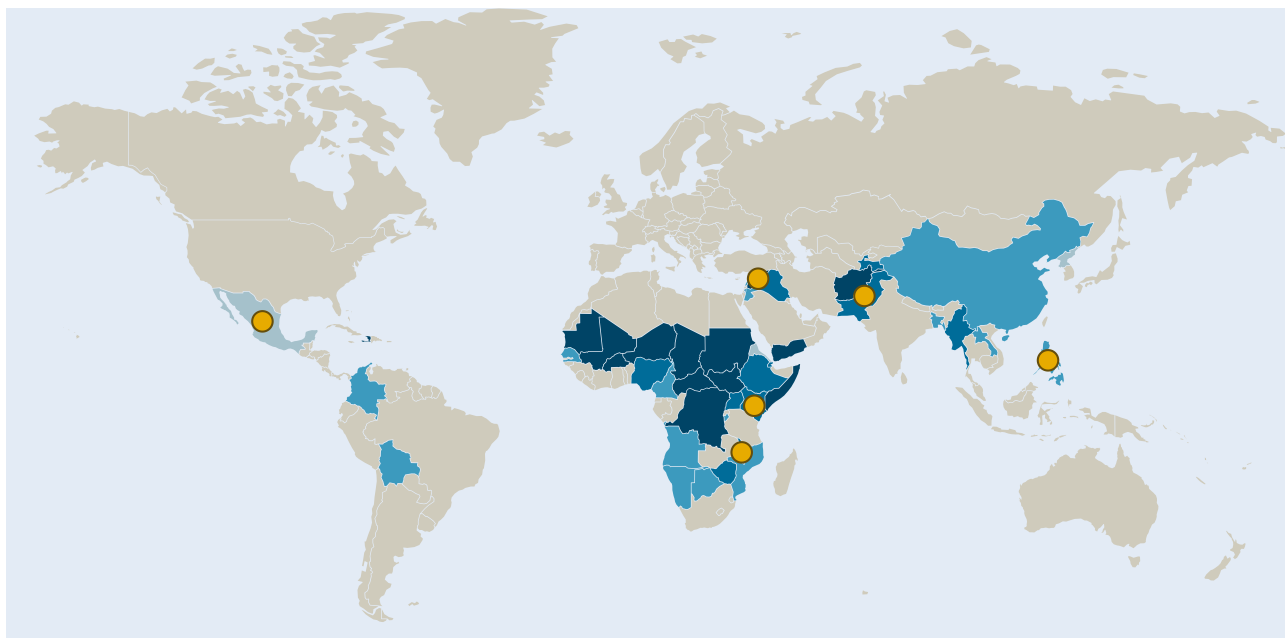




# GLOBAL EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

September 2013



## Snapshot 16-23 September

In **Syria**, heavy fighting continues, with air-strikes on opposition controlled areas in Damascus and on-going offensives in Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Idleb, Homs and Al-Hasakeh. This week, a series of clashes between extremist groups and battalions of the Free Syrian Army (FSA) took pace in several northern and eastern provinces, illustrating increasing friction between the different armed groups. On 18 September, ISIS seized the town of Azaz in Aleppo on the border with Turkey in the most violent clashes between extremists and mainstream units of the FSA since ISIS publicly announced its operations in Syria in May.

On 24 September, a 7.7 magnitude quake hit the southwestern district of Awaran, 350km south of Quetta in Baluchistan province, **Pakistan**. As of 25 September, more than 230 people were reportedly killed and the death toll is expected to rise as rescue teams are reaching remote villages. The earthquake was followed by a series of powerful aftershocks, causing further damage and making rescue efforts very dangerous. An estimated 300,000 people are affected across six districts: Awaran, Kech, Gwandar, Pajgur, Chaghi and Khuzdar, and entire villages are reported flattened in these impoverished and sparsely-populated districts of Baluchistan.

Monsoon rains worsened by Typhoon Usagi, locally known as Odette, pounded the **Philippines** for three consecutive days, causing floods and landslides that left 73,000 people affected and six people dead. Typhoon

### Severe humanitarian crisis

Afghanistan	Mauritania
Burkina Faso	Niger
CAR	Somalia
Chad	South Sudan
DRC	Sudan
Haiti	● Syria
Mali	Yemen

### Humanitarian crisis

Djibouti	Nigeria
Ethiopia	oPt
Iraq	● Pakistan
● Kenya	Tajikistan
● Malawi	Uganda
Myanmar	Zimbabwe

### Situation of concern

Angola	Jordan
Bangladesh	Laos
Bolivia	Lebanon
Botswana	Mozambique
Burundi	Namibia
Cameroon	● Philippines
China	Senegal
Colombia	

### Watch list

DPRK	● Mexico
Eritrea	

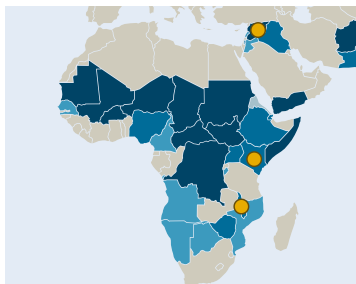
Usagi, reportedly the most powerful storm to hit the country this year, has moved north toward China on 23 September, but continues to exacerbate monsoon rains. In addition, the country is still struggling to resolve fighting in Zmboanga city, which has displaced up to 129,000 people since it began on 9 September.

**Mexico's** Gulf and Pacific coast has been hit by two tropical storms, which damaged 1.5 million homes in 22 out of 32 states, flooded cities and washed out roads. Preliminary numbers estimate that 1.2 million people have been affected of which 200,000 in the state of Guerrero.

On 21 September, a group of heavily armed Al-Shabaab fighters attacked a shopping centre in the **Kenyan** capital Nairobi and were still holding 30 people hostage as the government forces launched a final assault on 23 September. So far, 175 people were wounded and the death toll is estimated at 62 but is expected to go up following the multiple firefights which have been taking place over the last three days

According to the 2013 Vulnerability Assessment Committee's (MVAC) evaluation, which was released on 19 September some 1.46 million people in **Malawi** are food insecure. While this figure represents a drop of about 26% from the 1.97 million recorded in 2012, it is 57% above the five-year average.

*Last Updated: 25/09/2013 Next Update: 30/09/2013*



# AFRICA

## BURKINA FASO FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 16/09/2013.**

As of **11 September**, heavy rainfalls in mid-August affected 6,712 people and damaged houses, livestock and infrastructure in the east and the west of the country. The population is in urgent need of food assistance and shelter.

**End of August:** 2,576 suspected cases of measles were reported mostly in the Sahel region.

**26 August:** The current number of Malian refugees in Burkina Faso (unchanged since April) stands at 49,975, including 27,146 children.

**End of August:** Food access has improved for poor and very poor households following cash assistance programmes and adapted prices.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

Burkina Faso has been affected by insecurity and the on-going military intervention in Mali.

**Displacement:** As of 26 August, UNHCR noted that the current number of Malian refugees in Burkina Faso (unchanged since April) stands at 49,975, including 27,146 children, according to UNICEF. Refugees are located in seven formally recognised camps and informal settlement sites: Mentao, Damba, Fereiro, Goudebo, Gandafabou, Bobo Dioulasso, and Ouagadougou. The majority of the camps are in the northern region of Sahel, in the provinces of Soum, Oudalan and Seno, where almost 90% of the Malian refugees are settled. The presence of Malian refugees and their cattle in this arid area exacerbates the scarcity of natural resources and poses a risk of increased tensions between local communities and refugees.

**Disaster:** As reported by OCHA on 11 September, heavy rainfalls in mid-August affected 6,712 people and damaged 600 houses, livestock and infrastructure in the east (district of

Est) and the west (districts of Boucle du Mouhoun Sahel and Hauts Bassins) of the country. ECHO reported on 13 September that the population is in urgent need of food assistance and shelter, while wells and water points need to be rehabilitated.

To date, severe flooding affected more than 400,000 people across nine countries of the Sahel region in Africa.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to WFP, cereal production from the 2012/2013 agricultural season was over 30% higher than the 2011/2012 production, and FEWSNET indicated in August that food access has improved for the poor and very poor, following cash assistance programmes and adapted prices. This allows the targeted population to remain at minimal levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 1). However, the country has undergone several shocks over the past five years, including the 2011/2012 drought, and the population has not yet recovered from the last food crisis, mainly because many households still suffer from the effects of negative coping strategies, such as the sale of assets, implemented during the 2012 crisis.

Cereal prices have been stable since January 2013 and at levels slightly above the five-year average (by no more than 12%). OCHA reported in early August that the cost of coarse grains rose by 8% for millet, 19% for local sorghum, and 11% for maize. Limited non-agricultural income is expected to further affect the quantity and quality of food access until September 2013. During this period, 25-30% of households in the north will have food security issues and will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity.

FEWSNET previously stated that, as of June 2013, about 80% of the 16.9 million Burkinabe are currently meeting consumption needs and face Minimal/None (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity. OCHA noted that at end June, 1.8 million people (20% of the population) in Burkina Faso were food insecure. Difficulties in accessing food are primarily due to low purchasing power, low household agricultural production, and difficult geographical access to markets. A March FAO report found that the food insecure are predominantly in the Sahel, north and east regions.

In the Sahelian area of Burkina Faso, an estimated 90% of the population depends on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods. Civil strife in northern Mali has contributed to increased food supply issues in parts of the country, and OCHA reported in early July that the arrival of Malian refugees and their cattle had further increased pressure on scarce resources leading to tensions with local communities. A May WFP and UNHCR joint assessment showed that 15% of the Malian refugee households have poor or borderline food consumption, against 13% in the host population. A February FAO/WFP joint assessment indicated an elevated prevalence of food insecurity in Malian refugee camps and in Burkinabe host communities with an estimated 52% of refugees and 58% of host populations affected by food insecurity.

The 2013 total annual caseload of children <5 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), as reported by UNICEF in late August, remains at January levels at an estimated 120,000. The number of children affected by Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) is estimated at 400,000, marking a decrease from January levels, bringing the <5 General Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate to 10.9%. According to 2012 assessments, the highest GAM rates were recorded in the regions of Centre North, East, North, Centre and Boucle de Mouhoun. In May, UNHCR and WFP reported that malnutrition is alarming among certain Malian

refugee communities, especially in Goudebou, where the rates are beyond critical thresholds (SAM: 5.3%, MAM: 19.1%).

**Health:** In late August, 2,576 suspected cases of measles were reported, 35% were in the Sahel Region. Of the 35% Sahel cases, 40% were from the refugee camps.

According to UNICEF, the incidence of meningitis was at 1,679 cases as of early May 2013, in comparison to the previous year which saw 4,814 officially registered cases for the same period. The incidence rate this year is 66% lower, indicating that the country is emerging from the high-transmission meningitis period and will most likely not experience an outbreak in 2013.

*Reviewed: 23/09/2013*

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

### Highlights

**20 September:** UNHCR reported that new fighting has occurred in the volatile northwest of CAR with heavy clashes being reported from 14 to 17 September around Bossembele and Bossangoa, 150 kilometres and 300 kilometres north-west of the capital Bangui respectively. In the area, various vigilante groups, as well as groups loyal to the former authorities ousted by the Seleka, have proliferated over the past weeks and have clashed with elements of the Seleka while the conflict has also reportedly become more and more religiously motivated. Renewed fighting has allegedly triggered new displacement while the number of casualties remains difficult to ascertain.

**20 September:** Levels of internal displacement in CAR are extremely difficult to ascertain. OCHA indicated that some 310,000 people have been displaced by the conflict in CAR, 60,000 of whom fled to neighbouring countries and the rest internally displaced and predominantly living in the bush for safety. Previously, OCHA reported that over 227,000 people had been internally displaced in CAR.

**17 September:** As reported by local sources, reinforcements have begun arriving for an African peacekeeping mission, but the planned 3,600-strong force will not be fully deployed before January 2014. According to the authorities, the military force should reach 2,000 soldiers by the end of the month. An estimated 250 French military are also posted in CAR, with a restricted mandate of securing the international airport, protecting French interests and citizens in the country.

**13 September:** The transition President of the Central African Republic (CAR), Michel Djotodia, has officially announced the dissolution of the Seleka movement – the armed force he led and which has allowed him to seize power in late March. According to different estimates, the Seleka coalition numbered some 25,000 fighters, part of which had been recruited as the group advanced toward the capital Bangui between December 2012 and March 2013 and after the seizure of the capital.

**8-9 September:** Two staff members of the NGO ACTED were killed in Bossangoa, about 300 km north of the capital. In Bangui, lootings of vehicles, notably off-road

vehicles, operated by international organizations continue to occur, with several cases being reported over the past two weeks.

**3-4 September:** As reported by IFRC, heavy rains that lasted for hours caused flooding in several areas of the 3rd district of Bangui. Of a total population of 90,000 people, up to 33,000 were affected with 337 families having their houses damaged or destroyed. An estimated 30% of the people who had their homes affected found refuge with host families while the rest is living out in the open. Almost all the wells and latrines in these areas were reportedly damaged by flood waters.

### Political and Security Context

On 13 September, the transition President of the Central African Republic (CAR), Michel Djotodia, has officially announced the dissolution of the Seleka movement – the armed force he led and which has allowed him to seize power in late March. According to different estimates, the Seleka coalition numbered some 25,000 fighters, part of which had been recruited as the group advanced toward the capital Bangui between December 2012 and March 2013 and after the seizure of the capital. At present, the main issue remains the disarmament of part of the Seleka armed movement that will not be integrated in the regular armed forces. After a period of voluntary disarmament, coercive disarmament of parts of the Seleka-affiliated fighters is to start in Bangui after mid-September while the new authorities struggle to establish order throughout the country.

As of mid-September, the situation in CAR remains highly volatile with various sources reporting widespread insecurity and clashes between elements of the only in-name defunct Seleka coalition and the population. Various rebel leaders, de facto new warlords who sometimes are originating from neighbouring countries, are reportedly dominating the country outside of the capital Bangui. Looting and destruction is virtually unchecked, with an increasing number of unpaid Seleka members roaming the streets and setting up checkpoints to collect money. Increasingly, the local population is responding by organising vigilante groups.

According to a senior UN official who visited the country in early August, the security is at present virtually non-existent beyond the capital while state institutions are close to collapse. In various parts of the country, human rights infringements, arrests and executions are reported. In mid-August, another UN official commented that the country is on the brink of collapse and the crisis is threatening to spread beyond CAR's borders. With several international organisations having curtailed operations in CAR, information on levels of violence remains difficult to ascertain while the new authorities are still unable to restore order outside of Bangui. Overall, over 600 people were killed in 2013; the two regions most affected by violence are reportedly Bouar and Bangui.

On 20 September, UNHCR reported that new fighting has occurred in the volatile northwest of CAR with heavy clashes being reported from 14 to 17 September around Bossembele and Bossangoa, 150 kilometres and 300 kilometres north-west of the capital Bangui respectively. In the area, various vigilante groups, as well as groups loyal to the former authorities ousted by the Seleka, have proliferated over the past weeks and have clashed with elements of the Seleka while the conflict has also reportedly become more and more religiously motivated. Renewed fighting has allegedly triggered new

displacement while the number of casualties remains difficult to ascertain.

On 9 September, up to 100 people were reportedly killed when troops of the new regime battled fighters claiming loyalty to toppled president Francois Bozize in the northwestern towns of Bossangoa and Bouca, in Ouham district. The government indicated on 11 September that at least 50 people were also wounded in the clashes. Even though the defense and security forces were said to control Bossangoa, men claiming to serve the ex-president were still holding villages around the town. On 8 September, forces, possibly loyal to former President Bozize, infiltrated these villages, destroying bridges and other infrastructure, and reportedly taking revenge against the Muslim population. The retake of the village by the Seleka resulted in attacks against the Christian population. According to UNHCR, the clashes triggered significant displacement, and at least eight villages were razed to the ground.

According to local reports, on 28 August, eight civilians were killed by Seleka fighters in the village of Ngaoundaye, about 500 km northwest of the capital, with fighting between local residents and Seleka military also affected the nearby Makele village where at least two Seleka military were killed. The previous day fighting was reportedly ongoing in Bo village, 50 km from Ngaoundaye, and in Beboura village, 140 km east of Ngaoundaye, with at least 10 civilians being killed in separate incidents.

This string of violent incidents came after insecurity resurfaced in Bangui between 20 and 27 August. Reports indicated that at least 13 people were killed and over 30 injured during an alleged disarmament operation of supporters of the ousted President F. Bozize by the new authorities. The operation mainly targeted the Boy-Rabe and Boeing neighbourhoods, two strongholds where many supporters of the former regime reside. According to various international observers, the manoeuvre was marked by arbitrary arrests, detention, torture, extortion, armed robberies, physical violence, restriction of movement, and lootings and led to an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 people fleeing from the Boeing quarter to take refuge in the nearby Bangui International airport. The people have since dispersed after an intervention of the peacekeepers posted at the airport and are now sheltered in hospital and churches where overcrowding and deteriorating sanitary conditions are a major concern according to UNHCR. Following these events, UNHCR called on 29 August for authorities in the Central African Republic to protect civilians from fighting in the capital. The previous day, the new President Djotodia had allegedly barred fighters from the Seleka coalition from further participating in policing operations in Bangui and had declared that the task had to be left to the African Union-led International Support Mission to Central Africa (MISCA). In mid-April, a first disarmament operation in Boy-Rabe had been widely criticised by foreign observers, including Human Rights Watch, as it resulted in widespread lootings of houses amidst indiscriminate shootings of civilians by members of the Seleka coalition.

On 19 August, OCHA reported violence and clashes between Seleka fighters and the population in the town of Bouca in the northwest of the country. Caritas informed that clashes between the local population and fighters of the Seleka have been reported from the town of Bohong in the north of the country on 16-18 August. On 11 August, UNHCR reported new clashes between the population in rural areas and some elements of the Seleka in the village of Beboura, 30 km from Paoua, a city near the Chadian border. Although information to date remains limited, casualties were reported and moved to a

hospital in Paoua. According to a UN mission dispatched near Paoua, seven villages had been burned to the ground and deserted and another partially burned in the area, and their residents hiding in the bush. In a separate incident on the same day, local sources reported violence in Bossangoa city, in the northwest prefecture of Ouham, that resulted in seven people killed in clashes with Seleka elements. Two other people were reportedly killed in the area in mid-August while local sources reported widespread insecurity along the road between Bozoum and Bossangoa where armed men attacked several villages.

In early August, Caritas also reported ongoing violence in a village called Ouhman-Bac in the country's northwest where between 30 and 50 people were killed. While information remains difficult to ascertain, local reports also pointed to possible mass killings occurring in the area of Bambari, the country's third biggest city in the south. On 5-6 August, attacks and arbitrary killings by Seleka-affiliated elements continued to be reported from the capital Bangui. As of June, OCHA reported that at least 8 attacks, 20 killings and 60 abductions took place in the second quarter of 2013, notably in the northwestern Haut-Kotto Préfecture.

On 1 August, the Multinational Force of Central African States (FOMAC) that had been operating in CAR since before the coup and was dispatched to help in improving security has become the African Union-led International Support Mission to Central Africa (MISCA) with the main mandate of helping restore control of the authorities over the whole territory. As reported by local sources in mid-September, reinforcements have begun arriving for an African peacekeeping mission, but the planned 3,600-strong force will not be fully deployed before January 2014. According to the authorities, the military force should reach 2,000 soldiers by the end of the month. An estimated 250 French military are also posted in CAR, with a restricted mandate of securing the international airport, protecting French interests and citizens in the country.

On 18 August, the former rebel leader Michel Djotodia, head of the Seleka coalition that took control of the Central African Republic (CAR) following a coup in late March, was formally sworn in as the country's new president. The inauguration of Djotodia officially marks the beginning of his interim administration's 18-month deadline to restore order and organise elections. The ceremony was attended by Chad's President Idriss Deby and Congo Republic's President Denis Sassou Nguesso in what may be seen as a sign of support of regional strongmen to the new CAR leadership.

Initially, violence had erupted in CAR in December 2012, when the Seleka coalition, a group of five rebel movements, took up arms against the Government claiming that the latter had failed to honour the 2001 and 2007 peace deals declaring amnesty for fighters who laid down their arms. Throughout March, the Seleka rebels took control of various towns and continued their advance until they seized Bangui on 24 March and toppled President Bozizé who fled to Cameroon.

### **Humanitarian Context and Needs**

More than four months after Seleka rebels seized power in CAR, the country is still struggling with a humanitarian emergency. Humanitarian agencies have warned that the humanitarian situation across the country and in Bangui is worsening, advocating for security, access and protection of civilians. Ongoing lawlessness is considerable, and

administrative offices, hospitals, health centres and schools have been pillaged, depriving vulnerable communities of basic services. UNICEF reported in early July that the current humanitarian crisis is affecting an estimated 4.6 million people or the entire population of CAR, including 2.3 million children. As of mid-August, 1.6 million people were reported to be in dire need of assistance by OCHA.

**Displacement:** Levels of internal displacement in CAR are extremely difficult to ascertain. On 20 September, OCHA indicated that some 310,000 people have been displaced by the conflict in CAR, 60,000 of whom fled to neighbouring countries and the rest now internally displaced and predominantly living in the bush for safety.

OCHA reported as of 3 September that there are presently over 227,835 internally displaced people in the country, half of which are children. The districts with the most IDPs are Ouaka (58,793), Kemo (29,951), Basse-Kotto (28,153), and Ouham Pende (17,396). 3,000 IDPs are also reported in the capital Bangui. These numbers may however be higher, given that humanitarian access to parts of the country remains restricted due to insecurity. As reported by OCHA in late August, clashes between the local population and Seleka in north-western CAR led 4,125 people to flee to Chad, while more than 17,000 persons were internally displaced. Recent unrest in Bangui in late August has reportedly triggered the further displacement of up to 6,000 people.

As of late August, UNHCR reported that 62,714 people have fled from CAR since the latest CAR crisis erupted last December. The Democratic Republic of Congo alone has received an estimated 42,600 refugees while Chad witnessed the arrival of 13,087 people, including 4,125 who arrived in the Moissala area since mid-July; an additional 4,841 people moved to Republic of Congo and 4,286 to Cameroon respectively. Cumulatively, there are over 220,000 refugees from CAR in neighbouring countries.

There are an estimated 17,000 refugees in CAR, mostly Congolese and Sudanese. In April and May, the UN reported that an estimated 5,000 people were displaced from Sudan's Darfur into CAR following tribal clashes. According to local media, the 2,200 Sudanese refugees of camp Bambari demanded to be moved from the camp due to the deteriorating security and the humanitarian and health situation in the camp.

According to OCHA, in June 2013, the number of displaced in Lord's Resistance Army LRA-affected areas remains at 21,000 but requires verification when the situation stabilises; 3,815 DRC refugees remain hosted in Haut-Mbomou with a majority (3,225) in Zemio camp.

**Disaster:** As reported by IFRC, on 3-4 September, heavy rains that lasted for hours caused flooding in several areas of the 3rd district of Bangui. Of a total population of 90,000 people, almost 33,000 were affected with 337 families having their houses damaged or destroyed. An estimated 30% of the people who had their homes affected found refuge with host families while the rest is living out in the open. Almost all the wells and latrines in these areas were reportedly damaged by flood waters.

**Access:** On 8-9 September, two staff members of the NGO ACTED were killed in Bossangoa, about 300 km north of the capital. In Bangui, lootings of vehicles, notably off-road vehicles, operated by international organizations continue to occur, with several cases being reported over the past two weeks.

As reported by UNICEF on 2 September, a truck drivers' strike in Cameroon over deteriorating security conditions in CAR is stopping humanitarian aid from reaching thousands of children. On 21 August, Cameroonian authorities temporarily shut down the border after claiming Seleka rebels had shot a police officer. But despite the border reopening, truckers remain cautious about crossing into CAR. According to UNICEF, other relief groups working in CAR are also impacted by the strike.

Security incidents are still reported in Bangui and across the country and the humanitarian community is increasingly becoming the target of looting and attacks by armed groups. On 9 September, two aid workers were killed in the clashes between troops of the new regime and fighters claiming loyalty to toppled president Francois Bozize in Ouham district. In the capital, a local UN staff member was reportedly attacked by rogue Seleka elements on 12 August. This last incident followed one a week earlier, in which another local UN staff member was seriously wounded and his wife killed. UNHCR reported that it remains extremely concerned with the limitations on humanitarian access, although access to the refugee camps at Bambari, Batalimo, and Zemio that host mainly Congolese and Sudanese refugees in central and southern CAR, has improved. On 14 August, Caritas reported ongoing attacks against aid workers in the country.

OCHA reported on 17 July that the restriction of humanitarian space due to insecurity is limiting the delivery of aid to people in need. However, almost all NGOs have now returned to their previous locations and are deploying teams and resuming activities. The Humanitarian Country Team is facilitating access negotiations with Seleka authorities in regions outside Bangui to enable humanitarian actors to assist people affected by the crisis. UNDSS approved the gradual return of critical international UN staff on 18 June, indicating an improvement in security-related constraints.

Despite these improvements, the use of secondary roads is inadvisable due to physical and infrastructural constraints, exacerbated by the impending rainy season. Access is largely limited to towns and populations along main roads.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As reported by FAO in late August, an estimated 978,000 individuals were experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity levels while about 309 000 individuals are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) as of July. Accordingly, the total number of people in need of food assistance adds up to a total of about 1.29 million people (about 40% of the total population), nearly double the estimated level in February 2013. The estimation of the exact number of food insecure people in CAR remains nevertheless difficult to establish. In June, OCHA and the Food Security/Nutrition Working Group reported that 2 million people in CAR faced Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity. On 8 August, WFP announced that it was scaling-up operations in CAR, amid increasing concerns that ongoing insecurity is fuelling hunger among people who have fled their homes and farms.

According to a FEWSNET report published in late August, due to poor food availability and reduced income levels, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute food insecurity will continue until the end of the lean season in September for northern, eastern, and central, conflict-affected areas. With the definitive start-of-season in the south and west, poor households are consuming wild and cultivated vegetables, which have improved food security conditions in these areas.

However, due to an unstable security situation, households have not been able to make effective use of their livelihood assets and will continue to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes through September. The September harvests will enable households in most areas of the country to access food through their own crop production. However, in certain areas of northern, eastern, and central CAR, harvests are expected to be delayed and below-average. Consequently, households in these areas will continue to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes between October and December.

A recent Rapid Emergency Food Security Assessment indicated that the most vulnerable populations have begun adopting negative coping mechanisms, such as eating once a day only, and reducing food diversity. Unless urgent food assistance is provided, a nutritional crisis is highly likely during the lean season. The report highlights that the food security situation of IDPs remains critical. Displacement has led to fields not being cultivated and a famine situation is currently developing.

As reported by FAO in late August, market supplies are tight across the country and food prices are at high levels following the severe and widespread market disruptions due to increased civil insecurity. The average inflation rate, which surged from 1.3% in 2011 to 5% in 2012, is forecast to rise further to 8% in 2013.

According to UNICEF, malnutrition rates remain high with an estimated 13,500 children <5 suffering from SAM and 44,000 affected by MAM. A recent exploratory mission in southwest CAR, in Nola, Boda, Berberati, Gamboula and Gadzi, revealed an increase in levels of GAM, which ranged from 6%-10.3%. In May, as reported by an IPC seasonal analysis, the prevalence of SAM in children <5 was above the emergency threshold of 2% in nine of 16 prefectures.

**Health:** As reported by Merlin in early June, 3.2 million people are living without health care. In August, OCHA reported that less than 20% of the country's medical facilities are operational. In July, MSF stated that even before the coup, the country was in a state of crisis with mortality rates being well above the emergency threshold in several regions.

Malnutrition and preventable diseases are reportedly rife while malaria is the leading cause of death. The number of cases of malaria in northwest Central African Republic has almost doubled, partly because of insecurity caused by armed groups operating in the rural north, according to MSF. According to its own sources, the organisation has treated 36,910 cases of malaria in Boguila, a region 50 km (30 miles) from the Chadian border, between January and June this year compared with 19,498 cases in the same period last year. Officially, malaria is estimated to be the cause of 54% of the deaths of children under 5 in CAR.

According to UNICEF, a measles epidemic in Bangui county was confirmed and the organisation coordinated a vaccination campaign in late May. While the epidemic was initially diagnosed in the western region, it later spread to large parts of the county, such as the towns of Ngaoundaye, Abba and Carnot, Begoua and Mbaiki, as well as the suburbs of the capital Bangui.

As of mid-August, over 13,000 people living with HIV/AIDS had their anti-retroviral treatment interrupted as a result of instability since December 2012.

**Protection:** INGOs have reported a sharp rise in human rights abuses across the country, including attacks on civilians, child recruitment, arbitrary arrest, illegal detention, summary executions, rape, and other violations against civilians. Overall, several INGOs have indicated that children, notably those displaced by the conflict, remain a particularly vulnerable group. Several organisations, including UNICEF, have reported the re-recruitment of children <18, some of whom had been recently demobilised, into Seleka forces. According to OCHA, as of mid-August, at least 3,500 children have been recruited into armed groups.

In late July, the International Federation for Human Rights reported that Seleka rebels have killed 400 people, carried out dozens of rapes, and intentionally destroyed 34 villages/towns since February this year.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## CHAD FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

As of **mid-September**, the main causes of morbidity in the Tissi area are malaria, acute watery diarrhoea and respiratory infections. The caseload of malaria for 2013 is also a great cause of concern, with some of the hardest hit regions seeing a tenfold rise from last year

As of **mid-September**, humanitarian organisations in the southeast are confronted to restrained access due to the proximity of two unstable borders, heavy rains and insecurity. The rainy season which started in July has yet to end and will obstruct movement until the end of September.

**12 September:** The refugees of camp Djabal have complained about the high incidence of malaria and diarrhoea, and the authorities of the camp reported 22 deaths during August. Earlier in July, Sudanese refugees of camp Treguine had reported similar problems.

**28 August:** Food insecurity remains stressed (IPC Phase 2) in Logone Oriental, Tangjilé, Logone Occidental and Mayo Kebbi West, mostly due to seasonal price increase and depletion of stocks.

**13 August:** On-going political turmoil in the Central African Republic (CAR) has led to 13,087 CAR refugees crossing into Chad since December, bringing the total number of CAR refugees in Chad to more than 70,000.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** Chad has witnessed an escalating influx of migrants and refugees from neighbouring countries since March. According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on 29 July, instability in CAR, northern Nigeria and the Darfur region of Sudan has led many Chadians to return home with an estimated 1,000 returnees from CAR, 1,500 from Nigeria and 22,000 fleeing Sudanese Darfur to the border town of Tissi.

As of early July, 20,640 Chadian returnees and 30,448 Sudanese refugees had arrived at Tissi. This marked the largest influx of Sudanese refugees into Chad since 2005, and according to UNHCR on 18 August, the total number of Sudanese refugees in Chad has increased to 330,000 people. The displaced fled a conflict over gold mines in eastern Darfur between the Maaliya and Rizeigat ethnic groups, and another wave later crossed into Chad fleeing inter-communal violence between the Salamat and Misseriya ethnic groups in Um Dukhun, Central Darfur.

On-going political turmoil in CAR has led to 13,087 CAR refugees crossing into Chad since December (including 4,125 refugees who arrived mid-July in Moissala, southern Chad), bringing the number of CAR refugees in Chad to over 70,000, UNHCR reported on 13 August.

Humanitarian needs among incoming refugees are: access to potable water; hygiene; shelter; and health and nutrition care for children and women. Against this background, UNICEF reported in late April that basic social services are non-existent in Tissi, having been destroyed or damaged during the 2004-2006 civil war and following ethnic tension in the Sila region.

People fleeing violence in northern Nigeria have crossed into Western Chad around the area of Lake Chad. Returnees from Nigeria are primarily unaccompanied minors from fishing villages in Bagakawa, according to UNICEF. As of early June, Chadian authorities reported an estimated 1,200 returnees dispersed across three hard-to-reach locations: Bagasola, Ngouboua and Tchoucouteia.

**Disaster:** On 21 August, local media reported that heavy rains struck eastern Chad and led to the destruction of more than 2,000 houses in the Sudanese refugee camp Mile. The number of affected people is unknown. The rainy season has yet to end, and flooding is causing significant access constraints and deterioration of sanitary conditions.

**Access:** OCHA reported on 17 September that humanitarian organisations in the areas of Tissi (southeast) are confronted to restrained access due to the proximity of two unstable borders, heavy rains and insecurity. The rainy season which started in July has yet to end and will obstruct movement until the end of September.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** Two consecutive years of continued climatic shocks, including poor rainfall in 2011, caused significant food security concerns in Chad in 2012 that are continuing into 2013. According to WFP and the Chadian Government, 13% of households (around 1.2 million people) face severe food insecurity and another 9% face moderate food insecurity in 18 regions across Chad. In total, 2.1 million people are reportedly food insecure.

According to FEWSNET on 28 August, food insecurity remains stressed (IPC Phase 2) in Logone Oriental, Tangjilé, Logone Occidental and Mayo Kebbi West, mostly due to seasonal price increase and depletion of stocks earlier than usual (as a direct result of the 2012 floods). The expected average October harvests will enable households to more easily meet their food needs between October and December.

The Chadian Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation reports that the final cereal production figures for the 2012/2013 agricultural season stand at 3.1 million tonnes of cereals. This

marks an increase of 91% compared to the previous season and 54% compared to the five-year production average. The good 2012/2013 harvests have allowed very poor and poor households to replenish food reserves while market prices across Chad have remained stable and even occasionally trending downwards. According to FEWSNET, food security conditions will steadily improve with the rebuilding of the production capacity and the replenishment of livelihood assets.

However, despite a net cereal production surplus from the current harvest season, production deficits have been registered in some structurally food-deficient regions of the Sahel belt. The main reasons are: drought, crop diseases, and destruction by birds. In the southern part of Chad, deficits are largely a result of floods.

Displaced populations seem more vulnerable to food insecurity. In mid-July, local media reported that Sudanese refugees, located at camps in eastern Chad faced food shortages. A joint assessment by WFP and UNHCR in May showed that the food security situation is alarming for 22,131 Central African refugees in the Belom camp in Maro (southern Chad). The most affected are refugees who arrived in Chad from January to March 2013 (compared to earlier refugees from 2002 to 2009), with 71.2% of them being food insecure. This is mainly due to the lack of access to agricultural lands, poverty, lack of diversified livelihoods and unsustainable income generating activities. Local media also reported on 13 August that Sudanese refugees in camp Djabal (eastern Chad) are suffering for an acute lack of drinking water, putting the lives of 19,500 people at risk.

The nutritional situation in Chad's Sahel belt is at critical levels with a GAM rate surpassing the emergency threshold of 15% in nine of 22 regions, according to OCHA. The areas most affected are Batha (25% GAM), Wadi Fira (22% GAM), Salamat (22% GAM), Beg (21% GAM), and Kanem (21% GAM). UNICEF forecasts that an estimated 126,000 children will suffer from SAM in 2013.

**Health:** MSF reported mid-September that the main causes of morbidity in the Tissi area are malaria, acute watery diarrhoea and respiratory infections. The caseload of malaria for 2013 is also a great cause of concern, with some of the hardest hit regions seeing a tenfold rise from last year, following the unpredictable rainy season and the shortage of bed nets across the country. MSF reported that the number of malaria cases increased alarmingly in Am Timan, Salamat region, with 14,021 cases reported in the month of August alone.

Since July, local media have regularly reported the dire conditions in which Sudanese refugees live in camps located in eastern Chad. On 12 September, it was reported that the refugees of camp Djabal have complained about the high incidence of malaria and diarrhoea, especially affecting the youngest and the elderly, while the authorities of the camp reported 22 deaths during August. Earlier in July, Sudanese refugees of camp Treguine had reported similar problems, indicating that there was an acute lack of medical staff and medicines in the camps.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY**



## Highlights

As of **19 September**, the situation remains volatile in the south of Irumu territory (Orientale), following the four-day fighting in Walendu-Bindi, Bavi and Olongba which started on 23 August and has so far displaced more than 80,000 people and affected 120,000. Militia men from the Patriotic Resistance Force of Ituri (FRPI) still control several towns after the clashes, and sporadic violence continues to be reported.

As of **18 September**, increasing activism of the militia Bakata Katanga is causing new population displacement, while the number of IDPs in the province increased from 368,700 to 389,700 within the last two months. The territory of Pweto (Katanga) is the most affected, with more than 142,000 displaced to date.

As of **mid-September**, the area of Kamango is still not safe enough for people to return, three months after clashes between the FARDC and the Ugandan rebel group ADF displaced 66,000 people. Among the incidents reported, several cases of abduction and murder by armed men make the population reluctant to go back to their town of residence.

As of **13 September**, OCHA reported the presence of 6,600 IDPs in the area of Beni and Lubero (North-Kivu). These population movements occurred from 22-29 July after attacks by Simba militia.

As of **11 September**, 60 cases of measles (including two deaths) were recorded in Kasumbalesa within the last 40 days (Katanga), 97 displaced and returned children died of malaria over the month of August in Punia territory (Maniema), and seven cases of cholera have been reported within the last two weeks in Minova and surroundings (South-Kivu).

**10 September:** The Government of DRC and M23 rebels restarted peace talks following an ultimatum set by leaders of Africa's Great Lakes region. The talks should last 14 days in Kampala, and Ugandan mediators reported that first consultations were held separately with the respective delegations. According to latest reports, the M23 requested the creation of a buffer zone in North Kivu, which was immediately discarded by the MONUSCO spokesperson on 11 September.

**7 September:** A three-week national dialogue opened with leaders meeting in Kinshasa, Lubumbashi (Katanga) and Kisangani (Orientale) to discuss DRC's governance, economy and decentralisation, as well as the disarmament of insurgent groups and inter-community conflicts. Part of the opposition groups is reportedly not present.

**30 August:** Close to 2 million people are internally displaced in DR Congo, including more than 1,024,750 in North Kivu, 352,617 in Orientale, 368,000 in Katanga and 250,000 IDPs in Maniema provinces. The latest population movements are reportedly due to the activism of armed groups in the region, and clashes between various militias and between militias and the official military forces FARDC.

## Political and Security context

A three-week national dialogue opened on 7 September, with the agenda tackling the current political, social and military crisis in the country. Leaders are meeting in Kinshasa, Lubumbashi (Katanga) and Kisangani (Orientale) to discuss DRC's governance, economy and decentralisation, as well as the disarmament of insurgent groups and inter-community conflicts. The main force of opposition (the Union for Democracy and Social Progress, UDPS) is reportedly not present, as their wish to review the agenda was not taken into consideration by President Joseph Kabila and his government. Their requested topics included human rights violation, children's enrolment in armed groups, the sell-off of natural resources, corruption and the legitimacy of institutions. These consultations are taking place in parallel with peace talks in Kampala (Uganda) between the Government and the M23, a Tutsi-dominated insurgency group at the heart of nearly two decades of conflict in the east of the country.

### North-Kivu

As of 23 September, the situation in North-Kivu is slowly stabilising while the Government of DRC and M23 rebels restarted peace talks more than a week ago, following an ultimatum set by leaders of Africa's Great Lakes region.

The dialogue was suspended in May after government teams allegedly left the talks, which was followed by an escalation of violence in North-Kivu, where the M23 have fought an 18-month uprising. On 31 August, the rebel group declared a unilateral cease-fire following a week of heavy fighting and their retreat from the Kibati hills (Goma area). The talks should last 14 days in Kampala, and Ugandan mediators reported that first consultations were held separately with the respective delegations. According to latest reports, the M23 requested the creation of a buffer zone in North Kivu, which was immediately discarded by the MONUSCO spokesperson on 11 September.

Meanwhile, the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre reported on 6 September that mine-clearing personnel and the FARDC started to remove mines and ammunitions in the fighting zones of Kibati, Karambi, Mugerwa and Kanyaruchinya. They are also marking the locations of dangerous devices, before people displaced in the clashes start to return.

Three weeks ago, fighting in Goma and surroundings left more than 80 people dead in the most serious outbreak of violence in months. At least 30 civilians died, and dozens were wounded, after shells landed in the residential areas of Goma city where more than 150,000 have been displaced since 2012. Clashes between the M23 and the official military forces FARDC that took place between 21 and 26 August caused heavy casualties on both sides, as well as civilian deaths, and forced the UN intervention brigade to be drawn in the fighting for the first time since the beginning of its unprecedented mandate to launch military operations against the M23. The conflict in the mining region has in the past dragged regional powers into the fighting, with both Rwanda and Uganda accused of backing the M23. Consultations started on 5 September in Kampala (Uganda) between defense chiefs and foreign ministers from Africa's Great Lakes region to try to revive stalled peace efforts.

Renewed hostilities between the FARDC and the M23 began on 14 July in areas around Mutaho, Kanyarucinya, Kibati and in the mountains near Ndosho (a few kms from Goma) and are considered to be the deadliest events since the beginning of the rebellion in April 2012. During June, the M23 reinforced its position around Goma, and launched a series of

attacks on 12 July in retaliation for the interruption of peace talks in Kampala. On 30 July, the UN peacekeeping mission in DRC announced that it would use its intervention brigade to enforce a security zone around Goma, giving M23 rebels (and individuals who were not members of national security forces) 2 days to hand in their weapons to a MONUSCO base and join the Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement process. Though the rebel group disregarded the ultimatum, the security zone was established around Goma-Sake.

In addition to the M23 insurgents, North-Kivu harbours more than 20 different armed groups, and the province has been plagued by indiscriminate and fierce attacks on civilians for more than a decade.

On 18 September, OCHA reported that the area of Kamango is still not safe enough for people to return, three months after clashes between the FARDC and the Ugandan rebel group ADF displaced 66,000 people. Among the incidents reported, several cases of abduction and murder by armed men make the population reluctant to go back to their town of residence. Initially, the ADF/NALU rebel movement fought the Ugandan government of Yoweri Museveni, but it has been based in eastern DRC since 2000 and has been recruiting, training and reorganising to carry out attacks on Uganda. FARDC, tasked with fighting rebel groups across the country, has been engaged in several clashes with ADF/NALU in North-Kivu. On 11 July, ADF/NALU ousted FARDC from Kamango, but the city was taken back by the Congolese army on 12 July. Following reports of human rights abuses by ADF/NALU against civilians in Kamango district near Beni in North-Kivu, a UN patrol was sent to assess the security situation in the area and address concerns related to the protection of civilians, the UN reported on 16 July.

On 10 September, OCHA reported that clashes between the Alliance for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS, a Hunde-dominated rebel group based in northeastern DRC) and the Congolese Army Movement (MAC, a rebel group also active in North-Kivu) have caused significant displacement in the area of Habula (north of Goma) from 6 to 8 September.

On 19 August, local media reported that clashes between the militia NDC (Nduna Defense of Congo), a rebel group based in Pinga, and the Rwandan Hutu rebel group DFLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) in the territory of Walikale have caused displacement for three consecutive days. An unknown number of people from Kishimba and Ikobo sought refuge in Bulewusa, Miriki, and Kanyabayonga.

Earlier in August, clashes between the militia NDC and the APCLS caused the displacement of an unknown number of people from Bihiri, toward Malemo and Kalembe. The zone around Pinga has experienced insecurity and tension for over a year, with the two rebel groups fighting for control of the area. The conflict opposing these two rebel groups dates back to more than a year, and has had harmful consequences on this area located between Masisi and Walikale. On 13 September, representatives of the NDC and APCLS met to discuss the current situation and commit to seek a peaceful solution to end the ongoing violence.

On 1 August, clashes between the militia NDC and the FARDC between Walikale and Kisangani caused an unknown number of people to flee toward Njingala (western North-Kivu). The same week, the population of five villages around Pinga sought refuge inside

Pinga following the arrival of the Rwandan Hutu rebel group DFLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) in the area, local media reported on 15 August. Though information is difficult to ascertain, an estimated 150 people have been killed in Pinga since late May.

### **South-Kivu**

On 4 September, OCHA reported its concern about the protection of civilians in the Baliga area (Shabunda territory) following the activism of the militia Raiya Mutomboki. Several cases of rape were reported and three humanitarian organisations were forced to evacuate their staff from the region. Similar events occurred on 25 August in Mulungu. In the Uvira area, on the Rusizi plain, local media reported on 15 August that unidentified armed men attacked Mutarule-Katekama, killing 11 people including a woman and four children. On 13 August, local media reported heavy fighting in Baraka, between the official military forces (FARDC) and the militia Yakutumba (a rebel group also known as Fal Alleluia). Four militia men died and five civilians were wounded in the attack on FARDC headquarters which was aiming at releasing rebel fighters arrested on 9 August. No displacement was recorded but villagers were advised to restrain their movements until the situation stabilised. The Uvira area, along the Burundi border, currently hosts six armed groups and has experienced increasing tensions since end of July, according to local media.

According to OCHA, 76% of the population movements in South-Kivu is caused by insecurity and violence due to the presence of armed groups.

### **Maniema**

On 30 July, OCHA reported the presence of armed groups in eastern areas of Maniema, affecting the safety of civilians. The towns of Salumu, Kandolo, Kainda and Mulela are hosting IDPS from Shabunda territory (South-Kivu) since three months, and both the displaced and the host families live in fear of the group Raia Mutomboki, which is quite active in the area. Looting was reported on 15 July and the town of Kitamuna is still under the control of armed groups since January 2013, causing the displacement of hundreds of villagers.

### **Orientale**

OCHA reported on 19 September that the situation remains volatile in the south of Irumu territory, in the Ituri district, following the four-day fighting in Walendu-Bindi, Bavi and Olongba which started on 23 August and has so far displaced more than 80,000 people and affected 120,000. Militia men from the Patriotic Resistance Force of Ituri (FRPI) still control several towns after clashes, and sporadic violence continues to be reported.

According to local media, unidentified armed men attacked four villages on 24 August in Kakwa and Kaliko in Ituri. All the houses were burnt and people forced to flee in the bush, until the FARDC ousted the attackers. OCHA reported on 21 August that clashes between the FARDC and a rebel group based in the Mambasa region allegedly caused the death of four civilians on 16 August. In Mahagi, north of Lake Albert, along the Ugandan border, local media reported on 23 August that tensions are rising between the FARDC and the Ugandan army.

## Katanga

OCHA reported on 18 September that incidents are continuously reported in the areas of Manono, Pweto and Mitwaba, where increasing activism of the militia Bakata Katanga is causing new population movements. Over the last month, more than 300 members of this same militia have surrendered to the government forces in the province, and new cases of surrender are recorded every day.

On 7 August, militia fighters allegedly killed the member of a local organisation in Kanwankolo, south of Pweto, because of his apparent links with FARDC. In Pweto, OCHA reported on 16 August that clashes between the FARDC and local militia displaced over 4,000 people toward Lwantete (north) and Mutabi (southwest). In the same area, the presence of the rebel group Popular Self-Defence Forces (FAP) around Kizabi is creating tension and risk of additional clashes. In Katanga Province, the separatist militia group Bakata Katanga has carried out continuous attacks since early June in Nganie causing large displacement and unrest for the local communities.

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** As of 5 July, OCHA estimated that 2.6 million people remained displaced in DRC as a result of fighting between the Congolese army and various rebel groups; 450,000 Congolese refugees are currently residing in neighbouring countries.

UNHCR reported that DRC faces increasing numbers of refugees crossing from CAR with 42,612 refugees who have arrived in DRC since December 2012. As of 31 August, DRC hosts over 185,000 refugees among whom over 127,000 come from Rwanda and the rest from CAR, Burundi, Sudan, Uganda and the Republic of Congo.

## North-Kivu

As of 25 August, OCHA reported that North-Kivu is currently hosting 1,024,750 IDPs (some of them displaced since January 2009), which represents a 5% increase compared to the cumulative figure in July (975 473 IDPs). The significant increase is believed to be mainly due to an update of displacement data in Beni territory, but population movements are still ongoing due to the presence of multiple armed groups and repeated clashes between insurgents and government forces. More than half of the displaced are located in the territory of Masisi (30%) and Walikale (23.5%), and in the whole province, 63% of the IDPs are reported to be living with host families, against 22% in public buildings and 15% in camps.

In Masisi territory, OCHA reported that clashes between the rebel groups APCLS and MAC in the zone of Habula have displaced most of the town's population toward Kashebere and Nyabiodon (northwest of Masisi territory) between 6 and 8 September.

In Walikale territory, several thousand people are forced to flee their area of residence in August because of clashes between various armed groups, mainly the militia Nduma Defence of Congo (NDC), the Rwandan Hutu rebel group DFLR, and the APCLS (Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo). Local NGOs reported mid-August that 16,000

displaced people from Munzanza, Kisone, Munzanga, Busakara and Pinga are located in the villages of Rusamambu, Buleusa, Kateku, Kilambo and Bukumbirwa. According to NRC end of August, 15,000 people have fled Kituna in July, and are still displaced in Nyanzale, Kihondo and Kasoko. On 19 July, clashes had already caused displacement for three consecutive days and an unknown number of people from Kishimba and Ikobo sought refuge in Bulewusa, Miriki, and Kanyabayonga.

In the area of Beni and Lubero, OCHA reported on 13 August that a joint assessment conducted in Cantine showed the presence of 6,600 IDPs: 5,800 people from Province Orientale, namely Pangoy, Kitembo, Mabutua, and Camp Liberté; and 940 people from Kambau and Midele (northwest of Lubero). These population movements occurred from 22-29 July after attacks by Simba militia. Also in July, clashes between the M23 and the militia Nyatura caused 10,000 people to be displaced from Rutshuru territory toward the south of Lubero territory. In Kikuvo (southwest of Lubero), OCHA also noted the presence of 3,000 IDPs (from Ndwali, Munihi, Kakindo, Musuti, Bukununu, Vupwanza and Matolu), displaced after clashes between the FARDC and the armed group Congolese Patriotic Resistance (PARECO) which occurred in May 2013 and fighting between militias Shetani and Nyatura in June 2013. A joint assessment reported high levels of food insecurity, and concerns around the WASH situation of the displaced.

On 11 July, the ADF/NALU's attack on the town of Kamango led to 66,000 people from eastern DRC North-Kivu province fleeing into neighbouring Uganda. On 1 August, WFP reported that 70% of the refugees have returned and now face food shortages, but mid-September, OCHA reported that the area of Kamango is still experiencing sporadic violence preventing the displaced from returning to the town of origin. A joint assessment conducted from 25 to 28 July reported that 37,000 of these displaced people are currently in the area of Nobili, 10,700 in Kizimba, and 810 in Kinigi and Rubaya. Some IDPs (in Kizimba, Kinigi and Rubaya) are reported to have fled clashes related to other armed groups including the Popular Congolese Forces (FPC) and the militia Nyatura.

## South-Kivu

OCHA reported on 4 September that 76% of the 712,254 IDPs in South-Kivu had to leave their locality of origin because of insecurity and the activism of armed groups. As of late June, WFP reported that the number of people displaced in the province had increased from 702,093 to 712,254 since end of March 2013, following clashes between the FARDC and local militias. On 1 August, OCHA reported that between January and June 2013, 184,530 IDPs who previously fled South Kivu have returned, mainly in Shabunda territory.

On 12 September, local media reported that up to 8,000 people fled the town of Luberizi because of insecurity on 5 September. A third of them shortly returned and the rest is still staying in Bwengerera, Luvungi and Sange (Ruzizi plain). According to OCHA 9,800 other people has already been displaced in the same region in mid-August following military operations against armed groups.

On 21 August, UNHCR reported that the ethnic conflict involving the Barundi and the Bafulinro resulted in the death of eight people. These latest events, combined with the activities of rebel groups in the villages of Sange, Mutalure and Rwenena, caused 1,211 DRC refugees to flee into Burundi between 16 and 21 August. The newly displaced are currently hosted in the two transit centres of Cishemere and Kajaga or reside with host

communities in the area of Cibitoke. Since January 2013, 6,000 DRC refugees have entered Burundi.

### Maniema

OCHA reported on 26 August that Maniema province is currently hosting 250,000 IDPs as a result of the ongoing conflict in the Kivus. They are mainly located in the east of the province between Punja and Pangi and suffer from very limited access to aid.

On 30 July, OCHA reported the displacement of 1,000 people from Kitamuna toward the south of Punia after an armed group attacked and looted their village. Kitamuna is reportedly still under control of the rebels.

### Orientale

As of end of August, OCHA reported that some 351,617 people (of whom 51,262 have been displaced since January 2013) remain displaced in Orientale province. Additionally, on 23 August, the FARDC clashed with the Patriotic Resistance Force of Ituri (FRPI) in Walendu-Bindi, Bavi and Olongba. On 7 September, fresh fighting erupted again in Kagaba. OCHA reported on 19 September that these events displaced approximately 80,000, the biggest wave of population movement in the province since 2008. IDPs fled toward the areas of Geti, Kagaba, Malo, Munobi, Soke and Songolo, and new displacements are recorded daily. MSF reported on 11 September that, according to community leaders, the population of Geti was multiplied by five within a few days, and both IDPs and host families are in urgent need of drinkable water.

The province is also affected by the activism of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a Ugandan militant movement operating in DRC since 2005, which allegedly conducted 30 attacks in Q2 of 2013, mostly in Dungu territory.

### Kasai oriental

Early July, local sources reported that hundreds of people have been displaced following clashes in the area between two Dimbelenge communities in which seven people were killed. According to the information available to date, IDPs in Kabeya Kamwanga remain without assistance or shelter.

### Katanga

Since April, clashes between Mai-Mai groups and the FARDC have led to new population displacement. OCHA reported on 18 September that increasing activism of the militia Bakata Katanga is causing new population displacement, while the number of IDPs in the province increased from 368,700 to 389,700 within the last two months. The territory of Pweto is the most affected, with more than 142,000 displaced to date, and daily arrival of people from Kasongo Mwana and Mutendele in the villages of Kishale, Paza, Muluvia and Nkonkole.

Since the beginning of June, attacks in Katanga Province by the Bakata Katanga militia resulted in the displacement of 23,000 people according to official sources. Most recently IDPs fled from Nganie to Mwanza, straining Mwanza resources, mostly with heightened food insecurity.

OCHA reported on 5 September that violent clashes between militia men and government forces in the area of Mwebe and Mikwa caused approximately 9,000 people to flee toward the Lufira river, and local sources reported they are in urgent need of clothes, food and medicines.

On 17 August, elements from the rebel group Popular Self-Defence Forces (FAP) tried to abduct IDPs in the spontaneous camp of Mwasi, in the Pweto area. This is the second incident of this type this month showing the persistent insecurity in the province. A UN assessment conducted from 7 to 12 August recorded 43,800 IDPs in Pweto in July. According to OCHA on 22 August, population movements are mainly on the axes of Pweto/Mutabi/Lwantete and Pweto/Lukonzolwa/Nzwiba.

**Disaster:** In Orientale, OCHA reported on 4 September that heavy rains in Bas-Uele and Haut-Uele districts made approximately 6,000 people homeless. Flooding destroyed houses, roads and crops in six territories, and the areas of Bangadi and Niangara are among the worst affected. On 30 August, local media reported that more than 500 people were made homeless after flooding destroyed 170 houses in Dungu. Water also damaged crops to a large extent, and wells have been flooded.

In South-Kivu, local media reported on 26 August that more than 20 houses were destroyed on 24 August after heavy rains in Malenga, in Kamiji territory. Many other buildings are reported severely damaged, and affected people are staying in host families.

**Access:** Access is limited in large parts of DRC. Physical and infrastructural impediments to delivering aid are significant due to mountainous and volcanic terrain and a lack of asphalted roads in some areas, especially in Maniema province. In Kabeya Kamwanga in Kasai Oriental, IDPs remain without assistance or shelter.

Tensions between aid workers and the local population, with incidents of hostilities against aid workers and interference in delivering of aid, have been reported. Between January and August 2013, 137 security incidents against aid workers occurred across the country.

In North-Kivu, the INGO Médecins Sans Frontières announced early August that it would cease its activities in the area of Pinga, where clashes between rebel groups and the FARDC have caused increasing insecurity, and after receipt of threats of attack on its staff. The suspension will worsen an already dire health and humanitarian situation.

In Orientale province, an estimated 20,000 IDPs are reportedly blocked from access to humanitarian services. The situation of IDPs from Lowa and Mutchaliko in Ubundu territory cannot be assessed because of ongoing military operations, OCHA reported on 16 July.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** A June report by FSNWG estimated that 6.4 million people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity, which represents an increase of about 75,000 people compared to October 2012. Two-third of them (about 4.2 million people) are severely food insecure and are concentrated in the east of North-Kivu province and the south of Katanga province, where civil conflict has been escalating since March. Persistent insecurity has severely damaged local livelihood systems, caused massive displacement and restricted access to land and agricultural inputs. High food prices in eastern and southern provinces are exacerbating food

insecurity for poor households.

Extreme poverty with few livelihood options is among the main reasons for food insecurity. In eastern DRC, the renewed conflict has significantly contributed to the deterioration of the food security and nutrition situation, according to WFP. The west of DRC, although relatively stable compared to the east, faces chronic food insecurity due to isolation, lack of social infrastructure, and the effects of several aggravating economic shocks.

In the northern provinces of Equateur and Oriental, the planting of the main season maize crops, to be harvested from October, has been completed under average rainfall conditions. Satellite analysis indicate that good rains benefited crops in northern and southern regions, while poor rains may have affected crops in central provinces of Bandundu, Kasai Occidental and Kasai Oriental.

In Maniema, OCHA reported on 10 September that the cities of Matete and Salamabila (Kabambare territory) are particularly at risk of food insecurity, following the recent exclusion of the population from the Namoya mining area which caused 5,000 miners to be deprived of their livelihoods. Between 11 and 18 July, an intercluster assessment conducted in Punja territory showed that more than 130,000 displaced and returnees (18,755 households) are living in very dire conditions, eating down to 4 or 2 times per week. The conflict between the FARDC and the militia Raïa Mutomboki in Punja (December 2012 – April 2013) caused the population to miss two agricultural seasons and to lose all their assets in their displacement.

**Health:** Across the country, 19,000 cholera cases were registered for 2013 as of 30 August, OCHA reports. 337 deaths have been reported for a fatality rate of 2%. Over 60% of the cases (more than 18,163) are registered in Katanga Province. During 2012, DRC had 30,753 registered cholera cases with 709 deaths, compared to 21,700 cases in 2011. The surge in cholera cases is largely the result of limited access to safe drinking water, poor hygiene conditions, and poor sanitation. More than 4 million cases of malaria have been reported since the beginning of 2013 as of 17 June; 8,500 deaths have been registered due to malaria during the same period (21,000 deaths in 2012). On 1 August, WHO reported 519 measles cases since January 2013. In Kasai Occidental, local media reported on 15 August an outbreak of measles in the area of Kamonia. 40 children have died of the disease in Kamako (including 28 deaths on 6 and 7 August) due to unsanitary conditions following massive population displacement and overcrowding in settlements.

In North-Kivu, local sources reported that following violent clashes between Congolese forces and Ugandan rebels ADF/NALU early July, health centres and shops lack medicines and basic items in an area where 80,000 people are exposed to waterborne diseases including cholera and dysentery.

In South-Kivu, local media reported on 11 September that seven cases of cholera have been reported within the last two weeks in Minova and surroundings. On 27 August, MSF reported that at least ten people died of rabies, mostly in the Lemera health zone, which triggered a rabies intervention in the east of the country.

In Maniema, OCHA reported on 10 September that 97 displaced and returned children died of malaria over the month of August in Punia territory. An inter-cluster mission conducted in Punja and Kasese from 11 to 18 July reported several deaths among children due to

both measles and severe anaemia. The health zone of Punja records very high levels of infant mortality due to anaemia, mostly because of access and provision issues of medication stocks in health centres. At least 29 deaths of children under 5 were reported in June.

In Kasai Oriental, OCHA reports that since mid-June, an epidemic of yellow fever is spreading in Kamana, Lubao and Lubindi-Lukula, with six confirmed cases.

In Katanga, local media reported on 11 September that 60 cases of measles (including two deaths) were recorded in Kasumbalesa within the last 40 days. According to OCHA on 26 August, more than 1,500 deaths due to malaria were recorded within the last 8 months in the province.

**Wash:** On 12 August, ICRC reported that less than 50% of the population of South-Kivu has access to drinking water.

**Protection:** At end July, UNHCR reported that ongoing violence in North-Kivu, involving the FARDC, the M23 and the ADF/NALU, is increasingly exposing women and girls to violence, particularly rape. Between January and July 2013, 619 cases of rape were reported, compared to 108 cases during the same period in 2012. According to UNHCR, 70% of the cases of sexual violence are perpetrated by armed men. On 26 August, UNICEF indicated that a growing number of children are being killed or injured in the renewed fighting, and as many as 2,000 are being used as child soldiers in the current conflict.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## MALI CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**18 September:** The Tuareg rebel group National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) committed to peace talks after a meeting gathering the main Tuareg separatist organisations. National dialogue is expected to start within the next two months.

As of **12 September**, 34 people were killed and 20,000 people were affected by the flash floods which hit almost all the neighbourhoods of the capital Bamako end of August. Potentially contaminated underground and surface water is a source of concern, and an increase in the number of malaria cases and water borne diseases could already be observed.

**12 September:** Three Malian soldiers were wounded in the first clashes with Tuareg rebels since the two parties signed a ceasefire deal in June. The army warned that this event could endanger the truce.

**9 September:** The Tuareg rebel group National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) urged the new government to work for peace and asked the government to respect the agreement of 18 June, which plans the opening of a dialogue about the future of Azawad 60 days after the formation of the new government, which occurred on 6 September.

**2 - 8 September:** 5,136 people displaced by the conflict returned to the north, mostly in the Timbuktu region.

As of **29 August**, an estimated 509,000 people continue to remain displaced in Mali and in neighbouring countries. The number of internally displaced has increased since January from 261,000 to 333,622 at the end of August.

### Political and Security Context

After his swearing as the President of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita formed his new government on 6 September. The August election process was seen as an important step on the path to recovery for the country, 18 months after the military coup and the seizure of its northern territory (Azawad) by radical Islamists. On 18 September, Mali's new government set November 24 as the date for the first parliamentary elections.

National dialogue is expected to start within the next two months between the new government and the Tuareg rebel group National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA). While President Keita created a ministry for National Reconciliation and the Development of the northern region to seek solutions to the Tuareg issue, the MNLA committed to peace talks on 18 September after a meeting gathering the main Tuareg separatist organisations.

These declarations raise hope for a political solution to the 18-month crisis triggered by the Tuareg uprising, as the north of the country is still affected by sporadic violence.

On 12 September, three Malian soldiers were wounded in the first clashes with Tuareg rebels since the two parties signed a ceasefire deal in June. The fighting took place in the town of Lere, southwest of the Timbuktu region.

On 18 July, clashes occurred between Tuareg and other communities following a rumour about the upcoming reinforcement of the Malian army's presence in Kidal. The city has been occupied by the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) Tuareg rebels since February, until their confinement by official Malian forces on 5 July.

On 8 July, Mali's army accused Tuareg rebels of violating the ceasefire signed on 18 June by attacking civilians and the military just days after troops entered the flashpoint northeastern town of Kidal to secure it for national elections. The ceasefire agreement aimed to prepare for a second phase of negotiations. This allowed Malian troops to enter Kidal on 5 July, when Mali lifted a nearly six-month state of emergency.

On 18 July, Nigeria announced plans to withdraw some of its 1,200 soldiers from the UN peacekeeping force in Mali and Sudan's Darfur region, saying the troops are needed for security at home. The Nigerians are part of a force of 12,640 African troops who took over from a French-led mission on 1 July.

Security in the three northern regions of Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal has improved, but remains volatile. Attacks in recent months have highlighted the continued threat posed by Islamist militants and the growing coordination of their operations against African and French forces.

On 1 July, authority for the stabilisation of Mali was transferred from the forces of the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) to the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). The transfer was agreed by the UN Security Council on 25 June, and the creation of the 12,640 men peacekeeping force was approved unanimously by the UN Security Council on 25 April. As of 1 July, most of the 6,100 soldiers of AFISMA have become part of the peacekeeping operation.

The French forces still present in Mali have formally handed over security duties to MINUSMA. A separate and reduced contingent of at least 1,000 French soldiers will remain in Mali to conduct counter-terrorism operations.

France's involvement in the conflict came after Islamist fighters moved to within 20 km of Mopti, a strategically important town on the border between rebel and Government held territories, taking control of the strategic town Konna on 10 December 2012. With support from France's armed forces, the Mali Government started a counter-offensive on 11 January.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** According to OCHA as of 29 August, an estimated 509,000 people continue to remain displaced in Mali and in neighbouring countries, due to the crisis in the north. The number of internally displaced has increased since January from 261,000 to 333,622 at the end of August, while 75,000 Malian have remained in Mauritania, 50,000 in Niger, 50,000 in Burkina Faso, and 1,500 in Algeria. As larger areas of central and northern Mali are secured, an increasing number of IDPs have started to return home. According to IOM, 137,422 people returned to the north between January and May 2013, and ECHO reported on 10 September that from 2 to 8 September, 5,136 IDPs returned to the north, mostly in the Timbuktu region. On 1 August, OCHA reported that between 25 June and 12 July, 8,148 Malian refugees who previously fled to neighbouring countries returned to Mali and were registered in Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu. Another joint assessment by OCHA and UNHCR reported that 226 refugees returned to the Douekire, namely to Inalkary, Dongwe-Haussa, Adjowal, and Takumbaout, while an unknown number of refugees returned from Mauritania to Goundam Circle at the end of July.

IOM reported at end July that reasons cited for return by refugees and IDPs are: the return to relative stability in the north following recent attempts to restore order; the desire to participate in the country's elections; and the desire to survey what was left of homes and possessions. The gradual return of IDPs to the north is likely to strain limited social services.

**Disaster:** On 28 August, 34 people were killed and many more injured by heavy rains which provoked flash floods in almost all the neighbourhoods of the capital Bamako. More than 100 homes were destroyed and thousands of people were made homeless after the Niger river burst its banks. IOM reported on 12 September that 20,000 people were affected. Potentially contaminated underground and surface water is a source of concern, and ECHO reported on 12 September that an increase in the number of malaria cases and water borne diseases could already be observed.

Earlier in August, OCHA reported that heavy rains caused flooding in the Kidal and Segou

regions, destroying fields, houses and latrines, and affecting 11,300 people.

To date, severe flooding affected more than 400,000 people across nine countries of the Sahel region in Africa.

**Access:** Humanitarian access continues to improve in central regions and parts of the north and aid is increasing in the accessible parts, according to OCHA. Aid activities in other parts of the north are limited due to continued insecurity and banditry. Access to basic social services (water, education, and health) remains limited in the north largely because of the low return of civil servants, the destruction of infrastructure, and a lack of materials to support basic services.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As the lean season unfolds, there has been significant deterioration of food security in northern Mali. People affected by food insecurity are estimated at about 3.5 million, including 1.4 million in need of immediate assistance according to assessments finalised in May.

According to FEWSNET as of July, food security conditions remained at Crisis levels (IPC Phase 3) in the north (regions of Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu), while the lean season is underway. The depletion of household food stocks, the decline in livestock sales (due to low demand), and the lack of income-generating opportunities for residents of conflict-affected areas in northern Mali are severely curtailing household food access.

Food security levels were expected to improve gradually in August due to resumed economic activities, seasonal improvements of pastoral conditions and following the scale-up of humanitarian assistance programmes. However, the June FEWSNET report still indicated that the northern regions would be likely to remain in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of food insecurity from August through September 2013. Additionally, FAO reported that IDPs and Malian refugees are progressively returning to the north of the country despite the extreme food insecurity situation in Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu. According to the government, 70 to 90% of the northern population is severely or moderately food insecure, and will continue to be in need of food assistance.

According to OCHA on 19 July, the nutritional situation is serious in the entire region of Gao with a GAM rate of 13.5%. An estimated 660,000 children <5 suffer from acute malnutrition in 2013, including 210,000 from severe acute malnutrition.

**Health:** On 5 August, OCHA reported that in the areas that were occupied by armed groups, 65% of health structures are reported partially -or non- functional compared to 17% nationally.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 16/09/2013.**

As of **11 September**, the August floods affected 4,225 people, killed 8, and damaged

more than 800 houses.

**22 August:** Mauritania announced a six-week postponement of elections planned for 12 October after opposition parties said they would boycott the vote.

**July:** 23.7% of the Mauritanian households are considered food insecure, with higher rates recorded in the south of the country, in the regions of Guidimaka (40%), Assaba (37%), Tangant (34%) and Gorgol (31%). 190,000 people are classified as severely food insecure.

**Early July:** Some 800,000 people are food insecure in Mauritania, with 190,000 persons classified as severely food insecure. This number marks an increase from the estimated 560,000 food insecure people in January 2013.

### Political and security context

On 22 August, Mauritania announced a six-week postponement of elections planned for 12 October, after the Coordination of Democratic Opposition (COD, a coalition of opposition parties) said they would boycott the vote. The current president Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz seized power in a 2008 coup and was elected a year later, but the COD has never accepted his presidency as legitimate.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** The number of Malian refugees in Mauritania has levelled off since March 2013 standing at 75,261 people as of 30 June, according to UNHCR. Almost all refugees (over 74,000) live in the Mbéra camp, 60% are women and children, according to UNICEF, and have lived in the camp for over a year.

**Disaster:** OCHA reported on 11 September that heavy rainfall on 19-20 August provoked floods which affected 4,225 people, killed 8, and damaged more than 800 houses. To date, severe flooding affected more than 400,000 people across nine countries of the Sahel region in Africa.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** WFP reported on 3 September that as of July, 23.7% of the Mauritanian households are considered food insecure, which represents a decrease compared to the same period last year (32.3%) but the rate is not as low as expected (estimation for July 2013 was 22%). Higher rates were recorded in the south of the country, in the regions of Guidimaka (40%), Assaba (37%), Tangant (34%) and Gorgol (31%). Food insecurity is higher in rural areas (28.5%) than in urban areas (17.4%), even though rural exodus and rising food prices are driving the urban food insecurity rates higher and higher. 800,000 people are food insecure, which marks an increase from the estimated 560,000 food insecure people reported in January 2013. 190,000 people are classified as severely food insecure and 610,000 moderately food insecure.

According to the SMART survey conducted in July, 6 regions of the country have reached or exceed the emergency threshold of 15% GAM, but the national MAM rate remains below (12.8%).

*Reviewed: 23/09/2013*

## NIGER FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

### Highlights

As of **17 September**, severe flooding killed 30 people, affected more than 135,000, and caused important damages to 13,000 ha of crops. The Tillabery, Maradi, Tahoua and Dosso regions are among the most affected areas

**28 August:** Thousands of Nigerians were reported to be crossing into Niger, due to ongoing military offensive against Islamist militants.

**15 August:** UNICEF reported that an estimated 13,500 refugees from northern Nigeria had arrived, and UNHCR also reported 3,544 Nigerien returnees, and 94 people of other nationalities.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** According to the UN on 28 August, thousands of Nigerians were reported to be crossing into Niger, fleeing the ongoing military offensive against Islamist militants of the Boko Haram group. As of 15 August, UNICEF reported that an estimated 13,500 refugees from northern Nigeria have arrived in southeastern Niger (Diffa region), and UNHCR also reported 3,544 Nigerien returnees, and 94 people of other nationalities (mainly Chadians). These refugees have been crossing into Niger since mid-May and have mainly settled in Bosso, Diffa, Kablewa, Maine, Tam, Tcoukoujani and Garin Amadou. The majority live with host families, while others live in rented houses but lack the money to pay their rent or have no shelter at all.

According to UNHCR, an estimated 11,672 people have crossed into Niger since the start of military intervention in Mali on 11 January. As of 16 August, 47,583 Malian refugees have been registered in Niger. There are also 3,991 Nigerien returnees in the country, bringing the total number of displaced from the Malian conflict into Niger to over 53,000. Malian refugees continue to place a significant stress on the country with the large majority settling in regions hardest hit by the nutrition and food security crisis.

**Disaster:** As of 17 September, OCHA reported that severe flooding which started mid-August killed 30 people, affected more than 135,000 people, and caused important damages to 13,000 ha of crops. The Tillabery, Maradi, Tahoua and Dosso regions are among the most affected areas, and the UN warned that crops are threatened by a locust invasion as a result of the floods.

To date, severe flooding affected more than 400,000 people across nine countries of the Sahel region in Africa.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to OCHA on 19 July, some 2.9 million people remain food insecure in Niger. UNICEF estimates, based on initial figures from a June food security assessment, found 2,889,863 people affected by food insecurity.

However, across the country, household incomes are considered average to good this

year and should allow households to purchase sufficient cereal to meet food needs. Aside from exceptionally high prices, other food security drivers are in line with normal seasonal trends, the combined positive effects of which should keep food insecurity in most parts of the country at minimal (IPC Phase 1) levels between now and September according to FEWSNET. FAO reported on 26 August that since Niger depends on food imports from Nigeria during the lean season, the current insecurity in the northeast have disrupted trade with surrounding countries and affected food availability.

In the Diffa region, the effects of high prices and declines in seasonal income raised food insecurity at Stressed levels (IPC Phase 2) in September, but the upcoming harvest should restore Minimal food insecurity (Phase 1) in most of the country.

Cereal prices reached a five-year high in April, with the sharpest increases in the Maradi and Diffa regions. The prices stabilised in May but remained higher than the seasonal norm. Compared to the five-year average, the prices of dry cereals are rising, with millet (17%), sorghum (20%) and maize (9%) displaying the largest increases. As a result, many Nigeriens who are yet to recover from previous crises are unable to afford market prices. The high market prices are largely due to production shortfalls and market disruptions in neighbouring Nigeria, following the 2012 floods. Central Niger is especially dependent on Nigerian grain flows, and is likely to see the highest impact on prices.

On 31 July, OCHA reported that malnutrition has slightly decreased, with a rate of 13.3% GAM for children <5, compared to 14.8% in 2012, except in Maradi district where the 16.3% GAM rate is a source of concern.

**Health:** According to UNICEF as of 15 August, a cumulative number of 432 cholera cases, including 10 deaths (with a case fatality rate of 2.31 percent) have been reported since the government of Niger officially declared the epidemic on 10 May. The majority of cases are registered in the Tillabery region in north-western Niger. There is a high risk that the disease will spread along the Niger River. In 2012, more than 5,785 cholera cases and 110 deaths were reported countrywide.

With 41 registered cases, of whom 16 have died, diphtheria has returned to Niger seven years after the last epidemic in 2006. The recent epidemic has been confirmed by local health officials in Tillabery, 120 km northwest of the capital. The most affected age group is 5-14 years, with 26 registered cases.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**21 September:** In retaliation for the involvement of Kenyan troops Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the attack on a shopping centre in Kenya's capital on 21 September, killing at least 62 people and wounding 175. The siege of the centre continues with around 30 hostages on 23 September.

**As of 10 September:** 990,378 Somalis are refugees in neighbouring countries, mostly in Kenya (471,906), Ethiopia (245,068) and Yemen (230,855). 20,316 are new refugees



who arrived in 2013, with more than half of them seeking refuge in Ethiopia (12,825).

**Early September:** The government is pressing ahead with plans to clean up Mogadishu, forcing thousands of people out of makeshift camps. This has a direct impact on more than 300,000 people living in Mogadishu where they are sheltering from cyclical drought, famine and armed conflict.

**Early September:** As indicated in a joint report by FSNAU and FEWSNET in late August, an estimated 870,000 people, among which 72% are believed to be IDPs, will still be in Crisis and Emergency food security status from August to December 2013.

### Political and Security Context

Conflict remains widespread in Somalia as the country struggles to curb an Islamist insurgency led by the Al-Shabaab, an Islamist organisation allegedly tied strongly to al-Qaeda, which continues to conduct terrorist attacks and fight Government forces. According to various sources, the movement has retained strongholds in parts of rural southern and central Somalia, while another faction is present in the mountains in the northern, semi-autonomous Puntland region. Although security in the capital Mogadishu has improved since its lowest point in August 2011, attacks by Al-Shabaab in urban centres and along transport axes are common.

On 7 September, at least 18 people were killed in the Somali capital Mogadishu when two blasts struck a restaurant in a suicide attack quickly claimed by Al-Shabaab Islamists. On 3 September, the militants had already staged an ambush on President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's military-escorted motorcade, firing rocket-propelled grenades at the convoy. Although no information on casualties is available, the President reportedly escaped unhurt. In July, over 25 people were killed in several attacks, including one against the Turkish embassy and one against a convoy of African Union troops, staged by Al-Shabaab in Mogadishu, prompting the authorities to launch a military operation against Al-Shabaab in south and central Somalia. In mid-June, Al-Shabaab militants launched a high-profile assault targeting the UN compound in Mogadishu. The attack killed 15 and caused all UN missions outside Mogadishu International Airport to be suspended for 24 hours.

Since June, violence has been flaring up in Kismayo in Jubaland in the far south of Somalia, bordering Kenya and Ethiopia. On 19 August, a simultaneous series of land mine explosions occurred in the central business district of Kismayo, targeting African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) troops. To date, the number of casualties is still unknown. In the area, control was long split between multiple forces including clan militias, Al-Shabaab and Kenyan and Ethiopian soldiers. On 28 August, it was reported that the central government agreed to establish a former Islamist commander as the interim leader of the southern Juba region, a deal which if implemented could end months of clan fighting and solidify plans for a federal nation. In a rather unexpected reversal, an official from Mogadishu allegedly signed a deal with Sheikh Ahmed Madobe, who has been competing for control of Jubaland's port city of Kismayo and of the adjacent hinterland against a clan warlord, Bare Hirale, who was widely seen before as backed by the central authorities.

In the latest round of fighting of the rival Somali warlords over Kismayo from 27-29 June, WHO reported that 71 people were killed and more than 300 injured. Fighters from the Ras

Kamboni militia of Ahmed Madobe, who proclaimed himself president of the Jubaland region in June, battled against forces loyal to Bare Hirale, a former Somali defence minister. In early June, two days of heavy fighting between Madobe's forces and gunmen loyal to Iftin Hassan Basto, another local warlord claiming the presidency, left over 30 dead and almost 40 wounded. Reports indicated that more than 1,604 people have been displaced by the violence. These were the heaviest clashes the city had seen in over four years and the first since several rival warlords claimed control of the lucrative port and fertile hinterlands in May. OCHA data indicated that some 60,000 people were in need of humanitarian assistance in Kismayo in early July.

In the aftermath of the June clashes, the central government called for the withdrawal of Kenya Defence Force troops from Kismayo believing that they sided with Madobe. Following the announcement, there have been a series of elders' meetings in Dhobley to discuss the way forward. In retaliation for the involvement of Kenyan troops Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the attack on a shopping centre in Kenya's capital on 21 September, killing at least 68 people and wounding 175. The siege of the centre continues with around 30 hostages on 23 September. Heavy gunfire and explosions have been heard at the premises. An army assault was said to be underway.

Tensions also persist between the central authorities and the semi-autonomous Puntland region. On 29 August, the president of Somalia's Puntland region said that the central government was undermining plans to create a federal system, and that he would develop potential oil resources in his area even without a revenue-sharing deal with Mogadishu. The statement further underlined deep ongoing national divisions. On 5 August, Puntland region had cut all ties with the central government in a clear sign of distrust toward Mogadishu. Puntland accused central authorities of refusing to share power and foreign aid with the region in line with the country's federal structure, as well as taking its eye off the fight against al-Qaeda-affiliated Islamist militants. In July, clashes were recorded between residents and security forces in Qardho (Karkaar region). Following the clashes, Puntland President Abdirahman Mohamed Farole announced the suspension of the 2013 Local Council elections planned for 15 July due to the instability and election violence.

According to the African Union (AU) on 9 May, an estimated 3,000 AU peacekeepers have been killed in Somalia since 2007. Despite recent success by Somali forces and AU peacekeepers against Al-Shabaab fighters, tensions exist between the different military forces involved and the local authorities to the extent that, on 22 April, Ethiopia officially announced its wish to remove part of its troops from Somalia, but has no plans for a complete withdrawal from the fight against al-Qaeda-linked insurgents. During March-April, the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Hudur, a town in the southern Bakool region, led to its immediate occupation by Al-Shabaab.

In early March, the UN Security Council decided to maintain the deployment of the AU Mission until February 2014, and partially lift its 20-year weapons ban for one year to boost the Government's capacity to fight off Al-Shabaab insurgency. In a similar move, the US declared that Somalia was again eligible to receive defense articles and services, which may be seen as a tangible illustration of the improving relations between Washington and Mogadishu.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** An estimated 1.1 million Somalis are currently internally displaced according to UNHCR, mainly in the South-Central region. In March-April, thousands of new IDPs were reported in the vicinity of Xudur after the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from the area. The flooding that affected the country also led to the displacement of an additional 50,000 people, notably in the Jowhar and Baidoa areas.

Amnesty reported on 12 September that the government is pressing ahead with plans to clean up Mogadishu, forcing thousands of people out of makeshift camps. In January 2013, the authorities announced their plan to relocate hundreds of thousands of IDPs from the capital to camps outside the city. These measures will have a direct impact on more than 300,000 people living in Mogadishu where they are sheltering from cyclical drought, famine and armed conflict. The chosen relocation site, Daynille (north of the capital) is situated in an area of high security concern, yet forced evictions and resettlements have continued, increasing even more the vulnerability of the displaced population.

As of 10 September, UNHCR reported that 990,378 Somalis are refugees in neighbouring countries, mostly in Kenya (471,906), Ethiopia (245,068) and Yemen (230,855). 20,316 are new refugees who arrived in 2013, with more than half of them seeking refuge in Ethiopia (12,825). Nevertheless, Somali refugees continue to return home, with 3,200 people reportedly returning in April 2013. UNHCR states that a total 20,207 refugees have returned from neighbouring countries to Somalia since January 2013.

As reported by HRW in August, IDPs in Somalia suffer from widespread abuses with rape and sexual violence reportedly posing a "constant threat" to women and children living in camps.

**Disaster:** As reported by OCHA, following the early beginning of the main rainy season (the *Gu*) in mid-March, an estimated 50,000 people were displaced and 6,400 hectare of crops damaged by floods.

**Access:** On 14 August, MSF announced an immediate stop to all operations in Somalia as a result of increased attacks on its staff. MSF has operated in Somali since 1991 and has treated roughly 50,000 people each month. Following the announcement, the Somali Government on 15 August urged MSF to reconsider its planned withdrawal, stating that the decision "will directly affect the lives of thousands of vulnerable people" and could lead to a "catastrophic humanitarian crisis." On 15 August, Al-Shabaab militants looted MSF hospitals in Dinsoor (Bay region) and Mararey (Middle Jubba region) towns.

In southern and central Somalia humanitarian access remains challenging, with several incidents against humanitarian personnel and interference of aid delivery recorded in April and May. The withdrawal of Al-Shabaab from key towns in southern Somalia has enabled an increased international presence in some areas. Insecurity in these areas, however, continues to affect trade and market activities and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. FSNAU notes that conflict has disrupted the movement of food and other basic commodities in most parts of these regions, particularly in Bakool.

The attacks on aid workers pose a serious constraint for humanitarian operations. An attack in Mogadishu on 5 May led to the closure of main roads in the capital, hampering movement of aid workers and supplies. According to OCHA, sporadic armed clashes took place between Somaliland security forces and the militia groups operating in Togdheer and

in the disputed regions of Sanaag and Sool, further hampering humanitarian access and aid delivery.

Between November 2011 and February 2012, humanitarian aid worth £480,000 was appropriated by Al-Shabaab in southern Somalia from the offices and warehouses of partner organisations.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As indicated in a joint report by FSNAU and FEWSNET in late August, an estimated 870,000 people, among which 72% are believed to be IDPs, will remain in Crisis and Emergency food security status from August to December 2013. The recent figures represent a continued improvement since January when an estimated 1,050,000 people were in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) food security status, and an even more significant since the country was plagued by a deadly famine. Between October 2010 and April 2012, famine in Somalia led to the deaths of 258,000 people, according to May OCHA estimates. However, nearly 2.3 million additional people beyond those requiring more urgent assistance, one-third of Somalia's population, are classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

According to FEWSNET, recent improvements are attributed to a near average July/August 2013 Gu harvest, increased livestock prices, increased livestock herd sizes, improved milk availability, low prices of both local and imported staple food commodities, higher purchasing power from income from labour and livestock sales, and sustained humanitarian interventions over the last six months. However, according to FAO, cereal production is expected to be below average, with particularly low yields in areas of Gedo, Huduur and Hiran regions bordering Kenya and Ethiopia that received below average rainfall amounts. Nevertheless, FAO provided the same downward revised estimate of the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance.

FEWSNET and FSNAU also reported that some areas, in addition to the internally displaced people who live in settlements in very poor conditions, are still severely affected by food insecurity. For agro-pastoral households in Hiraan, central Somalia, an early end to the March to June Gu rains along with poor distribution resulted in a very low harvest. In the area, poor households are expected to fall into Crisis (IPC Phase 3) status during the October to December lean season. Poor pastoral households in Coastal Deeh, in central Somalia are expected to remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through at least the end of the year. Low livestock ownership will limit their income. On the Sool Plateau pastoral livelihood zone in northeastern Somalia, poor households are likely to divert funds to purchase water during the remainder of the Hagaa dry season through October. Overall, most poor households in Somalia are likely to remain in Stress (IPC Phase 2) conditions between July and December 2013.

FAO reported in August that maize and sorghum prices were well below their levels of 12 months earlier (up to 50 percent less) and about 75 percent below their peak high in June 2011, when famine was declared.

The overall nutrition situation in Somalia has improved since the 2011 famine. However, the prevalence of malnutrition still remains above the WHO emergency threshold of 15%, especially among IDPs. Overall, more than 206,000 children under the age of 5 are acutely malnourished, a slight decrease since the beginning of the year. In January 2013, FSNAU estimated 215,000 children <5 to be acutely malnourished of whom at least 45,000 were

severely malnourished. About two-thirds of these children are in Southern Somalia, where very high rates of malnutrition persist. This is attributed to an inadequate health infrastructure and poor feeding practices.

At the start of August, FSNAU reported critical levels of GAM (GAM rate  $\geq 15\%$  and  $< 30\%$ ) in North East, Central and South Somalia. In Kismayo, 19% GAM rates were reported in a recent flashpoint area for tribal fighting that also hampered the polio vaccination campaign. The nutrition situation in Kismayo suggests a decline in acute malnutrition and improved nutrition when compared with results from December 2012 assessment, which reported a GAM rate of 28%.

As reported by FSNAU, the nutrition status of IDPs in central and northern regions of Somalia has deteriorated. Sustained malnutrition levels were seen among the displaced in settlements in Bossaso, Gaalkacyo, Garowe, Dhusamaareb, Kismayo, Dhobley and Mogadishu.

**Health:** The first confirmed case of the wild poliovirus since 2007 was reported in Mogadishu on 9 May. The total number of confirmed cases in Somalia stands at 169 as of 12 September, primarily in Banadir and Bay regions of Somalia. According to OCHA on 18 July, the Somaliland Minister of Health confirmed the disease had reached the northern regions with a case of polio in Sool region. The first vaccination campaign began on 14 May in Somalia. However, recent fighting in Kismayo halted the polio vaccination campaign planned for July, targeting 24,000 people. Large areas of south-central Somalia have not conducted immunisation campaigns since 2009 due to insecurity, leaving up to 600,000 children particularly vulnerable according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Two cases were confirmed from these parts of Lower Shabelle region. The risk to populations across other areas of Somalia is also very high, due to substantial subnational population immunity gaps.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

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

### **Highlights**

**20 September:** Heavy rains and floods have affected most parts of South Sudan. In the states where assessments have been carried out by aid organisations, notably Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile, Unity, Warrap and Western Bahr el Ghazal states, some 44,713 people are in need of assistance. The total number of affected people is estimated to be higher. On 12 September OCHA estimated that at least 100,000 people had been displaced by flooding, and the Government of South Sudan reports that it is supporting more than 200,000 flood affected people across the country.

**Late September:** South Sudan is pushing ahead for a self-determination referendum that will let Abyei residents choose whether to remain part of Sudan's South Kordofan region or join the Bahr el-Ghazal region in South Sudan. Sudan has been reluctant to agree on a date but South Sudan has indicated it wants to press on with the referendum regardless. The initiative over the disputed Abyei has sparked fears of intensified violence in the region.

**12 September:** OCHA reported that Upper Nile and Jonglei states are the worst affected in terms of access incidents, with repeated violence against humanitarian personnel and assets, active hostilities and interference in the implementation of relief programmes.

**10 September:** 5,000 families (38,000 people) have been displaced in Jonglei state's capital Bor, because of the rapid rise of the White Nile River.

**3 September:** South Sudan's President Salva Kiir visited Sudan for talks with President Omar Hassan al-Bashir about the oil conflict. This was his second visit to Khartoum since 2011. During the summit, the two leaders pledged to end their conflict. In a joint statement at the beginning of their meeting, Bashir and Kiir reaffirmed their commitment to all bilateral cooperation agreements including on oil export. The crude stoppage threat, that has jeopardised their bilateral relations since June, was not mentioned.

**Early September:** As reported by OCHA, about 75,000 people identified as affected by inter-tribal tensions in Pibor county, Central and Eastern Equatoria were reached with humanitarian assistance. While the six main population centres in Pibor county (Boma, Gumuruk, Likuangole, Manyabol, Maruwa Hills and Pibor) are either partially or completely abandoned, many civilians remain in the bush, cut off from assistance. In Gumuruk, people move in and out to receive assistance.

### **Political and Security Context**

South Sudan is allegedly pushing ahead for a self-determination referendum for the contested Abyei border area. The referendum will let Abyei residents choose whether to remain part of Sudan's South Kordofan region or join the Bahr el-Ghazal region in South Sudan. While Sudan has been reluctant to agree on a date, South Sudan has indicated it wants to press on with the referendum in the disputed region of Abyei, even if Khartoum fails to agree on a date. According to Government sources, South Sudan plans to hold the referendum in October. The date of the referendum was suggested in September 2012, by the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP). Violence linked to the self-determination issue has escalated in the Abyei area, and the determination by South Sudan has sparked fears of further intensification of violence.

On 3 September, South Sudan's President Salva Kiir visited Sudan for talks with President Omar Hassan al-Bashir about the oil conflict. This was only his second visit to Khartoum since 2011. During the summit, the two leaders pledged to end their conflict. In a joint statement at the beginning of their meeting, Bashir and Kiir reaffirmed their commitment to all bilateral cooperation agreements including on oil export. The crude stoppage threat, that has jeopardised their bilateral relations since June, was not mentioned.

On 12 August, Khartoum had already announced that it was extending the deadline to allow the flow of oil from South Sudan until 6 September following mediation by the African Union (AU). On 1 August, in a joint communiqué, the two sides officially agreed to immediately cease the support or harbouring of rebel groups from either sides and prevent rebels from crossing the common border.

On 26 July, Sudan had announced the postponement of the closure of the pipelines

carrying oil from South Sudan for two weeks to allow more time to end a quarrel that started early June over alleged support by Juba to rebels in Sudan. South Sudan has repeatedly denied the claim and in return has accused Khartoum of backing rebels fighting in Jonglei state, South Sudan. If implemented, the oil stoppage would cut off the crude and transit fees that make up both countries' main source of foreign income.

Renewed tensions between Khartoum and Juba since June were a stark contrast to the gradual improvement of the relations witnessed in previous months, which had led to the signature in March of a technical agreement to establish a demilitarised border zone, the deployment of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, and the activation of all agreed security-related mechanisms.

The two states had also agreed on a plan for the coordinated implementation of all elements of the 27 September 2012 agreements, including the re-launch of crude oil exports from South Sudan. On 7 May, Sudan announced that cross-border oil flows had resumed and the first cross-border shipment was received at Heglig.

On 24 July, the South Sudanese President Salva Kiir dismissed his entire cabinet, including main political rival Riek Machar who had announced his intention of running in the 2015 elections. While the AU urged President Kiir to form a new government and respect the country's diversity in doing so, the sacking of the government highlighted increasing tensions in the South Sudanese ruling Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) Party. Salva Kiir and Riek Machar were on opposing sides of a split within the SPLM during much of the civil war with Khartoum that led to the independence of South Sudan.

Ethnic clashes and violence continue across much of South Sudan with an increasing number of human rights abuses reported, notably by government forces, according to a Human Rights Watch report released in July. Violence is concentrated primarily in Jonglei state and the tri-state area of Lakes, Unity and Warrap. In Jonglei state, the precarious security situation stems from the protracted conflict between armed groups and official troops, and from ongoing inter-tribal fighting. Boma, Pibor and other population centres remain deserted due to fighting; almost all civilians have fled into the bush, amid increasing tensions between state and non-state armed actors.

In Rumbek, the Lakes state capital, a forceful disarmament campaign by local authorities continued, leaving two dead and four seriously injured in an operation carried out on 17 September, according to local reports. Rumbek has struggled to curb recent inter-communal violence and proliferation of arms in the region. Five people were shot as clashes erupted between cattle herding groups on 7 September in Rumbek North county according to local official sources. On 1 September, seven people were killed in separate inter-communal clashes between the Rup and Kuie communities in Rumbek Central county in Lakes state. The following day, six people were killed in a retaliatory attack in the same area.

In late July, violence between ethnic groups, state and non-state actors raged in Pibor county in Jonglei state. Although the situation remained tense locally with inter-communal fighting in Gumuruk and Verthet payams and along the Nanaam River being reported, most of the violence calmed in August. The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) has increased its military presence in the area to secure the environment. In July, widespread fighting affected large parts of Jonglei state, mostly Pibor county and to a lesser extent

Pochalla county. The fighting has forced tens of thousands of civilians to flee. Initially, local authorities reported that groups of heavily armed South Sudanese gunmen, belonging to the Lou Nuer and Dinka tribes, were fighting their way toward a rival community, the Murle people, in eastern Jonglei state. This last spike of tribal clashes in Pibor county has forced thousands of Murle civilians to flee the advance of the militias. As of mid-August, information, including numbers of casualties, remains unverified, although according to the authorities, over 300 people were killed during the clashes and at least 4,000 people injured.

Violence in Jonglei came after a fierce round of fighting in early July between government troops and various non-state actors. Against this background, HRW reported in mid-July an increasing number of abuses against civilians committed by South Sudanese authorities during the anti-insurgency campaign in Jonglei state. Earlier, the UN Security Council and the US had called for Juba to better protect civilians in Jonglei state amidst reports of killings, lootings and beatings, including by government troops.

On 19 June, the rebel leader of a Jonglei-based rebel group, David Yau Yau, a member of the Murle group, officially agreed to begin peace talks with government representatives. According to local media, preliminary meetings were conducted in late June. The conflict between the Yau Yau rebel group, who calls itself South Sudan Democratic Army (SSDA), and the South Sudan Army (SPLA) had escalated since early March, after Juba conducted a major operation against the SSDA. South Sudan issued an ultimatum to David Yau Yau on 5 June asking him to choose between ceasing hostilities unconditionally or risking being pursued by the state's military forces. Following the recent spike in tribal fighting in Jonglei, local sources reported the increasing involvement of the David Yau Yau rebel group in support of the Murle tribe.

Some 800 rebels belonging to a group blamed for attacks in Upper Nile state over the past two years accepted an amnesty offer from the South Sudanese government and handed over their weapons as reported on 5 June. The surrender came two months after some 5,000 fighters from the South Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM), led by Brigadier General Bapiny Monyuel, took up the amnesty offer from South Sudanese President Salva Kiir. On 5 August, talks officially started with the former rebels of the SSLM. The rebel groups South Sudan Democratic Army and South Sudan Defense Forces also declared peace with the government of South Sudan and entered the negotiations.

Cattle-raiding is a recurrent issue throughout South Sudan with recent incidents in Jonglei and Unity states. In mid-August, OCHA reported that violence in Pibor county in July was followed by an increasing number of cattle-raids and clashes in other parts of Jonglei. On 8 August, nine people were killed and seven injured in a cattle raiding incident in Twic East county in Jonglei state. Cattle raiding mirrors local ethnic tensions with officials blaming the Murle group and the David Yau Yau group for staging the latest raid. Another incident was recorded in Bor county on 6 August.

On 1 August, increased insecurity was reported in Northern Bahr el Ghazal state according to local sources. At least three people were killed and an estimated 100 displaced in clashes between local armed groups.

### **Humanitarian Context and Needs**

Displacement: Overall, OCHA reports that at least 155,703 people have been internally displaced by violence since January 2013. During the same period, 71,000 returnees have arrived back to South Sudan from Sudan, adding up to some 1.9 million returnees from Sudan since 2007.

Following increased inter-communal violence in Jonglei, various international organisations have reported new IDPs. In July, ECHO reported that there were 148,000 conflict affected people, most of whom were displaced within Pibor county or fled to Juba or neighbouring countries following fighting. As reported by MSF, up to 120,000 civilians, mostly from the Murle group, fled their homes as a result of recent spikes in the ongoing battle between state and non-state armed actors and inter-communal clashes. According to WHO, the increasing numbers of IDPs and returnees in Pibor, Gumruk, Akobo and Boma is of high concern to humanitarian partners.

As reported by OCHA in early September, about 75,000 people identified as affected in Pibor county, Central and Eastern Equatoria, were reached with humanitarian assistance. An inter-agency assessment conducted in Pibor county on 7 and 8 September indicated that most of the displaced and returnees report heavy losses of livestock and personal belongings. The majority of the people said they have been displaced at least four times because of violence since the beginning of 2012. While the six main population centres in Pibor county (Boma, Gumuruk, Likuangole, Manyabol, Maruwa Hills and Pibor) are either partially or completely abandoned, many civilians remain in the bush, cut off from assistance. In Gumuruk, IOM registered 23,000 IDPs as of 9 September, and people move in and out to receive assistance.

Vulnerable populations in Pibor county are living outside protected communities and without consistent access to food, safe drinking water, shelter, and health care. Most IDPs have resorted to extreme coping strategies, with some eating wild fruits and leaves. Following cattle raids, reported to be in the tens of thousands of cattle, the population is slaughtering female cattle for meat, even if this means that they cannot replenish stocks. According to the UN, 100,000 people have been cut off from vital aid in Jonglei state. As of 26 July, according to the authorities, some IDPs have begun to return home.

As reported by OCHA, since January, about 17,000 people have fled Jonglei state to Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

As of 21 July, according to preliminary estimates released by OCHA, 4,000 people were displaced in Koch county in Unity state, following cattle raids. As of mid-August, an additional 800 people were confirmed as displaced by cattle-raids in Unity state's Guit county.

Local authorities in Fashoda county, Upper Nile state in South Sudan reported that a significant number of refugees crossed into the area from South Kordofan in recent days. UNHCR reported that 2,100 refugees from South Kordofan have arrived in Upper Nile since mid-July. Local authorities said that some 70% of the refugees are women and children, and fled their place of residence because of aerial bombardments, ground clashes or food shortages. Many refugees showed signs of malnutrition. In mid-June, according to OCHA, an estimated 3,000 new IDPs arrived in Northern Bahr El Ghazal state, fleeing increased insecurity and armed attacks in areas around River Kiir, South Darfur and South Kordofan. 26,000 people were reportedly displaced as of 21 July. According to MSF, the remote area

is practically inaccessible and IDPs have little access to aid. Their food situation is already dire and may further worsen as the rainy season gets underway.

Some 11,900 returnees were registered in four transit sites in Renk county in Upper Nile during a biometric registration in July and August. The figure marks a major drop from the previous estimate of 17,500 people, according to OCHA. About 4,400 individuals of those registered are willing to be transported to their final destinations, whereas 7,500 individuals are not willing to be transported and prefer to stay in Renk town.

UNHCR stated that recent estimates of numbers of South Sudanese arrivals in Ethiopia are smaller than suggested by earlier reports; UNHCR noted the arrival of 2,178 refugees from 7 May-7 June. More refugees are expected to arrive in Ethiopia from Nyalongoro, Kaiwa and Niate areas of South Sudan.

In the first five months of 2013, over 5,390 South Sudanese from Jonglei were registered at the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. These numbers approach the total number of people that arrived in Kakuma from South Sudan in 2012. In Uganda, 2,700 refugees from Jonglei have arrived since the beginning of the year, averaging about 527 per month.

Some 223,688 refugees, mostly from neighbouring Sudan are in South Sudan as of mid-September. According to OCHA as of 31 August, there are currently over 119,000 Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile state and 74,700 in Unity state who need humanitarian assistance. According to OCHA, an estimated 71,000 South Sudanese returned from Sudan since January 2013. Up to 350,000 South Sudanese remain in Sudan.

Disaster: Heavy rains and floods have affected most parts of South Sudan. In the states where assessments have been carried out by aid organisations, notably Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile, Unity, Warrap and Western Bahr el Ghazal states, some 44,713 people are in need of assistance. Warrap and Upper Nile states are the worst affected with 17,300 and 15,150 people affected respectively. The total number of affected people is estimated to be higher: on 12 September, OCHA estimated that at least 100,000 people had been displaced by flooding. Government figures suggest a higher number of affected: on September 14, the National Relief and Rehabilitation Commission said it is supporting more than 200,000 flood affected people across the country. Assessments are planned in parts of Jonglei, Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, and Northern Bahr el Ghazal. In Unity state, logistical constraints have hindered access to flooded areas and needs assessments, meaning that the total number of people in need could be significantly higher.

Overall, at least two people were killed in the floods. As reported by OCHA, affected populations are most in need of household items, clean water, emergency drugs and short-term food assistance. Information on damages remains limited while hundreds of houses have reportedly been destroyed across the five states.

In late August, an estimated 18,000 people were affected and partly displaced in Maiwut county, Upper Nile state, following floods. According to a 21 August WHO assessment, the health situation in Maiwut is deteriorating as malaria and waterborne diseases spread through the area.

According to local sources, floods have cut off the main road to Uganda, leaving busses,

trucks and passenger vehicles stranded at the Ugandan side of the border as of 28 August. The disruption is between the towns of Atiak in Uganda and Elegu in South Sudan.

Access: Insecurity and poor infrastructure, and lack of logistics capacity continue to severely hamper humanitarian access nationwide. The recent floods have exacerbated the challenges of humanitarian access in certain areas of South Sudan, with Unity state having been particularly difficult to access due to infrastructural constraints.

On 5 August, unidentified gunmen attacked an MSF vehicle outside the capital Juba. The attack resulted in the death of one MSF South Sudanese staff.

As reported by OCHA on 12 September, Upper Nile and Jonglei states are the worst affected in terms of access incidents, with repeated violence against humanitarian personnel and assets, active hostilities and interference in the implementation of relief programmes. OCHA also indicated on 26 August that access remains challenging in Pibor county because of insecurity. Humanitarian actors have for the second time in August halted distributions of food assistance due to security constraints. Following widespread violence in July that affected over 140,000 people, aid workers had reached close to 21,000 people with food distributions as of 18 August but had to stop operations to review operational constraints, including guarantees of safety for civilians receiving assistance and for aid workers supporting them.

On 14 July, as reported by OCHA, for the first time this year, aid agencies reached parts of Pibor county, Jonglei, where thousands of civilians have been hiding in the bush following clashes between state and non-state actors. Permanent insecurity in Pibor county makes it complicated for humanitarian actors to operate in the area. In July and August, aid agencies reached IDPs in Dorein, Labrab and Pibor town. As of 5 August, multiple areas still remained cut off from assistance due to insecurity according to OCHA.

The rainy season is affecting roads across the country, according to OCHA, making them inaccessible and hindering humanitarian access, notably in Jonglei, Lake, Unity, and Northern Bahr El Ghazal states. Up to 60% of the country is inaccessible by road from May to October, with only 10% of Jonglei accessible during the rains. Limited air assets mean that responding to flooding over the coming months will be restricted.

Food Security and Malnutrition: As reported by WFP in mid-August, the food security situation has improved compared to the same period in 2012 even if an estimated 8% (over 850,000 people) and 34% (over 3.5 million people) respectively remain severely and moderately food insecure in South Sudan. In 2012, an estimated 4.7 million people were food insecure across the country.

In June, FAO estimated that 4.1 million people were food insecure in South Sudan and would remain so until the harvest in September. FEWSNET also indicated that the food security is forecast to improve in October due to the harvest, with only a few counties in Jonglei state remaining in crisis phase.

Yet, WFP reported that the food security situation has deteriorated in some areas – Unity state, eastern parts of Eastern Equatoria and Lakes – that are experiencing drier-than-normal conditions characterised by erratic rainfall coupled with prolonged dry spell. In addition, the food security situation, notably because of problematic access to food due to

limited and unreliable income and poor purchasing power, is grim in southeastern Jonglei state following prolonged insecurity in Pibor county. The food security situation across the country is projected to remain precarious in the coming months. IDPs and the returnees from Sudan remain especially vulnerable.

In early August, FEWSNET highlighted that ongoing insecurity has negatively impacted food security outcomes in Pibor county. In Unity, Warrap, and Lakes states, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity was also expected and was expanding to other areas previously considered to be in Stress (IPC Phase 2). An estimated 1.2 million were considered to be at Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and 4) with parts of Jonglei (especially Pibor county), Unity, Lakes, Warrap states and the Abyei area, disputed between Sudan and South Sudan, of particular concern.

According to WFP, there is an ongoing rise in prices, albeit on a smaller scale than a year ago, that is coherent with seasonal patterns in South Sudan. As indicated by FAO, prices of locally produced cereal crops are increasing in most markets as the lean season progresses, household food stocks are beginning to dwindle, and most roads, especially in remote areas, are impassable during the rainy season, disrupting market supplies.

According to OCHA, as of mid-June, the children <5 GAM rate was 18.1%. In August, using MUAC measurements, WFP estimated average national malnutrition rates to be around 11% with Jonglei, Unity, Warrap and Lakes states showing serious to critical levels ranging from 14% to 21%.

Health: OCHA reported that the hepatitis E outbreak that began in mid-2012 and peaked in February 2013 in refugee camps in Unity and Upper Nile states is now under control. Though the number of cases per week is decreasing in most locations, it is still increasing in others, with Maban and Doro refugee camps (Upper Nile state) of particular concern. In Maban, as of mid-July, 11,279 cases and 205 deaths were recorded since the beginning of the outbreak.

Sudan's Ministry of Health declared an outbreak of meningitis in Malakal county, Upper Nile state. As of 27 May, 141 cases and five deaths had been reported with additional cases being reported from Jonglei state and Aweil West county.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

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

### **Highlights**

As of **mid-September**, the Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) has revised the number of people affected by floods in Sudan up to an estimated 500,000 people due to more rainfalls. The significant increase in numbers is observed in Khartoum state, West Kordofan, and White Nile. Overall, Khartoum remains the worst affected state with over 184,410 people affected, followed by El Gezira with over 52,975 people affected and Blue Nile with 50,000 affected.

As of **mid-September**, inter-tribal tension between the Misseriya and Salamat tribes continues to affect civilians in Central Darfur, with armed tribesmen mobilising in the

localities of Um Dukhun, Bindisi and Mukjar in preparation for conflict. According to the Government of Sudan's HAC in August, some 22,300 people have fled their homes in rural areas to larger towns in Central Darfur state. Since April, violence has flared between the two tribes with ongoing clashes reported between late May and mid-June, causing large-scale displacement and numerous casualties.

As of **12 September**, the clashes which erupted in August between the Rezeigat and Maaliya tribes in East Darfur have displaced an estimated 144,000 people, and killed 170.

**11 September:** People who fled from the villages Makariba A and Makariba B (south of El Fasher) and the area of Tabet (East Jebel Marra), reported casualties due to intense shelling by heavy artillery, allegedly by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). The previous week, at least seven people, including four children, had reportedly been killed in renewed air strikes against Darfur's East Jebel Marra. Since the beginning of August, SAF has led regular air raids targeting East Jebel Marra in South Darfur, and Kadja and Dady areas in North Darfur. Meanwhile, some clashes between the local population and pro-government militiamen were reported in East Jebel Marra.

**10 September:** The National Congress Party (NCP) leadership council in North Darfur state announced this week its rejection of a truce agreement signed between the Abbala and Bani Hussein tribes, on the grounds that the pact steps over the NCP institutions. The tribes signed a comprehensive peace agreement in July where they agreed to cease hostilities, hold accountable outlaws from any side, and return all stolen agricultural lands. Since the start of 2013, the two tribes have clashed violently over control of the Jebel Amer gold mine in Al Sareif Beni Hussein, leaving 839 people dead according to the authorities and an estimated 150,000 displaced according to the UN.

**10 September:** The rebel group Liberation and Justice Movement faction (LJM) claimed the "liberation" of the military region of Um Hashaba located west of the North Darfuri city of El Fasher. The rebels allegedly ousted army troops and militias from the area in an attack which killed 26 army staff and militiamen.

**9 September:** Darfuri leaders met in Khartoum to discuss the root causes of the recent tribal conflicts and find possible solutions for peaceful coexistence amongst tribes. Participants recommended the disarmament of people and the establishment of laws regulating relations between farmers and pastoralists, as well as the settlement of disputes over land resources. This was the first event organised by UNAMID (the AU-UN Hybrid Operation in the western Sudanese region), after the UN Security Council renewed its mandate late July 2013 until 31 August 2014, to address the causes of the escalating violence across Darfur.

**8 September:** OCHA reported that increased criminality throughout Darfur has been affecting both humanitarian and commercial traffic in various states, especially South Darfur. On 4 September, on the axis between Zalingei and Nyala, armed men attacked a convoy of 10 trucks carrying food commodities, and on 6 September, a private vehicle was carjacked by gunmen. On 26 August, guesthouses used by the ICRC and their warehouses in Nyala were attacked and looted by armed men. ICRC staff were beaten and personal property confiscated. In early July, fighting in the area resulted in the

looting of offices and premises of several international organisations. During the lootings, two aid workers from World Vision were killed and three others injured. UNDSS has advised international humanitarian staff to minimise unnecessary movement in Nyala and surroundings.

**2 September:** Heavy rains were reported across Darfur since late August. As reported by local sources, heavy rains in South Darfur notably affected El Salam IDP camp where over 1,000 homes were destroyed. In early September, heavy rains also reportedly struck central Darfur, with at least 95 houses being destroyed north and south of Nierteti, and North Darfur with more than 100 homes destroyed at camp Dankuj in Saraf Omra. In West Darfur, rains and floods have caused a number of injuries among the displaced of camp Abu Suruj in Sirba locality. Although the exact number of affected people is unknown, it is reported that several thousands are in need of food, shelter, and medicine.

## Political and Security Context

### Sudan – South Sudan

On 3 September, South Sudan's President Salva Kiir visited Sudan for talks with President Omar Hassan al-Bashir about the oil conflict. This was only his second visit to Khartoum since 2011. During the summit, the two leaders pledged to end their conflict. In a joint statement at the beginning of their meeting, Bashir and Kiir reaffirmed their commitment to all bilateral cooperation agreements including on oil export. The crude stoppage threat, that has jeopardised their bilateral relations since June, was not mentioned.

On 12 August, Khartoum had already announced that it was extending the deadline to allow the flow of oil from South Sudan until 6 September following mediation by the African Union (AU). On 1 August, in a joint communiqué, the two sides officially agreed to immediately cease the support or harbouring of rebel groups from either sides and prevent rebels from crossing the common border.

On 26 July, Sudan had announced the postponement of the closure of the pipelines carrying oil from South Sudan for two weeks to allow more time to end a quarrel that started early June over alleged support by Juba to rebels in Sudan. South Sudan repeatedly denied the claim and in return accused Khartoum of backing rebels fighting in Jonglei state, South Sudan. If implemented, the oil stoppage would cut off the crude and transit fees that make up both countries' main source of foreign income.

Renewed tensions between Khartoum and Juba since June were a stark contrast to the gradual improvement of the relations witnessed in previous months, which had led to the signature in March of a technical agreement to establish a demilitarised border zone, the deployment of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, and the activation of all agreed security-related mechanisms.

The two states had also agreed on a plan for the coordinated implementation of all elements of the 27 September 2012 agreements, including the re-launch of crude oil exports from South Sudan. On 7 May, Sudan announced that cross-border oil flows had resumed and the first cross-border shipment was received at Heglig.

## Insurgent Groups

Khartoum continues to struggle to curb insurgencies waged by non-state armed groups reunited under the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) banner in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile.

On 24 July, in an indication of increasing levels of coordination between various armed movements, fighters of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), part of the SRF from the Darfur region, attacked an army position in al-Rachad in central North Kordofan, with deaths reported on both sides. Rachad is close to the state capital El-Obeid and Um Ruwaba, a city stormed in a coordinated attack by the SRF in April.

On 17 July, Minni Minawi, Deputy President of the SRF alliance and leader of one faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM-MM), announced, during a meeting in Geneva, that the SRF is ready to accept a humanitarian cessation of hostilities in Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan as a first step before taking part in a comprehensive process aiming at resolving Sudan's multiple conflicts on a national scale. It is yet unclear how the Sudanese authorities, who have been suspicious of negotiating with the SRF umbrella group rather than with each separate paramilitary group, will respond to that proposition.

## Abyei

South Sudan is allegedly pushing ahead for a self-determination referendum for the contested Abyei border area. The referendum will let Abyei residents choose whether to remain part of Sudan's South Kordofan region or join the Bahr el-Ghazal region in South Sudan. Sudan has been reluctant to agree on a date while South Sudan has indicated it wants to press on with the referendum regardless. Violence linked to the self-determination issue has recently escalated in the Abyei area, and the determination by South Sudan to pursue the referendum, planned for October, has sparked fears of further intensification of violence.

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** An estimated 2.8 million Sudanese are currently internally displaced due to food insecurity and conflict. As of mid-July, there were an estimated 191,400 Sudanese refugees in South Sudan and another 32,000 in Ethiopia, according to UNHCR.

As of mid-September, an estimated 71,000 South Sudanese have returned from Sudan since January 2013. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), more than 2 million people of South Sudanese origin have returned to South Sudan from Sudan since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005. The estimates on the number of South Sudanese in Sudan vary from between 220,000 people (Government of Sudan estimate) to 350,000 people (UNHCR estimate). UNHCR reports that there were 153,000 refugees originating from other countries in Sudan as of mid-July.

Eastern Sudan has received an average 500 Eritrean refugees per month in 2013, down from 2,000 a month in 2012. Sudan reportedly shelters at least 114,500 Eritrean refugees. According to UNHCR in June 2013, there are an estimated 86,900 registered refugees across the eastern states, mostly from Eritrea, with smaller numbers of people from Ethiopia, Somalia, and Chad.

According to information released in August and republished by OCHA, up to 60,000 of the over 100,000 people displaced from Abyei in May 2011 have returned.

According to a recent assessment by the Sudanese IDP and Returnees National Centre (IDP Centre) and IOM, there are currently over 3,500 people, of which 32% are children, of South Sudanese origin stranded at the railway station in Kosti in White Nile state. The displaced have been stranded for more than two years and, due to limited access for humanitarian agencies, have received only modest assistance during this period.

**Disaster:** According to OCHA, heavy rains and floods have affected 16 states across Sudan and the Abyei contested area since 1 August. As of mid-September, the Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) has revised the number of people affected by floods in Sudan up to an estimated 500,000 people, or 99,980 families, due to more rainfalls reported in several states. The previous figure from late August estimated that 341,000 people had been affected by the floods. The significant increase in numbers is observed in Khartoum state, West Kordofan, and White Nile.

Khartoum remains the worst affected state with over 184,410 people affected, followed by El Gezira with over 52,975 people affected and Blue Nile with 50,000 affected. According to OCHA, immediate needs include emergency shelter, health, water, and sanitation support. This year's floods are being considered the worst since the historical marker of the 1988 floods. In 2012, 270,000 people were affected by floods nationwide.

As noted by WHO, heavy rains and floods may aggravate outbreaks of communicable diseases, especially acute watery diarrhoea, malaria, dengue fever, and Rift Valley fever. Inconsistent chlorination, population movements, flooded and destroyed toilets, and poor community hygiene practices are risk factors for the potential outbreak and spread of water borne diseases.

Earlier reports from humanitarian actors indicated that the floods had damaged several roads, affecting transport and disrupting markets. Local media reported a lack of bread and an approximate 27% increase in commodity prices in some areas in Khartoum last week.

The recent floods have furthermore destroyed large stretches of cropland. According to the State Ministry of Agriculture (SMoA), an estimated 55,000 acres (53,000 feddans) of sorghum, sesame, beans, groundnuts, tomatoes, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, okra, eggplant, and banana plantations have been destroyed by floods in Blue Nile state alone.

**Access:** On 21 August, as reported by local media, the Sudanese Interior Minister announced that the government is to introduce new rules governing the work of foreign relief organisations. Authorities will now only allow national organisations to work for human rights, excluding foreign humanitarian groups and UN agencies. The imposition of additional restrictions on foreign actors underlines Khartoum's lasting discomfort with international organisations that it has repeatedly accused of exaggerating the magnitude of the conflicts in the country, disseminating false information, and spying.



To date, the Sudanese government still refuses to grant international humanitarian groups access to rebel-held areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

The heavy rains that have hit Sudan since early August have affected the transport system while stagnant water remaining in some areas is hindering humanitarian access to affected populations.

According to OCHA, as of early July, access to Abyei remained blocked from Sudan.

Access for humanitarian actors to affected populations, as well as access of affected populations to aid, is severely hampered in large parts of Sudan due to the presence of mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). According to UNMAS, 250 locations, – an estimated 32 km<sup>2</sup> – are covered with mines and ERW, with the greatest concentration found in Kassala, Gedaref, Red Sea, Blue Nile, South Kordofan and Darfur states.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to FEWSNET as of July, an estimated 3.7 - 4 million people in Sudan faced Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phase 2 and 3) levels of food insecurity. According to OCHA as of March, an estimated 4.3 million people faced Stressed and Crisis food insecurity. Some 560,000 people experienced Emergency (IPC 4) levels of food insecurity, notably across SPLM-N controlled areas in South Kordofan, the Darfur states and Abyei as of June.

In July 2012, 4.6 million people were food insecure in Sudan. The slight decrease in the number of registered food insecure is mostly attributed to a good 2013 harvest. The total area planted during the 2012-13 season is over double the previous year's figure, and yields are expected to be significantly higher due to favourable rainfalls and decreased pest infestations. A surplus of 1.4 million MT of sorghum and millet is expected.

Despite the good harvest, Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity persist in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, Darfur, and Abyei due to the impacts of conflict on production, market access, and livelihood options. 80% of the food insecure population is located in these four areas.

In Abyei, most households face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) level food insecurity according to FEWSNET. Due to high food prices, restricted cross-border trade with South Sudan, and the decrease of the cultivation areas, local communities in Abyei have expanded their livelihoods strategies, switching to coping mechanisms employed in times of severe food insecurity. As more and more people return to the area where tensions eased in the wake of the signing of the agreement between Juba and Khartoum, it is likely that the humanitarian assistance will be challenged to keep up with rising needs.

Nationally, GAM levels for children <5 stand at 16.4%, above the emergency threshold of 15%. In mid-June, the Sudanese Ministry of Health issued a report noting that 33% of Sudanese children are chronically malnourished while 5.3% suffer from severe acute malnutrition. An estimated 500,000 children <5 suffer from SAM and up to two million children are stunted, according to a recent report on malnutrition produced by the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and partners.

Malnutrition rates in east Sudan (Red Sea, Kassala and Gedaref states) are the highest in Sudan, with 28% of children suffering from moderate or severe acute malnutrition in Red

Sea state.

**Health:** On 16 September, the Government of Sudan outlined terms for resuming vaccinations in war-affected parts of South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, in response to a proposal put forward by the UNICEF and the WHO. Routine vaccinations for children under five were interrupted when fighting broke out in 2011. The Government stated that it would resume vaccinations "within the framework of cooperation between the Government and the Tripartite Partners". UNICEF and WHO had earlier agreed with the Sudanese Ministry of Health and the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency on all technical details for the vaccination campaign, which is intended to target 160,000 children under five in non-Government-controlled areas. If the vaccination campaign is implemented, it will be the first cross-line access into SPLM-N areas from within Sudan since 2011.

## Darfur

### Political and Security Context

On 9 September in Khartoum, Darfuri leaders took part in a conference to discuss the root causes of the recent tribal conflicts and find possible solutions for peaceful coexistence amongst tribes. Participants recommended the disarmament of people and the establishment of laws regulating relations between farmers and pastoralists, as well as the settlement of disputes over land resources. This was the first event organised by UNAMID (the AU-UN Hybrid Operation in the western Sudanese region), after the UN Security Council renewed its mandate late July 2013 until 31 August 2014, to address the causes of the escalating violence across Darfur.

### Insurgent Groups

Clashes between the rebel group Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Minawi (SLM-MM), part of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) umbrella movement, and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) have been ongoing in Southern and Eastern Darfur since April. At present, because of the lack of information, it is difficult to evaluate the intensity of the fighting. According to local sources, the SRF conducted an attack on a military convoy to the east of Kass in South Darfur on 19 August that resulted in 21 killed. Fighting between the SAF and allied militias and SLM-MM was reported in Onganja, South of Nyala, then Labado and Muhajria to the east and later in Donkey Darisa, leaving hundreds of thousands of civilians without home and shelter in May. Government forces also face attacks from the dissident faction of the SLM led by Abdul Wahid al-Nur in Northern Darfur. Fighting has resulted in the displacement of civilians north and northwest of Nyala.

On 20 August, a consultation with Darfur's three rebel groups – SLM-MM, SLM-AW, and JEM – was organised under the auspices of the head of UNAMID in Arusha, Tanzania. It came after a first meeting was held in May. Though representatives of the rebel movements allegedly welcome such initiatives, spokesmen for the groups reiterated their goal to negotiate with Khartoum on a national agenda, and not on separate regional issues, through the SRF. The SRF is an alliance that includes the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), fighting in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, and has ties with opposition political groups in Khartoum. It is unclear how Khartoum will respond to the initiative.

As reported since the beginning of August, SAF is continuing regular air raids targeting East Jebel Marra in South Darfur, and Kadja and Dady areas of North Darfur. On 11 September, people who fled from the villages Makariba A and Makariba B (south of El Fasher) and the area of Tabet, (East Jebel Marra) reported casualties due to intense shelling by heavy artillery, allegedly by the SAF. On 5 September, at least seven people, including four children, were reportedly killed in renewed air strikes against Darfur's East Jebel Marra with the vicinities of Kined, Silo, Shangil Tobaa, as well as the villages of Kunjara, Sharaf, Tirbo and Vanaga being hit. The next day the explosion of an earlier unexploded bomb in the Dubbo Al Omda area killed another four children. Meanwhile, some clashes between the local population and pro-government militiamen were reported in East Jebel Marra. On 18 August, heavy bombing reportedly destroyed an entire village in East Jebel Marra and killed at least four persons. Air raids in North Darfur on 11 August killed nine people and wounded dozens. A European international organisation, the Society for Threatened Peoples (STP), condemned what it described as "indiscriminate air raids on civilians in the Jebel Marra Mountains" that forced thousands of people to flee the area. As reported in local media on 20 August, renewed bombardments from SAF were reported over the village of Abu Tega in North Darfur. Areas east, north and west of Marshang locality in South Darfur were also reportedly targeted.

Since April, near the cities of Katila, Um Dukhun, Ed Elfirsan, Kubum and Rihaid Albirdi in Darfur, tribal fighting between the Abbala and Beni Hussein, the Salamat and Ta'isha, Al-Gimir and Beni Halba, Dajo and Beni Halba, Misseriya and Salamat tribes have intermittently flared. Clashes between the Tarjam and Fur tribes were reported in Southern Darfur in May.

### **East Darfur**

Since mid-July, tensions over land ownership and cattle have increased between the Rezeigat and Maaliya tribes in Kulaykili Abu Salama in Adila locality. According to local reports, clashes took place on 18 September in the Bakhit region, some 70 kilometres east of East Darfur capital Ed Daein, allegedly leaving 20 people dead and as many injured. The recent violence erupted despite a peace deal signed on 22 August by representatives of the two Arab tribes to end several weeks of deadly clashes and prepare for a reconciliation conference in Al-Tawisha, North Darfur.

On 17 August, the abduction of 42 people from the Maaliya tribe by Rezeigat tribesmen jeopardised an earlier attempt to convey a conflict resolution meeting. As reported by STP on 14 August, over 300 people were killed in four days of clashes between the two nomadic pastoralist groups that started on 9 August. OCHA noted that an estimated 170 people were killed in the clashes, and as of 12 September, the Government of Sudan's HAC reported that these clashes had displaced an estimated 144,000 people.

### **Central Darfur**

On 3 September, violent clashes reportedly erupted between police and pro-government militiamen at Tululu market in Nierteti locality. According to local sources, the clashes sparked from a conflict over who is entitled to levy taxes and duties on the market. The number of casualties remains unknown. On 29 August, infighting between militiamen and SAF troops had already been reported from that same area, which seems to be growingly

insecure. On 26 August, an ICRC convoy travelling from Zalingei to Nertiti was hijacked and four staff abducted. Although ICRC staff was released the next day, the vehicles and the other looted materials were not returned.

Inter-tribal tension between the Misseriya and Salamat tribes continues to affect civilians. According to local authorities in Central Darfur, armed Misseriya and Salamat tribesmen have reportedly been mobilising in the localities of Um Dukhun, Bindisi and Mukjar in preparation for conflict. The reconciliation agreement signed in Zalingei early July proved to be yet another unsuccessful attempt at a lasting peace and as of 30 July, 230 people were reportedly killed in two weeks of fighting. According to HAC in August, some 22,300 people have fled their homes in rural areas to larger towns in Central Darfur State. Since April, violence has flared between the two tribes with ongoing clashes reported between late May and mid-June, causing large-scale displacement and numerous casualties. In April, fighting between the Misseriya and Salamat led 50,000 people to flee into Chad, according to UN estimates.

### **South Darfur**

Tribal disputes over land ownership continued in July, requiring Khartoum to deploy Special Forces to enforce a buffer zone between the Al-Gimir and Beni Halba tribes. In April, conflict between the two tribes reignited after a relatively stable period since February. Fighting intensified at end May in South Darfur, leading to 23 people being killed and 51 injured. The violence led to the burning of Katela town of the Al-Gimir tribe, large displacements, and the Al-Gimir tribe accusing the Sudanese authorities of colluding with the Beni Halba tribe. On 26 June, conflict resumed in Katela with nine killed and dozens displaced. Clashes between the Dajo and Beni Halba tribes were also reported in Kubum, South Darfur.

On 8 September, OCHA reported that increased criminality throughout Darfur has been affecting both humanitarian and commercial traffic in various states, especially South Darfur. On 4 September on the axis between Zalingei and Nyala, armed men attacked a convoy of 10 trucks carrying food commodities, and on 6 September, a private vehicle was carjacked by gunmen. On 26 August, guesthouses used by the ICRC and their warehouses in Nyala were attacked and looted by armed men. ICRC staff were beaten and personal property confiscated. In early July, fighting in the area resulted in the looting of offices and premises of several international organisations. During the lootings, two aid workers from World Vision were killed and three others injured. UNDSS has advised international humanitarian staff to minimise unnecessary movement in Nyala and surroundings.

At least five people were killed and 48 people were wounded as violent protests erupted in South Darfur state's capital city of Nyala on 19 September, according to local media reports. Thousands of angry demonstrators clashed with police as they protested against the incapacity of the local government to uphold security in the town. The demonstrations were sparked by the killing of Ismail Wadi, a prominent businessman from the Zaghawa tribe, by an alleged Janjaweed militia on 18 September. Riot police tried to disperse the crowd, reportedly firing bullets and using teargas. The situation in Nyala was calm on 20 September.

### **North Darfur**

In North Darfur, the National Congress Party (NCP) leadership council in North Darfur state announced this week its rejection of a truce agreement signed between the Abbala and Bani Hussein tribes, on the grounds that the pact steps over the NCP institutions. On 26 July, the Abbala and Beni Hussein tribes signed a comprehensive peace agreement in El Fasher, the capital of the state. On 18 August, the treaty allegedly came into effect with the reopening of roads linking Saraf Omra with Al Sareif Beni Hussein. The two tribes agreed to cease hostilities, hold accountable outlaws from any side, and return all stolen agricultural lands. Since the start of 2013, the two tribes have clashed violently over control of the Jebel Amer gold mine in Al Sareif Beni Hussein, leaving 839 people dead according to the authorities and an estimated 150,000 displaced according to the UN.

On 10 September, the Liberation and Justice Movement faction (LJM), a rebel group gathering ten smaller Darfuri rebel organisations since February 2010, claimed the “liberation” of the military region of Um Hashaba located west of the North Darfuri city of El Fasher. The rebels allegedly ousted army troops and militias from the area in an attack which killed 26 army staff and militiamen.

### **Insecurity and Attacks on Internally Displaced People (IDPs)**

In recent weeks, there have been reports of increased violence from SAF and affiliated militias against IDPs in camps in Darfur, and displaced people across Darfur continue to face attacks from different armed non-state actors. According to the Association of Displaced Persons and Refugees of Darfur, North, Central, and West Darfur are the hardest hit. On 18 September, some 30 militiamen stormed into Kalma Camp in South Darfur, allegedly beating and harassing IDPs before police could intervene. In early September, attacks against IDPs were reported from Kereinik locality in West Darfur while attacks against civilians occurred in Manawashi locality in South Darfur on 2 September. On 3 September, new assaults were reported from Marshang locality in South Darfur. In August, attacks occurred in Hila Beeda near Zalingei, capital of Central Darfur, at Hamidiyah camp in Central Darfur and near IDP camp Dankoj in Saraf Omra locality in North Darfur. Since late June, several similar incidents have been reported from Zalingei camp in Central Darfur, El Salam, Dumma and Toum Kittir camps in South Darfur, Murnei camp in West Darfur, Dreige camp in South Darfur, Um Haleeb camp and Nertiti camp in Central Darfur.

### **Humanitarian Context and Needs**

OCHA reported in mid-August that 3.2 million people, over a third of Darfur’s population, are in need of humanitarian assistance as a result of the decade-long conflict and insecurity.

**Displacement:** OCHA stated on 30 June that an estimated 287,000 people have been displaced or severely affected by intertribal fighting and conflict between various armed groups and the Government from January to June. According to an August UNHCR report, there are almost 300,000 new IDPs since the beginning of 2013.

UNHCR cited an estimated 74,000 people fleeing into Chad since January 2013, including Sudanese (30,000) and Chadian refugees, following intertribal fighting in North and Central Darfur. It is the largest influx of refugees from Sudan into Chad since 2005. There are

currently an estimated 330,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad. As instability persists across Darfur, this number may increase. Roughly, 5,000 people were also displaced from Sudan to CAR in March according to the UN.

Up to 200,000 people, according to local sources, were displaced in the Nyala area in South Darfur. At present, people continue to arrive at camps, notably Alsalam camp where living conditions are dire.

In South Darfur on 21 May, renewed violence between Al-Gimir and Beni Halba tribes led to the displacement of 20,000 residents of Katela town to the southern neighbouring locality of Tulus. IOM reported that fighting between Salamat and Taisha tribes led over 1,800 people to flee their homes in East and South Darfur and take refuge in South Darfur’s Kalma IDP camp.

An estimated 60,000 people also took refuge in El Sereif and Saraf Omra localities in North Darfur.

In East Darfur, according to the Government of Sudan’s HAC, an estimated 144,000 people have been displaced following the clashes between the Reizegat and Ma’aliya tribes which started on 9 August in Adila and Abu Karinka localities. ECHO reported on 12 September that the most urgent needs of these IDPs are food, non-food relief supplies, emergency shelter, WASH and health assistance. Because of Government restrictions, access to these two localities is reported to be very limited. According to UNAMID, 10,000 people in Labado town continue to seek refuge near the UNAMID Team Site, with the town remaining empty. In Kulaykili Abu Salama in Assalaya locality, East Darfur, tribal tensions forced an estimated 500 people to flee the area in mid-July. New displacements may be expected as fighting is reportedly spreading to southeastern Darfur.

An estimated 11,600 people displaced from around Muhajerria are taking refuge in Abu Dangel village as well as Shaeria town in East Darfur. According to HAC, these IDPs were displaced from Muhajerria town in Yassin locality in April following fighting between SAF and the Sudan Liberation Army – Minni Minawi faction (SLA-MM). According to HAC, the displaced people in Abu Dangel (9,000) have yet to receive any non-food relief assistance. There has been a sharp deterioration in the level of health coverage in Shaeria since MSF-Belgium had to suspend its operations following a decision from the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS). This has negatively affected an estimated 16,000 people in Shaeria town and nearby villages.

Since April, although verification is currently ongoing, roughly 22,300 people have been displaced in Central Darfur in the Um Dukhun area, following fighting between Misseriyya and Salamat tribes. According to the HAC, most of these IDPs have not received food assistance, although some have benefited from non-food item distributions and water and sanitation assistance.

As reported by the Society for Threatened Peoples (STP) in mid-August, ongoing bombing by SAF of the Jebel Marra Mountains in North and South Darfur has displaced 17,000 people from the area. According to the UN, there are about 100,000 people in the Jebel Marra area either displaced or severely affected by conflict.

According to UNHCR as of mid-August, there are 2.4 million IDPs in Darfur; an estimated

1.4 million live in camps.

**Disaster:** Heavy rains were reported across Darfur since late August. As reported by OCHA, heavy rains in North Darfur have affected some 29,135 people and destroyed 2,562 houses. In South Darfur 18,440 people are affected, and in West Darfur 960 people are affected.

As reported by local sources, the heavy rains affected El Salam IDP camp in South Darfur where over 1,000 homes were destroyed. In early September, heavy rains also reportedly struck central Darfur, with at least 95 houses being destroyed north and south of Nierteti, and North Darfur with more than 100 homes destroyed at camp Dankuj in Saraf Omra. In West Darfur, rains and floods caused a number of injuries among the displaced of camp Abu Suruj in Sirba locality.

In early August, heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding was recorded across North Darfur, affecting the El Fasher, Mellit, El Kuma, and El Malha. Heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding was also recorded in South Darfur, in Nyala and surrounding IDP camps, killing seven people and destroying 400 houses. Rains reportedly also affected the districts of Al Wadi, Jebel, Al Jeer, Taiba and Texas.

**Access:** On 6 August, UNHCR stated that it had increasing difficulties negotiating the renewal of work permits for international staff in Darfur. After some staff had to leave Sudan, UNHCR had to temporarily scale down operations in Darfur. Other agencies such as WFP and UNICEF have not experienced problems with the renewal of work permits.

OCHA reported that, as of 21 July, relief supplies for new IDPs in Um Dukhun in Central Darfur are still stranded in Zalingei and El Geneina, the state capitals of Central Darfur and West Darfur respectively, due to logistic and security challenges. Most commercial transporters in the area are unwilling to go to Um Dukhun, citing insecurity. Inter-tribal violence reignited in the area over the previous weeks.

According to WHO, inaccessibility due to insecurity is a major concern in North Darfur, particularly in conflict-affected areas of Jebel Amir, namely Elseraif town, Kebkabya and Saraf Omra. In South and East Darfur, access, particularly in Jebel Marra, has been a concern for operational organisations.

In South Darfur on 15 July, government security forces informed humanitarian agencies about criminal groups in Nyala town, most of whom come from Kass locality and other areas north of Nyala. The UN has warned of threats of carjacking and abductions targeting the UN and international NGOs. In early July, growing insecurity in Nyala heavily impacted humanitarian actors after two aid workers from World Vision were killed and three others injured as a result of fighting in the city.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As of early June, approximately 3.5 million people were receiving food aid, including 1.4 million in Darfur camps, according to OCHA. As reported by FEWSNET in early August, conflict-affected areas and new IDP populations in Darfur states, particularly in South Darfur are likely to remain at IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) levels through September and into the post-harvest season.

As violence has increased across the region, and especially in and around IDP camps,

local sources reported that in Central Darfur, poor security has resulted in a failed planting season for IDPs in the vicinity of Zalingei.

**Health:** At least 25 people, among them eight children, diagnosed with visceral leishmaniasis (VL) and scabies have died in Kereinik (West Darfur) and Umm Dukhun (Central Darfur) in the past two weeks, according to local media. Local reports indicate that VL, scabies and ringworm have increased since 2012, resulting in a surge of patients in hospitals and health centres in the region.

Almost 275 cases of severe food poisoning from contaminated grain were reported from Murnei camp in West Darfur on 25-26 August. The poisoning resulted in 13 deaths; large numbers of livestock have also reportedly died.

As reported by the UK-based Sudan Social Development Organisation on 19 August, an estimated 80,000 people in Abu Karinka, Adila, Bakhet and Abu Jabara towns in East Darfur have been cut off from life-saving assistance due to the ongoing strife between Maaliya and Rizeigat Arab tribes. These people are living without access to water, shelter or medical assistance.

According to WHO, cases of acute jaundice syndrome and measles were reported in Elseraif area, North Darfur, but emergency response was not immediately carried out due to insecurity. Local media reported on 23 July that four children died of measles in El Salam IDP camp near Nyala. There are concerns that the camp might have to be dismantled.

## Blue Nile and South Kordofan states

### Political and Security Context

According to the South Kordofan and Blue Nile Coordination Unit (SKBNCU), in July and August, intensive ground fighting in Baw, Geissan and Kurmuk Counties in insurgents' controlled areas of Blue Nile led to civilian displacement in Khor Alsamah, Malkan, Arroom, Silak, Jebel Bui, Jegu and Gabaniet (Baw county), Zozag, Kashankaro, Dokanat and Ashimbu (Geissan county), and Soda, Dem Mansour, Mayak and Mufu (Kurmuk county). In SPLM-N-controlled areas of South Kordofan, aerial bombardment and ground fighting resulted in civilian casualties and displacement in the counties of Abbassiya, Buram, Dilling, Dellami, El Qoz, Heiban, Lagawa, Rashad, Um Dorain, and Western Kadugli between June and August. However, little information is available regarding casualties on both sides.

On 24 July, in an indication of increasing levels of coordination achieved between various armed movements, elements of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF), an alliance of armed opposition movements comprising notably People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) from South Kordofan and the JEM from Darfur, attacked an army position in al-Rachad in central North Kordofan, with people reportedly killed on both sides. Rachad is near the state capital El-Obeid and Um Ruwaba, a city stormed in a coordinated attack of the SRF in April. On 27 July, elements of the SRF staged an attack on a Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) patrol in Al Deleima village, 18 km north of Delling town and 150 km from Kadugli on the main Kadugli - El Obeid highway linking the capital of South and North

Kordofan respectively. The fighting came as the AU was trying to mediate the oil crisis that has led to the worsening of the relations between Juba and Khartoum over the past weeks.

On 27 April, talks about a possible ceasefire between the rebel SPLM-N and the Sudanese Government stalled over the issue of humanitarian access corridors. According to SPLM-N, the adjournment of the negotiations is linked to Khartoum's insistence on linking the humanitarian issue to the political one, a condition the rebel group strongly rejects. Humanitarian access to the area remains limited. As of June, no announcement regarding the date for the next round of talks had been made public.

At the end of April, after seizing the Abu Karshola village town, an SPLM-N armed group briefly besieged and looted the town of Um Ruwaba, a strategic stronghold linking Southern Kordofan state to Northern Kordofan state. This unprecedented attack and the fighting that ensued in the aftermath triggered regional resonance, leading Khartoum to overtly accuse Juba of supporting the rebels. According to Human Rights Watch, authorities arrested over 26 people believed to be supporting the SRF. As of 10 July, at least seven Darfuri and Nuba civilians remained in custody at unknown locations.

On 23 July, local reports indicated rising tensions between Kawahla al-Humr and Kawahla al-Zurug clans in the Balula area with six civilians reportedly killed. To date, there is limited information on the scale of the clashes and possible resulting displacement in the area.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

On 26 June, in a controversial statement, Khartoum asserted that the humanitarian situation in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile states is witnessing no problems, except in limited areas under rebel control.

**Displacement:** According to SKBNCU, in addition to internal displacement of more than 10,000 civilians following ground fighting in Baw, Geissan and Kurmuk counties inside Blue Nile, an influx of 3,000 refugees reportedly crossed into Ethiopia from Geissan county at Ashimbu and at a smaller crossing south of Kashankaro.

On 17 August, local authorities in Fashoda county, Upper Nile state in South Sudan said that a significant number of refugees crossed into the area from South Kordofan in previous days. The refugees were reportedly severely food insecure, with four persons dying after their arrival. Between 4,000 and 5,000 people were already in the area with urgent need for food, shelter and other humanitarian assistance.

Fighting in South Kordofan, in Rashad county where the village of Abu Karshola is located, led to the displacement of over 63,000 civilians across SAF- and SPLM-N- controlled areas in late May according to various sources, including IOM, SKBNCU, HAC and SRCS. According to reports, 21,000 displaced people have recently returned to areas of origin in South Kordofan, particularly to Abu Karshola, with returns ongoing in late July. The remaining IDPs need food assistance and non-food supplies according to WFP.

During May, SKBNCU reported that aerial bombardment and ground fighting resulted in civilian displacement in Blue Nile state, from Mayak, Olmedon, Mufu, Abu Dera, Marmiton,

and Khor Bashum in Wadeka payam, to Bellila and Sammari areas, moving closer to the South Sudan border. In Kurmuk county, ongoing internal displacement of over 20,000 civilians in Wadeka payam was reported late May to early June. The SKBNCU estimated that over 52,000 people were forcibly displaced in Blue Nile state in May.

As of 30 June, OCHA stated that 231,000 people in South Kordofan and 95,000 people in Blue Nile were displaced or severely affected by conflict in government-controlled areas. In SPLM-N areas, 700,000 people in South Kordofan and 90,000 in Blue Nile are displaced or severely affected by conflict according to local estimates. The UN reports that it has no presence in SPLM-N controlled areas and is unable to independently verify these figures.

According to UNHCR, an estimated 300 Sudanese refugees from South Kordofan cross the border to South Sudan daily. Reportedly, 200,000 people have fled to neighbouring South Sudan and Ethiopia.

**Access:** According to a UN report released on 6 June, access has remained constrained to rebel-held areas while it has improved in government-controlled areas since January. As of mid-August, there is no humanitarian access from Sudan to rebel-held areas in South Kordofan.

In mid-July, the UN continued to advocate with the Government and SPLM-N to allow a polio vaccination in areas not under Government control. To allow for the vaccination campaign to take place, both sides need to agree on a temporary cessation of hostilities and agree on a location for the vaccination and on where the vaccines should be sourced. On 13 July, the SPLM-N openly proposed to involve the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) in the vaccination campaign. As of 21 July, negotiations were advancing but with no resolution to date.

On 25 June, the Sudanese ruling National Congress Party (NCP) warned foreign aid groups expelled from the country against attempting to enter the Blue Nile and South Kordofan states without Khartoum's permission. The secretary of the NCP stated that some organisations previously working in Sudan who had been expelled due to violating government policies were trying to sneak back in. He claimed that these groups were seeking entrance through political bodies and people with connections to rebels to collect information on the humanitarian situation in Sudan and fabricate reports with the help of organisations such as Amnesty International and Transparency International. The NCP official revealed a new strategy for civil society organisations that is in line with the government's policies regarding human rights work in Sudan and underscores permanently banning groups that support rebels from entering the country. The authorities are currently banning the access of foreign groups to the rebel-held areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

On 4 April, WFP reported a breakthrough in delivering food aid to the Blue Nile state for the first time since conflict began 18 months ago. WFP reported delivering aid to 33,000 IDPs in North Kordofan from Abu Karshola in South Kordofan in April and May.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to FEWSNET in July, food security conditions in SPLM-N controlled areas of Blue Nile and South Kordofan are likely to further deteriorate during the peak of the lean season from August to September. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels are likely to prevail in SPLM-N- areas in Blue Nile and Emergency (IPC

Phase 4) levels in SPLM-N-controlled areas in South Kordofan.

The deterioration will be exacerbated by the continued lack of access to humanitarian assistance, the near-absence of income sources from agricultural production and labour, and progressive stripping of assets over an extended period since June 2011.

Conflict-affected areas controlled by the government in Blue Nile and South Kordofan are expected to be at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels through September, depending on access to land, labour opportunities and levels of displacement.

According to unofficial reports, the malnutrition rates among children <5 in the conflict-plagued regions is 30%, double the emergency threshold.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## DJIBOUTI FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

As of **10 September**, there are 18,725 Somali refugees in Djibouti, including 630 who arrived since January 2013.

**Early September:** As reported by FEWSNET, crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity is expected to persist through December, in Southeastern and Obock pastoral zones. Poor consecutive rainy seasons, coupled with anticipated poor livestock production and a decline in labour opportunities, are widening household food deficits. Meanwhile, significant improvements in the Karan/Karma rains are anticipated from July-September, leading to a transition from Crisis to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in the Northwest pastoral livelihood zone from September through December. Reportedly, continued Stressed acute food insecurity is expected for most poor households in Djibouti City's urban areas.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** The continued influx of refugees from Somalia is leading to an increase in humanitarian needs in both rural and urban areas. UNHCR reported that as of 10 September, there are 18,725 Somali refugees in Djibouti, including 630 who arrived since January 2013.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As reported by FEWSNET, crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity is expected to persist through December, in Southeastern and Obock pastoral zones. Poor consecutive rainy seasons, coupled with anticipated poor livestock production and a decline in labour opportunities, are widening household food deficits. Meanwhile, significant improvements in the Karan/Karma rains are anticipated from July-September, leading to a transition from Crisis to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in the Northwest pastoral livelihood zone from September through December.

Reportedly, continued Stressed acute food insecurity is expected for most poor households in Djibouti City's urban areas of Balbala, Radiska, and Baulaos and is

anticipated to heighten through December. High unemployment rates of up to 48% and high staple prices are causing urban to peri-urban migration to areas such as Balbala. However, the food voucher programme for vulnerable households (from July through September covering Ramadan and the Eid), in addition to humanitarian and food assistance programmes, should improve household access to food.

Several consecutive years of drought have led to a critical food security situation in Djibouti. Currently, 70,000 vulnerable people are at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity. The northwest, southwest and southeastern pastoral border livelihood zones are the worst affected. Rainfall levels in coastal areas at the end of the Heys-Dadaa rainy season (October through March) were 50% to 75% below normal. Rural areas near Obock town in the northeast, in the central pastoral lowland livelihood zone, are experiencing severe water shortages and critical malnutrition levels. In the southeast, water access is expected to become increasingly limited, particularly in the areas of Sankal and Kabah-Kabah. According to the April WFP report, food insecurity in Djibouti has increased since November 2012 while households' own food production has decreased from 14.6% to 5.1% due principally to delayed rainfall and persistent cold.

According to FEWSNET and WFP, as of August, GAM rates for children <5 stood at 17.9% while chronic malnutrition was 35.2%. Roughly 33% of children <5 are underweight, and 15% of women of reproductive age are acutely malnourished.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## ETHIOPIA FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 16/09/2013.**

**12 September:** 50,433 IDPs in East Harargue are in need of humanitarian assistance.

As of **12 September**, inter-communal clashes in neighbouring Kenya have caused an estimated population of 25,000 to cross into Ethiopia since mid-July. Most urgent needs include water, food, medicines and cash assistance.

As of **10 September**, heavy rainfall caused floods throughout August, affecting an estimated 195,000 people) in 219 districts, and killing up to 40 people. The most affected areas are North Shoa, South Wollo, North Wollo, Oromiya (of Amhara region), North Gondar, and East and West Gojam.

As of **10 September**, Ethiopia is hosting more than 444,000 refugees: 245,068 Somalis; 74,513 Eritreans; 65,447 South Sudanese; 30,614 Sudanese; 25,000 Kenyans and 4,238 refugees from several other countries.

**23 August:** A polio outbreak in the Horn of Africa has spread in Ethiopia, with one confirmed case in the Warder district, the first case since 2008.

### Political and Security Context

As of mid-June, Kenyan and Ethiopian surveyors finalised a fresh demarcation of the disputed border around Lake Turkana. The exercise is expected to resolve protracted armed conflict among pastoralists from the two countries and enable fishing in Lake Turkana.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** On 12 September, ECHO reported that 50,433 IDPs in East Harargue are in need of humanitarian assistance.

According to ECHO on 12 September, inter-communal clashes in neighbouring Kenya (Moyale area) have caused an estimated population of 25,000 to cross into Ethiopia since mid-July. Most of the displaced have camped in schools while some are hosted by relatives. Most urgent needs include water, food, medicines and cash assistance.

In addition to the newly arrived Kenyan refugees, UNHCR reported that Ethiopia is hosting 419,800 refugees: 245,068 Somalis (as of 10 September); 74,513 Eritreans; 65,447 South Sudanese; 30,614 Sudanese; and 4,238 refugees from several other countries (as of end July).

UNHCR registered 5,779 new arrivals in July, up from 3,555 in June. Over 3,000 new arrivals originated from South Sudan (mostly from Pibor county in Jonglei state, where violence between various non-state actors and Government forces has surged over the previous weeks), and another 1,519 from Eritrea, representing the highest arrival figure from that country so far this year. The new camp at Hitsats now accommodates 2,570 Eritrean refugees.

UNHCR is relocating thousands of South Sudanese refugees currently settled in the border Wanthowa district to the existing Pugnido camp in Ethiopia's Gambella region. Although 16,000 South Sudanese are estimated to reside at the border with host communities, their exact number is unknown since refugees in the area remain unregistered.

**Disaster:** ECHO reported on 10 September that heavy rainfall caused floods throughout August, affecting an estimated 195,000 people (39,000 households) in 219 districts, and killing up to 40 people. Flooding damaged livestock and more than 30,000 ha of crops. The most affected areas are North Shoa, South Wollo, North Wollo, Oromiya (of Amhara region), North Gonder, and East and West Gojam. According to OCHA on 2 September, rainfall is expected to continue until the end of September.

OCHA noted on 9 May that floods had affected an estimated 50,000 people across the country since April. Oromia and Somali regions were the most severely hit. Over 8,300 hectares of *belg* cropland were destroyed by armyworms in Wolayita zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR), an area that suffered from heavy rains which had already damaged *belg* crops. The damage caused by armyworms will further reduce the expected harvest from July to September. The infestation is rapidly spreading with armyworms reported in Boricha, Bona Zuria, Dara, Dale, Hawassa Zuria and Loko Abaya woredas of Sidama zone; Loma and Mareka woredas of Dawro zone (SNNPR), as well as in drought prone areas of East and West Hararge zones of Oromia region. In Borica woreda, more than 655 ha of *belg* cropland was destroyed in a week.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As of March, OCHA estimated that 2.4 million people in Ethiopia faced Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) levels of food insecurity, notably in the Afar, Oromia, SNNPR and Somali regions. Other estimates suggested that the total number of people affected by food insecurity might be as high as 3.5 million.

Recent reports indicated that East and West Hararghe zones in eastern Ethiopia have deteriorated into food insecurity Crisis (IPC Phase 3) following two consecutive, poorly-distributed rainy seasons and a below average *meher* harvest in October-November 2012.

According to OCHA, delayed *belg* rains in most *belg*-receiving parts of the country, including SNNPR, north eastern Amhara, eastern and southern Tigray and central and eastern Oromia regions, have led to late planting of *belg* crops. According to FEWSNET, poor households in affected areas will not be able to meet their food needs through the next harvest without depleting livelihoods assets. Most households have turned to the market to access food as early as January, as their food stock from the 2012 *belg* and *meher* harvest was exhausted. Following the seasonal decline in grain supply, wholesale prices of main cereals increased from March to mid-May by 5-10% in most markets.

In *belg* cropping areas of southern Tigray and eastern Amhara regions, the planted area was reported to be well below average levels. Despite an increase in rainfall since mid-April, the delayed onset of seasonal rainfall has led to unfavourable ground conditions for northeastern *belg* producing areas of Ethiopia. The erratic nature of the seasonal rains has negatively impacted cropping activities, likely resulting in below-average crop yields.

The situation is particularly difficult in sweet potato growing areas of SNNPR following the poor output of the recent harvest and the reduced income opportunities from coffee plantations as a result of low coffee production and prices.

WFP reported in June that year-on-year prices have increased by 7.4% for general, 3.7% for food, and 11.9% for non-food items, compared to same time in 2012. The wholesale price of staple cereals increased in all monitored markets compared to the previous month. The retail price of maize, wheat and sorghum also showed a month-to-month increase in most markets. However, the rate of increase is higher in most of East and West Hararghe woreda markets and in a few markets in SNNPR and Tigray region.

**Health:** On 23 August, a polio outbreak in the Horn of Africa was reported to have spread in Ethiopia, with one confirmed case in the Warder district. This is the first case since 2008, but the area is considered high risk because of its proximity to Somalia.

The Yellow Fever outbreak declared in mid-May by the authorities continues in South Omo, Segen and Arbaminch zones, SNNPR with 141 cases reported and 55 suspected deaths (still to be confirmed) in North Ari, South Ari, Benatsemay and Selmago woredas, as reported by OCHA. Past weeks saw a decrease in reported cases in parallel with the spread of the outbreak to neighbouring zones. Reported cases have gradually declined since mid-June.

**WASH:** According to the UN, critical water shortages continue to be reported in Afar region. Water availability also deteriorated over the past month in Tigray region. Water shortages were reported in Adadle and Kebridehar woredas. However, the seasonal rains have fully replenished water sources in Somali and SNNP regions, and in nearly all

woredas of Oromia and Amhara regions. More than 566,000 people are in need of water trucking across the country, down from 720,500 people in March.

*Reviewed: 23/09/2013*

## KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

### Highlights

**21 September:** A group of heavily armed Al-Shabaab fighters attacked a shopping centre in the capital Nairobi and fighting is ongoing with government forces who have surrounded the area. So far, the death toll is estimated at 62, with 175 wounded. Al-Shabaab has claimed this attack in retaliation for the involvement of Kenyan troops in Somalia.

As of **9 September**, the verification exercise conducted in Dadaab by UNHCR showed a reduction by almost 16% of the camps' population, from approximately 475,000 to 402,455.

As of **6 September**, inter-clan clashes which broke out end of August in the Moyale area caused the death of at least 20 people and displaced more than 25,000, most of them across the border of neighbouring Ethiopia.

**End of August:** Poor households are likely to be able to meet minimum food requirements, however they will remain at Stressed levels (IPC Phase 2) through September 2013 in localised parts of Makueni, Kitui, Taita Taveta, and Kwale counties.

### Political and Security Context

Even though Kenya is considered to be relatively stable, the eastern region of the country is regularly affected by the presence of the armed group Al-Shabaab, a Somali group of insurgents which is quite active in the border zone including the areas of Mandera, Buite, El Wak, Dif, Dabdaab and Garissa. On 21 September, a group of heavily armed Al-Shabaab fighters attacked a shopping centre in the capital Nairobi and were still holding 30 people hostage as the government forces launched a final assault on 23 September. So far, 175 people were wounded and the death toll is estimated at 62 but is expected to go up following the multiple firefights which have been taking place over the last three days. The insurgent group has reportedly claimed the attack in retaliation for the involvement of Kenyan troops in Somalia. This incursion of Somali Islamists so far in the Kenyan territory is a source of concern, as the insurgents are not usually active beyond the eastern border area.

Mid-August, an attack blamed on Somali Islamist insurgents killed at least four people in Garissa, southeastern Kenya, and displaced hundreds of people into the bush. Dadaab has experienced high levels of insecurity due to the volatile situation in Somalia where clashes are reportedly occurring between the Garre and Degodia ethnic Somali clans, who have been feuding in Mandera county since March 2012. Tension and conflict between the two communities has historically revolved around competition for natural resources. Since March 2013, however, emerging tensions are attributed to political disagreements over

governance issues under the new devolution structures. Inter-clan violence has spread to neighbouring Wajir county. Leaders from the warring Garre and Degodia clans signed a peace agreement on 23 June to stop the clashes, but violence resumed on 24 June. From June 2012 to May 2013, Dadaab camp has also seen kidnappings of humanitarian workers, explosions, grenade attacks, random shootings, and increased banditry. In 2010/2011, the camps experienced a huge influx of refugees from Somalia.

In the north of the country, inter-clan clashes have erupted over the last two months, in a region where communities have historically fought over resources. Local sources reported that inter-clan clashes exacerbated at the end of August, with two days of inter-community fighting between the Borana, the Burji and the Gabbra in the areas of Somare and Teti. The clashes caused the death of at least 20 people and displaced more than 25,000. On 11 July, OCHA reported that since January 2013, at least 181 people have been killed, 217 injured and many displaced as a result of inter-communal conflict in Kenya. The Kenyan Red Cross reported that conflict between the Garre and Degodia clans in Mandera County had left over 85 people dead as of 25 June.

In Narok county (southwest of the country), violence erupted on 2 September in three villages of Trans Mara West district, killing eight people and causing an unknown number to flee. Local authorities reported that the clashes followed a land dispute between the Kisii, Maasai, Kipsigis and Kuria communities. Tensions remain high in part of Ntirango and Loliondo.

In unrelated violence in western Kenya, tension is high along the West Pokot and Turkana county border after three herders were killed and another injured in a raid on 28 June, according to Kenyan police. Motives behind the attacks are unclear as the raiders allegedly did not steal any cattle. The western province saw a surge in indiscriminate attacks by various armed groups and gangs in early May, affecting the cities of Bungoma and Busia. However, the two communities recently held talks where they agreed to peacefully resolve feuds between them.

Across Kenya, at least 153 people have been killed and 237 injured as a result of inter-communal conflict since the beginning of 2013, OCHA reported.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** On 11 June, OCHA reported that inter-communal conflict has caused over 52,000 people to be displaced from their homes since January 2013. According to ECHO on 12 September, inter-clan clashes in the area of Moyale displaced more than 25,000 people, mostly across the border of neighbouring Ethiopia. The people displaced internally are currently staying with relatives in Moyale and the counties of Marsabit and Wajir.

According to OCHA, recent rains have displaced 12,380 people as of 17 May 2013, with an additional 2,000 displaced in Marigat district after the waters of Lake Baringo rose, flooding farms and homesteads at end July.

According to UNHCR as of June, the influx of Somali refugees into Kenya continues, with a total number of 494,704. ECHO reported however on 9 September that the verification exercise conducted in Dadaab by UNHCR showed a reduction by almost 16% of the camps' population, from approximately 475,000 to 402,455. The Kenyan Government



estimated the number of Somali refugees in Kenya at 600,000 people as of late June 2013. In July, Kenya and Somalia signed a deal for "voluntary repatriation", though the actual modalities remain to be agreed.

Population displacement from Jonglei state in South Sudan to Kenya has been reported, with 5,000 refugees registered with UNHCR in Kenya since May 2013.

**Disaster:** At the end of July, local media reported that heavy rain increased water levels of Lake Baringo in western Kenya, forcing around 2,000 people in Marigat district to flee their homes for higher ground. More than 800 acres of food crops were destroyed and local leaders said many people were at risk of starvation. The western district of Pokot was affected with floods destroying maize crops, local media reported on 14 August.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** The food insecure population declined to 1.1 million in February 2013 from 2.1 million in August 2012 according to the Kenya Food Security Steering Group 2013 short rains assessment. This was attributed to near average short rains crop production and improved grazing conditions compared to the 2012 August to September lean season.

In the southeastern and coastal marginal mixed farming livelihood zones in Kenya, the average to above average rainfall in March and April 2013 was followed by a dry spell in May, which ceased during a critical stage of maize development. FEWSNET reported in August that poor households are likely to be able to meet minimum food requirements, however they will remain at Stressed levels (IPC Phase 2) through September 2013 in localised parts of Makueni, Kitui, Taita Taveta, and Kwale counties. The proportion of children 'at risk' of malnutrition declined between June and July by almost 10% in Makueni and marginally in Kitui county, and the proportions remained below their five-year averages.

FEWSNET also reported that the March to May long rains were beneficial in the pastoral areas of Kenya, where livestock conditions and milk production improved, and the prices of livestock generally increased compared to the dry season.

**Health:** In the Horn of Africa, the outbreak of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) has reached 31 cases in total. According to OCHA on 16 August, ten cases were registered in Kenya, all in Dadaab in northeastern Kenya. This is the first WPV outbreak in Kenya since 2011. To date, two rounds of outbreak response activities have been undertaken, targeting 1.35 million people, including all age groups in Dadaab.

According to UNHCR, eleven epidemic outbreaks were reported in 2012. The situation is expected to deteriorate due to an influx of new arrivals following the Government's decision to transfer Somali refugees from urban areas to camps around Dadaab.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## MALAWI FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**Mid-September:** According to the 2013 Vulnerability Assessment Committee's (MVAC)

evaluation, some 1.46 million people in Malawi are food insecure. While this figure represents a drop of about 26% from the 1.97 million recorded in 2012, it is 57% above the five-year average.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Food Security:** Results from the 2013 Vulnerability Assessment Committee's (MVAC) evaluation indicate that some 1.46 million people in Malawi are food insecure, and will continue to be so until March 2014. The estimated affected population compose 9.5% of the national population, located in 21 of the 28 districts in Malawi. While this figure represents a drop of about 26% from the 1.97 million recorded in 2012, it is about 57% above the five-year average. The largest numbers of food insecure persons are located in Kasungu (Central Region) and Mzimba (Northern Region) districts, reflecting production declines in 2013.

According to FAO, the 2013 cereal production in Malawi is estimated at 3.89 million tonnes representing a 5% increase over last year's production of 3.84 million tonnes. The country has also recorded a 4.4% increase in the production of roots/tubers. Malawi is one of the few countries in the region that have recorded cereal surplus, estimated at about 305,000 tonnes. Malawi has recorded surpluses in maize (269,000 tonnes); rice (19,000 tonnes); sorghum/millet (56,000 tonnes) and a deficit in wheat of 39,000 tonnes.

However, the continuing high price of both food and non-food commodities has contributed to stressing food security conditions, with many households experiencing a severe contraction in their purchasing power, as reported by FAO. National staple maize prices started rising seasonally in June, with an average price increase of approximately 14% between June and July, which is higher than the average month-to-month increases during this period. According to FEWSNET, the higher than normal maize price increase is mainly attributed to the lingering effects of last year's currency devaluation and subsequent depreciation, the transfer of rising farmer production costs to the consumer, increased demand in 2013 due to production shortfalls in surplus areas in the north and central region, compounded with the lingering effects of last year's production shortfalls in the south.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## UGANDA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 16/09/2013.**

**Early September:** Poor rainfall distribution and prolonged dry spells resulted in planting delays and crop damaged in the Karamoja region, where food security is deteriorating.

**16 August:** The Ministry of Health declared an outbreak of Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) in Omot sub-county of Agago, northern Uganda.

**7-10 August:** Heavy rain in the eastern district of Bududa and northern district of Amuru

affected respectively 10,000 and 6,000 people. Forecasts for September-December suggest that there is an increased likelihood of near normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of Uganda.

**1 August:** 70% of the 66,000 Congolese refugees who fled to Uganda after the Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda's (ADF/NALU) attack on Kamango (Democratic Republic of Congo) in June have now returned to their village, according to WFP.

### Political and Security Context

On 11 July 2013, the Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU) rebels attacked the town of Kamango in North-Kivu, causing significant population displacement from Kamango and surroundings toward Uganda's Bundibugyo district. Initially, the ADF/NALU rebel movement fought the Ugandan government of Yoweri Museveni, but it has been based in eastern DRC since 2000 and has been recruiting, training and reorganising to carry out attacks on Uganda. The Congolese official military force FARDC, tasked with fighting rebel groups across the country, has had several clashes with ADF/NALU in North-Kivu. On 11 July, ADF/NALU ousted FARDC from Kamango, but the city was taken back by the Congolese army on 12 July.

On 30 June, the cities of Mamundioma and Totolito, located in the district of Beni in North-Kivu along the DRC-Uganda border, passed under the control of ADF/NALU with at least 16 people killed in the fighting according to local media reports. Over the past decades, the area has been highly volatile with incursions by militias from neighbouring Uganda being regularly reported.

President Museveni's current term in office has been characterised by increased opposition action and mounting parliamentary pressure on the government, especially over governance. There have been periodic tensions between opposition protesters and security forces, especially in 2011.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** Since 11 July, insecurity in neighbouring DRC has led 66,000 DRC refugees to cross the border into western Uganda's Bundibugyo district in one month. On 1 August, WFP reported that 70% of the refugees had returned and now face food shortages. UNHCR reported on 17 July that Uganda was already host to over 125,000 DRC refugees and asylum seekers before the latest clashes.

Instability in South Sudan and movement of South Sudanese into Uganda is also an issue of concern. OCHA reported 3,200 refugees from Jonglei as of 31 July.

**Disaster:** On 10 August, heavy rain and hailstorms ravaged several villages causing landslides and floods in Bududa district (eastern Uganda). Many people are reported missing and local sources reported that over 10,000 people may require urgent resettlement. On 7 August in Amuru district (northwestern Uganda), heavy rain caused the Unyama stream to burst, causing flooding and leaving over 6,000 homeless. Forecasts for September-December suggest that there is an increased likelihood of near normal to above

normal rainfall over most parts of Uganda.

In May 2013, heavy rains caused the banks of the Nyamwamba River to burst, resulting in flooding in Western Uganda's Kasese district. As of early May, 25,445 people were reportedly affected by the floods, according to the Uganda Red Cross Society.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** Food insecurity is increasing among poor and very poor households, putting 1.2 million at risk according to reports from the government and aid agencies.

According to FEWSNET on 4 September, poor rainfall distribution and prolonged dry spells resulted in planting delays and crop damaged in the Karamoja region, where food security is deteriorating. According to the Uganda Food Security Steering Group, about 80,000 people are considered in crisis food security conditions (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, IPC, phase 3), mostly concentrated in the Karamoja region. Also in Karamoja, an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) conducted in June analysis revealed that up to 975,000 people in the semi-arid region faced Stressed levels of food insecurity, with an additional 234,000 unable to meet minimum food needs. In May, an assessment carried out WFP indicated that the food security situation was especially poor in the districts of Kotido, Kaabong, Moroto, Napak and Nakapiripirit. In July, the influx of 66,000 refugees from North Kivu in Uganda's western district of Bundibugyo put pressure on the capacity of Government and humanitarian agencies to meet the new refugees' needs in terms of food, water, shelter, sanitation and health.

**Health:** On 19 August, local media reported that clinics outside the capital are facing shortages of drugs, HIV test kits, and anti-retroviral treatment (ARVs).

On 16 August, the Ministry of Health of Uganda declared an outbreak of Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) in Omot sub-county of Agago, northern Uganda. One case has been confirmed so far and three deaths are under investigation.

In June, the Red Cross Movement confirmed an outbreak of Ebola haemorrhagic fever in Luwero district (Central Uganda).

In April, the Ugandan Ministry of Health reported an outbreak of cholera in the eastern districts of Hoima, Nebbi and Buliisa. Since the beginning of 2013, the cumulative number of reported cases from cholera affected districts has reached 216 cases with seven people killed by the epidemic. The national case fatality rate from these districts stands at 3.2%. An estimated 217,350 persons (38,128 households) in affected sub-counties are severely at risk of cholera infection, with a wider population of 900,500 people in the districts also at risk due to the high mobility of local populations. Many affected communities are fishing communities where lack of clean water coupled with poor sanitation and hygiene practices have contributed to the outbreak and spread of the disease.

*Reviewed: 23/09/2013*

## ZIMBABWE FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**Mid-September:** An estimated 802,603 persons are reported to be currently food insecure. The figure is expected to increase markedly, to 2.2 million during the lean period January-March 2014.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Food Security:** According to the results from the 2013 Annual Rural Livelihoods Assessment (ARLA) by the National Vulnerability Assessment (ZimVAC), released in July, 802,603 persons in rural areas are currently (July-September) food insecure in Zimbabwe. The current number marks a seasonal decline from the 1.67 million people assessed to be food insecure in the first quarter of 2013. According to WFP, the current food insecurity is due to various factors including adverse weather conditions, the unavailability and high cost of agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilisers, and projected high cereal prices due to the poor maize harvest. The ARLA assessment reports that the number of food insecure is projected to rise to 2.2 million people (25% of the rural population) during the peak lean period January-March 2014, with numbers starting to rise in October. This would be the highest number of food insecure in Zimbabwe since early 2009. The projected increase is mainly due to the lower domestic harvest.

The provinces of the south and west of the country generally have the highest rates of food insecurity, reflecting those areas that experienced unfavourable weather conditions and consequently poor cereal harvests in 2013, according to FAO. Zimbabwe has five natural regions, each with varying suitability for growing crops. The drought-prone provinces of the south and west, such as Masvingo and the South and North Matabeleland provinces, are typically ranked as the most unsuitable areas for crop production. The highest proportions of food insecure households are currently estimated to be in Zvishavane (52%), followed by Binga (50%). These provinces have also experienced among the highest maize prices in the country in 2013.

Overall, the aggregate cereal harvest in 2013 is estimated at about 1 million tonnes, close to 150,000 tonnes below the 2012 output and about 27% below the five-year average. Maize production has been particularly low in 2013, estimated at about 799,000 tonnes, which is 17% lower than the below-average output in 2012. Poor rainfall during the main cropping season (November-June) in southern and western provinces, as well as an overall contraction in the area planted, contributed to this year's production decline, FAO reports. By contrast, production of sorghum, which is generally more tolerant to water deficits, is estimated to have increased slightly by 6% to about 69,000 tonnes. The inter-wheat crop, to be harvested in October, is expected at a similar level to last season's output.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## ANGOLA FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 19/08/2013**

**14 August:** Some 1.5 million people are reported to be food insecure due to the impact

of the current severe drought.

**27 June:** Over 1.8 million people have been affected by a severe drought in Angola that has destroyed crops in parts of the country. The most severely affected areas are the five southern provinces of Namibe, Cunene, Kuando Kubango, Huila, and Benguela.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** Since November, Angola has been affected by a prolonged drought leaving 1.5 million people food insecure as of 14 August. Crop and livestock productions have been adversely impacted on account of the prolonged dry conditions and the resultant poor pastures. The five southern provinces of Namibe, Cunene, Kuando Kubango, Huila and Benguela are the most severely hit. In Cunene, the hardest hit province, the GAM rate has reached 24%. Crop losses in Cunene are expected to reach up to 80%, adversely impacting farmers including semi-nomadic communities and children <5. This represents 50% of Cunene's population of whom 130,000 are children <5.

In Namibe province, a joint assessment conducted in early June found that roughly 250,000 people were affected by drought and 70% of crops destroyed. CARE estimated that remaining household food stocks would not last until September. After food insecurity, the greatest reported problem is lack of access to water. Half of all water points are no longer working or have dried up according to UNICEF. People are reportedly migrating in search of water and pasture for their cattle.

As a result of the drought, and despite an anticipated improvement of food security nationally compared to 2012, southern provinces are expecting a poor cereal harvest for the second consecutive year, negatively impacting food security. The government has established an emergency plan to provide assistance in the southern province of Cunene, where roughly 640,000 people are affected by drought.

An estimated 533,000 children suffer from varying levels of malnutrition in a country that is still recovering from decades of civil war lasting until 2002.

**Health:** As a result of the use of untreated stagnant water, levels of water-borne disease are increasing. An estimated 1,571 cases of cholera have been reported in the provinces of Huila, Cunene and Benguela, with 62 deaths. The Ministry of Health has reported an epidemic of dengue fever (over 900 cases and ten deaths) and an outbreak of measles in 60% of the municipalities across Angola, particularly affecting children suffering from malnutrition. Malaria is affecting large numbers of Angolans, with 75 deaths reported in eastern Lunda Sul province in the first quarter of 2013 and over 15,000 cases registered overall, according to official sources.

*Reviewed: 23/09/2013*

## BOTSWANA DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**No new updates. Last updated: 05/08/2013.**

**July:** The Government declared the 2013/14 agricultural season a drought year following a government drought assessment. The food insecure rural population is estimated at 372,479 (49% of the rural population), 18% of the total population.

### Humanitarian Needs and Context

**Disaster:** The Government declared the 2013/14 agricultural season a drought year following a drought assessment. The food insecure rural population is estimated at 372,479 (49% of the rural population), 18% of the total population. The exercise confirmed that rainfall was poorly distributed and much below normal in most parts of the country. The overall food situation across Botswana has deteriorated and the whole country was declared to be affected by the drought. The most affected areas are Ngamiland, Ghanzi, Kgalagadi, Southern and Central districts.

The 2012/13 cropping season was also largely characterised by a prolonged period of below average rains, punctuated by intense rainfall in January which caused localised flooding and minor damage to the agriculture sector. In addition to the unfavourable weather conditions, an outbreak of armyworms in late 2012, mainly concentrated in south-eastern areas of the country, infested approximately 4,500 hectares of cropped land, representing about 3% of average cropped area dedicated to cereals.

The national annual inflation rate remained comparatively stable between the last quarter of 2012 and first quarter of 2013, averaging at about 7.4% over the six months.

The human water supply is generally low, especially the southern part of the country supplied from Gaborone Dam which is facing a precarious situation due to the dam's low water volume. Agro-based livelihoods are expected to suffer income losses and asset depletion, especially in light of the anticipated drought related livestock mortality.

Roughly 28% of Botswana's population suffers from chronic food insecurity.

*Reviewed: 23/09/2013*

## CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 19/08/2013.**

**13 August:** 4,286 Central African refugees have been registered in Cameroon between January 2013 and August 2013.

As of **end of July**, attacks carried out by the religious extremist group Boko Haram throughout Nigeria and the north east of Cameroon have led to a significant deterioration of security in the border states of Borno and Adamaoua, and caused an estimated 10,000 Nigerian refugees to seek refuge in Cameroon.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** On 29 July, operational INGOs reported that attacks carried out by the religious extremist group Boko Haram, operating throughout Nigeria and the North East of Cameroon, have led to a significant deterioration of the security situation in the Nigerian states of Borno, Yobe and Adamaoua. Since 10 June 2013, Nigerian refugees have been crossing the border to Cameroon's Far North region, mainly in the departments of Mayo Sava, Logone Chari and Mayo Sanaga. As of 17 July, the International Red Cross estimated that there are about 10,000 Nigerian refugees in Cameroon, while local government and civil society sources say the number is closer to 20,000. As of 15 July, Government and UNHCR figures showed more than 8,000 located in the Far North region, mainly women and children. A joint assessment mission conducted on 20 June by UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, and WFP in Zelevet concluded that needs among the arrived refugees are largely in WASH, health and nutrition.

According to UNHCR on 13 August, 4,286 Central African refugees have been registered in Cameroon between January 2013 and August 2013. 1,800 registered refugees are in the eastern region and roughly 1,400 live in urban areas, mainly Yaounde and Douala. UNHCR cites an estimated 85,000 CAR refugees living in Cameroon.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** The two Sahelian regions, Far North and North, remain extremely vulnerable to food insecurity. The regions have been slow in recovering from the 2011-2012 drought and 2012 floods. As of 30 June, OCHA reported that 350,000 people are food insecure. In the second half of 2013, a further increase in vulnerability is expected due to the exacerbating effect of the present inflation of grain prices. According to UNICEF in early July, prolonged drought in northern Cameroon has reduced food output and pushed up prices, further aggravating the severity and prevalence of malnutrition in the whole Sahel region.

UNICEF reports that the nutrition situation for 2013 is similar to that in 2012 due to a structural vulnerability of populations in the northern which has increased with each consecutive crisis. As of 30 June, an estimated 83,233 children <5 suffered from SAM and 134,680 suffer from MAM.

*Reviewed: 23/09/2013*

## MOZAMBIQUE FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**No new updates. Last updated: 31/08/2013.**

**Mid-July:** According to National Vulnerability Assessment Committee's (NVAC) findings from an assessment undertaken in July 2013, the estimated number of food insecure people in Mozambique is 270,000.

### Humanitarian Needs and Context

**Food Security:** According to National Vulnerability Assessment Committee's (NVAC) findings from an assessment undertaken in July 2013, the estimated number of food insecure people is 270,000.

According to FEWSNET as of July, with the exception of localised areas affected by long dry spells and floods earlier in the year, the majority of rural households throughout the country are experiencing Minimal acute food insecurity outcomes (IPC Phase 1) and are able to meet their basic food requirements through access to a variety of foods from the 2012/13 main harvest. Food supplies from the main harvest continue to be readily available in markets. In some areas where agro-climatic conditions permit second season cropping, this second harvest is an important source of the food and income. This year in particular, the second cropping season combined with the post flooding production was exceptionally good in the semi-arid interior districts of southern Mozambique.

Cereal production for Mozambique is estimated at 2.23 million tonnes, which is 2% above 2012 levels and 25% above the average cereal production for the last five years. With the exception of the areas that were severely affected by floods, cereal production in the rest of the country was better than last year. In spite of this, the country does not have enough cereals to meet domestic demand as the country is estimated to face a 1.37 million tonnes cereal deficit in the 2012/13 marketing season.

*Reviewed: 23/09/2013*

## NAMIBIA DROUGHT

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 13/05/2013.**

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Food Security:** On 17 May, the President of Namibia declared a national drought emergency and called for assistance from the international community. WFP identified 331,000 people as food insecure (14% of Namibia's total population). Another 450,000 are moderately food insecure, according to an 8-20 April 2013 Emergency Food Security Assessment. Results of an Inter-Agency Emergency Food Security Assessment also indicated that agricultural production will be very poor due to the lowest seasonal rainfall for decades.

The Government forecast that following the prolonged dry period during the 2012-13 cropping season (November-June), Namibia's main cereal production for 2013 will be down by an estimated 42% compared to 2012 production levels. Grazing pastures have also been severely affected in six regions where many households rely on livestock production; 4,000 livestock deaths have been recorded. The cumulative rains between January and March were approximately one-third of the average with the poor rains most pronounced in southern and western Namibia. The north western Omusait Region, which contributes approximately 14% to the national cereal output, was severely affected by below-average rains and an outbreak of army worms. It is expected to record a sharp decline in cereal production, estimated at 50% below average. The most affected provinces are Omusati, Kunene, Erongo, Otjozondjupa, Khomas, and Kavango according to low resolution satellite images.

Water levels are decreasing, and 40-50% of water points no longer function. Many farmers

are forced to sell cattle, due to lack of pasture, while cow-herds from Angola, which also suffer from the drought, are reportedly crossing the border in search of food, fuelling tribal tensions as competition for scarce pastures intensifies. The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) has been activated in mid-September 2013. Its main role is the monitoring of the overall drought response. It is still unclear when the Emergency Response Plan, which is to be led by Government with support from humanitarian partners, will be adopted. The biggest challenge remains the issue of water stress for livestock and human consumption.

Droughts are recurrent in Namibia, impacting local economy and food security. The northern regions of the country have been historically most affected by droughts and are particularly vulnerable due to high population density. The situation is expected to worsen with the dry season and predicted to last until December.

As reported by IFRC, the initial response of the government's food aid only targeted rural communities. However, it has been reported that people in urban areas, especially those in informal settlements in Kunene, are equally affected by the drought. Local authorities in Kunene have appealed to the government to include people in urban areas on the beneficiary list of its food aid.

Despite the early response, the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management reported that, as the number of affected people increases, there will be a significant funding gap.

The Namibia Red Cross Society reported in July that there are about 109,000 rural children <5 at risk of malnutrition because of lack of food and poor sanitation.

**Health:** IFRC noted that six cases of cholera were reported in Kunene region on the border with Angola at the end of July. These are now said to be under control. A screening centre was opened at the border of Namibia and Angola. At the end of 2011, Angola suffered a severe cholera outbreak.

**WASH:** An assessment in the four regions of Kunene, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Kavango found that due to high food insecurity and malnutrition, and as only a few people practice household water treatment, the risk of water and sanitation related diseases from possible water contamination at household level is high. Of particular concern are regions with the lowest access to water and sanitation, and prone to diseases like cholera, including Kunene, Ohangwena and Kavango regions.

*Reviewed: 23/09/2013*

## ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 16/09/2013.**

As of **10 September**, UNHCR reported that Eritrea is hosting 3,468 Somali refugees.

**No confirmed data on the food security situation or food price levels is available. Therefore, Eritrea is not included within the Global Overview prioritisation.**

## Political and Security Context

According to the Human Rights Watch, Eritrea is still plagued by human right abuses, including torture, arbitrary detention, and severe restrictions on freedom of expression, association, and religious freedom. Military conscription is compulsory and can last for an indefinite period of time.

Between 5,000 and 10,000 political prisoners are being held in this country of about 6 million people. The UN Human Rights chief has accused the Eritrean government of torture and summary executions.

On 21 January, dissident Eritrean soldiers with tanks laid siege to the Information Ministry, forced state media to call for the release of high-profile political prisoners, and demanded implementation of the constitution, which was never enacted by Parliament. However, calm reportedly returned to the capital Asmara on 22 January. No further information is available on the events.

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** According to UNHCR, Eritrean refugees crossing to neighbouring Ethiopia are on the rise, while the number entering Sudan has dropped compared to 2012. Since January, UNHCR and the Ethiopia government's refugee agency, the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), have registered over 4,000 new Eritrean refugees. As of June, Ethiopia hosts nearly 72,000 Eritrean refugees, a record high, in four camps in the northern Tigray region and two others in the Afar region in north-eastern Ethiopia.

According to UNHCR, eastern Sudan receives an average 500 Eritrean refugees per month in 2013, down from 2,000 a month in 2012. Sudan reportedly shelters at least 114,500 Eritrean refugees.

Djibouti also receives an estimated 110 Eritreans each month.

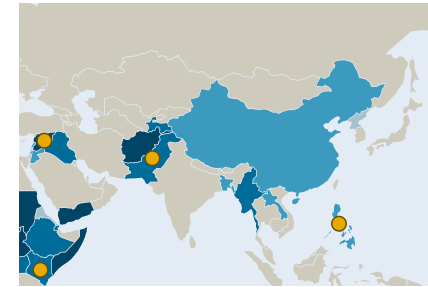
According to UNHCR as of 10 September, Eritrea is currently hosting 3,468 Somali refugees.

**Disaster:** Although information remains limited, Eritrean authorities have indicated that heavy rains and the damaging of a major diversion canal in Hashenkit area have caused flooding on 5 August in Haikota sub-zone, resulting in the destruction of at least 20 houses. Heavy rains have been recorded in the area since mid-July.

Extensive floods that affected tens of thousands of people were recorded in nearby Sudan.

**Access:** There is a lack of updated and reliable data on the humanitarian situation due to limited humanitarian access and a ban on humanitarian organisations assessing needs.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** An estimated six million people in Eritrea are food insecure (98% of the population). Local food and fuel prices are likely to remain high, putting severe pressure on vulnerable groups' coping mechanisms. The government of Eritrea officially denies any food shortages within its borders and refuses food aid.



# ASIA

## AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

### Highlights

**21 September:** Pakistan agreed to the release of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a former Taliban second-in-command, who is now kept in a safe house in Karachi. Baradar, one of the founders of the Taliban insurgency, is largely seen by Kabul as a respected figure who could use his influence to persuade moderate Taliban commanders to negotiate with the Afghan authorities. Baradar's fate is currently being discussed between Islamabad, Karachi and Washington, according to Pakistani officials. The release of Baradar may be seen as one of the tangible outcomes of President Karzai's visit to Pakistan in late August.

**21 September:** An Afghan wearing a security forces' uniform shot dead three foreign Special Forces personnel and wounded another one in an apparent "insider attack" in eastern Paktia province bordering Pakistan. If confirmed as such, this would be the seventh "insider attack" reported since the beginning of the year for an overall death toll of 12 ISAF personnel killed.

**18-19 September:** On 19 September, Taliban fighters ambushed a police convoy during an operation to clear an area in the northern Badakhshan province. Although information is difficult to ascertain, at least 10 policemen were reportedly killed in the attack while local sources also reported that an additional 16 policemen were captured by the Taliban. The latter claim was denied by authorities in Kabul. On 18 September, armed men shot dead a senior election official – the first one killed since candidate nominations for the April presidential elections opened – in Kunduz city in northern Kunduz province.

**16 September:** Candidate nominations opened for Afghanistan's presidential election scheduled for 5 April 2014 while Hamid Karzai, Afghan's only leader since the US intervened in the country in 2001, is constitutionally barred from running for a third term. According to international observers, there are at present no favourite to succeed Karzai

## Political and Security Context

On 16 September, candidate nominations opened for Afghanistan's presidential election scheduled for 5 April 2014 while Hamid Karzai, Afghan's only leader since the US intervened in the country in 2001, is constitutionally barred from running for a third term. According to international observers, there are at present no favourite to succeed Karzai as the country is growing increasingly turbulent.

On 26 August, President Karzai arrived in Islamabad to attempt to mend bilateral relations while testing the ground regarding Pakistan's involvement in peace talks with the Taliban. One of the visit's aims was allegedly to also press Islamabad into releasing a list of senior Taliban commanders in detention in Pakistan who are seen as being instrumental to bringing the Taliban to the negotiation table. On 21 September, Pakistan agreed to the release of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a former Taliban second-in-command, who is now kept in a safe house in Karachi. Baradar, one of the founders of the Taliban insurgency, is largely seen by Kabul as a respected figure who could use his influence to persuade moderate Taliban commanders to negotiate with the Afghan authorities. Baradar's fate is currently being discussed between Islamabad, Karachi and Washington, according to Pakistani officials. Earlier in September, Pakistan had already released a group of detained Afghan Taliban, including a senior commander called Mansoor Dadullah, who were similarly not directly handed over to the Afghan authorities as mutual suspicions continue to run high. Bilateral relations between the two neighbours allegedly worsened after a Pakistani official openly floated the idea of an Afghan power-sharing arrangement between Kabul and the Taliban in June.

On 14 August, as reported by a senior Afghan peace negotiator, who is a former Taliban diplomat now working with the Karzai government, the resumption of peace talks in Qatar with the Taliban is becoming increasingly unlikely. To date, fresh talks in Turkey or Saudi Arabia seem to be considered a more realistic option by Kabul. No Western source has yet commented on the statement, although it is unlikely that any negotiation with the Taliban might be conducted without the US. In the meantime, the Taliban movement officially announced on 6 August that it did not intend to participate in the presidential election scheduled for next year in April and would continue fighting until all foreign troops leave the country. In June, the US leadership was forced to delay planned talks in Qatar, following the Afghan Government's anger over being bypassed in the negotiations, and over the opening of a Taliban political office in Qatar. To date, Kabul is refusing to participate in peace talks that are not "Afghan-led".

Since they vowed to start a new campaign of attacks on 27 April, launching "insider attacks" as a key tactic against foreign and Afghan military forces targets, the Taliban have intensified their offensive across the country. Since May, the insurgents have also largely targeted foreign humanitarian targets and have started to deliberately target civilians that are seen to be cooperating with the government. On 22 July, the Afghan parliament voted to remove the country's Interior Minister after accusing him of failing to quell attacks from militants as the responsibility for security was handed over to the local forces. A spokesperson for the Taliban indicated in late June that the insurgents have no intention of changing their tactics in conflict-plagued Afghanistan despite the possible

peace talks.

Violence has noticeably intensified across the country over the past weeks as the Taliban insurgents forcibly increased pressure on the NATO contingents currently withdrawing from Afghanistan.

On 21 September, an Afghan wearing a security forces' uniform shot dead three foreign Special Forces personnel and wounded another one in an apparent "insider attack" in eastern Paktia province bordering Pakistan. If confirmed as such, this would be the seventh "insider attack" reported since the beginning of the year for an overall death toll of 12 ISAF personnel killed. On 19 September, Taliban fighters ambushed a police convoy during an operation to clear an area in the northern Badakhshan province. Although information is difficult to ascertain, at least 10 policemen were reportedly killed in the attack while local sources also reported that an additional 16 policemen were captured by the Taliban. The latter claim was denied by authorities in Kabul. On 18 September, armed men shot dead a senior election official – the first one killed since candidate nominations for the April presidential elections opened on 16 September – in Kunduz city in northern Kunduz province. On 15 September, an attack by gunmen caused the death of a top female police officer in the southern city of Lashkar Gah in the southern Helmand province. On 13 September, heavily armed men detonated a truck bomb outside the US consulate in the city of Herat, triggering a firefight with American forces. At least 19 people were killed while 17 others were injured in the attack. On 10 September, a roadside bomb hit a passenger bus in the eastern Ghazni province, killing seven civilians. On 8 September, a suicide attack in Maidan Shar in Wardak Province, on the Kabul-Kandahar highway, resulted in several people being wounded. On 2 September, Taliban fighters attacked a car park for NATO vehicles at a US military base in Nangarhar province. A gun battle between the fighters and security forces reportedly ensued, which ended up with three insurgents killed while no other casualties were reported.

In August, several attacks were reported across the country, affecting Nangarhar, Kunduz, Ghanzi, Helmand, Farah, Herat and Paktia provinces with dozens of Afghan military and civilians being killed while the attacks also increasingly targeted foreign troops and bases. In a high-profile attack on 28 August, seven people were killed and 62 wounded in a Taliban attack on a base operated by Polish and Afghan forces in eastern Afghanistan's Ghanzi province. On 3 August, in a hit that has largely contributed to building regional tensions, suicide bombers attacked the Indian consulate in Jalalabad, capital city of the eastern border province of Nangarhar, killing nine, including children, and injuring an additional 23 civilians in front of the consulate. The Taliban denied responsibility for the attack.

According to a UN report released in late July, the number of civilians killed and injured in Afghanistan rose by 23% since the beginning of 2012 with homemade landmines being the principal threat to Afghan civilians. From January through June 2013, 1,319 civilians were killed and a further 2,533 injured. The UN reported that 74% of casualties were caused by insurgents, 9% by pro-government forces, and 12% resulted from ground fighting between the two sides. These numbers are a significant increase when compared to the first half of 2012 and close to the record casualties recorded during the same period in 2011. The increase in attacks underscores rising levels of violence as the international troops have started to disengage from the country.

As of August, ICRC continued to operate with caution in Afghanistan, following the major security incidents on the IOM compound on 24 May in Kabul and on their own compound in Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province on 29 May.

Most of the 85,000 international troops stationed in Afghanistan are scheduled to withdraw by the end of 2014, and over 75% of the country was expected to be under national security control by end-July 2013, following the formal handover of national security from the US-led NATO coalition to Afghan forces on 18 June. Within the US-led NATO coalition, there is widespread concern regarding the capacity of the 352,000-strong Afghan security forces to cope with the insurgency. As reported by an Afghan official in early September, police deaths have nearly doubled as the NATO forces have started withdrawing and handed over security to local troops. An estimated 1,792 Afghan policemen have lost their lives and over 2,700 were wounded in the last six months. To date, there is no clear understanding over how many international troops, if any, will stay in Afghanistan after 2014 as relations become increasingly tense between Kabul and Western allies.

Against this background, military operations are ongoing. On 7 September, a NATO airstrike targeting insurgents in Afghanistan's Watarpur district of Kunar province killed an estimated 10 militants according to the US while also killing up to nine civilians according to the authorities. The NATO force has since launched an investigation into the attack to ascertain alleged civilian casualties. In July, a US air attack had already resulted in five Afghan policemen dead in Nangarhar Province. Casualties of Afghan military caused by air strikes conducted by NATO-led forces have long been a major source of friction between Kabul and its international allies.

Heavy military operations were reported in Faryab, Badakhshan and Maidan Wardak provinces in May and June. On 11 August, two US soldiers were killed in combat operations against insurgents in Paktia province, at the eastern border with Pakistan, an area that has seen some of the highest levels of fighting over the years. In early July, an Afghan general commented that the insurgents have stepped up operations in the east. According to Afghan military sources, insurgent numbers are up around 15% on last year's summer fighting months. In early May, tensions sharply escalated between Kabul and Karachi following two border incidents, further straining the relations between the two countries.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

As reported by OCHA in mid-June, Kandahar, Helmand and Nangarhar are among the most vulnerable Afghan provinces, ranking high in the number of security incidents, civilian casualties, and conflict displacement, health and nutrition indicators. Across Afghanistan, an estimated 7.7 million people are in need of protection while the situation in the country is increasingly volatile.

**Displacement:** In 2013, conflict-induced displacement is the main cause of acute humanitarian need, with a marked increase in previously stable provinces in the north, particularly Faryab and Badakhshan, notes OCHA. As of 31 May, there were an estimated 570,000 internally displaced people in Afghanistan.

Nearly 2.9 million registered Afghan refugees remain in exile in Pakistan and Iran, with an

estimated additional 2.4 million undocumented refugees. The Government of Pakistan agreed not to expel Afghan refugees who had permission to stay in the country until June, with Kabul and Islamabad also agreeing, at a recent UN-backed meeting, to continue efforts to solve the protracted refugee situation. Pakistani media reports that the presence of Afghan refugees is triggering tensions in host provinces. On 5 July, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a province hosting roughly 60% of Afghan refugees, officially opposed extending Afghan refugees' stay in the country and suggested that should the need arise, registered Afghans be equally distributed among the four Pakistani provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab and Baluchistan.

Overall, an estimated 5.4 million people are affected by the ongoing conflict.

**Disaster:** On 9 September, rainfall and consequent floods and landslides affected several villages in Zebak district, Badakhshan province. As of 10 September, local and international media reported 20 people killed and nearly 20 missing in a landslide, while 34 houses were damaged, livestock killed and roads destroyed.

In early August, flash floods triggered by days of torrential rain killed over 60 people, according to the authorities. The rains and subsequent floods affected nine eastern and southeastern provinces and some districts of Kabul. As of 6 August, an estimated 3,400 people were affected by the flash floods with 458 houses completely destroyed and an additional 61 damaged. OCHA reported on 11 September that the August floods caused contamination of drinking water in a number of provinces.

**Access:** As reported by OCHA in September, security incidents continued to affect humanitarian workers, mainly in the eastern parts of the country, which are the most unstable in the ongoing conflict. Although humanitarian programmes are not suspended, movement restrictions are increasingly applied and several organisations are reviewing their security protocols. OCHA also indicated that in August, 25 violence and assault incidents were reported in Nangarhar, Laghman, Logar, Kunar and Balkh provinces, and eight aid workers were killed.

The humanitarian space in Afghanistan continues to shrink as security is becoming increasingly precarious. Local sources, quoted by OCHA, registered an increase of 62% in attacks on aid workers, excluding UN staff, during the first three months of 2013 compared to the same period in 2012. In June, 25 incidents against humanitarians were reported in 16 provinces, ranging from killings, intrusion of health facilities, abduction, arrest and detention, collateral impacts of IEDs, intimidation, disruption of aid distributions, theft of humanitarian assets, direct small arms fire and rocket attacks.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** OCHA reported in mid-June that 4.5 million people in Afghanistan are food insecure, with 2.25 million people considered severely food insecure and targeted with humanitarian aid. Households in the extreme northeast, especially in Badakhshan province, central highlands, as well as low-income and disaster-affected households across the country, and IDPs are especially vulnerable to food insecurity.

According to a WFP report published in mid-August, though final production estimates are not yet available, a preliminary forecast put the 2013 wheat production at 4.9 million tons, slightly below the 2012 harvest, which was the second highest on record for the last 35 years. However, large differences exist between provinces. Smaller wheat harvests were



gathered in Faryab, Ghor Jawzjan, and Khost due to dry spells and early rains combined with wheat rust in some areas. Despite bumper harvests in 2012 and 2013, wheat and wheat flour prices in some provinces have been increasing since June 2012. Flour prices recorded higher increases reflecting limited availability of domestic flour. Continuous depreciation of the Afghani over the last two years amplified the price increases in local currency.

As noted by WFP in mid-August, the current average price of wheat in the main cities of Afghanistan is 14.5% higher compared to July 2012, and 2.9% higher than the last 5-year average price recorded in July. The current wheat flour average price is higher by 18.6% and 11.8% compared to July 2012 and the last 5-year average price recorded in July, respectively. In July 2013, wheat and flour prices in Kabul were reportedly both 3% higher than in June, but over 20% higher than a year earlier. The current average price of low quality rice, the second main staple food in Afghanistan, is higher by 23% compared to July 2012, and by 30% compared to the last 5-year average price recorded in July. The current average price of high quality rice is also higher by 28% compared to July 2012, and by 35% compared to the last 5-year average price recorded in July.

As reported by OCHA in mid-June, 125,692 children <5 suffer from Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), including 28,650 suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).

**Health:** War-related admissions increased by 42% between January and April 2013 as compared to the same period in 2012. In Helmand province, there has been an almost 80% increase in hospitalised injuries caused by conflict. The Health Cluster reported a 40% increase in security incidents from January to April 2013 compared to 2012.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## SYRIA CIVIL WAR

### Highlights

**22 September:** In the northeast of Syria, two separate factions of Al-Qaeda linked groups clashed. The battle between the Islamic State in the Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) and Jabhat Al Nusra is the first of its kind to have been reported, though tensions have been rising in recent months as divisions between opposition groups add to the complexity of the situation.

**20 September:** In the strategic town Azaz on the Turkish border, the Free Syrian Army (FSA) agrees a truce with extremist armed groups after heavy clashes. Tensions have spiralled between some moderate rebel groups and ISIS and Jabhat Al Nusra in recent months.

**20 September:** Syria submitted an inventory of its chemical weapons to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, but the submission is incomplete and Damascus is expected to provide further details in the coming days. The submission of the inventory is part of a Russia-US initiated agreement under which Syria's chemical weapons are to be eliminated by mid 2014.

**19 September:** Syria's Deputy Prime Minister stated that the conflict in Syria has reached a stalemate and the Syrian Government would call for a ceasefire if peace talks in Geneva were to take place.

**16 September:** United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon briefed the Security Council on the report of the UN team sent to investigate the possible use of chemical weapons in Syria. The report confirms that chemical weapons were used during an attack in the suburbs of Damascus on August 21.

**14 September:** The US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov agreed on a disarmament proposal under which Syria's stockpiles of chemical weapons are to be eliminated by mid-2014. The Syrian Minister for Information has indicated that Syria will abide by the terms set out in the plan.

**12 September:** Syria applied to join the global anti-chemical weapons treaty. Syria was one of only seven countries not to have joined the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention, which commits members to destroying their stockpiles.

**10 September:** US President Barack Obama asked lawmakers to delay a vote on military strikes against Syria while working on a diplomatic solution suggested by Russian President Vladimir Putin under which Syria's Government will destroy all of its chemical weapons or put the weapons under international control.

**2 September:** The number of registered Syrian refugees that have fled from the violence into neighbouring countries exceeded the 2 million mark, and over 5 million have been displaced within Syria.

## Political and Security Context

### Overview

This week, both the Government of Syria (GoS) and opposition groups have made statements regarding their willingness to participate in the long-delayed Geneva II peace conference. Meanwhile, the GoS has submitted documents on its chemical weapons arsenal, thereby meeting the first deadline of a Russia-US agreement aiming to eliminate Syria's chemical weapon stockpile. Negotiations on a UN Security Council Resolution to accompany the Russia-US agreement are on-going, albeit with significant disagreements on whether the resolution should include a demand for action that could authorise the use of force in case of non-compliance with the plan under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

In Syria, heavy fighting is on-going in all but three governorates, both between the Government and opposition groups as well as between various opposition groups.

### Conflict

A series of clashes in several northern and eastern provinces between extremist groups and with battalions of the Free Syrian Army (FSA) illustrate increasing frictions between the different armed groups. This month, clashes between ISIS and FSA battalions have expanded into new areas of Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa governorates. Ideological and political differences have pushed the groups further apart, though individual battalions of various

groups have differing relations with rival factions, suggesting that even within core groups, there may not be one political line.

On 18 September, ISIS seized the town of Azaz in Aleppo on the border with Turkey in the most violent clashes between extremists and mainstream units of the FSA since ISIS publically announced its operations in Syria in May. On 20 September, the parties agreed on a truce, under which detainees captured are to be released and looted goods returned. Any future problems would be put to an arbitration committee.

In addition, clashes continue between Islamist groups and the Kurdish forces of the Popular Protection Units (YPG) – the armed wing of the Democratic Union Party (PYD) - in the north-eastern governorate of Al-Hasakeh.

Fighting between different opposition groups and Government troops continue, with heavy ground fighting in Aleppo, Dar'a, Hama, Homs and Rural Damascus. Government aerial bombardments and shelling were reported this week in Aleppo, Dar'a, Damascus, Homs, Rural Damascus and Quneitra. Fighting around Damascus International Airport has reignited, while clashes over control of Yarmouk Palestinian camp continue.

### Political developments

The long-delayed proposed peace conference in Geneva appears more likely to take place after the Syrian Deputy Prime Minister stated that neither Government forces nor 'rebel groups' were currently capable of decisive military victory. When asked what proposals the GoS would suggest during peace talks in Geneva, the Deputy Prime Minister indicated that the Government would seek an end to external intervention and a ceasefire.

The head of the Syrian National Coalition, an alliance of the main opposition groups, indicated that it was ready to attend a proposed Geneva conference if it aims to establish a transitional government with full powers. Opposition groups continue to insist that President Al-Assad will not play a role in a transitional authority.

Meanwhile, Syria submitted an inventory of its chemical weapons to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on 20 September, as was stipulated as the first step under the Russia-US agreement calling for Syria to account for its chemical weapons and for the removal and destruction of the arsenal by mid-2014. However, the submission was incomplete and Damascus is expected to provide further details in the coming days.

UN envoys are currently negotiating a draft Security Council resolution which will accompany the joint-Russia-US plan to secure and neutralise Syria's chemical weapons. France and Russia clashed over a French text that included a demand for action which could authorise the use of force in case of non-compliance with the plan under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

### Other international developments

The conflict continues to spill-over into neighbouring countries. Lebanon is particularly affected, with its border region often subject to shelling. A bomb blast close to the Turkish

border (Bab al-Hawa crossing) highlighted the volatility of the border between Turkey and Syria. At the start of the week, Turkey shot down a Syrian military helicopter after it entered Turkish territory.

On 17 September, Israel shifted from its non-committal public stance and stated it wanted to see President al-Assad resign.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

In April, the UN estimated that over 6.8 million people were in need of humanitarian aid as a result of the heavy fighting and subsequent lack of access to livelihoods and services. Heavy fighting continued over the last months and a continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation is reported. Hence, it is likely that this number is significantly higher. The UN is planning to publish an updated figure of the number of people in need by the end of September.

Two UN response plans, one requesting funding for Syria and one for host countries, were launched on 7 June, requesting over 5 billion USD to fund humanitarian operations in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt. By 22 September, only 43% of the appeal for Syria had been covered. Without more funding, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent warned that 150,000 people might have to go without food aid in October.

**Displacement:** Between March 2011 and April 2013, an estimated 5 million people have been displaced inside Syria. Relatively safe areas continue to receive those fleeing conflict in other parts of the country, exerting pressure on the already over-burdened infrastructure and basic social services. UNRWA estimates that over 50% of the Palestinian refugees registered in Syria are now displaced either within Syria or to neighbouring countries.

Refugee numbers in the region continue to increase. On 2 September, the total number of refugees registered and awaiting to register reached 2 million. As of September 18, the number stands at 2,098,496. Over 752,000 Syrians are registered or awaiting registration in Lebanon (Government estimates 1 million Syrians in total, including a large number of Syrian migrants), over 522,500 in Jordan (Government estimates 600,000 Syrians in total), almost 492,500 in Turkey (Government estimates of 490,000), nearly 192,000 in Iraq and over 124,000 in Egypt (Government estimates up to 300,000).

Amid the large scale influx, Lebanon has introduced stricter measures for Syrians trying to enter the country. Since 22 July 2013, the Lebanese General Security Office has imposed controls that require Syrians above the age of 15 to present full, undamaged documentation when entering the country. A number of people have been turned back.

Following the recent unrest in Egypt and subsequent deterioration of the situation for Syrian refugees in the country, there has been a recent spike in the number of Syrians departing. Most of the Syrians have cited anxiety, insecurity and diminished livelihood opportunities as reasons for wanting to leave Egypt. Amnesty International reports that over 150 Syrians have been detained following an attempt to leave Egypt by boat. Some international media and humanitarian observers reported that the Egyptian authorities fired on the boat, killing at least one refugee.

**Access:** Humanitarian access remains severely limited in large parts of Syria. The Government continues to deny access to many areas, while aid workers are forced to negotiate with an increasing number of opposition groups. ICRC, for instance, reports that there are between 50-60 checkpoints on the road between Damascus to Aleppo. Telecommunications are often cut. In Aleppo, no internet or phone communication was available for over three weeks recently.

In addition, humanitarian organisations face widespread insecurity, kidnappings and looting of relief commodities. WFP has recorded nearly 50 incidents of theft of supplies or confiscation of food trucks by armed groups in 2013. A large number of aid workers are caught in the crossfire or targeted by parties to the conflict. To date, 22 Syrian Arab Red Crescent workers have been killed during the conflict.

**Areas under siege:** GoS forces and opposition groups continue to hold areas under siege across the country, including areas in the old city of Homs, the city of Aleppo and areas in Rural Damascus. OCHA warns that more than half a million people are under siege in Rural Damascus, with limited access to basic needs.

**Health:** A recent report of the UN Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry states that Government forces deny medical care to those from opposition-controlled and affiliated areas as a matter of policy. The policy is implemented through attacks on medical units, by endangering hospitals, targeting medical personnel and interfering with patients receiving treatment. There is also evidence that anti-Government armed groups have attacked hospitals in certain areas.

In tandem with the damage to health infrastructure and shortages of medical staff, access to medicines is of critical concern. Pharmaceutical factories in Syria currently only cover 20-30% of the needs, compared to 90% before the crisis. Most factories are located in the contested areas of Homs, Aleppo and in the outskirts of Damascus.

**Education and shelter:** Syrian students started the academic year on 15 Sept. However, of 22,000 school buildings countrywide, an estimated 16% are damaged or destroyed or being used as shelters for displaced families. With the new school term starting, many people sheltering temporarily in school buildings have been forced to relocate.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## **YEMEN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY**

### **Highlights**

**20 September:** Suspected Al-Qaeda militants killed at least 31 Yemeni soldiers and policemen in attacks in Al-Shabwa governorate, in the south of the country on 20 September. The attacks were the deadliest against Yemen's military since May 2012, when a suicide bomber in army uniform killed more than 90 soldiers at a parade in the capital Sanaa.

**19 September:** The National Dialogue Conference was extended by two weeks in an attempt to find agreement on the parameters of a new constitution, organisation of the state, voting system and eventually opening the way for full democratic general elections.

**1-9 September:** Clashes between Sunni Islamists and Shiite rebels killed at least 42 people in the western provinces of Amran and Rudma. On 9 September, two bombs targeting the military exploded in Sana'a. The latest spate of violence is building-up tension while the national reconciliation talks are set to conclude this month.

**As of early September,** over 306,000 IDPs remain in Yemen's north as a result of widespread conflict.

### **Political and Security Context**

The National Dialogue Conference of political groupings was due to end its six months of negotiations on 19 September with recommendations on a new constitution and voting system, opening the way for full democratic elections in February 2014. The deadline was however extended to October. All 565 participants have agreed to install Yemen as a federal state, but disagreements remain on the number of regions proposed. Southern secessionists want to divide Yemen into two regions with the south having significant control over its own affairs. A number of northern parties favour a multi-region federation. After withdrawing from talks in August, southern separatists agreed on 8 September to return to national reconciliation talks after receiving assurances that the future of the south will be thoroughly discussed.

On 22 August, Yemen apologised to southern separatists and northern rebels for wars against them, seeking to encourage the national dialogue. In mid-August, southern representatives had withdrawn from the dialogue demanding apologies from the government and calling for the talks to be held abroad, where many of their leaders live in exile. National dialogue sessions, which started in March, spurred numerous protests and violent incidents in Sana'a and the Aden governorate. In late June, the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum announced that a referendum for the new Yemeni constitution will be held on 15 October and followed by general elections. This is seen as a success following the discussions achieved so far by the National Dialogue Conference.

While the National Dialogue Conference is drawing to an end which will allow Yemen to re-boost its economy and put internal struggles to an end, radical Islamic militants continued their efforts to disrupt the reconciliation efforts and prolong instability. Suspected Al-Qaeda militants killed at least 31 Yemeni soldiers and policemen in attacks in Al-Shabwa governorate, in the south of the country on 20 September. The attacks were the deadliest against Yemen's military since May 2012, when a suicide bomber in army uniform killed more than 90 soldiers at a parade in the capital Sanaa.

Violence and insecurity continue across Yemen with inter-tribal fighting in the north, fighting between the Government and armed groups in the southern governorates, and civil unrest in urban centres of the west and central governorates. Yemen is home to one of the most active wings of al-Qaeda – al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). In the last

weeks, clashes between Sunni Islamists and Shiite rebels killed at least 42 people in the western provinces of Amran (north of Sana'a) and Rudma (south of the capital).

Meanwhile a year-long ceasefire agreement was reached in Amran between tribesmen loyal to the al-Houthis and tribesmen loyal to the Al-Ahmar family on 14 September. However, the tribal-mediated agreement is a break from fighting but not a permanent solution.

On 19 and 20 August, fighting between Houthi members and Islah tribesmen over land on Al-Janah Mountain left 13 dead and dozens injured in Amran governorate, according to authorities. Security forces intervened but could not end the clashes as both sides were using heavy weaponry. In the aftermath, on 20 and 21 August, clashes were reported in Sa'ada governorate between Houthi affiliates and Salafis, killing three and wounding eight. As of late August, tensions allegedly remained high between the two groups near Dammaj village in the vicinity of Sa'ada town in the north of the country.

Large parts of Yemen, including the capital Sana'a, have been left without electricity after Yemeni tribesmen attacked power lines on 19 September. The attack in the Maarib province resulted in a key power station shutting down and came less than 24 hours after tribesmen targeted another part of the grid. On 5 September, in the third such attack in less than a week, armed tribesmen bombed Yemen's main oil pipeline in Maarib province although the pipe had not been functioning since the first attack on 1 September.

Since early August, local security forces continue to be on high alert amid fears of an imminent attack by al-Qaeda in Sana'a, which the US State Department described as specific and imminent. Several reports indicated that dozens of al-Qaeda militants entered Sana'a from the Hadhramaut, Abyan, Marib, and Al-Shabwa governorates and may be plotting a large scale attack using motorcycle and car bombs. The Ministry of Interior confirmed that security measures have been bolstered at all government installations in Sana'a, the presidential palace, the airport, embassies, foreign installations, and the Mövenpick Hotel, which is hosting the National Dialogue Conference.

Yemen remains a strategic spot for the US and its Gulf allies who need to contain threats from al-Qaeda-affiliated militants and separatist tribes to Saudi Arabia and nearby sea lanes where oil tankers pass. Amidst these security concerns, drone strikes continue to be conducted in the country with the support of the authorities. On 30 August, at least four suspected al-Qaeda militants were killed in a presumed U.S. drone strike in the central al-Bayda province, according to local authorities. Since late July, drone attacks have killed at least 40 people in Yemen.

Last year, the Yemeni army, with US backing, drove al-Qaeda militants and their allies from some of their strongholds, but the militants have since regrouped and mounted attacks on government officials and installations. At present, information available on the military operations remains scarce. In June, Yemeni governmental forces conducted several large-scale offensives against al-Qaeda affiliated groups that seized villages in the southeastern province of Hadramaut, east of the port city of Mukalla. The aim of the Islamist militants remains allegedly to set up an Islamist State in the east of the country.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

An estimated 13.1 million people (55% of the population) in Yemen need humanitarian assistance, according to OCHA.

**Displacement:** On 5 July, Yemen asked IOM to assist 200,000 Yemeni migrant workers forced to leave Saudi Arabia since April as part of a crackdown on undocumented migrants. Although a Saudi amnesty for undocumented migrants previously scheduled to expire in early July was extended until November, it is expected that the Yemeni migrants will have to leave by end September. The number of Yemeni migrants returning from Saudi Arabia could therefore increase in the coming months.

As a result of widespread conflict and according to the UN, over 306,000 IDPs remain in Yemen's north, including Sana'a, as of early September. 162,000 IDPs have returned to their areas of origin in the southern Abyan governorate and in neighbouring areas thanks to improved security. Further returns are ongoing, according to UNHCR, however authorities are struggling to meet the needs of the returnees.

UNHCR recorded the arrival of over 46,000 refugees and migrants during the first six months of 2013, with an estimated 39,000 from Ethiopia and the rest from Somalia. Numbers of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in Yemen have been rising for the past six years. In 2012, a record 107,500 people made the journey. While numbers are lower for January to June this year at 46,700 compared to 56,146 for the same period in 2012, this year is another year with a high number of arrivals.

Yemen hosts more than 242,000 refugees according to UNHCR. According to IOM, 22% are women and girls who have experienced repeated gender-based violence.

**Disaster:** According to OCHA, since mid-August heavy rains and flooding have affected 26 districts in 9 governorates of Yemen. The number of affected reached 50,000 people as heavy rains and flooding continued in southern and central regions. OCHA also reported that on 4 September, new flash floods in the west wiped away the main road connecting the areas of Mudhaykhirah, Al Hammadi and Taizz, and caused damage to crops, farms and houses. Local media reported on 12 September that more than 100 other people (20 families) were displaced. Since mid-August, as many as 37 people were killed and several others still missing. The affected governorates include Taizz, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah and Ibb governorates, and the Arqa area located between Shabwah and Abyan governorates. The flash floods have severely affected three IDPs camps near Haradh, northwestern Yemen in Hajjah governorate, affecting about 12,000 people and destroying half of the tents. According to OCHA, the heavy rains washed away more than 50% of IDP shelters in Camp 1 and Camp 3.

Although to date information remains limited, there are reports of family displacements, and loss of livestock as well as livelihoods and infrastructure in several regions of the country. In some areas, scarcity of drinking water has been reported.

**Access:** Information about humanitarian needs remains difficult to ascertain. Humanitarian access is hampered by insecurity across the country. There is a high risk of abduction of foreigners and more significantly in large cities and primarily in Sana'a. There have been seven abductions/attempted abductions of expatriates in Sana'a since February 2013.

Over the last few months, since the start of the National Dialogue, civil disobedience

campaigns have disrupted humanitarian work and educational institutions in southern Yemen.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to OCHA, approximately 10.5 million people in Yemen are food insecure. WFP reported on 23 July that 5.3 million people are severely food insecure. Food security conditions are of particular concern in Aden and Lahij governorates where 90% of households are food insecure, and 30% severely food insecure.

The causes of food insecurity will likely persist and be aggravated by poor prospects for local agricultural production, estimated to be roughly 8% lower than in 2012, and by rising wheat and wheat flour prices. According to FAO, the recent surge in prices that reached their highest level since 2011 in April is likely due to conflict in several southern areas. During April 2013, Yemen's general inflation was 14% while that of food inflation stood at 16.5%.

Despite below-average March-May rains in main cropping areas of the west, preliminary crop production estimates suggest that the 2013 cereal harvest is forecast to be 13% higher than the five-year average but new reports indicate that the desert locust situation has further deteriorated in Yemen and is potentially dangerous. Hopper bands and adult swarms are forming in the interior as a result of good rains and breeding during the summer. Most of the infestations are located along the foothills near Marib and Bayhan but important populations are also present in very remote and isolated areas north of Wadi Hadhramaut and on the edge of the Empty Quarter between Al Abr, Hazar and Thamud. These areas are extremely difficult to access, and it is here that an outbreak occurred in 2007, which led to a swarm invasion in the Horn of Africa. At the moment, Desert Locust populations are expected to remain in Yemen. However, if northerly winds develop over the Gulf of Aden and persist for several days, there is a risk that some swarms could move south from the interior of Yemen, cross the Gulf of Aden and reach northern Somalia and perhaps adjacent areas of eastern Ethiopia.

However, considering that Yemen imports up to 90% of its staple foods, it is expected that the locusts will not have a large impact on domestic food prices and availability.

UNHCR reported that 998,000 children <5 are acutely malnourished in Yemen with the 15% emergency threshold exceeded in six governorates. The situation is serious (GAM rates of 10-14%) in six other governorates.

**Health:** A collapse of public services following the civil unrest in 2011 has severely disrupted access to health services, clean water, and basic sanitation. The UN reported that an estimated six million people did not have access to health care across the country in May. Epidemics are again recurring, with 170 children dying from measles in 2012.

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## IRAQ DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY

### Highlights

**16-23 September:** On 22 September, bombs targeting Shiite mourners in Sadr City,

north of Baghdad, killed at least 57 people while 12 died in other attacks. The Sadr City blasts came a day after two bombs exploded in a Sunni mosque north of Baghdad, killing 18 people. Already on 17 September 34 people died in coordinated explosions in Baghdad and 24 in the city of Mosul. The first two weeks of September were especially deadly, as multiple attacks were carried out across the country, killing at least 250 people. According to new figures released by the UN, a total of 804 Iraqi citizens, mostly civilians, were killed in shootings and bombings during August.

**19 September:** As of 19 September, up to 61,000 people, roughly half of them children, have fled to Iraq from Syria since 15 August. The number of Syrian refugees in Iraq was around 222,000 with over 31,000 awaiting registration according to UNHCR. To date, Kurdistan hosts over 90% of these refugees.

**As of 12 September,** the UN reported that the last remaining Iranian dissidents of Ashraf camp have been transferred to a base in Baghdad pending resettlement abroad. On 1 September, at least 52 people were reportedly killed at the Iranian dissident camp, north of the capital. The violence took place hours after a mortar bomb attack on the camp, which the dissident group Mujahadin-e-Khalq (MEK) blamed on the Iraqi army. According to Iraqi officials, army and Special Forces had opened fire on residents who stormed a post at the entrance to the camp, a site that Iraq's government wants closed down.

**30 August:** In another indication of the clearly regional aspect of sectarian Islamist militancy across the region, an Iraqi Shi'ite militia group al-Nujaba'a – an umbrella movement which includes Iraqi Shi'ite militants who have crossed into neighbouring Syria to fight alongside troops loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad – officially stated that it would attack US interests in Iraq and the region, if Washington carries out a military strike on Syria.

### Political and Security Context

Over the past weeks, violence has accelerated in Iraq, bringing the country on the brink of general destabilisation, due to deep-rooted sectarian divisions between Shi'ite Muslim, Sunni Muslim and Kurdish factions. According to the UN, a total of 804 Iraqi citizens, mostly civilians, were killed in shootings and bombings during August. The attacks, mainly claimed by the Iraqi wing of al-Qaeda, left 2,000 people wounded. The released numbers are lower than those reported for July when the UN indicated that there were 1,057 victims and 2,326 wounded, the highest monthly toll since April 2008. So far in 2013, nearly 5,000 civilians have been killed and 12,000 injured as the country has slid to levels of violence unseen in five years. At present, bombings are increasingly targeting cafes and places where families gather, as well as the usual military facilities and checkpoints. As in July, Baghdad was the worst-affected governorate, accounting for more than a third of those killed nationally. Violence in Iraq was at its height in 2006-2007 when the number of people killed per month often exceeded 3,000.

The first two weeks of September were especially deadly, as multiple attacks were carried out across the country, killing at least 250 people between 2 and 16 September. On 22 September bombs targeting Shiite mourners in Sadr City, north of Baghdad killed at least 57 people while 12 died in other attacks. The Sadr City blasts came a day after two bombs

exploded in a Sunni mosque north of Baghdad, killing 18 people. Already on 17 September, 34 people died in coordinated explosions in Baghdad and 24 in the city of Mosul.

On 2 September, a roadside bomb struck the convoy of Turkey's consul general in Iraq travelling from Arbil to Mosul in the north without any casualties recorded. The attack came as relations between Ankara and the central Baghdad governments have been especially strained over the Kurdish issue. On the same day in the Iraqi capital, a suicide bombing targeted the home of an anti-Qaeda militia chief recently appointed to lead the Sahwa, a collection of Sunni tribal militias.

Deadly violence has plagued areas around Baghdad and Kirkuk, raising concerns about possible complete destabilisation of Iraq as the country went through one of the deadliest Ramadan in years with over 800 killed. The majority of attacks were claimed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), a group that enjoys strongholds in Al Anbar, Ninawa, Kirkuk, most of Salah ad Din, and parts of Babil, Diyala, and Baghdad governorates at the height of the Iraq war. On 30 August, the al-Qaeda affiliate Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) claimed responsibility for bombings in Baghdad and other areas of Iraq in retaliation for the execution of Sunni Muslim prisoners. These massive attacks are one of the worst in the wave of sectarian bloodshed to hit Iraq in the past five years. In July, a high profile double assault against the Abu Ghraib and Taji prisons in the Baghdad area resulted in over 40 people killed. The attack allowed 500 prisoners to escape, which allegedly included several high-ranking al-Qaeda members and testified for the increasing strength of the ISIL.

The continuing string of deadly attacks is increasingly putting pressure on Iraqi authorities who are blamed for their inability to prevent the violent escalation. According to observers, levels of violence could increase ahead of elections, planned for April 2014. The elections are widely seen as the next major opportunity to shake up Iraq's political deadlock.

The ongoing violence is linked to Iraq's long-running political dispute between Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and religious and ethnic groups opposing the allegedly sectarian policies of his Shia-led Government. Since the start of 2013, widespread discontent of the Sunni Muslim minority has fuelled unrest with tensions at their highest since US troops left the country two years ago. During Ramadan, starting on 10 July, attacks on Shia communities increased across Iraq with many attributed to groups affiliated to al-Qaeda. At present, the civil war in neighbouring Syria further contributes to the volatile relations between Sunni, Shi'ite, and Kurdish communities in Iraq. In July, the UN warned that escalating violence in Iraq can no longer be separated from the war in Syria due to an increased active presence of Iraqi armed groups in the neighbouring country. On 30 August, in another indication of the clearly regional aspect of sectarian Islamist militancy across the region, an Iraqi Shi'ite militia group al-Nujaba'a – an umbrella movement which includes Iraqi Shi'ite militants who have crossed into neighbouring Syria to fight alongside troops loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad – officially stated that it would attack US interests in Iraq and the region if Washington carries out a military strike on Syria.

The first provincial elections in Iraq since the departure of US troops, held in April, were an important test of the country's political stability ahead of 2013 parliamentary elections. The Prime Minister's State of Law coalition came top in April's elections, but failed to win a majority in any district. On 31 August, highlighting however the rising disaffection with the

ruling political group, hundreds of demonstrators took to the streets in Baghdad and central and southern Iraq to protest against generous pension payments to lawmakers in a country where many are still struggling to get jobs and basic services.

The three provinces included in the autonomous Kurdistan region in the north of Iraq are to hold parliamentary elections on their own timetable and scheduled to go to the polls this month. In Iraqi Kurdistan, the Regional Government delayed local presidential elections to 2015, extending the term of Kurdish leader Barzani. Kurdish opposition denounced the extension as illegal.

While tensions persist between the central authorities in Baghdad and Iraqi Kurdistan, both sides have made attempts to move closer. Better relations with the Kurds should help ease pressure on Iraq's Shi'ite leadership, which is facing increased sectarian strife that it blames on Sunni Islamist insurgents. On 8 July, Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani visited Baghdad, following a visit of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki to Kurdistan in June, the first such visit in over two years. According to local reports, Iraq's deteriorating security situation and the practical repartition of power between the two parties over the disputed areas of administrative jurisdiction are to be addressed in their dialogue.

As of early September, the withdrawal of Kurdish militants from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) from Turkey to Iraqi Kurdistan has stopped, with fighters citing failures by the government to take steps agreed under a peace process. They vowed to maintain the ceasefire for now, but end of July, PKK commanders warned of new clashes if Turkey did not take concrete steps to advance the process. On 4 July, Kurdish militants attacked two military outposts in southeastern Turkey, breaking a three-month ceasefire. Despite the start of the withdrawal on 14 May, the Turkish Government stated in August that only 20% of PKK fighters had left Turkey, and that they were mostly women and children.

The arrival of former PKK insurgents is likely to strain the already tense relations between the regional Kurdish authorities and Baghdad. It is also unclear what impact the withdrawal of the PKK militants from Turkey will have on the civil war in Syria where an increased activity by armed Kurdish groups, close to the PKK, has been reported over the past weeks.

UNHCR reported that despite political turmoil, the conflict in bordering Syria, and the tension at the Turkish border, the overall security situation in the Kurdish governorates of Iraq remains stable. On 27 August, contradicting an earlier statement made by the President of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region on 10 August, a senior Iraqi Kurdish official indicated that Iraq's northern Kurdistan region had no plans to send troops into Syria to defend fellow Kurds as fighting between Kurds and Islamist anti-government forces in northern Syria continues.

Kurdish militants in Iraq previously warned that the fragile peace process is endangered by increased military activity in the area, a lack of co-operation from Baghdad, and the continued detention of Kurdish politicians. Increased military surveillance and the construction of new army posts in the mainly Kurdish southeast are seen as undermining the opposition's withdrawal from Turkey to Iraq.

In addition, on 1 September, at least 52 people were reportedly killed at an Iranian dissident Camp Ashraf, north of the capital, according to the UN. Iraqi authorities give a

figure of only 19 people killed. The violence took place hours after a mortar bomb attack on the camp, which the dissident group Mujahadin-e-Khalq (MEK) blamed on the Iraqi army. According to Iraqi officials, army and Special Forces had opened fire on residents who stormed a post at the entrance to Camp Ashraf, a site that Iraq's government wants closed down. On 2 September, a UN team was dispatched to the site and met with the camp's surviving residents and the commander of Diyala's Police. On 7 September, the Government of Iraq served an order to relocate the remaining residents to Camp Hurriya, to prevent any further violence. The UN reported on 12 September that the last remaining Iranian dissidents of the camp have been transferred to a base in Baghdad pending resettlement abroad.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** UNICEF reported massive numbers of Syrian refugees crossing into Kurdistan in northern Iraq through the Peshkabout crossing, following the opening of the border on 15 August. This crossing point was re-opened by Iraqi Kurdistan authorities on 15 August after a period of closure since 19 May. As of 22 September, up to 61,000 people, roughly half of them children, have fled to Iraq from Syria since 15 August of which 30,000 have been registered and the remaining 31,000 are pending registration. The number of Syrian refugees seeking refuge in Kurdistan continues to grow with around 1,000 people crossing the border this week on a daily basis.

It is one of the largest crossings in the two and a half year old conflict. UNICEF reported on 9 September that the majority of these refugees have been transported to various locations in the Duhok, Erbil and Suleimaniyah governorates where nine new refugee camps and transit centres have been set up. The influx is expected to continue with reports that there are over 100,000 IDPs on the Syrian side of the border. In late August, Iraq's Kurdish authorities had reportedly introduced a limit of 3,000 refugees allowed into its territory a day to cope with the sudden influx. The majority of new arrivals are families (women, children and older persons) mainly from Aleppo, Afrin, Al-Hassakeh and Qamishly areas, but UNHCR also observed a recent increase in the number of new arrivals originating from Damascus. Some families have relatives living in northern Iraq. Some students traveling alone said that they had been studying in northern Iraq and had only returned to Syria over the recent Eid holidays.

At Erbil, about 2,000 new arrivals are encamped at a site in Kawergost town where UNHCR has established an emergency transit/reception area. Some refugees are sheltered under UNHCR tents; others are in mosques or residing with family or friends in the area.

As of 19 September, the number of Syrian refugees in Iraq was approximately 222,000, including the estimated 61,000 who fled to Iraq since mid-August. To date, Kurdistan hosts over 90% of these refugees. The total number of refugees is expected to double by end 2013. On 30 August, UNHCR and WFP praised the regional government for giving refuge to the increasing number of Syrian refugees in Kurdistan.

The situation at Domiz camp, in northwest Iraq's Dohuk Governorate, is especially worrying. The camp houses over 70,000 Syrian refugees in critically overcrowded conditions with inadequate water and sanitation facilities increasing the risk of water borne

diseases. Another 90,000 refugees are scattered in and around urban centres in Iraq, Kurdistan. Spontaneous returns to Syria stand at 12,807 individuals returning through the Darabun crossing point.

Many Iraqis in Syria have also returned to Iraq. As of 22 January, UNHCR cited 68,122 returnees since mid-July 2012, with Baghdad receiving the largest number of returnees. An estimated 1.2 million remain displaced inside Iraq as of June 2012, but there is limited updated information on displacement figures.

OCHA and NRC state that Iraq's appeal for financial support to host the Syrian refugees is heavily underfunded with only 14% of the money required for the humanitarian response materialised by early July.

**Access:** Although humanitarian access is less restricted, security threats for international staff remain high, particularly in Baghdad, the north, the central governorates, and the Disputed Territories. Security in Anbar province remains unstable with underlying internal conflict, risk of terrorism and spillover of the Syrian crisis. Access to Al Qa'im refugee camp remains difficult, though missions can now be carried out by helicopter.

**Health:** Overcrowding in Domiz camp is impacting sanitation, which is already below humanitarian standards. Congestion and warmer temperatures are increasing vulnerability to outbreaks of diseases and tension between camp residents. Measles has been reported in new camp arrivals.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS

### Highlights

**17 September:** As reported by local media, at least 1,500 people have been displaced in Mandalay Division and Sagaing Division following new flooding that was triggered by heavy rains in Upper Burma, encompassing Kachin and Shan States, in mid-September. To date, information on the overall number of affected, as well as on damages, however remains lacking.

**12 September:** Fighting is increasing in the northern Kachin State, after last week's peace talks in Chiang Mai (Thailand) between the Government and delegations of ethnic armed groups ended without agreement. The Government forces have reportedly reinforced troops in the north and are said to be preparing an offensive against rebels from the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO).

### Political and Security Context

Local media reported on 12 September that fighting was increasing in the northern Kachin State, after last week's peace talks in Chiang Mai (Thailand) between the Government and delegations of ethnic armed groups ended without agreement. The Government forces have reportedly reinforced troops in the north and are said to be preparing an offensive against rebels from the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO). A rise in clashes was

reported earlier this week in Kachin State, and in the northern part of neighbouring Shan State, where signed projects of dam, mining, pipeline and agriculture have been on hold for 3 years due to on-and-off hostilities.

Over the past months, central authorities have made significant progress towards pacification of Myanmar, signing several ceasefire agreements with various insurgent groups representing ethnic minorities across the country. On 30 May, the Kachin Independence Organisation and government representatives signed a historic seven-point peace agreement, but ceasefire is yet to be achieved. The KIO, who is seeking greater autonomy for the one million Kachin people residing in Myanmar, is also chairing the alliance of 11 ethnic armed groups, the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC), which makes it highly influential in the Government's efforts to end decades of civil war. Fighting between the Government and the Kachin Independence Army, the armed wing of the KIO, had re-ignited in June 2011.

On 15 July, President Thein Sein stated that for the first time in six decades a nationwide ceasefire was possible and promised that all political prisoners would be released by end 2013 if the ceasefire is reached. On 24 July, the UN welcomed the release of an additional 73 political prisoners on top of January's release of 600 political prisoners.

On 5 August, the All Burma Students' Democratic Front, a once outlawed student movement, signed a state-level ceasefire agreement with Karen State government representatives. The preliminary understanding was seen as a step toward broader national reconciliation. In mid-June, an agreement to push ahead with a national ceasefire between authorities and the Union Peace-Making Committee and Karenni National Progressive Party, representing the Red Karen in Kayah State, was reached.

In various parts of the countries, sectarian and ethnic strife between Muslims and Buddhists continues. In June and October 2012, confrontations between ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and the Muslim minority shook western Rakhine state, killing hundreds of people and displacing thousands who remain in IDP camps. In recent weeks, human rights infringements were reported, and tensions remain high with the authorities imposing restriction measures on the displaced Muslim minority.

On 24 August, a group of 500 to 1,000 Buddhists, some carrying sticks and swords, attacked Muslim villagers in remote Htan Kone in Myanmar's northern Sagaing region, destroying at least 20 homes and shops. Although order was reportedly restored by the authorities the following day, this last incident highlights the extent to which opposition between Buddhist and Muslims is spreading throughout the country.

On 9 August, violence flared up again in Myanmar's Rakhine state between security forces and the Muslim minority, underscoring the volatility near the state capital Sittwe. A dispute over custody of a dead Muslim fisherman escalated into a day of clashes in which witnesses reported that police dispersed crowds of Muslims in the third such incident in two months. At least two people were killed and over a dozen injured. During the clashes, a police outpost in Ohntawgyi was allegedly burned down. According to international observers, the situation remained tense as of 12 August. UNHCR has issued a call for dialogue over the situation in Rakhine state.

The August outbreaks of violence follow other incidents recorded over the past weeks in

Rakhine state. On 1 July, rioters torched two houses in Thandwe, a coastal town in Rakhine State in another episode of sectarian violence between Muslims and Buddhists. On 27 June, two IDPs were killed and six others wounded when security forces opened fire on a crowd outside a military post in Pauktaw Township after a dispute arose between IDPs and host communities, according to the UN. On 4 June, two Muslim women were shot dead by police in Mrauk-U Township, near Parein camp, where inter-communal violence occurred last year. At the start of June, reports indicated that ethnic violence spilled over from Myanmar to nearby Malaysia where four Buddhists from Myanmar were killed in separate incidents.

On 22 July, a bomb exploded in Mandalay, the country's second city in central Myanmar, north of Yangon, at a sermon by a radical Buddhist monk who heads a movement accused of stirring violence against Muslims. Although the explosion wounded several people, no casualties were reported, but the incident highlights the ongoing volatility of the local context.

On 20 July, authorities lifted the state of emergency imposed on the riot-hit area around Meikhtila, following the clashes and attacks, which resulted in 44 people killed and over 70 injured during March and April, and also affected Yangon and surrounding areas. New fighting between Buddhists and Muslims was reported in Lashio town in eastern Shan state in late May.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** As of June, an estimated 140,000 people are still displaced because of the inter-communal violence between Rakhine Buddhists and the Muslim minority that occurred in June and October 2012. The displaced are mostly located across eight Rakhine townships (Kyaukpyu, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ramree and Rathedaung).

OCHA reported in August that an estimated 100,000 people have been displaced by conflict across Kachin and northern Shan states, including over 53,000 in areas beyond Government control. The number of registered IDPs has reached 91,000 people. Many have been displaced for up to two years, triggering renewed and additional needs for provision of basic services, livelihood and protection. The most urgent needs in displaced communities include education, health care, renovation of shelter, and replacement of NFIs and WASH facilities.

Up to 400,000 people across 36 townships continue to be displaced in the southeast following years of conflict, according to OCHA.

In June, UNHCR reported that some 28,000 Rakhine Muslims were registered as refugees in Malaysia. However, according to groups representing them, the real number of Myanmar Muslim immigrants is much higher and has surged this year because of the violence.

Roughly 440 people remained displaced as of 2 June in Lashio, following inter-communal violence at end May, while some 6,800 Muslim people remain displaced in June as a result of the clashes in Meikhtila. Of the over 12,000 affected people at the beginning of the unrest in March 2013, more than 6,800 remain displaced in Meikhtila as of July 2013.



While several ceasefires have been agreed in recent months, discussions on IDP returns are ongoing.

**Disaster:** As reported by local media, at least 1,500 people have been displaced in Mandalay Division and Sagaing Division following new flooding that was triggered by heavy rains in Upper Burma, encompassing Kachin and Shan States, in mid-September. To date, information on the overall number of affected, as well as on damages, however remains lacking. During the monsoon season, heavy rains and flash floods were reported in different parts of Myanmar, notably in Yangon, the former capital, in late August and in the northern parts of the country in the first half of September.

In late July, heavy rains caused flooding along the Salween River in southern Myanmar's Kayin (Karen) State, inundating large parts of Hpa-an, Hlaing Bwe, Kyar Inn Seik Kyi, Myawaddy, Paing Kyone and Kyondo townships. About 30 relief camps have been set up on higher ground to provide shelter to the displaced. Floods have also affected Mon, Tanintharyi and Rakhine States, and the Ayeyawadi Region.

The Myanmar Relief and Resettlement Department reported on 7 August that 7,338 people remained displaced following the monsoon floods. The number of affected and displaced had significantly decreased from the over 38,000 people reportedly displaced as of 2 August. According to authorities, 4,365 people are still affected in 22 locations in Kayin. In Mon State 1,855 IDPs are in three camps. In Ayeyawadi region, Tharbaung and Maubin townships reported 1,079 people displaced to safer places as of 7 August. In Rakhine state, 39 people were displaced due to flooding. According to the authorities, people across the flood-affected areas are returning home with shelters scheduled to close.

WFP reported that some affected rural people would require food assistance until the harvest season in November-December as floods have destroyed food stocks and paddy fields.

**Access:** On 8 September, as reported by OCHA, an 11-truck humanitarian convoy led by the UN and other humanitarian partners delivered food, medicines, and other items to displaced communities living in the Woi Chyai Camp in Laiza town in Kachin state. This is the first time that cross-line missions have been permitted to deliver humanitarian assistance to Laiza since December 2011. These missions supplement the aid delivered on a regular basis by local NGOs.

Access has reportedly improved as major highways in Kachin state, closed since the outbreak of hostilities between the Government army and the KIA in 2011, were reopened on 17 March, following the renewal of talks between the two sides.

On 21 June, a UN-led aid convoy was allowed to cross into non-government controlled parts of Kachin state to deliver food and other life-saving relief to communities displaced by the conflict. It is the first time in nearly a year that the UN has been allowed to enter the area.

Access to affected populations in Rakhine state remains difficult, complicated by media campaigns based on claims of favouritism by international aid agencies towards the non-Rakhine Muslim minorities. According to OCHA, as of mid-April, access to IDPs is still seriously hampered by ongoing intimidation of national and international aid workers. In

early July, OCHA encouraged humanitarian providers to adopt a "conflict-sensitive" approach to aid distribution with clear communication with the communities to explain the basis of aid distribution to mitigate the perception among the Rakhine population that assistance had been disproportionately provided to Muslim minorities.

**Food Security:** As reported by FAO in mid-June, the food security situation has improved across most of Myanmar. However, a poor harvest due to below average seasonal rains in lower Sagaing, western and central parts of Mandalay and most of Magway, is expected to lead to a deterioration of food security conditions in these areas. In Rakhine, southwest, Kachin, and Northern Shan states, where thousands of people have been displaced, food security remains a concern.

**Health:** Even though the numbers of dengue cases and related deaths were lower than expected for this year's rainy season, health authorities still recorded some 16,000 cases and 75 deaths (case fatality ratio 0.4%) for 2013, as of 12 September. In June, the cumulative number of infections had already surpassed the total for the whole of 2012, and officials feared that the monsoon season would worsen the epidemic. The lower-than-expected mortality figures indicate that medical treatment and public awareness are improving in the country.

As reported by OCHA in mid-July, a vulnerability mapping exercise showed that 36,000 people in 113 isolated villages in Rakhine State have no or limited access to basic services, including markets, education and health care. Access to services is further impeded by ongoing tension and restrictions on freedom of movement. This is in addition to the estimated 140,000 people displaced by last year's inter-communal violence.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES COMPLEX

### Highlights

**11 September:** Cairo closed the Rafah crossing completely following the crash of two car bombs into a building along the border zone. The attack caused the death of six Egyptian soldiers. Egypt also announced its intention of destroying the network of smuggling tunnels which are used to deliver goods to the Gaza Strip from Egypt.

**27 August:** An UNRWA staff member was shot dead and another one wounded by Israeli forces in an operation in Kalandia refugee camp in the West Bank.

**26 August:** Direct peace talks expected for that day were cancelled after clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces broke out in the West Bank. Four people were killed and 24 wounded in a clash in the Kalandia refugee camp.

**14 August:** 26 Palestinian prisoners were released by Israel as part of the current peace negotiations.

**19 July:** An initial agreement between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on direct final status negotiations, was announced. A meeting between leaders of the two countries is scheduled for the next weeks in Washington.

## Political and Security Context

On 19 July, an initial agreement between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) on direct final status negotiations was announced. On 28 July, the Israeli government approved the release of 104 Palestinian prisoners as a sign of its readiness to revive the Middle East peace process. The peace talks opened formally in West Jerusalem on 14 August and Israel freed 26 of the promised 104 long-serving Palestinian and Israeli Arab prisoners on 14 August. The prisoners will be released in four groups over the next nine months depending on progress in the newly-resumed peace talks with the Palestinian authorities. Negotiators were holding peace talks in Jerusalem on 16 September, although Israeli sources refused to confirm the meetings.

Direct peace talks were briefly cancelled in August after clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces erupted in the West Bank. Four people were killed and 24 wounded in a clash in the West Bank's Kalandia refugee camp. UNRWA reported on 27 August that one of its staff members was shot dead and another one wounded by Israeli forces during an operation in Kalandia refugee camp. Credible reports say both men were on their way to work and were not engaged in any violent activity. An UNRWA investigation is ongoing.

The negotiations face several severe challenges, one of which is the issue of Israeli settlements. On 16 August, Israel announced that it was moving forward with plans to build nearly 1,200 new housing units in East Jerusalem and the West Bank and another 890 units in Gilo settlement, East-Jerusalem. In addition, excessive use of lethal force continues to impact civilians in the OPT. On 17 September 2013, Israeli forces killed a Palestinian civilian and wounded 4 others, including 3 children, in Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank.

While the negotiation process is expected to be lengthy, an ease of access and restriction of movement for the population in the OPT and for goods is pressing.

On 11 September, Cairo closed the Rafah crossing completely following the crash of two explosive-laden cars into a security building along the border zone, which caused the death of six Egyptian soldiers. As of 17 September, the crossing has remained closed for 7 consecutive days. Even when the crossing has been open, hours have been reduced from nine to four and from seven days to six.

In addition, Egypt announced its intention of destroying the network of smuggling tunnels which are used to deliver goods to the Gaza Strip, on the grounds that Palestinians have been using the underground passages to help Sinai militants. The Sinai Peninsula has seen frequent battles between the Egyptian military and Islamist gunmen, and the Rafah crossing had already been closed from 19 to 25 August, after an armed group killed 26 Egyptian policemen. Due to recent restrictions imposed by Egyptian authorities, the daily average of travellers in August prior to the closure was around 300, compared to over 1,800 in June, before the current crisis. The disruption in the functioning of Rafah Crossing has impacted the supply of drugs and medical disposables. Prior to the crisis, 25-30% of those supplies arrived via the Rafah Crossing, however, no such consignment has entered since 5 July.

According to the WHO, an average 300 patients leave Gaza each day to access medical treatment. The Rafah Crossing is the primary exit and entry point to the Gaza Strip for Palestinians. Movement across the other crossing points Erez and Kerem Shalom in northern Gaza Strip has been severely restricted since September 2000. The closure of the crossing has affected prices of fuel, medicines, commodities and food. Kerem Shalom, the only functioning official crossing for goods to and from Gaza, was closed for 52 days during the first four months of 2013. Frequent closures have left OPT short of gas for cooking and heating, affecting businesses, agricultural production and health services, according to the UN.

On 29 November 2012, the General Assembly voted to grant Palestine non-member UN observer State status, while expressing the urgent need for the resumption of negotiations between Israel and Palestine to move toward a permanent two-State solution.

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

According to OCHA, the humanitarian situation in OPT remained unchanged during 2013. Longstanding protection threats affecting the Palestinian population, including movement and access restrictions, continue to generate high levels of humanitarian need with 2.1 million people in need of assistance.

**Access:** Combined with the heavy Egyptian military deployment along the border and severe access restrictions on people and vehicles into the border area, a dramatic decline in the transfer of goods and fuel through the tunnels between Egypt and Gaza has been reported.

On 20 September, Israeli forces seized a vehicle carrying tents from an international humanitarian organisation destined for the community of Khirbet al-Makhul, West Bank, where 48 Palestinians, including 16 children, are in urgent need of emergency shelter following repeated demolitions this week by the Israeli authorities. The forces also confronted members of the humanitarian and diplomatic communities who were present on site. The UN and the European Union have condemned the halt of humanitarian aid to the population in need.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** According to OCHA, 2.1 million people need humanitarian assistance in the Palestinian territories, with protection of the civilian population, improvement of food insecurity, provision of access to basic services, and prevention of forced displacement being the highest priorities. Over 770,000 people are food insecure in the West Bank alone as of 17 June, according to the UN.

Preliminary results of the annual joint Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey carried out by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, WFP, UNRWA, and FAO found that 1.6 million people (34% of households) were food insecure in 2012. This represented a significant increase from 27% in 2011. Contributing factors include high unemployment rates (35%), stagnant economic growth, the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank, and the blockade of Gaza.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## Highlights

**24 September:** A 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit the southwestern district of Awaran, 350km south of Quetta in Baluchistan province. As of 25 September, more than 230 people were reportedly killed in the quake, and an estimated 300,000 people are affected across six districts: Awaran, Kech, Gwandar, Pajgur, Chaghi and Khuzdar. Entire villages are reported flattened in these impoverished and sparsely-populated districts of Baluchistan. Priority is given to the transfer of injured people in hospitals, a challenge in this area with minimal infrastructure.

**22 September:** In one of the deadliest attacks to date against Christians in the predominantly Muslim country, two suicide bombers blew themselves up outside an Anglican church in the city of Peshawar, capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and located near the FATA where Islamist militants have strongholds. To date, at least 78 people were killed while dozens more were injured in the attack that was claimed by the Taliban-linked militant group TTP Jundullah. In the aftermath of the hit, the Prime Minister N. Sharif has significantly toughened his stance regarding dealings with the Islamist militants, but again fell short from calling for outright military action against the insurgents. Nevertheless, the yet unseen scale of the attack targeting the Christians may have major repercussions on the authorities' dealings with the Pakistani Taliban movement.

**21 September:** Pakistan agreed to the release of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a former Taliban second-in-command, who is now kept in a safe house in Karachi. Baradar, one of the founders of the Taliban insurgency, is largely seen by Kabul as a respected figure who could use his influence to persuade moderate Taliban commanders to negotiate with the Afghan authorities. Baradar's fate is currently being discussed between Islamabad, Karachi and Washington, according to Pakistani officials. The release of Baradar may be seen as one of the tangible outcomes of President Karzai's visit to Pakistan in late August.

**20 September:** Suspected militants threw grenades at a mosque in the northwestern city of Peshawar, capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, killing at least three Islamic preachers and wounding 18 other people, according to local sources.

**19 September:** Authorities in Pakistan's northwestern Swat Valley, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province near the Afghan border, have declared a health emergency after nearly 5,000 cases of dengue fever were reported in a month. To date, 14 people have reportedly died from the disease.

## Political and Security Context

Tensions have been running high along the India-Pakistan contested border in Kashmir since early August, with international observers fearing that the November 2003 ceasefire and the stalled peace talks between the two countries might be put into question. On 19 August, New Delhi openly stated that it was running out of patience regarding the situation on Kashmir. Indian readiness to adopt a tougher stance is largely seen as an indication of the increasing influence of opposition hardliners on the governing Indian Prime Minister

Manmohan Singh who tried to relaunch peace talks with Pakistan.

Although the Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called for a "new beginning" in relations with New Delhi in mid-August, new incidents along the contested Kashmiri border continued to be reported. On 6 September an Islamist rally was openly staged in Islamabad where several thousand people allegedly called for holy war against India in a move that is likely to further strain relations between the two neighbours

On 25 August, the Pakistani authorities accused the Indian army of killing two people and wounding seven other civilians in shelling across the Line of Control, which marks the de facto border in the disputed region. Pakistani officials further reported that at least 300 villagers fled the area on 26 August because of the shelling. On 22 August, the Pakistani military reported that two of its soldiers were killed following "unprovoked" fire from the Indian side. The previous day a Pakistani soldier was killed in a similar incident while Indian authorities announced that they were only responding to Pakistani fire. In an attempt to diffuse tensions, Islamabad announced the release of over 300 Indian prisoners on 24 August.

Since 6 August, violence has spiked between New Delhi and Islamabad after Indian authorities blamed Pakistani troops for killing five soldiers in an attack on the border. India has hinted at possible retaliation. Islamabad denied being behind the attack and indicated that heavily armed terrorists, and persons in Pakistani army uniform, had perpetrated the attack. Several incidents that resulted in casualties on both sides were recorded on 7, 11, 13 and 18 August.

In mid-August, several sources in the Pakistan-based Islamist terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba commented that the group is preparing to reignite the fight over Kashmir once Western troops leave Afghanistan next year. The bombing of the Indian consulate in the Afghan city of Jalalabad on 3 August, for which the Taliban movement denied responsibility, might be an early indication of this change of strategy.

New Delhi has also accused Islamabad of trying to push through militants into its side of Kashmir to revive a decades-old revolt there. On 11 September, a man was allegedly killed by Indian paramilitary forces during a demonstration in Shopian district, which triggered violent protests and led to the authorities to impose a curfew in parts of the Indian-administered Kashmir. Several protests have sparked in Indian Kashmir over the last weeks with three people being killed on 9 August in a demonstration in the Jammu region. Underscoring Indian concerns, protesters allegedly unfolded a Pakistani flag and shouted pro-Islam, pro-independence slogans after offering Eid prayers.

On 22 August, by-elections were held in seats that were forced to annul results from the May vote due to violence or because candidates had since vacated their seats. The elections allowed Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's party, Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N), to further consolidate its hold on power and increase the new government's ability to push through unpopular economic reforms. On 30 July, Mamnoon Hussain, an ally of Nawaz Sharif, was voted to be the Pakistani President, a largely ceremonial role.

On 6 September, at least seven militants, including two senior commanders, were allegedly killed in a suspected US drone strike near the Afghan border in Pakistan's tribal region. An increasing number of such attacks in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas

(FATA) have been reported with at least six occurring since Nawaz Sharif was sworn in on 5 June. Seeing these US-led attacks as a breach of Pakistani sovereignty, the new Prime Minister has repeatedly called for an end to US drone strikes against militants, although one such attack killed the number two of the Pakistani Taliban, Wali Ur-Rehman, in North Waziristan on 29 May. To avenge his death, the Islamist movement officially announced that it created a new wing to attack foreigners in June. As reported by the Pakistani authorities in late August, 339 drone attacks have been recorded in the country since 2004 resulting in the killing of an estimated 400 civilians within the tribal belt. No estimation of the number of insurgents killed was made available. On 1 August, in an effort to ease tensions with Islamabad, the US Secretary of State said drone strikes in Pakistan would end soon.

Since arriving to power in May, N. Sharif has repeatedly suggested that his administration is ready to negotiate with the Pakistani Taliban. On 10 September, politicians from the main coalition and opposition parties backed Sharif's calls for a dialogue, and this united move was welcomed by a Pakistani Taliban spokesman. On 16 September, the Pakistani Taliban set conditions to participating in the peace talks, demanding that the government release prisoners belonging to the group and withdraw troops from its tribal areas. This declaration is raising doubts about prospects for negotiations. In August, the Prime Minister had already indicated his desire to welcome the Pakistani Taliban (Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, TTP) at the negotiation table in a public speech while leaving open the possibility to continue using force. The issue is highly controversial in Pakistan while it is unclear if the influential Pakistani military would welcome such talks while tensions between military officials and the authorities are already reportedly on the rise over the matter.

Pakistan has played a pivotal role in establishing contact between the Taliban and the US in Qatar, which prompted the Afghan President Karzai to express his discontent over being bypassed. On 26 August, President Karzai arrived in Islamabad to attempt to mend bilateral relations while testing the ground regarding Pakistan's involvement in peace talks with the Taliban. One of the visit's aims was allegedly to also press Islamabad into releasing a list of senior Taliban commanders in detention in Pakistan who are seen as being instrumental to bringing the Taliban to the negotiation table. On 21 September, Pakistan agreed to the release of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a former Taliban second-in-command, who is now kept in a safe house in Karachi. Baradar, one of the founders of the Taliban insurgency, is largely seen by Kabul as a respected figure who could use his influence to persuade moderate Taliban commanders to negotiate with the Afghan authorities. Baradar's fate is currently being discussed between Islamabad, Karachi and Washington, according to Pakistani officials. Earlier in September, Pakistan had already released a group of detained Afghan Taliban, including a senior commander called Mansoor Dadullah, who were similarly not directly handed over to the Afghan authorities as mutual suspicions continue to run high.

Tensions are running high in Pakistan with regular Taliban attacks reported across the country, notably affecting the FATA and the western border with Afghanistan. On 22 September, in one of the deadliest attacks to date against Christians in the predominantly Muslim country, two suicide bombers blew themselves up outside an Anglican church in the city of Peshawar, capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and located near the FATA where Islamist militants have strongholds. To date, at least 78 people were killed while

dozens more have been injured in the attack that was claimed by the Taliban-linked militant group TTP Jundullah. In the aftermath of the hit, the Prime Minister N. Sharif has significantly toughened his stance regarding dealings with the Islamist militants, but again fell short from calling for outright military action against the insurgents. Nevertheless, the yet unseen scale of the attack targeting the Christians may have major repercussions on the authorities' dealings with the Pakistani Taliban movement.

On 20 September, suspected militants threw grenades at a mosque in the northwestern city of Peshawar, capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, killing at least three Islamic preachers and wounding 18 other people, according to local sources. On 15 September, two high-ranking Pakistani military were killed by Taliban in separate attacks, respectively in the Upper Swat and the Upper Dir districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. On 1 September, at least nine Pakistani servicemen were killed when a roadside bomb hit an army convoy passing through the troubled region of North Waziristan.

Lately, particularly during the celebration of the Muslim festival of Eid al-Fitr in August, attacks surged in the area of the southwestern Baluchistan provincial capital of Quetta with over 70 people being killed and dozens injured. Quetta is at the forefront of militant Islamist violence, a Baluch separatist insurgency, and violence against the Shiite Muslim minority that constitute a little over 10% of the country's population. Separatist Baluch groups have been active for decades in Baluchistan accusing central authorities of depriving those of Baluch origins from their rights.

On 8 September, four people were killed, including two policemen, in two separate incidents of violence in Baluchistan, including a powerful blast on Sariab road area of Quetta. Last month, terrorist attacks and armed assaults were notably recorded in the southern port city of Karachi – capital of Sindh province, the Gilgit-Baltistan territories in the north, and the Punjab province. In July, Pakistan was plagued by almost daily violence that killed over 200 people, with attacks increasingly targeting the Shiite Muslim minority. On 30 July, a Taliban attack on a prison in the city of Dera Ismail Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, near the border with Afghanistan, allowed the insurgents to free 250 prisoners, including Taliban militants. The high-profile assault underlined growing capabilities of the Pakistani Taliban and put into question the efficiency of the new government's efforts to combat the insurgents.

Although reports remain scarce and casualty figures are difficult to ascertain, military operations appear to be ongoing in Pakistani tribal areas between government troops and Taliban insurgents. On 14 July, according to official sources, the Pakistan Air Force bombed several alleged militant hideouts and killed at least 17 people in a mountainous tribal area between Orakzai, Khyber and Kurram understood to be the Taliban-linked militants' main stronghold.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** According to the authorities, an estimated 300 people were displaced in Kashmir on 26 August following shelling from the Indian side.

OCHA reported on 15 September that more than one million people are displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA due to protracted conflict. Since mid-March, Government military operations against the Taliban and clashes between militant groups in the Tirah

Valley in Khyber Agency have led to additional massive population movements. As of early June, UNHCR reported an estimated 80,000 people displaced from Khyber Agency to safer grounds in Peshawar, Kohat, and towards the camps of New Durrani in Kurram Agency and Jalozai in Nowshera District. An estimated 60,000 additional people began to flee their homes in Kurram Agency in mid-May due to the Government's security operations against armed non-state actors. As of 6 June, 51,582 people were registered in New Durrani camp. As of 18 July, according to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, about 66,000 IDPs had returned to their homes in Kurram, South Waziristan and Bajaur.

According to OCHA, as of 15 July, an estimated 1.03 million IDPs were still in need of humanitarian assistance, 45% of them located in the Peshawar area in northwestern Pakistan. As noted by OCHA in early August, the situation is further complicated with most IDP families not living in camps; around 90% of IDPs live with relatives or in rented houses. Most IDPs are subsistence farmers, and relocation has forced them to leave their farms and relocate to the Peshawar area where employment and livelihood opportunities are limited. At present, many IDPs have switched to irreversible coping strategies, taking on debt and selling assets to pay for food. Most of the 1.64 million Afghan refugees located in the FATA require humanitarian assistance, according to OCHA.

On 30 June, the Government of Pakistan agreed not to expel Afghan refugees who had a permission to stay in the country until June, with Kabul and Islamabad also agreeing, at a recent UN-backed meeting, to continue efforts to solve the protracted refugee situation. Pakistani media reports that the presence of Afghan refugees is triggering tensions in host provinces. On 5 July, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a province hosting an estimated 60% of Afghan refugees, officially opposed extending Afghan refugees' stay in the country and suggested that should the need arise, registered Afghans be equally distributed among the four Pakistani provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab and Baluchistan.

According to OCHA on 15 September, 1.62 million Afghan refugees remain in Pakistan. An additional estimated 2.4 million undocumented refugees from Afghanistan are reported to be residing in Pakistan and Iran.

**Disaster:** On 24 September, a 7.7 magnitude quake hit the southwestern district of Awaran, 350km south of Quetta in Baluchistan province. As of 25 September, more than 230 people were reportedly killed in the earthquake, and the death toll is expected to rise as the rescue teams are reaching remote villages. The earthquake was followed by a series of powerful aftershocks, causing further damage and making rescue efforts very dangerous. An estimated 300,000 people are affected across six districts: Awaran, Kech, Gwandar, Pajgur, Chaghi and Khuzdar, and entire villages are reported flattened in these impoverished and sparsely-populated districts of Baluchistan. Priority is given to the transfer of injured people in hospitals, a challenge in this area with minimal infrastructure. In April 2013, a 7.8 magnitude quake in neighbouring Iran killed 41 people and affected more than 12,000 in Baluchistan, the least populous province of Pakistan. In 2005, the strongest earthquake to hit Pakistan killed 73,000 people in Kashmir, and left several million people homeless.

According to the authorities, as of 6 September, monsoon rains have so far affected 1.5 million people across the country. 53% of the people affected are in Punjab with Narowal (222,260 people affected), Muzzafargarh (173,444), Jhang (127,230) and Rajanpur

(95,171) being the hardest hit districts. Other parts of the country were also severely affected with Kashmore (105,515 people affected), Sukkur (79,005), Khairpur (74,830) and Jamshoro (65,559) being the hardest hit districts in Sindh and floodplains spanning Sibi to Jaffarabad districts (148,889 people affected) being the area most severely affected in Baluchistan.

In addition, 75% of the affected 1.46 million acres of crops are also in Punjab, triggering food security concerns for the affected population. To date, the number of people displaced in camps has reduced from more than 12,000 people to 4,155 across 408 relief camps, across the three provinces. To date, the floods have reportedly killed at least 193 people and injured over 1,100 people.

According to OCHA, as of late April, around 1.5 million people still needed critical services in Baluchistan, Punjab and Sindh provinces, following the flash floods triggered by heavy rains in September 2012. Many affected districts are still struggling to recover from the 2010 and 2011 flooding and have large inundated areas.

**Access:** Assessments and humanitarian operations are hampered by difficult access due to insecurity, standing floodwaters, visa delays and attacks against aid workers. In June, OCHA reported 44 attacks against aid workers between January and April, with 18 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, 15 in Sindh province, four in Baluchistan province, one in the capital Islamabad and six in the FATA. The total figure for last year was 42 across the whole country.

Insecurity continues to affect the polio eradication campaign in Pakistan. On 16 June, two anti-polio workers were killed in an attack in Swabi, in the area of Kandaro, according to local media and police sources. This was the latest in a series of deadly attacks on polio vaccination teams.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** Food insecurity is at emergency levels with an estimated 60% of Pakistan's population considered food insecure. Inflation, rising fuel prices, and stagnating domestic productivity are pushing up food prices. Seven districts are classified as facing IPC phases 3 (Crisis) and 4 (Emergency).

Malnutrition rates in some flood-affected districts were beyond emergency thresholds before the recurrent floods in 2012 and are predicted to worsen. According to WFP as of June, 15% of Pakistani children are severely malnourished, and 40% suffer from stunted growth.

In June 2013, food inflation rose by 8.1% from 2012, against 4.4% for non-food inflation. Prices of wheat and wheat flour have steadily increased since June 2012, underpinned by higher producer support prices.

**Health:** On 19 September, authorities in Pakistan's northwestern Swat Valley, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province near the Afghan border, have declared a health emergency after nearly 5,000 cases of dengue fever were reported in a month. To date, 14 people have reportedly died from the disease. It is believed the disease spread from Lahore, Pakistan's second largest city, where an important dengue outbreak had killed 362 people and infected more than 21,000 in September 2011.

On 28 August, health officials warned of a serious polio outbreak after the disease was detected in 16 children in North Waziristan, a tribal district where militant groups have banned vaccination. OCHA reported on 15 September that 28 cases were recorded so far in 2013 (58 in 2012). Most of the children affected were under five years old. According to the authorities, more than 240,000 in North and South Waziristan are at risk because of the imposed ban on vaccination.

269 deaths caused by measles have been reported since the start of 2013. According to local media, 141 children have died of measles since January in Punjab province alone. Sindh province, hardest hit by the measles outbreak, was also affected by flash flooding that occurred in September 2012. WHO described the situation in Pakistan as alarming due to a steady increase in measles cases and deaths. According to OCHA, in Punjab and Sindh provinces, 54% of 8,844 children assessed between January last year and mid-May this year were not vaccinated against the disease.

*Updated: 25/09/2013*

## TAJIKISTAN FOOD INSECURITY

### Highlights

**No new developments this week. Last update was: 14/08/2013.**

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As reported by WFP on 26 July, an analysis of the food security situation in 11 livelihood zones in Tajikistan for the period of January to May 2013 showed that the situation was worrying. As of July, the food security status of 3% of the population (about 152,000 people) in rural livelihood zones was classified as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). The status of 39% of rural population (about 2,285,000 people) was classified as IPC Phase 2 (Stressed).

However, food security has improved since the previous period (October-December 2012), with highly food insecure areas in Phase 3 (Crisis) shifting to moderately food insecure status Phase 2 (Stressed) across the country. In the beginning of 2013, over 3 million people (32% of Tajikistan's population) were estimated by WFP to be at risk of food insecurity due to a prolonged lean season and depleted winter stocks.

Across the country, which heavily depends on imports and humanitarian aid, wheat flour prices were recorded at, or close to, historic highs in the main and regional markets of the country. In April 2013, they decreased compared to March, but still remained high compared to the same period in 2012. However, they are reportedly not as high as 2008 peak prices. Transportation and fuel prices have contributed to the surge of food prices.

According to FEWSNET, the prices of wheat and wheat flour fell slightly in June, most noticeably in the south, as the wheat harvest progressed in Tajikistan and prospects for northern Kazakhstan's wheat harvest in August-September continue to be fairly good. The grain harvest in Tajikistan is likely to be of above average volume. According to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan, cereal production is tentatively

forecasted to increase by 6% in 2013, leading to prices further dropping.

*Reviewed: 23/09/2013*

## BANGLADESH INTERNAL UNREST, CYCLONE

### Highlights

**18-19 September:** A two days nationwide hartal, or strike, was enforced after another senior leader from the country's largest Islamic party Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) was handed the death sentence, overturning a previously imposed life sentence, for crimes committed during the country's 1971 war of independence against Pakistan. In the violence that erupted after the verdict, at least one person has been killed in the southern coastal district of Noakhali and dozens injured across the country.

As of **15 September**, flash floods which started on 10 September in the districts of Jamalpur, Rajshahi, Gaibandha, Kurigram, and Sirajganj affected more than 178,000 people (approximately 40,000 households). The northern Dhaka division is among the most affected areas.

### Political and Security Context

Tensions between Islamic groups and secular activists are ongoing in Bangladesh. The Government, led by the Bangladesh Awami League (AL) in power since 2008, struggles to contain protests while upcoming elections loom. In a publication released in late July, Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that Bangladeshi security forces have frequently used excessive force in responding to street protests, killing at least 150 protesters and injuring over 2,000 since February 2013.

On 18-19 September, a two days nationwide hartal, or strike, was enforced after another senior leader from the country's largest Islamic party Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) was handed the death sentence, overturning a previously imposed life sentence, for crimes committed during the country's 1971 war of independence against Pakistan. In the violence that erupted after the verdict, at least one person has been killed in the southern coastal district of Noakhali and dozens injured across the country. Since January, the authorities have convicted six Islamists of crimes related to the 1971 war. Last week's strike was the last to hit Bangladesh while previous convictions have also triggered widespread protests. Several JI leaders and two from the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the country's largest opposition party, are still officially on trial.

On 12-13 August, police and protesters clashed during a 48-hour general strike or *hartal*, called by JI, across the country, including the capital Dhaka. At least 50 people, including ten policemen, were injured. While the JI strike triggered tensions, it was only minimally supported by the BNP, allied to JI. The strike followed a Bangladeshi court ruling that declared JI as illegal on 1 August, largely forbidding it to take part in general elections due at the end of 2013. In the wake of the decision, party activists took the streets in the capital, Dhaka, and other towns including Bogra, Jessore and Gaibandha.

Authorities jailed a prominent Bangladeshi human rights activist working for HRW, over

allegations that the US-based group made false accusations against the government forces after a deadly crackdown on protests in May. The move may be seen as a toughening of the AL stance prior to much awaited elections due in late December. Against this background, local observers largely expect a worsening of the situation over the coming months.

Since January 2013, Bangladesh has seen recurrent *hartals* called by JI or BNP, as a protest against the arrest of senior party officials for committing offences during the 1971 War of Independence with Pakistan. The *hartals* have caused significant disruption to business and commerce and losses to the economy.

In mid-July, after a war crimes tribunal convicted two top Islamist politicians of JI to death for crimes of genocide, conspiracy in killing intellectuals, torture and abduction committed during the Independence war, new strikes, enforced by BNP and JI, were recorded across the country. Shops and businesses were closed and main roads were largely deserted of cars in the capital Dhaka. Although information on casualties remains limited, at least nine people were killed during the protests. According to the authorities, another five JI leaders and two from the BNP are on trial.

High levels of violence were recorded in May after Islamist protesters demanding religious reforms from the government took to the streets in Dhaka and outside the capital. Several hundred people were reportedly injured and at least 20 killed in the protests. Protesters were trying to impose an Islamist agenda on Bangladesh by demanding an anti-blasphemy law with provision for the death penalty.

In early August, although little information is available, several inter-communal clashes were recorded in the Matiranga-Taindong area in Khagrachari district in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Several tribes inhabit the area in southeastern Bangladesh.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** In early August, OCHA reported that following inter-communal violence at the border town of Tripura, northeast Bangladesh, around 1,500 people sought refuge and protection in India.

**Disaster:** As of 15 September, local authorities reported that flash floods which started on 10 September in the districts of Jamalpur, Rajshahi, Gaibandha, Kurigram, and Sirajganj affected more than 178,000 people (approximately 40,000 households). The northern Dhaka division is among the most affected areas.

In July, torrential rainfall and consequential onrush of water from upstream resulted in floods in several northern districts of Bangladesh, notably Thakurgaon, Gaibandha, Dinajpur Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Lalmoirhat, Kurigram, Jamalpur and Sirajganj. To date, an estimated 124,000 people have been affected with at least nine killed.

Bangladesh was spared significant human impact from Cyclone Mahasen that was weaker than expected. Nonetheless, the cyclone caused damage, including 49,000 destroyed and 45,000 partially destroyed houses, mostly in Patuakhali, Bhola and Barguna districts. Government sources report that 14 people were killed and 65 injured by the cyclone. As of 22 May, over 1.2 million people were affected by the cyclone with 1.1 million people having

been evacuated.

Bangladesh is considered one of the world's most hazard-prone countries.

**Food Security:** Some 40% of the population is food insecure. The lingering effects of frequent natural disasters, including the floods at the end of June, mid-July, late September in 2012 and mid-May in 2013, violent demonstrations and disturbance, and other localised problems have raised the level of food insecurity of a high number of households.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## CHINA FLOODS, TYPHOON

### Highlights

**20-23 September:** Category 5 Typhoon Usagi, which formed near the Philippines, made landfall in China, killing 25 people in the southern province of Guangdong. To date, local authorities reported that 220,000 people had to be evacuated, and more than 7,000 houses collapsed. On 20 September, local authorities had already upgraded the level of warning for Usagi, reportedly the strongest typhoon to hit China this year. The death toll adds up to the 367 lives claimed by natural disasters across China since early August.

**20 September:** Local authorities declared the end of the state of emergency for the province of Heilongjiang, where floods affected more than 5.2 million people from 10 August on.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Disaster:** On 21-22 September, category 5 Typhoon Usagi, that formed near the Philippines, made landfall in China, killing 25 people in the southern province of Guangdong. To date, local authorities reported that 220,000 people had to be evacuated, and more than 7,000 houses collapsed. On 20 September, local authorities had upgraded the level of warning for Usagi, reportedly the strongest typhoon to hit China this year. The death toll adds up to the 367 lives claimed by natural disasters across China since early August.

As of 4 September, additional floods and heavy rain have affected more than 5.2 million people in the province of Heilongjiang, next to the border with Russia. Residents from 904 towns and townships have been affected by the floods, and among them, 331,000 people have been relocated. The floods have also caused 18,300 houses to collapse, according to the authorities. The area, along with the neighbouring provinces of Liaoning and Jilin, had already been hit by severe flooding – reportedly the worst in decades – following heavy rains from 10 August on. Local authorities declared the end of the state of emergency for the province on 20 September.

On 28 and 31 August respectively, two earthquakes, a 5.1-magnitude quake and a 5.9-magnitude, affected an estimated 120,000 people in southwest China's Yunnan province. According to the authorities, 3 people were killed and 44 others injured in the counties of

Shangri-La and Degen, the most severely affected areas. Overall, 596 houses have reportedly been destroyed and 14,359 houses as well as more than 870 km of road have been damaged by the two earthquakes.

Since mid-August, China has experienced two typhoons in the south of the country and extremely severe flooding in the north with an overall number of killed estimated to be over 200. The authorities estimate the total number of affected by the disasters at over 10 million.

Heavy rains struck southern China as the country was affected by Typhoon Trami who made landfall on 23 August. The heavy rains triggered landslides that increased the number of casualties. According to local authorities, the typhoon has affected almost two million people in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous region, coastal Zhejiang and Fujian provinces, and central China's Hunan province. A total number of estimated displaced people stand at over 380,000 people. An estimated 1.4 million people were affected in the Zhejiang and Fujian provinces alone, with over 351,000 people displaced. At least 2 people were killed, hundreds of houses damaged and crops lost across the provinces.

China's southern regions were earlier affected by Typhoon Utor which resulted in 70 people dead and another 18 missing. Guangdong province experienced the most typhoon-related casualties, with 43 reported deaths as of 22 August according to IFRC.

Following its passage across the Philippines on 12 August, Typhoon Utor, locally known as Labuyo, hit Chinese southeastern Guangdong province on 14 August. According to the authorities, it has also affected the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous region while all the areas were also struck by heavy monsoon rains in the aftermath.

Authorities reported that, as of 19 August, the typhoon and the rains that followed have affected an estimated 8.37 million people in the south of the country. At the same time, the authorities reported that some 6.67 million people were affected in Guangdong province, with an estimated 513,000 that needed to be relocated, according to OCHA.

Utor has reportedly also damaged at least 19,000 houses across the provinces. At least 20 people have been killed while over a dozen remain missing as of 19 August following the typhoon and the subsequent monsoon floods.

In parallel, the provinces of Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang in north-eastern China, near the border with Russia, have been hit by severe flooding – reportedly the worst in decades – following heavy rains from 10 August on. As of 19 August, the authorities reported that 800,000 people have been affected, out of which 100,000 were evacuated, and 113,000 hectares of farmland damaged in Liaoning. In Jilin, 760,000 people were reportedly affected, out of which over 100,000 were displaced, and 35,000 houses damaged or destroyed. In Heilongjiang, nearly 2 million people were affected, out of which 140,000 were displaced, and 15,000 houses damaged according to the authorities. As of 20 August, an estimated 3.74 million had been affected across the three provinces. At least 85 deaths were reported across the three provinces while 100 people were reportedly missing. Since these three areas are major grain producers and the autumn harvest is entering its key phase, the authorities have reported concerns regarding agriculture recovery.

In mid-August, other Chinese provinces were affected by heavy rains and subsequent

floods, including central Hunan province where floods affected 85,400 people in Lanshan county. Out of the affected, 35,000 people were displaced; five people were confirmed dead in the area. At least 6,200 ha of farmland were affected and almost 200 houses damaged.

China is an extremely hazard-prone country, regularly suffering from deadly floods, earthquakes, landslides and hailstorms.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

### Highlights

**As of 22 September**, over half a million Syrian refugees (522,588), including those awaiting registration, have crossed into Jordan since the beginning of the Syrian crisis according to UNHCR.

**15 September:** On 15 September, Syrian activists and rebel officials said heavy shelling is preventing some 5,000 civilians from crossing into Jordan, raising to 65,000 the total number of displaced Syrians stranded along the border region.

**As of 1 August**, the number of refugees crossing the border has fallen from 600-700 per day in mid-July to an average of 90 per day. At the beginning of July, an average 1,600 people were crossing the border daily compared to 2,500 persons per day in February.

### Political and Security Context

Military commanders from Western and Gulf countries met on 25 August in Jordan to discuss the Syria conflict, as Western powers weighed military action in response to a suspected chemical weapons attack. However, the Jordanian Foreign Minister Judeh said the meeting had been scheduled for months and was not the result of the latest development in Syria.

The alleged chemical weapons attack on 21 August drove thousands of displaced Syrians towards Jordan in what activists are calling the largest refugee migration since the onset of the conflict two years ago. According to activists, some 10,000 civilians fled the Damascus governorate towards southern Syria late on 21 August, with border towns reportedly receiving “mass waves” of hundreds of IDP families. However, border violence continues to reduce the Syrian refugee influx into Jordan.

Jordan is reportedly increasingly concerned that the Syrian civil war will spill over and ignite a regional conflict. In the beginning of June, the US said that it would make Patriot batteries and advanced F-16 fighter jets available for annual military exercises in Jordan. The US may consider keeping the jets in Jordan after the exercise.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs



**Displacement:** In Jordan, the number of refugees crossing the border has fallen from 600-700 per day in mid-July to an average of 90 per day since 1 August. At the beginning of July, an average 1,600 people were crossing the border daily compared to 2,500 persons per day in February. Arrivals have continued to drop markedly since 10 July and have not resumed to levels seen earlier in 2013. At end June, fighting along the Jordanian-Syrian border closed the main access routes into Jordan forcing displaced Syrians to use more arduous desert routes to enter the country. According to Syrian opposition groups, heavy clashes and shelling blocked off routes into southwest Syria, forcing opposition forces to restrict cross-border activity to “essential movement” of fighters and medical supplies and continue a suspension of mass refugee crossings. Refugees are reportedly waiting two to three days in border regions before crossing into Jordan due to increased security measures put in place to deal with the increasing number of forged documents.

On 15 September, Syrian activists and rebel officials said heavy shelling is preventing some 5,000 civilians from crossing into Jordan, raising to 65,000 the total number of displaced Syrians stranded along the border region. With a high number of Syrians reportedly waiting to cross from Syria into Jordan, UN organisations are reportedly scaling up their contingency planning to ensure capacity to rapidly respond to a large refugee influx in the coming weeks and months.

However, as of 22 September, 522,588 Syrian refugees, including those awaiting registration, have crossed into Jordan according to UNHCR, which swelled the population size by 11%, placing enormous pressure on Jordanian resources. Recent reports warn of rising tensions between Jordanians and Syrian refugees especially in communities that host large numbers of displaced Syrians, with the influx placing a huge burden on already overstretched water and power supplies, as well as housing and education. Jordan's Za'atari refugee camp is the equivalent of an entirely new city that would be the country's fifth largest with over 130,000 residents.

More recent statistics have been provided by Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO), which has stated that urban refugees comprise 75% of total refugees' population distributed in different governorates: 30 % in Amman, 45% in the northern region, 15 % in the middle and 3 % in the southern region. Jordan's Minister of Foreign Affairs predicted that number of Syrian refugees will make up 40 % of Jordan's population- which now stands at 6.8 million- by mid of 2014 unless the crisis ends.

On 13 August, officials said that Jordan is finalising preparations for its third Syrian camp, with the facility to receive its first refugee families in September (Mkheizen Al Gharbiya camp in the eastern city of Azraq). The camp is designed to host up to 500,000 Syrians in its initial phase, according to the UN, with an expandable capacity of up to 130,000.

In April, UNHCR reported that Syrians were returning home for a number of reasons, including improved security in border villages, to protect their property, and to reunite with family members and left-behind relatives and bring them to Jordan. Nearly 9,000 refugees in Jordan left for Syria in June, bringing the number of returnees to over 68,000 in the past two years. In the past weeks, the numbers of Syrians going home has dropped to zero due to Syrian troops engaged in heavy shelling around border towns.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** As a result of the refugee influx, Jordan's economy, water and energy resources remain strained. Commodity prices are higher in Jordan than

in Syria and the purchasing power of refugees to cover basic needs keeps decreasing. Jordanian residents also suffer from high unemployment (around 14%), inflation, and poverty.

The large influx of Syrian refugees has significantly stretched national capacities. According to WFP, the school feeding programme was reduced by 80% from 2008 to 2012, the fuel subsidy was lifted in November 2012, and the government is considering withdrawing or reducing other subsidies (most notably bread) which could potentially trigger social discontent and further economic deterioration.

According to the National Department of Statistics, the monthly rate of food price inflation (year-on-year) reached 4.4% in June 2013, fuelled by high increases in vegetable prices. By contrast, bread and cereal prices declined by 1.4% due to Government support schemes.

All humanitarian programming must include interventions to support poor Jordanians as a way of sharing the burden of the Government to meet the ongoing needs of refugees and those of its own vulnerable population. The socio-economic conditions in poor and food-insecure areas are not expected to improve in the short or medium term and could deteriorate with continuation of the crisis.

In early-August, the UN reported that some Syrian refugees are donating to poor Jordanians or selling them extra food received from aid agencies at a discounted price. Northern governorates have been hit particularly hard by the refugee influx and demands on basic service provision. In Mafraq governorate, where locals are heavily affected by both high prices and irregular water supply, food, blankets, tents, and other items with UNHCR logos are publicly for sale.

To accommodate the spike in water demand, Jordan is drawing on additional water resources, including buying water from private wells. The extra demand on water and sanitation services will cost the Government over \$700 million dollars per year, even as Jordanians receive less water per capita.

**Health:** New cases of waterborne and water-related diseases are appearing in Za'atari camp on a weekly basis, including diarrhoea, scabies, leptospirosis, rotavirus and hepatitis A. Other communicable diseases related to hygiene conditions have been reported, including acute jaundice syndrome, chicken pox, lice, and measles. While these diseases are often seasonal or endemic in the region, there have been alerts issued for a measles outbreak (six cases in Za'atari camp from 9 November 2012 to 14 June 2013, according to UNHCR) and higher-than-usual levels of jaundice, scabies and lice.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## LAOS FLOODS, EPIDEMIC

### Highlights

**16 September:** As reported by OCHA, seven provinces in LPDR remain flooded after heavy rain which began in June. To date, at least 17 people have been killed, and there

is an estimated 50,000 people in need of food assistance during the next 3 months. According to the UN, as of 29 August, an estimated 119,625 people were affected by the flooding.

**16 September:** As of 16 September, some 50,000 cases of dengue fever had been recorded across all provinces since January 2013. The outbreak is the worst of its kind in the country's history, with cases reported in all 17 provinces according to OCHA. The number of cases this year is four times higher than in 2010 and 11 times higher than last year. To date, 92 deaths were reported this year with around 70% being children under the age of 15. The case-fatality rate is of 0.2%.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Disaster:** As reported by OCHA on 16 September, seven provinces in LPDR remain flooded after heavy rain which began in June. To date, at least 17 people have been killed, and there is an estimated 50,000 people in need of food assistance during the next 3 months. According to the UN, as of 29 August, an estimated 119,625 people were affected by the flooding.

From June to August, several provinces in the Northern and Central part of Laos were flooded due to heavy continuous rainfall. The authorities reported that two tropical storms Jebi (31 July–3 August) and Mankhut (5-7 August) caused flooding in the northern provinces of Oudomxay, Xayabuly, Xiengkhoung, and Bolikhamxay, in the central provinces of Khammoune, Xieng Khuang, and Luang Prabang, and in the southern province of Vientiane.

As reported by the UN, the floods have damaged 14,000 ha of rice with important loss of livestock also being reported. Multiple public buildings and infrastructure, notably schools, bridges and irrigation systems, were also damaged, as well as the water and sanitation systems in floods areas.

Earlier in the season, after relatively normal rainfalls between early May and mid-July, heavy rains between 24-26 June caused flash floods in Bolihan District, in the central province of Bolikhamxay, affecting 5,000 people and damaging houses, food stocks, livestock and equipment.

**Health:** As of 16 September, some 50,000 cases of dengue fever had been recorded across all provinces since January 2013. The outbreak is the worst of its kind in the country's history, with cases reported in all 17 provinces according to OCHA. The number of cases this year is four times higher than in 2010 and 11 times higher than last year. To date, 92 deaths were reported this year with around 70% being children under the age of 15. The case-fatality rate is of 0.2%.

The provinces in the far northwest, centre and far south of the country are among the worst affected. The highest concentrations of cases have been recorded in the capital Vientiane (4,617 cases) and the Champasak province (3,306 cases) in the southwest of the country as of August. WHO indicated on 12 September that even though the numbers remained above the epidemic alert level, the weekly trend has been decreasing over the last month.

The epidemic was expected to worsen as the rainy season is ongoing and previous epidemics have historically peaked in August and September.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## LEBANON CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST

### Highlights

As of **21 September**, UNHCR reported that the number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon reached almost 756,630, including those close to 102,000 awaiting registration. Refugees continue to cross into Lebanon daily. This marks an increase of around 13,000 people compared to last week. According to UNHCR, 14,000 people were newly registered since 13 September. With no formal camps, refugees in Lebanon are spread across 1,200 locations.

**23 August:** An estimated 47 people were killed and 500 wounded in blasts that exploded outside two mosques in a Sunni neighbourhood in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli. While local officials tried to play down the sectarian nature of the attack, the twin blasts came as a stark reminder of the increasing spillover of the Syrian war into Lebanon along sectarian lines. To date, no group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

### Political and Security Context

Insecurity in Lebanon has grown with renewed fighting between different sectarian groups while the Syrian conflict is increasingly spilling over into Lebanon, with almost daily shelling and sporadic clashes in the north and eastern border regions.

With repeated inter-sectarian strife reported in Tripoli, fears are rising that the Syrian conflict may become a regional one between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims. On 23 August, 47 people were killed and more than 500 wounded in blasts that exploded outside two mosques in a Sunni neighbourhood in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli. While local officials tried to play down the sectarian nature of the attack, the twin blasts came as a stark reminder of the increasing spillover of the Syrian war into Lebanon along sectarian lines. To date, no group has claimed responsibility for the attack. On 6 August, security in Tripoli deteriorated with clashes between gunmen being reported. In June, intermittent clashes between supporters of the different Syrian parties, split along different neighbourhoods in Tripoli, were reported.

On 15 August, a car bomb struck in Beirut's Ruwais district, a stronghold of the Lebanese Shi'ite armed movement Hezbollah. The bomb killed 27 and wounded over 330 people. A previously unknown group, the Battalion of Aisha, said it carried out the attack because of Hezbollah's involvement in the Syrian war. On the same day, the Syrian opposition National Coalition warned against the emergence of a "cycle of violence" in Lebanon if Hezbollah continued to send fighters to help the Damascus regime. In July, in one of the worst incidents since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, a car bomb wounded over 50 people in a Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut's southern neighbourhood Bir Abed. A Syrian rebel group, the Special Forces 313 Brigade, claimed responsibility. The group also claimed it was behind an attack on a Hezbollah convoy in eastern Lebanon on 28 June.

Widespread involvement of Hezbollah alongside Syrian Government troops in the offensive against the opposition-held stronghold Qusayr prompted the Free Syrian Army and Jabhat al-Nusra to separately warn that their fighters could start fighting Hezbollah inside Lebanon. In June, the first major clashes between Lebanese Hezbollah militiamen and Syrian opposition fighters inside Lebanese territory resulted in casualties. In the aftermath, shelling of Lebanese territory, notably the eastern town of Hermel – a reported bastion of Hezbollah, from an area in Syria believed to be controlled by opposition forces resulted in new deaths. On 10 July, the UN Security Council called on Hezbollah to end all involvement in the Syrian conflict.

On 9 July, the Lebanese Parliamentary Speaker announced that the March 8th coalition, a major bloc in the Lebanese political system, collapsed after a frail alliance between two of its major parties, the Amal Movement and the Free Patriotic Movement, ended. The expiration of the March 8th alliance is expected to give a major boost to efforts to form a new Cabinet which has been delayed several times.

On 31 May, the Lebanese Parliament unanimously voted to extend its mandate by 17 months after failing to adopt a new electoral law at a time of deep internal divisions over the war in neighbouring Syria. Elections that were originally planned for June were postponed. On 1 June, President Michel Sleiman lodged an appeal with the Constitutional Council to challenge the Parliament's decision to extend its mandate and delay elections.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

Both host and refugee populations are impacted by the increasing pressure on the health and education systems, housing, employment opportunities and food prices. Many Lebanese families see their livelihoods eroding as wages decrease and rent prices soar, with hard-pressed Syrian refugees working for less money and sharing single-family homes with multiple families to save on rent. Real economic growth was 7% in 2010, fell to 1.8% in 2013 and is expected to be at 2.1% in 2014. In June 2013, general inflation reached almost 9% year-on-year (compared to 2% in June 2012). Food inflation eased from 5.7% in June 2012 to 3% in June 2013. Tensions are rising between host communities and refugees over strained resources, particularly with regard to overwhelmed health facilities. It is expected that unemployment rates will double to 29% in 2014.

**Displacement:** As of 21 September, UNHCR reported that the number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon reached 756,630, including those close to over 102,000 awaiting registration. This marks an increase of around 17,000 people compared to last week. According to UNHCR, 14,000 people were newly registered since 13 September. This represents more than 18% of the country's population, and refugees continue to cross into Lebanon daily. With no formal camps, refugees in Lebanon are spread across 1,200 locations. Vulnerable Syrian families are settling in communal areas in Beirut (highway underpasses, the green spaces between major roads, etc.). Most Syrian refugees in Lebanon live in makeshift settlements, half-finished buildings and cramped apartment blocks, often in unhygienic conditions and with little access to food, water and medical care.

In addition, an increasing number of evictions in some areas of Lebanon has been

observed during the past weeks, due to rising tensions between Syrian refugees and host communities. This is particularly noted in informal settlements, and presents a challenge to find alternative accommodation for these refugees, especially as the winter months approach.

According to the Lebanese General Security Authority, there are currently two million Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Lebanon's population has grown by 25% in under two years, while health, education and water and sanitation systems have all exceeded their capacities. The situation also has serious security implications and 1.2 million Lebanese in host communities are severely affected by the refugee influx. According to media sources, the Lebanese government is implementing strict entry controls on Syrians attempting to enter the country at all border crossings; only Syrians with valid identification cards or passports can enter. At border crossings, they are required to officially identify whether they are refugees or workers. The measures reportedly aim at preventing extremist and anti-Lebanese groups from entering the country.

On 23 July, Lebanese Social Affairs Minister first stated that special teams would start shutting down unlicensed Syrian-run businesses.

**Access:** Security in Tripoli and in northern and eastern border villages remains volatile with rockets and shelling hitting a number of towns, impeding humanitarian access in both regions, and restricting activities and the availability of services. The lack of funding continues to be a large factor hampering operations in Lebanon. On 7 June, a Revised Regional Response plan was launched, requesting 1.2 billion dollars for humanitarian operations in Lebanon; the Lebanese Government requested an additional 500 million dollars to provide aid to Syrian refugees and host communities.

This week was marked by heightened security measures, particularly in the Bekaa, where a number of municipalities imposed a curfew on Syrian residents between 9pm and 6am.

**Health:** UNHCR reported in July that physical access to health care is challenging for the Syrian refugees living in remote locations. Outstretched available resources, short working hours and availability of trained health personnel are limiting the adequate provision of care for the displaced who suffer from trauma, substandard living conditions and depletion of their means. Common needs include reproductive health care and family planning, child health care, treatment for acute illnesses, chronic diseases and mental health.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## PHILIPPINES CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON

### Highlights

**23 September:** Muslim rebels of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) clashed with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and took hostages in a fresh outbreak of violence in the central part of the southern Mindanao Island of the Philippines. During the clashes, at least four fighters on each side were killed as the rebels also reportedly took 15 hostages who were later released. According to the authorities, fighters of the BIFF retreated as the AFP received reinforcements. The

attack came as the confrontation between the AFP and another Islamic insurgent group elsewhere in Mindanao has entered its third week; the BIFF claimed that the incidents were not related.

**23 September:** Monsoon rains worsened by Typhoon Usagi, locally known as Odette, pounded the country for the third day, causing floods and landslides that left around 73,000 people affected and six people dead and others stranded on rooftops, according to the authorities. The most severely affected area is the town of Subic, about 80 kilometres northwest of Manila, where heavy rains caused rain-soaked soil to cascade down. Typhoon Usagi, reportedly the most powerful storm to hit the country this year, has moved north toward China on 23 September, but is still continuing to exacerbate monsoon rains. To date, information on the number of people affected and on damages remains lacking.

**19-23 September:** On 9 September, fighting broke out in coastal villages at the outskirts of Zamboanga City, located in the western part of the Mindanao Island, between a splinter group of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and AFP. The fighting between the rebel group that took over 200 people hostage and the AFP resulted in extensive street fighting in the vicinity of Zamboanga City. Heavy clashes have left entire neighbourhoods razed to the ground. As of 23 September, at least 20 hostages were reportedly still held by the rebel group in Zamboanga City by almost 50 remaining MNLF fighters while others reportedly retreated from the area under heavy pressure from AFP and amidst sporadic fighting. As reported by local media, helicopters were seen firing rockets and machineguns at remaining insurgent fighters in Zamboanga City on 23 September.

**19 September:** According to the authorities, almost 129,000 persons from fourteen barangays in Zamboanga City and one barangay in Zamboanga Sibugay have been affected by the escalating armed conflict; over 115,000 people have been displaced. As of 16 September, some civilians still reportedly remained trapped in the affected coastal villages with some beginning to report shortage of food and essential household goods. To date, information on needs remains limited. Overall, the recent violent incidents left a total of 103 people dead while 180 people others were wounded. At least 10,160 houses were completely destroyed due to the series of fire incidents that resulted from the clashes.

### Political and Security Context

On 23 September, Muslim rebels of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) clashed with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and took hostages in a fresh outbreak of violence in the central part of the southern Mindanao Island of the Philippines. During the clashes, at least four fighters on each side were killed as the rebels also reportedly took 15 hostages who were later released. According to the authorities, fighters of the BIFF retreated as the AFP received reinforcements. The attack came as the confrontation between the AFP and another Islamic insurgent group elsewhere in Mindanao has entered its third week; the BIFF claimed that the incidents were not related.

On 9 September, fighting broke out in coastal villages at the outskirts of Zamboanga City, located in the western part of the Mindanao Island, between a splinter group of the Moro

National Liberation Front (MNLF) and AFP. The fighting between the rebel group that took over 200 people hostage and the AFP resulted in extensive street fighting in the vicinity of Zamboanga City. Heavy clashes have left entire neighbourhoods razed to the ground. As of 23 September, at least 20 hostages were reportedly still held by the rebel group in Zamboanga City by almost 50 remaining MNLF fighters while others reportedly retreated from the area under heavy pressure from AFP and amidst sporadic fighting. As reported by local media, helicopters were seen firing rockets and machineguns at remaining insurgent fighters in Zamboanga City on 23 September. As reported by Human Rights Watch on 19 September, Philippines security forces and Muslim rebels have committed serious abuses during fighting in Zamboanga.

As of 19 September, according to the authorities, around 129,000 persons from fourteen barangays in Zamboanga City and one barangay in Zamboanga Sibugay have been affected by the escalating armed conflict; over 115,000 people have been displaced. As of 16 September, some civilians still reportedly remained trapped in the affected coastal villages with some beginning to report shortage of food and essential household goods. To date, information on needs remains limited.

Overall, the recent violent incidents left at least 102 rebels dead while 180 people others were wounded according to the authorities while many others reportedly surrendered. At least 15 soldiers and police have been killed in the fighting. In addition, some 10,160 houses were completely destroyed due to the series of fire incidents that resulted from the clashes.

The last attacks in Mindanao have been largely seen as an attempt to sabotage talks centred at ending decades of conflict between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), also a breakaway group from the original MNLF that has conducted heavy armed attacks in the area over the past decades, and the government.

Mindanao Island has been plagued by a decades-old rebellion by Muslim fighters that has left thousands dead. The original MNLF has been fighting a 25-year guerrilla war for independence, until the signature of a peace treaty in 1996, which granted it limited self-rule in the southern Muslim area. The MILF has officially signed a historic peace deal with the authorities in October 2012 and has been conducting final negotiations with the Government over the past year. It is expected to take over an expanded autonomous Muslim region in the south by 2016. These talks had resumed earlier that in August amid deadly attacks by the splinter guerrilla group that left 15 dead in Mindanao. In July, a compromise concerning the sharing of local revenues with the creation of a Muslim self-rule area in the Mindanao region that is expected to be led by the MILF was achieved. The country's President Aquino said the ongoing talks aim to end decades of rebellion that had claimed 150,000 lives in the country's Muslim southern regions.

On 5 August, at least six people were killed and 29 injured in a powerful bomb blast in the centre of the city of Cotabato in Mindanao Island in the south of the country. It was the second bombing in Mindanao in ten days after a bomb attack in Cagayan de Oro City, killing six and wounding dozens. To date, no group has claimed responsibility for the attacks. The authorities have announced increased security measures in the area. As authorities enter the last stages of negotiating an agreement with the main rebel group, officials reportedly blamed the attack on breakaway insurgent groups or possibly on an

alleged new al-Qaeda-linked Islamist militant group called the Khalifa Islamiyah Mindanao-Black Flag.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** Over 129,000 people have been displaced by recent fighting in Mindanao with almost 115,000 people remaining across 57 evacuations centres near Zamboanga City as of 19 September. Over 2,000 remain in spontaneous displacement sites. Displaced people are in need of water containers, hygiene kits, mats, blankets and medicines. As of 16 September, some civilians still reportedly remained trapped in the affected coastal villages with some beginning to report shortage of food and essential household goods. To date, information on needs remains limited.

OCHA reported as of 14 September that an estimated 235,000 people are affected by the ongoing violence.

**Disaster:** On 23 September, monsoon rains worsened by Typhoon Usagi, locally known as Odette, pounded the country for the third day, causing floods and landslides that left six people dead and others stranded on rooftops, according to the authorities. The most severely affected area is the town of Subic, about 80 kilometres northwest of Manila, where heavy rains caused rain-soaked soil to cascade down. Typhoon Usagi, reportedly the most powerful storm to hit the country this year, has moved north toward China on 23 September, but is still continuing to exacerbate monsoon rains. According to authorities in the Philippines around 73,000 people were affected by Usagi as of 24 September.

On 30 August, after having formed just east of the Philippines, tropical storm Kong-Rey, locally known as Nando, moved north along the coast of China. In the Philippines, nearly 18,000 people were affected. One person was killed and one person was injured according to the authorities.

From 18 August, four days of heavy rains, triggered by the passage of the Tropical Storm Trami, locally known as Maring, and ensuing extensive floods, have affected Philippine's Luzon Island, hitting the National Capital, where Metropolitan Manila (Metro Manila) is located, Cordillera Administrative, Ilocos, Central Luzon, CALABARZON and MIMAROPA regions. As of early September, the floods have affected over 3.4 million people across 247 municipalities. The rains calmed on 21 August with only light to moderate rains observed the following days over CALABARZON and Central Luzon regions. Some affected provinces had already been flooded when Typhoon Utor, locally known as Labuyo, crossed the region on 12 August.

According to OCHA, as floodwaters began to subside, flooding persisted particularly in the low-lying areas in Pampanga, Bulacan, Laguna and Rizal provinces surrounding Metro Manila, waist-deep in some locations. People in these areas may face prolonged displacement and require extended humanitarian aid. The state of calamity remained in effect at the local level in 37 areas: five provinces, 10 cities, 15 municipalities and seven barangays (villages).

On 25 August, the number of people evacuated peaked at over 868,000 people and has since decreased to over 230,000. As of 28 August, there were an estimated 47,800 people in 251 evacuation centres and some 182,300 people were staying with relatives and

friends. Overall, the floods in late August have killed 25 people and injured 30 more while 3 remained missing as of 28 August. About 35% of all the people displaced are in Metro Manila.

According to OCHA, the evacuees still need food, drinking water, sleeping kits, blankets, cooking utensils, sanitation items and medicines. Suspected cases of measles and leptospirosis have been reported and are under investigation, according to the Health Cluster.

According to the authorities, the losses from Typhoon Utor and the monsoon floods had a minimal impact on the country's economic growth, and it will be possible to recover from agricultural losses.

On 11 August, Typhoon (category 4) Utor, locally known as Labuyo, struck the Philippines in the mountains areas north of Luzon at about 19:00 GMT. As of 16 August, the typhoon affected over 383,000 people in 87 municipalities and five cities in 16 provinces across Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Bicol regions and the Cordillera Administrative Region according to the authorities. Over 120,000 people were displaced to host communities. According to the authorities, most IDPs returned home the following week. Eight people were killed and another four reportedly missing. Information on damage remains limited, but at least 2,000 houses were totally or partially damaged, with road blocks, power and communications disruptions also reported.

Since 21 July, strong rains have led to flooding of the Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and Cotabato City provinces of Mindanao Island. The rains reportedly caused the inundation of the Liguasan Marsh and other waterways including the Pulangi River and Simuay River in Maguindanao. Further rainfall hit the area over the second week of August, triggering more flooding. The authorities indicated that 250,000 people across 22 municipalities were affected. No information on damage is available.

The Philippines frequently experiences natural disasters, particularly tropical storms and cyclones. As of 17 May, 6.2 million people were still affected by Bopha, which struck the country on 4 December 2012 causing extensive damage across Mindanao. 921,649 people are displaced outside evacuation centres and a further 11,767 reside in evacuation centres; 158,769 houses are totally or partially damaged.

**Health:** According to the Department of Health, 1,528 dengue cases were reported in the first quarter of 2013 in Soccsksargen region, of whom 669 (41% of cases) are children <10. In Korondal City, South Cotabato province, the municipal government declared a state of calamity on 27 June after a dengue outbreak was declared in the town. According to authorities, 239 dengue cases have been recorded as of 8 June, more than the 159 cases recorded in 2012. Dengue has also surged in central Philippines, particularly in the province of Iloilo, south of Manila, where the number of people affected is already 71% higher than the number recorded for the same period in 2012.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA **FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY**

## Highlights

**17 September:** UN human rights investigators released a report that documented a pattern of human rights abuses with notably inmates in North Korea's prison camps suffering from starvation, torture and other "unspeakable atrocities". The inquiry, based on testimonies from North Korean exiles, came after pressure from Japan, South Korea and Western powers to investigate and begin building a case for possible criminal prosecution. The report was swiftly rejected by Pyongyang and may strain relations between the North Korean regime and the international community that have only lately begun to improve.

**10 September:** The two Koreas announced the joint industrial park in Kaesong would open before the end of the month after a series of talks concerning this rare bilateral economic cooperation.

**No current data on child mortality, food security, food price levels, and the general magnitude of humanitarian needs is available. Therefore, DPRK is not included in the Global Overview prioritisation**

## Political and Security Context

On 17 September, UN human rights investigators released a report that documented a pattern of human rights abuses with notably inmates in North Korea's prison camps suffering from starvation, torture and other "unspeakable atrocities". The inquiry, based on testimonies from North Korean exiles, came after pressure from Japan, South Korea and Western powers to investigate and begin building a case for possible criminal prosecution. The report was swiftly rejected by Pyongyang and may strain relations between the North Korean regime and the international community that have only lately begun to improve.

On 5 September, North Korea has agreed to restore a cross-border military hotline with South Korea, in a sign of easing tensions between the rival states. The line had been shut down in early spring parallel to the soaring of relations between the two neighbours.

On 14 August, North and South Korea had already agreed to reopen the joint industrial park in Kaesong after a series of talks concerning this rare bilateral economic cooperation. The two countries announced on 10 September that the facilities would open before the end of the month. In April, Pyongyang pulled its 53,000 workers out of the park at the height of tensions with Seoul and Washington over its nuclear military programme. On 7 August, Pyongyang announced that it was ready to reopen the joint industrial zone. The statement came only an hour after Seoul, exasperated by the North's lack of responsiveness, signalled its willingness to let the facility close definitively. Prior to closing, Kaesong was a rare source of hard currency for North Korea.

The reopening of Kaesong appears to be a step toward improving Pyongyang's relations with the West. After the soaring of the relations between Pyongyang and the West in early spring, relations with Seoul improved after an unexpected reversal on 6 June from Pyongyang, which suddenly dropped its belligerent tone and proposed opening a dialogue. On 9 June, North and South Korean officials held their first talks in years in a positive end to months of military tensions.

On 27 June during a meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his South Korean counterpart Park Geun-hye in Beijing, Chinese authorities agreed to push for new talks between the two Koreas and appeared to favour a denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Disaster:** In mid-July, heavy seasonal rain resulted in flooding in many parts of DPRK. Particularly severely affected are the provinces of North and South Pyongan. According to the Red Cross, Anju City, in South Pyongyang province, was 80% flooded after the Chongchon River caused embankments to break in the morning of 21 July.

As reported by OCHA on 23 August, floods in DPRK have affected an estimated 800,000 people and left almost 49,000 homeless. Farmland has been inundated with at least 10,000 hectares affected, and 1,000 hectares of crops destroyed. Damage to agricultural land is extensive with up to 40% of the land in Pakchon county, including 80% of paddy, affected. An assessment conducted by the Health Cluster on 6 August documented damage to roads, bridges, houses, and public buildings, which has limited the access of the affected population to basic health care and services. An increase in the number of diarrhoeal diseases was reported due to extensive damage to the water system. An estimated 678,000 people need basic health care, essential drugs, and hospital supplies for life-saving interventions.

On 9 August, the authorities reported that the floods affected 73 counties and caused severe damage in 22 counties. Over 11,000 buildings were reportedly damaged. The number of affected was reportedly 788,000 people, including 56,000 children <5 and 14,800 pregnant women. In early August, the authorities estimated the death toll to be at least 33 dead with 18 people still missing. An estimated 59,000 people were displaced. According to WFP, IDPs are also suffering from a lack of access to safe drinking water. This comes after flooding and a subsequent typhoon in July and August 2012, which affected an estimated 700,000 people, damaging health facilities and reducing access to primary and secondary health care.

**Access:** Humanitarian access to the country is limited. In early June, WFP approved a new two-year operation for DPRK starting on 1 July and targeting 2.4 million people, almost all children, and pregnant and nursing women, with about 207,000 MT of food assistance.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** Little up-to-date information is available on the food security situation in North Korea. According to an August OCHA report, an estimated 16 million people, of a total population of 24.6 million, are chronically food insecure in DPRK and an estimated 2.4 million people need food assistance. OCHA further reports that although the humanitarian situation has improved slightly over the last 12 months, the structural causes of vulnerability persist and external assistance is needed, notably targeting the most affected northeastern provinces.

Despite the UN reporting that the main 2012 harvest and 2013 early season crops will see a 10% increase compared to a year earlier, which allegedly should result in the smallest cereal deficit since at least the early 2000s, the food security situation remains grim.

According to OCHA, the lack of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertiliser and plastic sheets) remains the main challenge for food production.

Despite a slight improvement, malnutrition rates continue to be alarming in North Korea. According to the 2012 National Nutrition Survey quoted in OCHA's August 2013 report, the chronic malnutrition (stunting) rate among children <5 is 27.9% while 4% remain acutely malnourished (wasting). Chronic under-nutrition is a public health problem and a major underlying cause of maternal and child mortality.

Updated: 23/09/2013



## NORTH AMERICA

### HAITI FLOODS, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE

#### Highlights

**No new development this week. Last update was: 09/09/2013**

**End of August:** According to FEWSNET, the 2014 spring agricultural production will be 20% to 30% below normal.

**Early August:** Recent rains triggered major localised cholera outbreaks in several departments, especially in Artibonite, Nord-est and Centre. The number of reported cases since the beginning of 2013 is 34,328 and the number of deaths 300.

**Early August:** As of early August, 1.5 million people face severe food insecurity in Haiti; 5.2 million suffer from moderate food insecurity.

**5 July:** There remain an estimated 279,000 IDPs in Haiti according to IOM, down from 320,000 reported IDPs in late May. Some 73,000 IDPs hosted in 105 sites may face forced eviction in the coming months.

**5 July:** The Ministry of Public Health and Population reported a 40% increase in new cholera cases in June with cases surging from 3,357 in May to 4,713 in June.

#### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Displacement:** As of 5 July, nearly 3½ years after the earthquake, an estimated 279,000 people remained displaced in Haiti according to IOM, 41,000 fewer than reported in late May. In the second quarter of 2013, the highest decrease in IDP population since April 2012 was recorded. 33 sites closed and over 41,000 people were relocated, twice as many as from January to March 2013. The Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster expected the number of IDPs to further reduce to 242,000 people in September and to 211,000 by December 2013.

Currently, 352 IDP sites and camp-like settlements host the remaining IDPs. The situation in these sites remains problematic with 73,000 IDPs in 105 sites possibly facing illegal forced eviction by private land owners in the coming months. Camp-settlements remain vulnerable to floods and landslides, putting the IDP population at risk in the upcoming hurricane season.

Recent surveys showed that 119 of Haiti's 140 municipalities have been severely affected by drought, the tropical storm Isaac and/or hurricane Sandy in 2012, displacing at least 58,000 people.

**Disaster:** In early May, FEWSNET reported that seasonal rainfall in the Nippes, Sud and Grand'Anse departments of southern Haiti and in southwestern Dominican Republic was less than 50% below average. Seasonal rainfall in the Ouest and Sud-Est departments has also been below-average. The largest seasonal deficits occurred across the southwestern peninsula in the Nippes, Sud and Grand' Anse departments. An increase in rain during the first week of August helped relieve the dryness over parts of Haiti. However, moderate seasonal precipitation deficits remain in many areas in northwestern and southern Haiti. Continued below average rainfall could further increase moisture deficits and negatively impact crops.

Torrential rains caused by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 led to massive flooding, affecting 1.5 million people. Ouest, Sud-Est, Nippes, Grand'Anse and Sud were the most severely affected departments. As of early April 2013, 71,400 persons affected by Hurricane Sandy still needed humanitarian assistance according to OCHA. Forecasts by the Directorate for Civil Protection anticipate that 600,000 people could be affected and 200,000 displaced by adverse weather conditions this year. The first tropical storm of the season, Chantal, did not result in a humanitarian impact despite a red alert. The storm, initially expected to directly hit Haiti, never reached Hispaniola.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** In early August, OCHA reported that 1.5 million people across Haiti were severely food insecure and risked a nutritional crisis; another 5.2 million people faced moderate food insecurity. These 6.7 million people struggled to meet their own food needs on a regular basis according to WFP. A total 44 of 140 municipalities were affected, with over half the population facing high food insecurity. An estimated 800,000 people suffering from severe food insecurity had reportedly not received any emergency assistance.

The June IPC round in Haiti indicated that most departments were facing stressed food security conditions (IPC phase 2). Some households in these areas, such as the agro-pastoral areas of North, Artibonite and Central Highlands, were in crisis food security conditions (IPC phase 3).

According to FEWSNET 2014, spring agricultural production will be between 20% and 30% below normal. On-going harvests in areas where adequate rainfall occurred have lowered food prices. Nevertheless, in July, prices remained 15% above normal compared to July 2012 in most areas.

The seasonally adjusted rice and maize prices in Haiti have risen slightly by 9% and 7%, respectively. The poor and very poor in some municipalities in the Sud-Est, Ouest and Nord-Est departments faced crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) and switched to irreversible coping strategies. Planting of the 2013 spring season cereal crops, mainly maize, which normally starts in February/March, was delayed in the main valleys due to below average rains during January and the first half of February. Poor seed availability due to increasing prices, which are 20-30% higher than the 5-year average, is also threatening this year's crop yields.

An estimated 82,000 children <5 suffer from acute malnutrition, including 20,400 with SAM. Rural children are especially affected.

**Health:** Recent rains have triggered major localised cholera outbreaks in several departments, especially in Artibonite, Nord-est and Centre; 992 new cholera cases and six deaths were reported in the week of 13-19 July alone. Nationally, the number of new cases in July was 5,136 after a 40% increase of new cholera cases was reported in June compared to May, with cases surging from 3,357 in May to 4,713 in June.

According to OCHA on 5 September, the number of reported cases since the beginning of 2013 is 34,328 and the number of deaths 300. Artibonite is the most affected and most vulnerable department, with just seven partners involved in the cholera-response. The number of new cases in the department almost doubled from 173 in the last week of June to 344 in the last week of July.

Since the start of the cholera outbreak in October 2010, the cumulative number of cases is 658,053. According to OCHA, 8,120 people have died since the start of the outbreak. As many as 120,000 potential new cholera cases are forecast for 2013 due to the upcoming rainy season. Funding for the cholera response is covered by the least funded component in the Humanitarian Action Plan with only 16% of funding requirements for the health sector met to date.

Contamination of rivers, unhygienic conditions, and inadequate sanitation remain the principal causes explaining the spread of the disease.

*Reviewed: 23/09/2013*

## MEXICO LANDSLIDES, TYPHOON

### Highlights

**23 September:** On 23 September, the U.S. National Hurricane Centre (NHC) predicted isolated moderate to strong precipitation over the Gulf of Mexico. Heavy rains are occurring from the Yucatan Peninsula to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

**20 September:** Preliminary numbers estimate that 1.2 million people have been affected

by two tropical storms, of which 200,000 in the state of Guerrero. In Guerrero, the situation of hundreds of people recently displaced due to violence is of particular concern. Some 218,000 people have been directly impacted by the two hurricanes but as many affected areas remain inaccessible and new impacts of the hurricane Manuel have been reported, these numbers are expected to rise.

### Humanitarian Context

**Disaster:** Since 14 September, the country's Gulf and Pacific coast has been hit by two tropical storms, which damaged 1.5 million homes in 22 out of 32 states, flooded cities and washed out roads. Road repairs alone, due to flooding and landslides in the wake of the storms Manuel on the west coast and Ingridon the east coast, will cost about \$3 billion (2.2 billion Euros) according to the Transport Ministry. The storm damage follows a sharp slowdown in the Mexican economy last month, which prompted the government to cut its growth forecast for this year to 1.8%.

The most affected regions include Guerrero and Oaxaca on the Pacific coast, Veracruz and Tamaulipas on the Gulf coast, Colima, Tabasco, Chiapas, Puebla, Nuevo León, and Hidalgo.

Preliminary numbers estimate that 1.2 million people have been affected, of which 200,000 in the state of Guerrero. In Guerrero, the situation of hundreds of people recently displaced due to violence is of particular concern. In the eastern part of the country, the situation also affects trans-migrants who cross the country in very difficult conditions, including many unaccompanied minors. According to OCHA, these preliminary figures do not represent all affected at national level, as the number of affected in the State of Sinaloa and Durango, which have been affected by the new impact Hurricane "Manuel" on 19 September is yet to be determined.

Some 218,000 people have been directly impacted by the two hurricanes. Mexico had not been hit simultaneously by two powerful storms like this since 1958, as reported by the National Weather Service. As of late 25 September, the death toll stood at 130, with 68 people missing following a mudslide in La Pintada, Guerrero state.

Authorities and producers expect rains and floods in Guerrero and Veracruz to affect the production of crops such as mango, banana, pineapple, papaya, citrus and coffee. The most affected are likely to be the producers of mango, orange, lemon, coffee and coconut. The state of Guerrero is the largest mango producer at the national level and Veracruz is the second most important state for agricultural production.

Guerrero was hardest hit, with at least 65 deaths and its Pacific resort of Acapulco left isolated after the two roads to Mexico City were covered by landslides on 15 September. Acapulco struggled to dig out of a three-day downpour, which submerged vast areas of the city of 750,000 people where some 45,000 tourists were stranded for five days. Guerrero is one of Mexico's poorest states, and it will be particularly hard to establish the toll due to the mountainous terrain and many small villages that are hard to reach.

In addition, looting broke out in the flooded Mexican beach resort of Acapulco as the government struggled to reach tens of thousands of people. Shops were pillaged in the



upscale neighbourhood of Diamante, home to luxury hotels and plush apartments, and where dozens of cars were ruined by muddy brown floodwaters. Marines were posted outside stores to prevent further theft.

Damage and needs assessment are currently ongoing, but widespread damage can be observed to houses and public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, etc. Inaccessible roads, power cuts and damage to mobile networks have cut off information flow and physical access to remote areas. Mexican authorities report to have the situation under control and no request for international support is expected. In view of the high number of people affected, resources from the National Fund for Natural Disasters (Fonden) have been mobilised. So far, up to 87 million Euros have been allocated to provide food, drinkable water, hygiene items, medicine and other items to the people affected, and many improvised shelters have been set up.

**Outlook:** While hurricane Ingrid dissipated, Manuel eventually became a hurricane before being downgraded again. Late on 19 September, Manuel had degenerated into a low-pressure area in western Mexico that could still produce 1 to 2 inches (2.5 to 5 cm) of rain, the NHC said.

Heavy rains could still affect the whole national territory over the next few days, which could trigger a generalised alert. More rain lashed Mexico's northwest coast on 19 September, prompting evacuations and adding to flash floods.

On 23 September, the U.S. National Hurricane Centre predicted isolated moderate to strong precipitation over the Gulf of Mexico. Heavy rains are occurring from the Yucatan Peninsula to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*



## SOUTH AMERICA

### BOLIVIA FLOODS

#### Highlights

**19 September:** According to WFP, the impact of price increases for staple foods such as rice and maize (both up 43%) are having a severe impact on the basic food basket in

Bolivia, exacerbating the impact of the current drought, which affects more than 260,000 people.

**28 August:** Heavy snowfall in the departments of Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, Potosi and La Paz claimed the lives of five people and affected 17,500. Extreme temperature caused significant damages to crops, and the population is in urgent need of food, medication and clothing.

**23 August:** More than 60 people were injured and 29 killed in fighting between inmates at the maximum security area of the Palmasola jail in the city of Santa Cruz.

#### Political and Security Context

More than 60 people were injured and 29 killed in fighting on 23 August between inmates at the maximum security area of Palmasola jail in the city of Santa Cruz. Overcrowding is a major challenge for Bolivia's prison system. Already running at almost double capacity, 2011 saw a 20% rise in the number of inmates, presenting a fertile breeding ground for criminal gangs. Budget constraints and overcrowding also affect the way prisons are run in the country; with funding for guards tight, the insides of Bolivian prison facilities are often effectively run by the inmates themselves.

#### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Disaster:** On 28 August, the Government reported that heavy snowfall in the departments of Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, Potosi, Oruro and La Paz claimed five lives and affected 17,500 people (3,500 households) and 70,000 cattle. Extreme temperature caused significant damages to crops, and poses an access issue to populations in urgent need of food, medication and clothing.

Meanwhile, five of the nine departments are affected by some type of water deficit: Tarija, Santa Cruz, Chuquisaca, Beni and Cochabamba. In March, several southern departments were severely affected by damaging levels of torrential rain and floods, especially in Chuquisaca, Potosi, Tarija and Cochabamba. Overall, the floods impacted 145,000 people in nearly 25% of Bolivia's municipalities. In Cochabamba alone, 40,000 people were affected between 18-25 March.

On 19 June, the Government issued a National Emergency Decree due to drought in the Departments of Tarija, Chuquisaca, El Chaco, Santa Cruz, and southern Cochabamba. As of 19 September, an estimated 260,000 people are affected by drought and 86,450 hectares of crops have sustained damage.

The department of Tarija is the worst hit with 43,724 hectares of crops estimated to have been lost. Santa Cruz recorded the highest number of affected cattle with 29,357 dead. In Cochabamba, 24,805 hectares in 594 communities reported damage during the first half of 2013. The most serious damage was caused by flooding (51%), drought (33%), and other lower-impact weather events.

**Food Security and Malnutrition:** FAO reported that the 2013 aggregate cereal production is forecast to decrease by 11% compared to the previous year. The recently harvested

2012-13 main season maize crop was severely affected by drought during the vegetative period.

WFP noted at the end of July that the impact of price changes of staple foods on the cost of the basic food basket from April to June was severe. The seasonally adjusted price increases for rice and maize both stood at 43%. After declining in the previous months, the price of wheat flour, which is mostly imported, rose sharply in the first half of June, increasing by 19% and 36% in the major cities of La Paz and Santa Cruz respectively, and remaining significantly higher than a year ago.

According to the Ministry of Rural Lands and Development, at least 15,000 hectares of crops were damaged by the torrential March rains in the south of the country, but the Ministry has discounted the possibility of food security risks. However, according to WFP, at least 25,000 people needed food assistance in March. Subsistence farmers who normally cultivate crops at the riversides were the most affected. The floods hit at the end of the lean season, as farmers were about to harvest their crops and food reserves were at the lowest. Families that traditionally store their harvested potatoes and onions in the fields also lost reserves.

*Updated: 23/09/2013*

## Introduction to the Global Emergency Overview Update

The Global Emergency Overview is a weekly update that provides a snapshot of current humanitarian priorities and recent events. The Global Emergency Overview collates information from a wide range of sources, including Reliefweb and media sources, and displays this information in a manner that allows for quick comparison of different humanitarian crises. The primary objective of the Global Emergency Overview is to rapidly inform humanitarian decision makers by presenting a summary of major humanitarian crises, both recent and protracted. It is designed to provide answers to four questions:

1. Which humanitarian crises currently exist? (World map)
2. What has happened in the last seven days? (Highlights and Snapshot)
3. What is the situation in the country affected by a crisis? (Highlights Box and Narrative)
4. Which countries could be prioritised in terms of humanitarian response? (Prioritisation)

### The Global Emergency Overview consists of three main sections:

First, the **world map** provides an overview of how the countries are prioritised, indicated by different shades of blue. The countries are subdivided by four **priority levels**: "on watch", "situation of concern", "humanitarian crisis", and "severe humanitarian crisis".

The priority levels are assigned on the basis of:

- the number of people affected by recent disasters
- the level of access to the affected population
- the <5 mortality rate
- the level of development of the country
- the number of protracted IDPs and refugees.

If a country experienced a disaster in the seven days prior to an update or witnessed an escalation of an on-going crisis, a country is **highlighted** by a yellow dot on the map.

Second, the **snapshot** briefly describes what has happened in the last seven days from the date of publication, by outlining the crises that have occurred in the different highlighted countries.

Third, **narratives** for each country included in the Global Emergency Overview reflect major developments and underlying vulnerabilities of a country over the last months. Narratives are written based on secondary data. For each country, a specific **highlights box** is also added to put emphasis on the major developments that happened over the past 10 days.

### The Global Emergency Overview is a mobile application.

To download the mobile application for Android phones [click here](#).

Or go here: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.acaps.acaps>

To download the mobile application for iOS phones [click here](#).

Or go here: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/global-emergency-overview/id567382309?mt=8>

## Update

The Global Emergency Overview will be updated once a week and the results will be available every Monday before midday (Central European Time/Central European Summer Time). In case of major new humanitarian events or an escalation of an on-going crisis which triggers a change of prioritisation, the Global Overview will be updated on an ad-hoc basis.

## Disclaimer

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