On 19 July, shelling was reported in Donetsk city for the first time since the February ceasefire (AFP, 19/07/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Five million people are affected by the crisis in Ukraine, including 1.7 million children. 3.6 million people are affected in non-government areas, 954,000 in government-controlled areas in Donetsk and Luhansk, and 310,000 in Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, and Zaporizhzhya regions, the main IDP reception areas. More than 1.6 million are in need of humanitarian support (UNICEF, 01/05/2015; MSNA, 30/03/2015).

Access

The unpredictable closure of government checkpoints into non-government areas in June due to insecurity and landmines has significantly affected aid delivery (USAID, 25/06/2015). Several aid workers were caught in crossfire when trying to cross the contact line on 25 June (OCHA, 26/06/2015).

Lack of available and affordable transport, insecurity along exit routes and administrative barriers, are preventing civilians from reaching safety (UNHCR, 10/03/2015).

Administrative Constraints

A local decree on 1 May effectively closed all crossing points to non-government areas in Luhansk (UNHCR, 08/06/2015).

Administrative requirements to cross the lines separating government from non-government areas are increasingly complicated. Obligatory permits have been enforced since 21 January, and are negatively affecting access to services and reunification of families. The permit is not easy to acquire and corruption is reported (UNICEF/Protection Cluster, 25/05/2015; UNHCR, 20/03/2015; OCHA, 06/03/2015). Protocols have been established to allow individuals facing an emergency to leave non-government areas without a permit; a dedicated entry point for humanitarian cargo to reach non-government areas will also reportedly be made available (OCHA, 26/06/2015; USAID, 25/06/2015). Since February, many instances of extensive delays or refusal of permission for aid trucks to enter non-government areas have been reported (UNHCR, 20/03/2015; HRW, 13/03/2015). Authorities in the self-proclaimed Donetsk Republic issued a draft ‘humanitarian law’ in May, requiring foreigners to be accredited by local authorities (UNICEF, 15/05/2015).

Logistical Constraints

Railway transport out of and into the non-government area of Luhansk region has been interrupted, limiting civilian travel to pedestrian traffic, and restricting the vehicle transport of commercial goods (USAID, 25/06/2015). Luhansk region is difficult to access due to deteriorated roads and bridges, and UXO and IEDs (OCHA, 27/02/2015).

The Government has halted public transport in non-government areas, hampering humanitarian access (OCHA, 09/01/2015).

International shipping has been prohibited from the ports of Yevpatoria, Kerch, Sevastopol, Theodosia, and Yalta, on the Crimea peninsula, since 15 July 2014 (GARD, 17/07/2014).

Trapped and Hard-to-Reach Communities

Many civilians remain stranded in hard-to-reach areas in conflict and non-government-controlled areas. People who fled Krasnogorivka village in Donetsk region during the surge in fighting have returned, fearing their abandoned homes would otherwise be seized. They are hiding in basements and living in desperate conditions (UNHCR, 26/06/2015). As of March, 500,000 people were living in underground shelters in conflict areas, with little or no access to humanitarian aid (OCHA, 16/03/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

At 10 July, more than 1.38 million IDPs had been registered in eastern Ukraine since March 2014: 13% are children and 4% people with disabilities. 24,000 people were displaced over 26 June–15 July. Key reception areas are areas under government control in Donetsk (509,300) and Luhansk regions (199,200), and Kharkiv (180,100), Kyiv (100,400), Zaporizhzhya (96,100), and Dnipropetrovsk regions (73,000) (UNHCR, 15/07/2015). 19,000 people are estimated to be displaced within Crimea (IDMC, 31/10/2014).

People have been evacuated end June from villages near the line of contact in Donetsk region, including Shyrokyne and Berdyansk (UNHCR, 26/06/2015).

A discrepancy between the real and registered numbers of IDPs is significantly hampering delivery of assistance (OCHA, 30/01/2015). Difficulties around the registration of newly
arrived IDPs and re-registration of IDPs with expiring certificates continue to be reported (UNHCR, 26/06/2015). Many pensioners have registered as IDPs solely to be able to access their pension payments, and then moved back home (UNHCR, 06/02/2015). Social fragmentation and tensions between IDPs and host communities have increased as a result of the conflict, especially in the Donbas region (UN/World Bank/EU, 08/07/2015).

Returnees

Some IDPs have reportedly returned to conflict areas, as the devaluation of the national currency has limited their ability to afford basic living expenses, including rent and food (OCHA, 06/03/2015). With the fighting intensifying in May, reported returns have decreased (OCHA, 25/05/2015).

Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

An increasing number of Ukrainians are seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. 922,650 Ukrainians are seeking asylum (38%) or other forms of legal stay in neighbouring countries, including 765,600 in Russia, 81,600 in Belarus and 62,100 in Poland; this compares to 593,000 as of early January (UNHCR, 13/07/2015; OCHA, 09/01/2015). Since July 2014, Russian authorities have prevented Ukrainians from obtaining refugee status in several regions, including border areas and major cities such as Moscow. Most asylum seekers have been unable to collect the required documents and access refugee status (IO, 09/12/2014).

Food Security

Nearly 1.8 million people need food assistance, including 670,000 in conflict areas; this compares to 1.3 million overall people in need of support as of end March (WFP, 30/06/2015; OCHA, 03/06/2015; MSNA, 30/03/2015). People in non-government areas are particularly affected by high food prices and limited food supply due to the restricted movement of commodities (WFP, 31/05/2015). Food shortages have been reported especially among IDPs in Luhansk and Kharkiv (OCHA, 24/04/2015; 10/04/2015; FAO, 26/01/2015).

Since November 2014, some food prices have tripled or quadrupled. In Donetsk region, fruit and vegetable price increases range from 60% to 383% (OCHA, 01/05/2015). These increases, disrupted transport systems, high insecurity, remoteness, and lack of hard currency limit access to markets for at least 20% of the population in Luhansk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, and Zaporizhzhya regions (HNO, 12/2014). Populations in non-government areas are particularly affected (OCHA, 24/04/2015).

Agriculture

Insecurity, damaged infrastructure, landmines, and lack of resources are delaying agricultural activity in many conflict areas (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

13% of wheat, barley, and maize, and up to 30% of sunflower crops were not harvested in 2014 due to displacement, corresponding to losses of 530,000 and 400,000 MT (FAO, 31/01/2015).

Livelihoods

Households’ poor financial situation is the main driver of need (MSA, 30/03/2015). 2.7 million people are in need of livelihood support (OCHA, 03/06/2015). The devaluation of the Ukrainian currency means the health budget for 2015 will only cover an estimated 30% of needs (OCHA, 24/02/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Nearly 4.5 million people are in need of health support, compared to 1.5 million end March (OCHA, 03/06/2015; MSNA, 30/03/2015). Significant vaccine shortages are also reported, especially in non-government areas of Luhansk region; in non-government areas of Donetsk region, only 7 –10% of required quantities are available (OCHA, 26/06/2015; UNICEF, 01/05/2015).

HIV/AIDS

HIV-related needs are a concern in non-government areas, with reports of interruption of antiretroviral treatment for adults and children (UNICEF, 15/05/2015). Over 16,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in non-government areas, including over 7,000 people receiving antiretroviral therapy (HRW, 13/03/2015). Some 8,000 people face a critical shortage of medicines: their supply will run out in mid-August if access to non-government areas is not improved (AFP, 20/07/2015).

Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST)

Restrictions on the delivery of narcotic drugs since December 2014 for people undergoing OST in Donetsk and Luhansk regions has resulted in discontinuation of treatment for more than 300 of the 899 patients residing in the area (OCHA, 23/01/2015).

Mental Health

At least 100,000 parents and children in conflict areas need psychological support after
months of shelling, to reduce heightened stress levels and address symptoms of trauma (UNICEF, 11/06/2015). Older people, men, and children are at particularly high psychological risk (IMC, 10/07/2015).

Tuberculosis (TB)

At least 2,400 people in non-government areas with TB, including 530 people with multidrug-resistant TB, lack consistent treatment provision and follow-up, and are at risk of treatment interruption (HRW, 13/03/2015). Stocks of drug supplies for HIV and TB patients are limited. New TB cases are estimated to have increased by 5% in non-government areas of Donetsk, mainly among the elderly and combatants (OCHA, 06/02/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

1.4 million people are estimated to be in need of emergency shelter and NFIs, compared to 600,000 end March. Government and non-government areas in Donetsk and Luhansk, as well as high IDP reception areas are most affected (OCHA, 03/06/2015; MSNA, 30/03/2015).

Housing solutions are provided to only 3–5% of IDPs in temporary collective centres; 9-10% of IDPs in government areas along the conflict line receive solutions, compared to less than 1% in western and central Ukraine (UNHCR/Shelter Cluster, 15/06/2015; UNHCR, 20/03/2015). The majority of IDPs are in host families or with volunteers and are often excluded from humanitarian assistance (UNHCR, 21/05/2015). The absorption capacity within host communities is exhausted in high reception areas and in Odessa. Secondary displacement to seek more sustainable solutions is likely (UNHCR, 21/05/2015).

Conflict Areas

Repair needs are high along the conflict line (UNHCR/Shelter cluster, 30/04/2015). 60% of Shyrokyne’s buildings have been destroyed by shelling, while shelter and food support remain priorities in Debaltseve (MSF, 21/04/2015; OSCE, 27/03/2015). People in underground shelters in conflict areas are in acute need of basic NFIs (MSF, 03/03/2015).

In Luhansk region, more than 10,000 houses need emergency repair (OCHA, 13/03/2015). 30,000 in Donbas were without electricity at end April (OCHA, 03/04/2015).

WASH

More than 1.3 million people need WASH assistance, including nearly 1.2 million in non-government areas (OCHA, 03/06/2015). Water trucks cannot deliver drinking water in non-government areas (OCHA, 10/07/2015). Over 470,000 people, including 118,000 children, are facing serious problems in accessing safe water in non-government areas of Luhansk region (UNICEF, 14/07/2015). Populations in non-government areas of Donetsk region are also significantly affected by damage to the main canal (OCHA, 10/07/2015).

More than 2,000km of pipelines have been damaged in Donbas: people have to walk long distances to get water. Conflict around Horlivka in Donetsk has made it impossible to repair the Donbas canal pipelines (OCHA, 10/07/2015; 10/04/2015). Mariupol is receiving only 10% of its normal water intake from the Donbas canal and is relying on a secondary source of water, which may be exhausted within two months (OCHA, 10/07/2015). In June, at least 165,000 people in Luhansk were without access to safe water as the supply from the main pumping and filter stations was turned off; access was partially restored on 3 July, but Kirovsk and Pervomaisk districts remained cut off (OCHA, 05/06/2015).

Education

The conflict has disrupted the education of up to 25,000 children, as 82 schools remain closed in non-government areas in Donetsk and Luhansk. At least 225,000 school-aged children still need access to school supplies and quality education (UNICEF, 11/06/2015). Lack of transportation, mines, and overcrowding are main barriers to school attendance in Donetsk, where 523 facilities need repair (OSCE, 22/04/2015; UNICEF, 20/03/2015).

50% of teachers are thought to have left non-government areas, including 35% in Luhansk (OCHA, 08/05/2015; 27/03/2015).

Protection

5.1 million people are in need of protection; lack of access to conflict areas is a major challenge in this regard (OCHA, 03/06/2015). Human rights violations and abuses persist in eastern Ukraine, including shelling, executions, arbitrary and illegal detentions, torture, ill-treatment, human trafficking, and deprivation of economic and social rights for people in conflict areas (UN, 01/06/2015).

IDPs

The requirement to register as an IDP in government-controlled areas to be eligible for social payments and pensions is causing displacement and confusing overall IDP numbers (UNHCR 31/12/2014; 23/01/2015). Children are unable to register for IDP status unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian (UNHCR, 08/06/2015). A mechanism for verifying IDP addresses was introduced in April and concerns over 20 –30% IDPs losing their status and benefits were raised (UNHCR, 10/04/2015). There are also concerns that military-age men are not registering as IDPs for fear of being drafted to the army (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

An increasing number of unlawful refusals of registration and financial assistance, violations of employment rights, limited access to social benefits, discrimination and stigmatisation is reported among IDPs (OCHA, 13/03/2015; IOM, 22/10/2014).

Minorities

The situation of minority communities in Crimea, including Crimean Tatars and ethnic Ukrainians, among others, is of concern, while there has been an apparent escalation of anti-Roma sentiment in the country (UN, 27/01/2015). Roma report living with restricted water and electricity supply, as well as unequal access to healthcare (OCHA, 01/05/2015).
In Crimea, at least nine people have reportedly been abducted; intimidation and restrictive laws have been used to silence the media – including almost all Crimean Tatar media outlets – and NGOs, and public protests have been banned since annexation (UN, 01/06/2015; UNHCR, 31/01/2015; Amnesty, 17/03/2015; local media, 01/04/2015).

Vulnerable Groups

The 54,000 disabled people in eastern Ukraine constitute the most vulnerable in the population (UNHCR, 21/05/2015). Support is lacking (UNICEF, 22/06/2015).

The situation for older people in Donetsk and Luhansk is worsening, and particularly alarming in remote rural areas and areas with active conflict. Access to pension income and therefore to food and medicine is almost non-existent for many who are not mobile (OCHA, 20/02/2015).

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). There are also concerns over militarisation of children in non-government areas (AFP, 24/06/2015; Protection Cluster, 04/03/2015).

Mines and ERW

Landmine and UXO incidents continue to be reported in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, especially near conflict areas (OCHA, 10/07/2015). 30,000 hectares of land along the frontline in Novoazovskiyi and Artemivskyi districts in Donetsk region are reportedly contaminated (UNHCR, 10/04/2015).

Updated: 20/07/2015

22 July: Poor households in Sud-Est, Nord-Ouest and Artibonite are in urgent need of assistance and expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes through January 2016 due to persisting drought conditions (FEWSNET).

KEY CONCERNS
- Erratic rains since January have led to 3.8 million food insecure Haitians, including 180,000 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (local media, 15/06/2015; ECHO, 27/05/2015). Basic food prices have increased since January, up 30–40% in some areas (FEWSNET, 08/05/2015).
- Continued cholera incidence, with 17,440 suspected cases and 148 deaths between January and July (OCHA, 03/07/2015).
- 60,800 IDPs remain in 45 camps as a result of the 2010 earthquake. 59% of camps are tents and makeshift sites (IOM, 30/06/2015).

OVERVIEW
Humanitarian needs in Haiti stem from displacement, food insecurity, and malnutrition. The situation is compounded by an extremely fragile political and economic situation, and a significant vulnerability to natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and droughts. The resilience of the population is also extremely low.

Political Context
President Martelly appointed a unity government on 19 January, and on 22 January the new Prime Minister set up a new electoral council (AFP, 22/01/2015). The first round for legislative, presidential, and local elections is scheduled to start on 9 August, and will be monitored by an EU observing mission (EU, 15/07/2015; AFP, 20/04/2015). Elections have been delayed since 2011, leading to tensions and opposition demonstrations in the country, most significantly in January (UN, 18/03/2015).

Armed criminal violence is reportedly increasing in Haiti (Alter Press, 24/02/2015). While the UN stabilisation mission maintains police in regions, the Haitian National Police is not yet fully capable of dealing with civil unrest without the support of the international community (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Access
A UN peacekeeper was killed on 14 April near Ouanaminthe in Nord-Est department, during a violent protest against recurring electricity shortages (UN, 14/04/2015).
The number of humanitarian actors has continued to decrease, from 512 in 2010 to 146 by March 2015, and government capacity has not always improved, creating critical sectoral gaps (UN, 28/03/2015; OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014).

Disasters: drought

Around one million Haitians have been affected by prolonged drought conditions in Haiti since the beginning of the year. The most affected departments are Sud-Est, Nord-Ouest, Haut Artibonite, Centre and Nord-Est (OCHA, 03/07/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of 30 June, 60,800 IDPs remain in 45 camps since the 2010 earthquake, including 47% in Delmas (27,340), 17% in Croix des Bouquets (10,760), and 10% in Tabarre (5,750) in Port-au-Prince. 21 IDP sites were closed between 1 April and 30 June (IOM, 30/06/2015).

Basic services in camps have declined faster than the pace of return or relocation. (OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014). Absence of a protection-sensitive approach, lack of coherent urban planning, and instability, in part due to poor rule of law, are major obstacles to durable solutions for IDPs (UNHCR, 08/05/2015).

Food Security

As a result of below-average rainfall in 2015, 3.8 million Haitians are food insecure, including 180,000 people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, compared to 605,000 and 165,000 in 2014 (local media, 15/06/2015; ECHO, 27/05/2015; OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014).

Basic food prices have reportedly increased since January, up 30–40% for some, as a result of depleted food stocks (OCHA, 29/05/2015). Poor households in Sud-Est, Nord-Ouest and Artibonite are expected to face Crisis food security outcomes through January 2016, due to the combined effect of food prices, erratic rains, poor autumn harvest prospects and lack of investment in the agricultural sector. They are in urgent need of assistance (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015; 20/07/2015).

Agricultural Outlook

80% of Haiti is affected by El Niño conditions, with seasonal rainfall about 50% lower than average. Drought conditions are expected to continue until at least December (FEWSNET, 20/07/2015; WFP, 01/07/2015; local media, 15/06/2015). 60–80% of the main local crops and vegetables have been lost in parts of Haiti as a result, while a 60–70% production deficit is expected for the spring harvest due to reduced planting activities in the main producing areas. Sud-Est (Grand Gosier, Anse-à-Pitres and Belle-Anse communes), Nord-Ouest, Artibonite (Gonaïves), Plateau central, Nord-Est, and Ouest (Grand-Gôave) are most affected (ECHO, 27/05/2015; FAO, 27/05/2015).

Livestock has been severely affected by the drought, and pressure has been put on fishing (ECHO, 27/05/2015).

Health and Nutrition

Five million Haitians (half of the total population) lack access to basic health services (UN, 27/10/2014). Some hospitals have still not been fully rehabilitated since the earthquake (MSF, 08/01/2015). Lack of mental health support is also reported (Alter Press, 10/01/2015).

Haitian migrants are returning from the Dominican Republic to poor living conditions, especially in Anse-à-Pitres; cases of bacterial conjunctivitis and skin diseases have been reported (Alter Press, 24/06/2015).

Cholera

17,440 suspected cases and 148 deaths were reported between January and July. January recorded the largest number of cases, with 4,321 suspected cases and 36 deaths; cases have been reducing due to below-average rainfall (OCHA, 03/07/2015; HPN, 01/06/2015). Overall, 55 communes across the ten departments are in need of assistance, including access to water sources and vaccination (UNCT, 31/03/2015).

Nearly 745,600 suspected cholera cases and 8,250 deaths have been reported since the start of the epidemic in October 2010 (Government, 10/07/2015).

Nutrition

At March, 85,000 children suffered from acute malnutrition, including 17,000 requiring immediate assistance (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

WASH

Populations in Belladere and Fonds-Verretes in Centre and Ouest departments, as well as in several areas of Port-au-Prince, have lacked access to safe drinking water for the past six months, mainly due to drought conditions, causing children to miss school and increasing social tensions (Alter Press, 01/07/2015; local media, 22/05/2015).

More than 3.4 million Haitians lack access to safe water (one-third of the total population and 47% of the rural population) (UN, 30/08/2014). 38% do not have access to improved water sources and 69% lack access to improved sanitation (World Bank, 30/09/2014). 60% of schools have no toilets and more than three-quarters lack access to water (HRW, 08/10/2014).

Shelter

The majority of remaining IDP sites are in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, including 12 in Delmas and four in Croix des Bouquets, as well as Leogane commune in Palms region Delmas (12), and Leogane (11). 40% of IDP sites are tents and makeshift shelters, while 47% transitional shelters (IOM, 30/06/2015).

96% of people left homeless by the 2010 earthquake have been relocated outside camps (IOM, 31/03/2015). Overall, 3.5 million Haitians (one-third of total population) live in precarious neighbourhoods and informal settlements in urban areas where they suffer from...
socio-economic deprivation, elevated risk of disaster impact, and forced eviction. Around one-third do not have legitimate status/rights for the land they occupy. Land disputes and tensions are common and have been accompanied by coercion, violence, and forced eviction (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

Protection

Children

Many children still show signs of emotional and psychological stress since the earthquake, and remain in need of protection; minors in camps are particularly at risk of exploitation, with sexual violence commonplace (Save the Children, 08/01/2015).

Haitians Returning from Dominican Republic

Up to 200,000 Haitians living irregularly in the Dominican Republic are at risk of forced expulsion as a regularisation process ended on 16 June (AFP, 21/06/2015). Around 19,140 were forced to return to Haiti, including 6,830 through unofficial border crossing points between 17 June and 13 July; the majority are in Ouanaminthe and Belladère communes. Identification of needs is required (OCHA, 13/07/2015).

Humanitarian conditions in Tête-à-l’Eau and Anse-à-Pitres are poor, as there is no infrastructure to host migrants (AFP, 26/06/2015; Alter Press, 26/06/2015). Cases of minors separated from their families during the migration process have been reported (Alter Press, 25/06/2015). Some 6,680 irregular migrants were repatriated to Ouanaminthe commune in the first four months of 2015, more than half of them in April. 5,570 were repatriated in the whole of 2014 (Alter Press, 08/05/2015).

In total, an estimated 600,000 Haitian nationals or people of Haitian descent face an elevated risk of forced expulsion and deportations from countries of the Caribbean region. Most of them are unable to obtain birth certificates (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

Sexual and Gender-based Violence

The number of rapes reported in the first half of 2014 was 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 is a particular concern in IDP camps.

Updated, 22/07/2015

HONDURAS DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 22/07/2015. Last update: 07/07/2015

KEY CONCERNS

- 807,015 people in 146 municipalities have been affected by drought (OCHA, 07/07/2015).

- 682,000 people are affected by moderate and severe food insecurity (OCHA, 23/02/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

Disasters

Drought

807,015 people are affected by the 2015 drought, worsened by El Niño. A state of emergency has been declared in ten departments. 146 municipalities are affected in the southwestern part of the country (OCHA, 07/07/2015). El Niño is expected to continue throughout 2015, if not until February 2016, decreasing the amount of precipitation, especially in July and August (OCHA, 04/07/2015; El Heraldo, 03/07/2015).

81 municipalities, home to 332,920 people, are forecast to be severely affected and 65 municipalities, home to 312,670 people, are forecast moderately affected (OCHA, 04/07/2015).

Drought has affected 2.5 million people in Central America (Government, 13/01/2015). In 2014, 930,000 people in 165 departments were affected by drought (Government, 13/01/2015). Choluteca, Valle, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán, Intibuca, and Lempira departments were most affected (EU, 20/08/2014).

Food Security

According to assessments, 682,000 people are affected by moderate and severe food insecurity (OCHA, 23/02/2015). From June, food stocks in poor households will run out as grain prices increase and livelihood opportunities remain limited (FEWSNET, 06/2015). The effects of El Niño coupled with the drought will result in damage or complete loss of crops in the primera, postrera and apante harvests (FEWSNET, 06/2015).

Food assistance needs through January 2016 are the same as last year and the five year average. Most of the country will remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes, including in the March-August lean season (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015).

Food assistance needs through January 2016 are the same as last year and the five year average. Most of the country will remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes, including in the March-August lean season (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015).

Parts of Honduras are projected to be at Crisis food security (IPC Phase 3) over April—September 2015, higher than the same period in 2014 and the five-year average, due to a lack of food reserves and an increase in grain prices (FEWSNET, 13/03/2015).

Agriculture and Markets

Basic grain crops will be severely affected due to the drought, putting populations in the western region at risk (OCHA,
The coffee leaf rust epidemic, which began in 2012 over the entire Central American region, continues to impact upon the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and day labourers (WFP, 15/10/2014).

Health and Nutrition

Limited access to water due to drought is having a negative impact on hygiene, in turn increasing health risks, especially acute diarrhoeal diseases. Health services in rural areas do not have sufficient capacity to meet the needs of the affected population and there is a 50% shortage of medicine stocks (OCHA, 10/12/2014).

Chikungunya

45,000 cases of chikungunya have been reported since October 2014 (local media, 11/07/2015).

Nutrition

3.4% of children under five are suffering from acute malnutrition, the proportion is greater among girls (5.6%). At least 19,559 children are malnourished as a direct consequence of the drought (OCHA, 10/12/2014).

20 July: FARC-EP began a four-month unilateral ceasefire (Colombia Reports).

KEY CONCERNS

- 4.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 10/05/2015).
- 6.3 million IDPs, including 224,300 newly displaced in 2014 (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).
- 1.3 million people are affected by confinement and access constraints (OCHA, 01/05/2015).
- Approximately 1.3 million people are affected by natural disasters (floods, heat wave, droughts) every year (OCHA, 24/02/2015).

OVERVIEW

Five decades of armed violence coupled with the country’s frequent natural disasters have had serious humanitarian consequences. Forced displacement and landmine contamination are among the major concerns. For rural communities, movement restrictions by armed groups limit access to basic health services, crops and labour markets, especially in the country’s Pacific region.

Political Context

Colombia’s armed conflict has spanned five decades, pitting the central government against armed groups such as the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP) and the National Liberation Army (ELN). Attempts at peace negotiations in the 1980s and 1998–2000 failed. The latest FARC-EP–Government peace negotiations began in November 2012 in Havana, Cuba. Agreements have been reached on agrarian reform, political participation, and illicit drugs. Negotiations are now focusing on how to end the armed conflict (World Bulletin, 20/01/2014; AFP, 02/02/2015). Parties continued dialogues despite an end to a ceasefire on 22 May, with the FARC-EP announcing it would be ready to stop the cultivation and production of illicit products prior to the end of talks (El Espectador, 05/07/2015).

Security Context

The intensity of the armed conflict has decreased substantially since peace negotiations began in 2012. Nonetheless, violence and insecurity persist, including kidnappings and extortion by armed groups.

The FARC-EP agreed to a new unilateral ceasefire, which began on 20 July. It extended the duration from one to four months (Colombia Reports, 20/07/2015; 13/07/2015). FARC-EP announced a first unilateral ceasefire on 20 December 2014.
Stakeholders

**FARC-EP**: The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP) is the oldest left-wing militant group in Colombia. It was formed in 1964 by the Colombian Communist Party, as fighting between the liberal and conservative parties led to rural unrest. Approximately 7,000 fighters make up the FARC-EP today, which allegedly makes USD 500–600 million profit from the illicit drug trade (UNRIC 2013; BBC 29/08/2013). FARC-EP has been active throughout the country, but especially in Arauca, Meta, Norte de Santander, Cauca, and Antioquia.

**ELN**: The National Liberation Army is a left-wing militant group formed in 1965 and composed of 2,000 fighters. On 7 January, it stated that it intended to join the peace talks and would consider disarmament (AFP, 07/01/2015; BBC, 07/01/2015). The ELN has been active in Arauca, Norte de Santander, Nariño and Cauca Departments (Kiernyke, 2013).

**Government forces**: The Government of Colombia’s strategies to combat non-state armed groups have been closely linked to eliminating the cultivation of illicit crops in the country, which finance the armed groups.

**BACRIM and post-demobilised armed groups**: Criminal gangs (bandas criminales) under the names Black Eagles, and Erpac, among others, are generally made up of former paramilitary fighters and another former armed group, the United Armed Forces of Colombia (AUC). They are involved in drug trafficking and extortion throughout the country and in Venezuela and Panama. These groups are particularly active in Antioquia department, as well as the Pacific and Caribbean regions (BBC 29/08/2013).

Conflict Developments

During the fourth quarter of 2014, Antioquia, Cauca, Arauca, Meta, and Norte de Santander departments were the most affected by armed activity (OCHA, 07/01/2015). In the five months of the FARC-EP’s unilateral ceasefire, armed actions fell by 43% and attacks against civilians by 70% compared to the period immediately beforehand (OCHA, 23/06/2015). Since the lifting of the ceasefire, attacks on security forces immediately increased: 31 armed actions and 11 attacks on illicit targets of war, such as civilians or civilian areas, were recorded in 10 days following suspension of the ceasefire (OCHA, 23/06/2015; BBC, 17/06/2015).

Recent Incidents

525 violent incidents were recorded in Colombia in May and June, 75% occurred in southwestern departments (MSF, 08/07/2015).

Five attacks by FARC-EP in Argelia, Cauca department, from 12-14 July have affected 226 people (OCHA, 14/07/2015).

12 attacks by FARC-EP and the ELN from 29 June to 2 July resulted in six deaths and eight injured. buses (Colombia Reports, 02/07/2015). Two of the attacks on 2 July took place in Bogota (AFP, 02/07/2015).

The ELN took responsibility for placing UXO where a helicopter landed on 22 June, killing eight troops (AFP, 27/06/2015). On 14 June, an ELN commander was killed in clashes with armed forces in Antioquia (BBC, 14/06/2015).

On 11 June, FARC-EP killed three police officers in an attack on a police station in Cauca department. The same day, FARC-EP attacked an electrical tower in Caqueta, leaving almost 500,000 people without electricity (AFP, 11/06/2015).

Throughout June and early July, the FARC-EP carried out several attacks against oil pipelines, affecting surrounding communities and causing environmental damage. Departments affected included: Putumayo, Narino and Norte de Santander (BBC, 17/06/2015; international media, 08/06/2015; OCHA, 09/06/2015; Government, 03/06/2015).

The FARC-EP blew up a water plant in Algeciras municipality in Huila department on 6 June, disrupting service to some 13,000 people. The attack followed three others on electrical plants, which led to major power outages in Nariño, Cauca, and Antioquia (AFP, 06/06/2015, Government, 03/06/2015).

Following alleged FARC-EP attacks against the military on 15 April, the government lifted the suspension on the bombing campaign against the FARC-EP. A military bombardment in Cauca department left 26 FARC-EP dead on 22 May, including a peace negotiator and leader of the movement (AFP, 22/05/2015; 27/05/2015). On 23 May, the FARC-EP lifted its unilateral ceasefire. On 26 May, the military killed five FARC-EP members in Chocó department, raising the death toll since 22 May to 40 FARC-EP members (AFP, 26/05/2015).

Humanitarian Context and Needs

4.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Colombia, including 1.3 million affected by natural disasters, 1.3 million people in areas with access constraints, 900,000 IDPs, and 1.1 million people in host communities (OCHA, 01/05/2015).

Access

Floods and landslides in Arauca and Boyacá departments have blocked roads and damaged infrastructure (OCHA, 15/06/2015).

Trapped Communities

As of May, OCHA reports 1.3 million people are affected by confinement and access constraints (OCHA, 01/05/2015). In May alone, 633,214 people were affected by access and mobility constraints (OCHA, 23/06/2015).

160 people in Argelia, Cauca department, are affected by movement constraints due to recent attacks by armed groups on infrastructure and security (OCHA, 14/07/2015).

A post-demobilised armed group is setting curfews and movement restrictions in Achi and Tiquisio municipalities in south Bolivar department. 32,000 people are affected (OCHA,
1,950 people are affected by mobility constraints in Guapi, Cauca department, due to the military offensive against the FARC-EP that began on 22 May (OCHA, 28/05/2015).

**Disasters**

In May, 45,235 people were affected by natural disasters (OCHA, 23/06/2015).

**Drought**

101 municipalities in Antioquia department were decreed on orange and red alert due to risk of forest fires (El Tiempo, 06/07/2015).

**Floods**

The rainy season affected 41,000 people in 21 departments in May (OCHA, 23/06/2015). More than 5,500 people in Arauca, Boyaca, and Norte de Santander are most affected (OCHA, 02/07/2015). 43 roadways and 62 water pumps are affected (OCHA, 02/07/2015). 2,400 people in Cacota, Labateca, Toledo, and Chitaga municipalities in Norte de Santander are affected by avalanches caused by rain. Movement is restricted (El Espectador, 30/06/2015).

**Oil Spills**

Since lifting its unilateral ceasefire on 22 May, FARC-EP has carried out 14 attacks on the oil industry in Putumayo. Three resulted in spills that contaminated waterways, livelihoods, and the overall environment, leading to a health emergency on 12 June (OCHA, 07/06/2015). On 6 July, FARC-EP attacked the San Miguel–Orito Pipeline in Orito municipality, Putumayo. 757,082 litres of oil were spilled (El Tiempo, 06/07/2015). Trucks are being stopped and forced to spill their contents (OCHA, 07/06/2015).

An attack on an oil pipeline on 21 June caused a spill into the Mira River, which feeds into the Tumaco water supply in Nariño department. An estimated 1.55 million litres of oil were spilled. 9,760 people are directly affected and a health and environmental emergency was declared. An estimated 160,000 people were left with limited access to safe water (OCHA, 27/06/2015; 01/07/2015). Water service resumed on 9 July but it is not reaching all communities. Protests have broken out and roads were temporarily blocked by protests over the quality and quantity of water being delivered. In rural areas along the Mira River, 24,960 people are affected (OCHA, 10/07/2015).

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

Colombia has 6.3 million IDPs (UNHCR, 30/06/2015; IOM, 29/05/2015). 224,300 of these were displaced in 2014; 79,989 were under 18 years of age. 39% of the IDP caseload between 2012 and June 2014 was concentrated in the Pacific region (OCHA, 01/05/2015; OCHA, 20/01/2015).

In May, 943 people were displaced by mass events (OCHA, 23/06/2015). OCHA reports that the ELN, post-demobilised armed groups, and other unidentified armed groups are mainly responsible for displacement (OCHA, 18/04/2015).

**Antioquia**: 380 Embera and Eyabida were displaced in Uraro due to fear of FARC-EP and military clashes. Another 1,600 are at risk of displacement (OCHA, 10/07/2015).

**Cauca**: Five attacks since 12 July have displaced 66 persons and restricted the movement of 160 in Argelia (OCHA, 14/07/2015). 521 Afro-Colombian families in Guapi have restricted their movements and daily activities due to fear of military operations against FARC-EP. 400 remain displaced since 22 May. They are in shelters or with friends and family (OCHA, 05/06/2015). Since 29 May, conflict around the police station in Lopez de Micay has displaced 865 people and affected 400 houses. Movements are restricted and schools are closed. Shelter and NFI are priority needs (OCHA, 08/06/2015; 05/06/2015).

**Nariño**: 233 people in La Esperanza, a rural zone in Cumbitara, were displaced due to armed attacks by FARC-EP on 18 June. The population intends to return if explosives are cleared from the territory (OCHA, 23/06/2015).

**Colombian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries**

360,000 Colombians have sought refuge in neighbouring countries (Colombia Reports, 22/06/2015). Costa Rica: 16,620 refugees and 210 asylum seekers; Panama: 15,550 refugees and 800 asylum seekers; Venezuela: 5,000 refugees, 168,500 unregistered refugees and 250 asylum seekers; and Ecuador 121,320 refugees and 11,580 asylum seekers. 800–900 Colombians arrive in Ecuador each month (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Most refugees come from the most affected departments of Norte de Santander, Chocó, Valle del Cauca, Cauca, and Nariño (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

**Food Security**

1.2 million people are food insecure, due to in part to low food production, poverty, and internal displacement (OCHA, 20/01/2015). 557,000 require food assistance. Indigenous communities in Nariño are among the most affected (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

**Health and Nutrition**

Only 30% of the population living in areas affected by armed conflict have access to healthcare (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

The oil spill in Tumaco, Nariño department, on 22 June has affected the health of the population. Many are reporting diarrhoea, and respiratory and skin illnesses. There is a lack of medication and health professionals (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

**WASH**

1.1 million people are in need of WASH (OCHA, 20/01/2015). Only 35.5% of the population consumes safe drinking water, with only 15% of rural areas consuming treated water (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

Attacks on the oil industry in Putumayo department in 2014 are still affecting nearby communities. Protests have broken out and roads were temporarily blocked by protests over the quality and quantity of water being delivered. In rural areas along the Mira River, 24,960 people are affected (OCHA, 10/07/2015).
communities, who have little access to water. Some oil companies are providing families with 20–40L of water per week, which is below standards (OCHA, 23/04/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

916,000 people need shelter (OCHA, 20/01/2015). Many of those displaced by armed conflict come from rural areas and have difficulty re-obtaining rights to their homes when they return. A legal process is in place in the departments of Atlantico and Magdalena in northern Colombia, though some claimants have received threats from paramilitary groups (Amnesty, 23/01/2015).

Education

370 students have not been able to attend school due to mobility restrictions in Teorama, Norte de Santander (OCHA, 18/07/2015).

Protection

Detention and Torture

Torture and ill-treatment in various forms are reportedly common in Colombia, and measures for protection and compensation are either very limited or ineffective. As of June, 72,544 people are missing. 4,288 of the 100,316 people listed as missing in December 2014 have been killed (Red Cross, 04/06/2015).

Vulnerable Groups

Afro-Colombians and indigenous peoples are highly vulnerable groups, as they are minorities and generally live in areas more likely to be cut off by conflict (NRC, 09/2014).

In 2014, there were 626 registered attacks against human rights defenders, a 147% increase compared to 2013. 73% of attacks were carried out by post-demobilised armed groups. Many local NGOs are concerned that successful peace negotiations may not result in a decrease in such attacks (OCHA, 28/02/2015).

Since November 2012, FARC has killed 700 civil servants and 148 civilians, kidnapped 70 civilians and 10 civil servants, and injured 1,651 civil servants and 148 civilians (local media, 02/06/2015).

Mines and ERW

Over November 2012–March 2015, the duration of the peace negotiations, there were 789 victims of anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance, an average of 27 people per month (OCHA, 17/05/2015). In March, the Colombian Government and FARC-EP agreed to remove landmines and explosives, aiming to complete demining by 2025 (Reuters, 09/03/2015). The pilot demining project between the Colombian army and the FARC-EP in Antioquia department began in late May. On 15 July, the project was paused for six days following the death of a soldier who accidentally detonated an explosive. El Orejón, Briñedo, Antioquia, a commune of 100 people, where the demining is taking place is estimated to have 3,000 mines in its vicinity (Colombia Reports, 21/07/2015).

There have been frequent reports of landmine explosions involving both civilians and security personnel in Cauca and Caqueta (BBC, 17/06/2015; Government, 03/06/2015).

Child Protection

There are approximately 2,000 underage fighters in the FARC (Reuters, 15/04/2015). Reports show that since peace negotiations began in 2012, 78% of children fighting with the FARC-EP and 18% with the ELN have been reintegrated into society (UNICEF, 2014).

Sexual and Gender-based Violence

52% of displaced women have suffered some type of sexual violence after displacement, according to a study by OHCHR. Women in the Pacific region are particularly affected (NRC, 09/2014).

Updated: 22/07/2015
Introduction to the Global Emergency Overview

The Global Emergency Overview (GEO) is a weekly update that provides a snapshot of current humanitarian priorities and recent events. Its primary objective is to rapidly inform humanitarian decision makers by presenting a summary of major humanitarian crises, both recent and protracted. It collates information from a wide range of sources, including Reliefweb and media, and displays this information to enable quick comparison of different humanitarian crises. 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? (Snapshot and Latest Developments)
3. What is the situation in the country affected by a crisis? (Latest Developments and Narrative)
4. Which countries could be prioritised in terms of humanitarian response? (Prioritisation)

The world map and the table provide an overview of how the countries are prioritised. The countries are subdivided by four priority levels: "watch list", "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 under-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.

The snapshot briefly describes major events in the seven days to the date of publication.

Narratives for each country in the GEO reflect major developments and underlying vulnerabilities of the country over recent months. They are based on secondary data. The latest developments for each country cover the incidents over the past seven days, and key concerns highlight humanitarian priorities.

More information on the Global Emergency Overview Methodology can be found in the Global Overview Methodology Brief and the Frequently Asked Questions.

The Global Emergency Overview is a mobile application.

To download the mobile application for Android phones click here.

To download the mobile application for iOS phones click here.

Updates

The Global Emergency Overview prioritisation will be updated once a week and the results will be available every Tuesday. In case of major new humanitarian events or an escalation of an ongoing crisis which triggers a change of prioritisation, the Global Overview will be updated on an ad hoc basis.

Disclaimer

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