

Snapshot 21–27 October 2015

Afghanistan and Pakistan: A 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck on 26 October, with its epicentre in Jurm, in Afghanistan's Badakhshan province. At least 82 people are reported dead in Afghanistan, with 300 wounded, and around 4,000 houses damaged in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Parwan, and Takhar provinces. Landslides have impacted infrastructure and hindered access. Electricity and telecommunication have been severely affected, with remote rural areas reportedly cut off. In Pakistan 230 people have died, 1,629 are reported injured, and 2,536 houses damaged in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, FATA, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. In India, four people have been reported dead and several buildings damaged.

South Sudan: 30,000 people are estimated to be experiencing Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) food security outcomes in Unity state's Leer, Guit, Koch and Mayendit counties. The people who fled to the bush during the intensification of violence between April and June are most affected. 3.9 million people are estimated to be experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3), Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe food security outcomes across South Sudan. This is likely to aggravate high needs for health and nutritional support.

Updated: 27/10/2015. Next update: 03/11/2015.

Severe humanitarian crisis

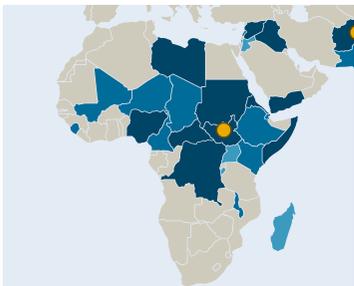
● Afghanistan	Nigeria
CAR	Somalia
DRC	● South Sudan
Eritrea	Sudan
Iraq	Syria
Libya	Yemen

Humanitarian crisis

Cameroon	Lebanon
Chad	Malawi
Colombia	Mali
DPRK	Niger
Djibouti	oPt
Ethiopia	● Pakistan
Haiti	Sierra Leone
Kenya	Ukraine

Situation of concern

Bangladesh	Jordan
Burundi	Madagascar
Dominican Republic	Myanmar
El Salvador	Nepal
Guatemala	PNG
Honduras	Uganda



AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC **CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY**



For more information on CAR, visit the [ACAPS country analysis page](#).

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

19 October: Seven MINUSCA peacekeepers were kidnapped in Ombella Mpoko prefecture, allegedly by anti-balaka militants. They were freed the same night (UN).

KEY CONCERNS

- The conflict has caused over 6,000 deaths (Enough Project, 02/09/2015).
- Around 2.7 million people, over half of the population, are reported to be in immediate need of humanitarian assistance (The Global Observatory, 11/09/2015).
- 399,020 IDPs, including 44,400 in Bangui (OCHA, 16/10/2015; OCHA, 01/10/2015).
- 476,080 CAR refugees in neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 30/08/2015).
- 1.28 million people are in Crisis and Emergency phases of food insecurity (FAO, 22/09/2015).
- Only 55% of health facilities are functioning (WHO, 27/04/2015).
- Less than 25% of the population is reported to have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

OVERVIEW

Health, protection, food, and WASH are priority needs, as continued violence, looting, and displacement cause further deterioration of an already dire humanitarian situation across the country. Conflict has resulted in displacement, targeted killings along communal lines, and human rights abuses.

Humanitarian needs in CAR continue to exceed available resources and delivery of aid is expected to decline because funding remains low. However, on 13 May, CAR was deactivated as a Level 3 emergency response.

Politics and security

A transitional government and interim President have been in place since August 2014, after the Seleka's short-lived seizure of power in 2013 and subsequent conflict throughout the country between the ex-Seleka, who are from the north, and anti-balaka. The transitional government's term had initially been due to end 17 August, but it has been extended (AFP, 12/08/2015). There has been progress in building a new political system. The 585 participants in the Bangui Peace Forum agreed on a Republican Pact for Peace in May (BBC, 03/05/2015; Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, 12/05/2015). On 30 August, the transitional government adopted a new constitution, which limits future presidents to two terms in office (AFP, 31/08/2015). Members and former members of the transitional government will not be allowed to run for legislative and presidential elections (Mediapart, 30/08/2015).

The political situation is not stable, and elections are expected to trigger further destabilisation (Cordaid, 16/09/2015). The first round of presidential and legislative elections was scheduled for 18 October, but have been postponed given violence in Bangui at the end of September (AFP, 20/10/2015). Interim President Catherine Samba-Panza blamed the violence on supporters of former president Francois Bozizé, who was ousted in 2013. She also called for a more robust mandate for MINUSCA and for a disarmament process for all armed groups (Reuters, 03/10/2015).

Even prior to the September clashes, many were concerned that CAR was not ready for elections, with many people being prevented from registering to vote because they had lost identity documents in the conflict, and no plan to enable the participation of refugees in the elections (AFP, 29/07/2015; IRIN, 15/09/2015). Voter registration for Central African refugees in Chad took place from 28 September to 11 October, registering 7,511 refugees (OCHA, 10/10/2015).

President Samba Panza and the transitional government have set up a national dialogue on the elections over 13–20 October. However, 10 of 50 political parties are refusing to

participate, including the Union for Peace, aligned with the ex-Seleka, and the Party for Unity and Development (PCUD), aligned with the anti-balaka (Reuters, 14/10/2015).

Stakeholders

Boko Haram: Boko Haram has reportedly penetrated CAR (Cordaid, 16/09/2015).

Ex-Seleka: Seleka was an alliance of factions created in 2012, from among parties based in the north of the country. It advanced south and took the capital in March 2013; one of its leaders, Michel Djotodia, took the presidency, and then dissolved Seleka in late 2013. However, many fighters remained and were dubbed 'ex-Seleka'. Most moved out of the capital but remained in control of much of central and northern CAR in 2014; another 17,114 fighters were confined to three military camps in Bangui (IRIN, 17/09/2014). Bambari, Ouaka, reportedly became the ex-Seleka headquarters in May 2014. Internal conflict, involving in particular the Front Démocratique du Peuple Centrafricain (Democratic Front of the Central African People, or FDPC), has grown over 2015, weakening the alliance significantly. (IRIN, 12/01/2015; international media, 30/09/2014; Enough, 17/06/2015). Fighters associated with the former Seleka are estimated to be in Kemo and Nana-Grébizi prefectures and are thought to be preparing another attempt to reach Bangui (ICG, 21/10/2015, UN, 12/10/2015).

Anti-balaka: After the coup and Djotodia's resignation, many members of the former government army, the FACA, joined the anti-balaka (anti-machete), which formed initially as self-defence militia to counter the Seleka. There are around 75,000 militants, though the numbers are contested, and their main leaders and political programme remain unknown (IRIN, 12/01/2015).

LRA: The Lord's Resistance Army, a faction of Ugandan insurgents, was pushed out of Uganda by the national army, but is reported to be still active in eastern Central African Republic, attacking civilians, looting and abducting people (Stratfor, 26/08/2015; LRA Crisis Tracker, 22/09/2015). LRA is responsible for 31 attacks and 70 abductions in Central African Republic so far in 2015, mostly in the east. This represents the lowest level of violent LRA activity in CAR since 2011 (Invisible Children/Resolve, 30/09/2015).

UN peacekeeping mission (MINUSCA): MINUSCA officially took over peacekeeping operations on 14 September 2014. In March 2015, the number of peacekeepers was increased by 1,000, to better protect infrastructure and senior officials in Bangui, bringing the total to 13,000 uniformed personnel (Reuters, 26/03/2015). An international NGO reported that UN peacekeepers were responsible for the death of two civilians in Bangui, as well as the rape of a 12-year-old girl, in August. The head of MINUSCA was replaced (UN, 14/08/2015; Reuters, 12/08/2015; Aljazeera, 11/08/2015). On 11 September, seven peacekeepers were repatriated, and nine had their salary suspended (United Nations, 11/09/2015).

French forces: The French peacekeeping operation was formally handed over to MINUSCA on 19 May (French Ministry of Defence, 22/05/2015). As of 31 August, around 900 French soldiers were left in the country. France plans to further reduce the number of troops before the end of the year (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

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

US forces: The US is providing logistical support, special forces, and advisers to African troops operating against the LRA in eastern and southeastern CAR. The Seleka, who are in the same northern parts of the country where US troops are reported are said to be among the groups US forces are working with (WP, 29/09/2015)

Conflict developments

Ceasefires have been agreed by the warring parties, but never accepted by the transitional government nor fully enacted (USAID, 10/04/2015). More than 6,000 people were killed between December 2013 and March 2014 (The Guardian, 21/07/2015; BBC, 07/01/2015). From January 2014 to July 2015, more than 2,054 security incidents have been recorded (OCHA, 10/08/2015). Hotspots for incidents are Ouaka, Ouham, and Nana-Mambéré prefectures (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Conflict began in late 2012, when Seleka fighters advanced from the north, taking control of territory on their way to the capital Bangui, where they held power until December 2013. Seleka committed numerous abuses during their advance and rule, and self-defence militias composed of mainly non-Muslims, 'anti-balaka', began revenge attacks in late 2013. Most ex-Seleka members withdrew to the north at the end of 2013, but fighting persisted between ex-Seleka and anti-balaka, Muslim and Christian communities, and pastoralists and farmers. About a million cattle have been reported killed or stolen, and around 1,000 livestock farmers belonging to Mbororo ethnic group have been killed by anti-balaka. Trade in livestock makes up 10% of GDP (AFP, 02/09/2015).

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

Bangui: Violence in the capital over 26–30 September, after the murder of a Muslim taxi driver, left at least 79 people dead and injured 512 (OCHA, 16/10/2015). **An additional 179 people are reported to be missing (IFRC, 19/10/2015).** By 1 October the situation had stabilised, however some smaller outbreaks of violence have occurred since and tensions persist. On 3 October, unidentified armed attackers opened fire on the headquarters of the United Nations Mission (MINUSCA, 03/10/2015). On 15 October at least one person was killed and 10 injured in Bangui's PK-5 district, after anti-balaka were reported to have killed

a Muslim. Thousands reportedly fled for the night (OCHA, 20/10/2015; AFP, 16/10/2015).

Basse-Kotto: Clashes between armed groups were reported 5–6 September in the village of Walago and 8–9 September in Sangba (OCHA, 22/09/2015). Over 2–4 August, fighting in Malegbassa between ex-Seleka and Fulani left up to 12 dead and several wounded (Reuters, 06/08/2015).

Ouaka: Violence in Bangui in late September spread to Ouaka. At least ten people were wounded in Bambari, and 15–20 houses were reportedly set alight (01/10/2015). Shots were heard on 15 October in Lissara, and two civilians were killed on a boat in Bangbaga (OCHA, 16/10/2015). Tensions have been high since renewed clashes between anti-balaka and ex-Seleka in Bambari on 20 August left 20 people dead and 10 injured, including three Red Cross staff (Enough project, 27/08/2015; ECHO, 24/08/2015; UNICEF, 08/09/2015). (UNHCR, 27/08/2015). Some roads inside the city were closed, as well as the road to the airstrip (ECHO, 24/08/2015).

Ouham and Nana-Grebizi: In late September, violence related to the clashes in Bangui injured four people in Nana-Grebizi (OCHA, 29/09/2015). June and July saw clashes between herding and farming communities over natural resources (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015; OCHA, 21/06/2015; UNHCR, 26/06/2015).

Ombella-Mpoko: On 19 October seven MINUSCA peacekeepers were kidnapped in Ombella-Mpoko prefecture, allegedly by anti-balaka. They were freed the same night (UN, 20/10/2015).

Displacement

339,020 IDPs are estimated to be in CAR as of 16 October, of which about 228,870 are thought to be staying with host families, 167,830 in displacement sites, and 2,320 in the bush (OCHA, 16/10/2015). There are approximately 131,000 IDP returnees, mainly in Ouham-Pende, Ouham, Kemo and Nana-Grebizi (OCHA, 28/05/2015).

IDPs

111,266 IDPs live in 72 sites outside Bangui, the rest are either in the capital or with host families (UNHCR, 29/07/2015). Priorities for IDPs include food security, healthcare, WASH, shelter, and basic household items (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Bangui: As of 16 October, 17,090 people remain displaced by the violence in September – most have returned home (OCHA, 16/10/2015). Bangui already hosted 27,315 IDPs prior to the latest surge in violence. The displaced are spread across 36 sites (OCHA, 16/10/2015).

On 12 September, 114 IDPs were evicted from Saint Jean Gabaladja site; 2,700 IDPs in nine other sites are at risk of eviction (UN, 14/09/2015). The government had announced

the decision to close Mpoko IDP site by 15 September, in order to enable the building for use as Mpoko international airport. However, the camp still hosts an estimated 18,200 IDPs, 7,200 of whom were displaced at the end of September (OCHA, 10/10/2015; OCHA, 01/10/2015).

Basse-Koto: Fighting in the prefecture led 2,000 people to flee Bianga in September (OCHA, 22/09/2015).

Ouaka: An increase in violence between armed groups since the beginning of September has reportedly led to the displacement of an estimated 10,000 people (OCHA, 22/09/2015). Clashes in Bambari between anti-balaka and ex-Seleka over 20–30 August caused 4,250 IDPs previously hosted in Notre-Dame-de-la-Victoire to flee to three other sites – Sangaris, Aviation, and Site Alternatif. A spontaneous IDP site formed inside MINUSCA's Bambari compound, hosting about 3,000 people as of 25 August. Conditions at the site were dire, with no sanitation facilities and limited access to water and shelter (UNHCR, 27/08/2015).

Mambere-Kadei: More than 200 displaced households have arrived in Gamboula since mid-July. Most are fleeing clashes between anti-balaka and ex-Seleka further north along the border with Cameroon (Regional Response Mechanism, 13/10/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 30 August, 7,714 refugees are being hosted in CAR (UNHCR, 30/08/2015).

CAR refugees in neighbouring countries

As of 31 August, the number of CAR refugees in neighbouring countries was reported to be 476,076: 253,042 in Cameroon, 101,866 in DRC, 30,114 in Congo, 84,223 in Chad (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). An additional 2,000 CAR refugees fled to DRC between 26-29 September (UNHCR/WFP, 08/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Humanitarian access is severely limited, particularly for affected communities outside of Bangui, due to armed groups' control of the roads and threats against humanitarian actors (OCHA, 20/10/2015, 10/10/2015).

Dozens of humanitarian organisations' offices in Bangui were looted between 26 and 29 September (01/10/2015). Offices in Kaga Bandoro were also looted (OCHA, 29/09/2015). 259 acts of violence were recorded against humanitarian organisations between January and July 2015 (OCHA, 14/07/2015). On 20 August, one Red Cross staff member was reported injured in a targeted attack in Bambari (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

UN, NGO, and private vehicles are becoming regular targets on main roads (IOM, 02/02/2015). Kidnapping of humanitarian workers is also frequent (USAID, 27/04/2015; OCHA, 20/10/2015). On the night of 14 October, an MSF office in Bangassou town was attacked by an unidentified armed group and four staff members were kidnapped. They were soon released. One of the four was seriously injured (OCHA, 16/10/2015). **306 acts of violence against humanitarian organizations have been recorded since January 2014 (OCHA, 20/09/2015).**

Access of affected populations to assistance

As of 15 September, around 30,000 Muslims are trapped in seven besieged communities, targeted by anti-balaka fighters, who regularly carry out attacks and prevent access to the distribution of medical supplies, food, and humanitarian aid (Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, 15/09/2015).

Physical and security constraints

Truck drivers in Cameroon are reportedly refusing to transport food and humanitarian assistance into CAR, despite assurances from the Transportation Minister that convoys would be protected by MINUSCA peacekeepers (VoA, 20/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

On 22 September, 1.28 million people were reported to be food insecure and are predicted to continue to face Crisis and Emergency (ICP Phases 3 and 4) food security outcomes through December 2015, particularly in central and western prefectures (FAO, 22/09/2015; FEWSNET, 31/07/2015; 31/08/2015).

Food assistance needs are higher than the five-year average, but the same as last year (FEWSNET, 22/07/2015).

Food availability

75% of Central Africans rely on agriculture for their food and income, and food crop production in 2014 was 58% below 2012, as a result of insecurity, looting, and the killing of livestock, but 11% higher than 2013 (FAO, 29/07/2015; OCHA, 04/03/2015). A shortfall in domestic production is likely this year, given the combination of poor rainfall and prolonged insecurity.

Food access

Markets are expected to have below-average stocks for the remainder of 2015 (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015). Displaced populations are dependent on market purchase for 60% of their food. Markets have started charging very high prices in some villages in

southern prefectures of Basse-Kotto and Nana-Mambere, with food stocks covering a week or less (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). **Food shortages have been reported in Mosquée centrale, Benz-Vi, and Castor IDP camps (IFRC, 19/10/2015).**

Livelihoods

Livelihoods are reported to have been severely affected by fighting and looting of livestock, which has caused an increase in food prices and a decrease in household income (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Health

Two million people need access to health services (OCHA, 22/12/2014; 31/08/2015). Nationwide, 28% of health centres are completely or partially destroyed (UNICEF, 28/08/2015). 55% of health facilities are functioning, but only 25% of those offering services have functioning sources of energy, and 21% have access to water (WHO, 27/04/2015; WHO, 31/12/2014).

From June to August, measles outbreaks were reported in Birao (Vakaga prefecture), Bangassou (Mbomou prefecture) and Kaga Bandoro (Nana-Grebizi prefecture). 583 cases and six deaths were reported by the end of July (WHO, 20/10/2015).

Nutrition

As of 28 August, more than 12,000 children under five need treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM). SAM prevalence stands at 1.9%, and beyond the 2% emergency threshold in some prefectures (UNICEF, 28/08/2015). A SMART survey of enclaves and IDP sites in Kaga Bandoro, Bambari, and Batangafo indicates that global acute malnutrition is approaching 9.2%, and SAM is at 2.2% (UNICEF, 08/09/2015).

WASH

At 31 August, less than 25% of the population is reported to have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities (OCHA, 31/08/2015). Newly displaced people in sites in Cotonnerie and PK-8 in Bangui have reported difficulties accessing water (ACTED, 07/10/2015; OCHA, 29/09/2015). If displaced people remain in sites, the need for WASH facilities in displacement sites will increase (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

Assessments conducted in Bedaya 2, Bedogo 1, Bembo, and Bedam villages, in Ouham Pendé, indicated that around 17% of households are using non-improved water sources (Danish Refugee Council, 06/08/2015). Around 98% of the population practice open defecation; 2% have access to non-hygenised latrines. Only 5% of households have access to soap (Danish Refugee Council, 06/08/2015).

Shelter

Shelter is a high priority need following the surge in displacement caused by the violent clashes in Bangui in late September (Reuters, 29/09/2015). Shelter conditions are insufficient in most IDP sites. In Site Cotonniere, near Bambari, 79% of the 10,019 IDP households are in abandoned factory buildings and 21% are in straw huts (ACTED, 07/10/2015).

IDPs with host families face lack of space and resulting tensions. IDPs tend to move to rental housing after being in IDP sites or with host families but struggle to keep up with rent. Abandoned housing taken up by IDPs is mostly shelter left by Muslims, but only provides minimal protection after having been burned or pillaged (NRC 12/2014). Some returning IDPs find their homes destroyed or occupied. Disputes and tensions when IDPs relocate are a concern (NRC 12/2014).

NFIs

The need for NFIs is reported to be particularly high in conflict areas (Solidarités International, 01/09/2015).

Education

Since 2012, 30% of schools in the country have been attacked and around 8.4% have been used as temporary bases by armed groups. On 10 September 2015, reports indicate that 78–88% of schools are open, however attendance remains low and intermittent (AFP, 10/09/2015; NZ Herald 11/09/2015). Armed groups have attacked, looted, and attempted to use schools as bases (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 10/09/2015).

In Bangui, 15,600 newly displaced children are in need of education (OCHA 12/10/2015). 60% of schools remain closed since the escalation of violence at the end of September. The majority of schools in the 3rd, 4th and 8th districts remain closed. At least two schools were burned down (OCHA, 16/10/2015).

Protection

Crimes against humanity and war crimes have been reported. Ex-Seleka are listed for child recruitment, killing, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals. (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 04/08/2015). In the week up to 9 September, MINUSCA registered over 50 violations of human rights, with 48 victims, including at least five women and one child (UN, 09/09/2015).

Anti-balaka is listed for recruitment and use, killing and maiming, and rape and other forms of sexual violence (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 04/08/2015). On 8 January, the UN Commission of Inquiry into human rights concluded that violence towards Muslims by anti-balaka in 2014 constitutes ethnic cleansing (Government, 20/01/2015).

20 peacekeepers were sent home following an event 10 July involving excessive use of

force on four people, killing two (Reuters, 09/07/2015).

On 29 September, Democratic Republic of Congo closed its border to Central Africans seeking asylum in the country (Reuters, 29/09/2015).

Gender

The risks of sexual violence, early and forced marriage, and insufficient gender-based violence (GBV) response are highest in Bambari, Ouaka; Mbres and Kaga-Bandoro, Nana-Grebizi; Kabo and some villages in Nana-Mambere (OCHA, 28/05/2015). An increase in GBV has been reported in conflict-afflicted areas, with 45 cases of rape reported in Kaga Bandoro alone between 4 May and 7 June. Between January and June, 280 rape cases were recorded – an average of 46 per month (UNICEF, 09/07/2015).

As of 15 September, there are 17 allegations of sexual abuse or exploitation perpetrated by UN personnel (UN, 15/09/2015). At least nine allegations involve minors (AFP, 11/09/2015).

Children

The number of children recruited into armed groups has risen to 6,000–10,000, from 2,500 at the beginning of the crisis (UNICEF, 28/08/2015). Eight major militia groups have agreed to free child soldiers and children used as cooks, messengers, or for sexual purposes (Reuters, 05/05/2015). As of 30 August, 1,832 children have been released from armed groups, including 163 in Batangafo on 30 August (UNICEF, 11/08/2015; UN, 20/08/2015; UNICEF, 28/08/2015).

There has been an increase in marriage of 12-year old girls (IRC, 17/07/2015).

Documentation

Refugees are at risk of statelessness because access to birth certificates is limited (OCHA, 28/05/2015).

Updated: 26/10/2015

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



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

21–25 October: Armed clashes between the Kuma and non-Kuma have been reported in Lubutu and Zimba territory, Kasongo, Maniema. 60 houses have been burned and 320 families displaced (Radio Okapi).

25 October: Cholera has been spreading westward from Kindu, Maniema, along the Congo River to Tshopo province (UNICEF, 25/10/2015).

20 October: Four MSF members were attacked and robbed by FRPI near Koni, Ituri (Radio Okapi).

19 October: Following access restrictions to Bangui, CAR, there is a shortage of fuel and food stocks in Zongo, Sud-Ubangi. Prices have been rising sharply for several days (Radio Okapi).

5 October: Nord-Kivu hosts 744,000 IDPs as of October. 166,000 were newly displaced in July–September (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS

- 7 million people need humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 30/04/2015).
- 2.6 million IDPs (OCHA, 01/06/2015; 17/06/2015).
- 2.5 million children under five are suffering from severe malnutrition (WHO, 27/09/2015).
- 7.3 million school-aged children are not attending school (Radio Okapi, 10/03/2015).

OVERVIEW

Needs are highest in the conflict-affected regions of Nord-Kivu, Sud-Kivu, Katanga, and Orientale, where there is large-scale, repeated displacement. IDPs, host populations, and those unable to flee are all vulnerable, as insecurity poses multiple protection risks and prevents access to basic services.

Political violence and inter-communal strife have persisted for decades, influenced by longstanding tensions with DRC's eastern neighbours. Operations by DRC armed forces and UN peacekeepers and infighting between armed groups disrupt security and stability.

Politics and security

President Kabila's second full term ends in November 2016. Attempts to prolong his presidency beyond the two-term limit were met with violent protests in September 2014 and in January 2015. Violent clashes erupted again between opposition and Kabila supporters in mid-September in Kinshasa, as thousands gathered to protest against prolongation of his presidency (AFP, 15/09/2015). The ruling party is thought to be using the scheduling of elections to extend Kabila's time in office: the majority is now pushing for local elections – which have never been held in DRC – to take place before the presidential poll, and decisions regarding the organisation of elections are being delayed (RFI, 10/08/2015). Provincial and municipal elections will take place on 25 October 2015. They will be run according to the new administrative division of the country (CENI, 13/10/2015). The decentralization was made official on 16 July 2015 (The National Law Review, 07/10/2015).

DRC–Rwanda

Rwanda and DRC launched a new round of security talks on 27 September 2015. The two countries have said they are committed to cooperating on the repatriation of FDLR combatants as well as the former members of the armed group M23 (Africa Times, 27/09/2015). Early September, dozens of houses were destroyed in Goma, to define a neutral area between DRC and Rwanda, and to avoid further territorial conflicts (AFP, 06/09/2015).

Stakeholders

At least 40 armed groups are operating in the east of the country (ECHO, 13/08/2015). They range from local militias set up initially as self-defence groups (among them many Mayi-Mayi groups), to secessionist groups, and forces first set up by fighters from Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. The UN has a peacekeeping mission (MONUSCO), and an EU mission providing assistance to security sector reform has been in the country since 2005 (EU, 25/09/2014). Efforts to demobilise armed groups are ongoing (Radio Okapi, 06/04/2015).

Front of Patriotic Resistance in Ituri (FRPI) was set up in November 2002 from among the Ngiti ethnic group (TRAC). Attacks increased in Irumu territory, Ituri (former part of Orientale), in 2015, after a failed disarmament programme at the end of 2014 (OCHA, 19/04/2015). The FRPI was reportedly neutralised by the FARDC and MONUSCO in late June (AFP, 24/06/2015).

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

Mayi-Mayi: At least 20 Mayi-Mayi groups, formed by local leaders along ethnic lines, are active in Nord-Kivu, Sud-Kivu, and former Katanga. The number of fighters can range from

100 to 1,000 (AFP 2013).

Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU) is a Muslim militant group founded in the 1990s. MONUSCO and FARDC launched an operation in Nord-Kivu to neutralise the group in January 2015 (Radio Okapi, 07/01/2015). As of October, the operation is still ongoing and clashes continue to be reported (Radio Okapi, 24/09/2015).

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

National Liberation Forces (FNL) are Burundian militants based in Sud-Kivu (AFP 2013).

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

The UN Stabilization Mission in DRC (MONUSCO) is made up of almost 18,000 troops, as well as military observers and police units (OCHA, 19/04/2015). The initial mission, MONUC, was established after the 1999 peace agreement between DRC and five regional states. In March 2014 its mandate was expanded, with the creation of an Intervention Brigade, charged with neutralising armed groups (RFI, 20/10/2014). MONUSCO's mandate was extended for another year in March 2015, although its force was cut by 2,000 troops (Reuters, 26/03/2015; AFP, 26/03/2015).

Conflict developments

Nord-Kivu

2.29 million people in Nord-Kivu are affected by armed conflict (OCHA, 02/06/2015). FARDC began an offensive against the FDLR in February, and renewed its offensive against the ADF in July (Radio Okapi, 20/07/2015; AFP, 26/02/2015). 2,960 incidents were recorded in the first half of 2015 (International NGO Safety Organization, 20/07/2015).

Beni territory: Since mid-October, ADF have been attacking cars passing along the road between Beni and the border with Ituri province. They have kidnapped two people (AFP, 19/10/2015). On 11 October, eight civilians were killed in three separate attacks allegedly by ADF. In 2015, ADF has killed over 400 civilians (Radio Okapi, 13/10/2015). On 24 September, clashes between FARDC and ADF were reported in Mayangose (UN, 29/09/2015).

Walikale territory: Intensified clashes have been observed between the Alliance of Patriots for a Free and Sovereign Congo (APCLS) and FARDC in Kashebere since mid-September. They have displaced at least 6,000 people (Radio Okapi, 24/09/2015). 10

people were kidnapped near Busendo village in early October. This was the second kidnapping in one week, and affected the population's movements (Radio Okapi, 03/10/2015).

Rutshuru territory: Insecurity is growing, particularly in the Rutshuru–Kanyabayonga and Butembo–Beni areas. Several kidnappings and armed attacks have been reported in the last week (Radio Okapi, 22/10/2015).

Sud-Kivu

In Shabunda territory, clashes between FARDC and Raiya Mutomboki have intensified since mid-August. More than 25,000 people have fled their villages (MSF, 02/09/2015, USAID, 30/09/2015). **On 17 September, the leader of Raiya Mutomboki turned herself in with other 100 fighters (UN, 21/10/2015). It did not lead to de-escalation of violence (Radio Okapi, 05/10/2015).**

Tanganyika

Pygmies and Luba have agreed to end conflict in Kalemie after several weeks of clashes (Radio Okapi, 10/10/2015). In Nyunzu territory, conflict between Luba and pygmies has killed 200 people since January 2015; 60 women have been raped; 113 villages have been burned (Radio Okapi, 03/06/2015).

Haut-Uele

Niangara territory: The LRA has been active since the beginning of October, carrying out armed attacks along the Niangara-Nambia road (Radio Okapi, 21/10/2015).

Maniema

Since 21 October, armed members of the Kumu community have reportedly been attacking non-Kumu in Lubutu and Zimba territory, Kasongo, Maniema. 60 houses have been burned and 320 families displaced (Radio Okapi, 25/10/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

On 13 September, heavy rains and wind caused severe damage in Kamituga, Sud-Kivu. Three people were injured, and 650 houses were reportedly destroyed. Eight schools were damaged (Radio Okapi, 14/09/2015). On 15 October, heavy rains in Lushebere, Kalehe territory, Sud-Kivu, destroyed 18 houses and two schools (Radio Okapi, 15/10/2015). **On 17 October, 468 houses were flooded due to torrential rains in Kisangani, Tshopo (formerly part of Orientale) (Radio Okapi, 19/10/2015).**

Forest fire

Forest fires in Kolongo, Tanganyika (formerly part of Katanga), have left 6,000 people without shelter (OCHA, 16/09/2015).

50,000 people were affected by forest fires in Kabambare territory in Maniema province in August. At least 6,000 people were made homeless and living in churches, schools, or with host families. The fires also affected IDP shelters (AFP, 28/08/2015; Caritas, 26/08/2015).

Displacement

As of end of June, 1.5 million IDPs were reported in DRC (OCHA, 20/07/2015). More than half of them are in Nord-Kivu province and the rest are mainly in Sud-Kivu and former Katanga provinces. In addition, DRC hosts more than 225,020 refugees (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

IDPs

Internal displacement can be short-term, but frequent, depending on the security threats in the regions.

From March to June, 220,000 people were displaced due to insecurity in Beni, Rutshuru, and Walikale territories (Nord-Kivu), southern Irumu (Ituri), Kalehe (Sud-Kivu), Kalemie and Manono (Tanganyika), and Pweto (Haut-Katanga, formerly part of Katanga) (OCHA, 20/07/2015). 121,000 were displaced between January and March 2015 (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

Nord-Kivu

Nord-Kivu hosts 744,000 IDPs as of October. The number of IDPs has been increasing since May, and 166,000 were newly displaced between July and September. 537,000 live with host families. 28,000 IDPs returned home between July and September. The main cause of displacement is armed clashes (OCHA, 05/10/2015).

Beni: There were 259,485 displaced people in Beni as of 25 September; nearly 50,000 were displaced in July–September, and almost 13,000 returnees were reported (OCHA, 05/10/2015). 14,000 IDPs, primarily pygmies, are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in Mamove; medical assistance has been limited (Radio Okapi, 26/09/2015).

Lubero: 201,100 people were displaced in Lubero as of 25 September, nearly 35,000 were displaced in July-September (OCHA, 05/10/2015).

Walikale: 96,249 people were displaced in Walikale as of 25 September, nearly 10,000 were displaced in July-September (OCHA, 05/10/2015). More than 6,000 people left their villages after 19 September due to clashes between APCLS and FARDC in Kashebere. Their humanitarian situation has been worsening and they urgently need food assistance (Radio Okapi, 25/09/2015).

Rutshuru: 92,667 people were displaced in Rutshuru as of 25 September, nearly 8,000 were displaced in July-September (OCHA, 05/10/2015). Between 10 September and 7 October, 10,000 people were displaced due to clashes between the FARDC and armed groups in Bukombo, Tongo. They are staying in Kanaba and Kabizo in the east of Rutshuru (OCHA, 07/10/2015).

Masisi: 205,967 people were displaced in Masisi as of 25 September, 22,200 were displaced in July-September (OCHA, 05/10/2015).

Sud-Kivu

As of 30 September, 322,331 IDPs were in Sud-Kivu (OCHA, 13/10/2015). **In July-September, 27,000 were newly displaced and 17,000 returned. 310,000 live with host families. The main cause of displacement is armed clashes (OCHA, 09/10/2015).** Shabunda hosts 56,391 IDPs, including nearly 3,000 displaced in July-September. 14,641 returned between July and September (OCHA, 09/10/2015). Mwenga hosts 36,505 IDPs, including nearly 11,000 displaced in July-September (OCHA, 09/10/2015). Walungu hosts 21,200 IDPs, including nearly 8,000 displaced in July-September (OCHA, 09/10/2015). Kalehe hosts 109,785, Kabere 26,975, Uvira 19,360, and Fizi 52,115 (OCHA, 09/10/2015).

Since 15 September, 2,400 people, displaced since June 2014, have returned to Mutarule, Luberizi. Their main needs are shelter and healthcare (OCHA, 22/09/2015).

Former Orientale province

As of end June, there were 130,850 IDPs in Orientale province, now Bas-Uele, Haut-Uele, Ituri and Tshopo (OCHA, 20/07/2015). Violence, mainly involving FRPI, continues to provoke displacement

Ituri (formerly part of Orientale)

Since 28 September, inhabitants of Alingba and Aveba villages are fleeing FRPI looting and violence (Radio Okapi, 30/09/2015). Since 11 August, violence has displaced some 6,000 people from Djugu to Libi, north of Bunia (OCHA, 20/08/2015).

1,375 people who returned to four villages in Walendu Bindi, Irumu district, after fleeing FARDC and FRPI clashes in April 2014 are in urgent need of shelter, education and NFI assistance (Caritas, 21/08/2015).

Katanga

The number of IDPs decreased in the third quarter, from 316,000 to 305,400 (OCHA, 14/10/2015). 46,000 IDPs returned to their homes over July, August, and September; the majority to Pweto, Mitwaba, and Manono territory. **Their main needs are shelter, food,**

and protection; their houses and fields have been burned (OCHA, 14/10/2015; USAID, 30/09/2015). IDPs returning to Manono territory are suffering from malnutrition (Radio Okapi, 09/10/2015).

Maniema

Maniema hosts 121,525 IDPs as of 24 June (UNHCR, 20/07/2015). 24,950 are from Sud-Kivu, and fled violence between April and June (OCHA, 20/07/2015).

Nearly 5,000 people, including 3,000 children, have been displaced due to intercommunal clashes in Pangi territory (OCHA, 28/09/2015). In addition, more than 6,000 IDPs, including 2,000 children under five, have arrived in Pangi territory in 2015, fleeing conflict in Shabunda, Sud-Kivu.

Tshuapa

2,000 people from Bongoy, have fled to the bush to escape arbitrary arrests by the police following accusations of witchcraft (Radio Okapi, 05/10/2015). As of 22 October, they have started returning home. However, tens of their houses have been burned (Radio Okapi, 22/10/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

DRC hosts more than 225,020 refugees (OCHA, 30/04/2015). DRC provincial authorities insist that assistance should only be delivered within camps, making it difficult to support refugees in host communities.

From CAR: As of 31 August, there were 101,866 CAR refugees in DRC (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). On 29 September, DRC closed its northern border with CAR due to fears of a refugee influx (AFP, 29/09/2015). Between 28 September and 13 October, more than 2,700 new refugees from CAR were registered in Zongo, Sud-Ubangi (formerly part of Equateur). They will be moved to Mole refugee camp (Radio Okapi, 13/10/2015; UNHCR, 06/10/2015). They urgently need humanitarian assistance: as of 13 October, only 250 have received assistance (Radio Okapi, 13/10/2015).

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

From Burundi: As of 27 September, 15,279 Burundian refugees have arrived in DRC in 2015 (UNHCR, 27/09/2015). Half are under 12 years old (WFP, 22/09/2015). **The majority are in Sud-Kivu; around 1,000 are in Katanga and Maniema. Some 5,600 are staying with host families. Lusenda camp, Fizi territory, has reached full capacity, at 9,700 people (WFP, 21/10/2015).** 1,200 more are being transferred to the camp (OCHA, 16/09/2015). Priority needs are WASH and health (WHO, 15/09/2015). The remaining refugees are in transit centres and temporary sites (WFP, 16/09/2015). FDLR presence in hosting areas is a concern (UNHCR, 05/06/2015; OCHA, 27/05/2015). Prior to the recent

influx, there were 9,000 Burundian refugees in DRC (OCHA, 27/05/2015).

Refugee returnees

Angola: Between 1 January and May, 29,881 DRC citizens were deported from Angola (Soyo and Cabinda provinces) (OCHA, 04/06/2015; Radio Okapi, 17/06/2015).

Central African Republic: The repatriation of 600 returnees who were in CAR began on 3 August. They had fled LRA violence six years ago and are in Ango, Bas-Uele (formerly part of Orientale) (OCHA, 20/08/2015; Reuters, 03/08/2015).

DRC refugees in neighbouring countries

There are around 500,000 DRC refugees in neighbouring countries, mainly in Uganda (**213,519**), Rwanda (73,560), Burundi (53,860), Tanzania (63,453), Congo (23,450), Kenya (23,091), South Sudan (14,630), and CAR (5,340) (UNHCR, 09/09/2015; 31/08/2015, 19/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

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

Security and physical constraints

Nord-Kivu: Some 275,000 IDPs are hard to access due to insecurity (OCHA, 30/04/2015). Commercial flights are not serving the area (local media, 09/06/2015). There has been an increase in the number of security incidents on the road between Beni and Eringeti, Nord-Kivu, which may restrict access (OCHA, 07/10/2015).

Sud-Kivu: Insecurity in mid-2015 prevented humanitarian access in parts of Kalehe and in Lulingu (OCHA, 10/06/2015). 25,000 displaced people in the towns of Shabunda and Katshungu are hard to access because the roads are in a very bad condition. Medical supplies must be brought by cargo plane (MSF, 02/09/2015).

Bas-Uele (formerly part of Orientale): 4,500 IDPs in Bili, Bondo territory, have been without assistance due to access constraints since April (OCHA, 17/09/2015). Movement in the province is very limited due to impassable roads and damaged bridges (Caritas Australia, 06/10/2015).

Ituri (formerly part of Orientale): Humanitarian activities have slowed in the south of Irumu territory (Bunia, Gety, Aveba and Bukiring) due to insecurity (OCHA, 03/06/2015). **FRPI attacked and robbed four MSF staff near Koni, Walendu Bindi, in October. Five attacks against humanitarian workers have been reported in Ituri since January 2015 (Radio Okapi, 20/10/2015).**

Nord-Ubangi (formerly part of Equateur): The road Zongo-Gemena used for the delivery of humanitarian aid is almost impassable due to bad road conditions (Radio Okapi, 13/10/2015). Camps in Zongo, Libenge, and Bosobolo hosting CAR refugees are experiencing pipeline breaks due to heavy rains and bad road conditions (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

6.5 million people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes as a result of armed group activity, inter-communal violence, and displacement (FAO, 30/06/2015).

Irumu (Ituri), Boende (Tshuapa, formerly part of Equateur), Punia (Maniema), Shabunda (Sud-Kivu), Manono (Tanganyika), Mitwaba and Pweto (Haut-Katanga) are all in Emergency phase, representing an increase of 523,000 people in Emergency compared to the last assessment, in December 2014 (FAO, 30/06/2015).

Ituri: Over 130,000 IDPs in southern and western Ituri face difficulties accessing food. The Bogoro–Boga and Komanda–Luna areas are particularly affected (Radio Okapi, 18/10/2015).

Sud-Kivu: As of July, over 45,000 people were in need of food assistance (OCHA, 28/08/2015).

Sud-Ubangi: Following access restrictions to Bangui, CAR, there is a shortage of fuel and food stocks in Zongo, Sud-Ubangi. Prices have been rising sharply for several days. The bad state of roads to Zongo within DRC limits supply of goods via national routes (Radio Okapi, 19/10/2015).

Health

A lack of health services have been mainly reported in the Kivus, and the former Katanga, and Orientale provinces. Measles and cholera outbreaks are ongoing, particularly affecting children who are already weakened by high rates of malaria and malnutrition (NY Times, 14/09/2015). Case fatality rates are high.

In Bili refugee camp, Nord-Ubangi, acute respiratory infections remain the most common cause for refugees seeking medical attention, accounting for 22% of health facility visits (UNHCR, 30/08/2015).

In Lusenda camp, malaria, intestinal parasites, and acute respiratory infections are the most prevalent illnesses (UNHCR, 13/09/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Sud-Kivu: 60% of the population in Uvira, Fizi, and Walungu territories do not have

healthcare (OCHA, 29/06/2015). There is a lack of medical supplies in all five health zones (OCHA, 09/07/2015).

Ituri: 140 health facilities in Bunia are functioning, but without trained health personnel and without adequate medicine (Radio Okapi, 30/06/2015).

Cholera

On 23 September, the Ministry of Public Health declared a cholera epidemic in DRC (Radio Okapi, 23/09/2015). **965 new cases were reported 28 September–4 October, compared to 1,259 cases 20–27 September. The case fatality rate (CFR) is 1.2% (UNICEF, 29/09/2015). The outbreak is spreading westward from Kindu along the Congo River to Tshopo province via boat passengers (UNICEF, 25/10/2015). The number of cases has been rapidly increasing since mid-August. 13,378 cases of cholera, including 214 deaths, were recorded 1 January–4 October, compared to 14,597 for the same period in 2014.**

Maniema: Cholera cases have been decreasing. 146 new cases were reported between 1 and 3 October (WHO, 19/10/2015).

Ituri: In Tchomia health zone, 180 cases were reported 31 August–14 September, including two deaths (OCHA, 17/09/2015). Local media report new cases are decreasing, with three new cases reported on 16 September, compared to an average of 40 new cases per day in August (Radio Okapi, 18/09/2015).

Nord-Kivu: In Walikale territory, 15 cases and four deaths were reported between 23 August and 3 September (CFR 26.7%) (OCHA, 09/09/2015).

Sud-Kivu: In Uvira and Fizi health zones, cholera cases have been decreasing. Between 11 and 17 October, around 40 cases were reported in each zone, compared to around 60 cases reported in each in the previous week (WHO, 19/10/2015). The CFR is 1.92% (WHO, 24/10/2015). 16 of 34 health zones have been affected (Radio Okapi, 25/10/2015).

Tshopo: Since 8 September, 229 cases have been reported in Lowa, Ubundu, and Wanierukula health zones, including eight deaths (CFR 3.5%) (WHO, 19/10/2015). Since 1 October, in Kinsangani, 60 cases were reported, including three deaths (CFR 5%) (WHO, 24/10/2015).

Malaria

Malaria remains the predominant illness in most camps hosting CAR refugees. In Mboti camp, 39% of people seeking medical assistance were treated for malaria in the last two weeks of August (UNHCR, 30/08/2015).

Measles

At least 30,700 measles cases have been reported since the beginning of 2015 in Katanga province (now Tanganyika, Haut-Katanga, Lualaba, and Haut-Lomami provinces). This is three times the number reported in the same period in 2014. More than 430 people have died. 26 health zones had declared an epidemic by September – up from 11 in May. **Only eight affected health zones have been covered by humanitarian response due to geographical and security constraints** (OCHA, 14/10/2015; **UNICEF, 15/10/2015**).

Elsewhere in the country, 16,000 measles cases have been reported (InterHealth, 18/09/2015).

Rabies

207 cases of rabies, including 17 deaths, have been reported in Ituri over the last nine months (Radio Okapi, 28/09/2015).

Nutrition

As of September, 2.5 million children under five are severely malnourished (WHO, 27/09/2015).

As of 30 August, in Bili refugee camp, Bossobolo territory, Nord-Ubangi (formerly part of Equateur), the SAM rate for children under five is 2.4%, and GAM 6.5% (UNHCR, 30/08/2015).

WASH

Nord-Kivu: An estimated 4.3 million people require WASH assistance (OCHA, 20/05/2015).

Sud-Kivu: 42% of the population (1.9 million people) does not have access to drinking water; 80% of the population (3.7 million people) does not have access to toilets (OCHA, 13/10/2015).

Bas-Uele (formerly part of Maniema province): People across the province face drinking water shortages (Caritas Australia, 06/10/2015).

Water

Only 22% of the population has access to drinking water (Bond for International Development, 31/07/2015).

CAR refugees: Water supply in camps is below the minimum standard of 20 L/p/day. Bili and Boyabu camps have a supply of 19 L/person/day; Mole, 17.3 L/p/day; Mboti 17 L/p/d; and Inke, 12.7 L/p/day (UNHCR, 30/08/2015).

Burundi refugees: In Lusenda camp, water supply is 15 L/p/d (UNHCR, 13/09/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

As of July, over 70,000 people were in need of shelter in Sud-Kivu (OCHA, 28/08/2015).

5,000 IDPs in Biakato, Ituri (former part of Orientale), are in need of household items (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

Education

7.3 million children aged 5–17 (28% of the school-aged population) are not attending school (Radio Okapi, 10/03/2015). Violence in Sud-Kivu, and in the former Katanga and Orientale provinces is preventing access to education.

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

Protection

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

In Kanaba, Nord-Kivu, 2,700 displaced households have been threatened with eviction by the local population, because they have been settled in local agricultural zones since June 2015 (OCHA, 22/09/2015).

Children

567 children were freed from the FDLR between January and June 2015 (RFI, 06/08/2015). 207 children left armed groups in former Orientale province January–June 2015 (OCHA, 22/07/2015; 20/08/2015).

Gender

Sexual violence is a common element of warfare in eastern DRC.

Ituri: On 13 September, 17 women were raped by suspected Mayi-Mayi in Mambasa territory. Between January and August, 1,198 SGBV cases were reported in Ituri. Anti-SGBV activities have been interrupted due to funding shortfalls (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

Haut-Uele: 110 SGBV incidents were reported in the first three weeks of May, and 138 in April (OCHA, 27/05/2015).

Updated: 26/10/2015



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 26/10/2015. Last update: 21/09/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.2 million people, including 696,000 children under 18, are in need of humanitarian assistance (UNICEF, 15/01/2015). There is a lack of updated and reliable data on the humanitarian situation due to limited humanitarian access.
- Over 60% of the Eritrean population was reported as undernourished between 2011 and 2013 (WFP).
- Torture, arbitrary detention, and indefinite national service are reported (UNHRC, 04/06/2015).
- Thousands of Eritreans flee the country every year; most of an estimated 320,000 Eritrean refugees are living in Ethiopia and Sudan (OCHA, 20/04/2015; UNHCR, 30/06/2015, 01/12/2014).
- Operations and maintenance of established humanitarian systems remain a significant challenge (UNICEF, 15/01/2015).

Politics and security

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

Displacement

Refugees

As of August 2015, there were 2,802 Somali refugees in Eritrea (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Eritrean refugees in neighbouring countries

The entire Eritrean refugee population is estimated to constitute more than 321,000 people

(Guardian, 21/04/2015). UN estimates that some 5,000 Eritreans, among them hundreds of unaccompanied minors, are fleeing the country every month to escape government repression and lack of basic freedoms. (OHCHR, 08/06/2015). The high proportion of unaccompanied minors who cross from Eritrea to Ethiopia is a priority concern (UNHCR).

Eritreans constitute the biggest group of migrants arriving in Italy by boat (IOM, 10/10/2015). In 2014, more than 37,000 Eritrean refugees sought refuge in Europe, the vast majority arriving by boat across the Mediterranean (UNHCR).

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

Sudan: Sudan reportedly hosts at least 119,980 Eritrean refugees (UNHCR, 01/12/2014).

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

Kenya: As of 1 September, there were 1,647 Eritrean refugees in Kenya; the majority located in Nairobi (UNHCR, 11/09/2015).

Humanitarian Access

Providing direct humanitarian assistance remains a challenge due to limited access, and absence of assessments and humanitarian space (ECHO, 2009).

Food security

Delayed onset and lack of rainfall has resulted in abnormal dryness across western Eritrea (FEWSNET, 24/07/2015). Very poor rainfall since February, including extremely sporadic rain since mid-March, has led to drought conditions in eastern Eritrea (FEWSNET, 30/05/2015). Rainfall in June and July was 30–35% below average, and satellite imagery indicates severe drought conditions in coastal pastoral areas (FAO, 19/09/2015).

It is estimated that Eritrea produces only 60% of the food it needs, and markets appear to be dysfunctional. These two factors suggest that a significant part of the population may be in need of food assistance. Due to extensive national service, farmers are routinely absent during harvest periods (Economist, 10/03/2014). In addition, local food and fuel prices are likely to be high, putting severe pressure on household coping mechanisms. The government officially denies any food shortages within its borders and refuses food aid (ECHO, 2009).

Nutrition

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

Protection

Grave human rights violations are widespread. Eritreans are deprived of fundamental freedoms by the authorities, and are routinely and arbitrarily arrested, detained, and tortured. Disappearances or extrajudicial executions were also reported (UNHRC, 04/06/2015). Eritreans are subject to systems of national service and forced labour in which individuals are effectively detained indefinitely (UNHRC, 04/06/2015). Eritrea has the highest number of imprisoned journalists in Africa (22 known cases) and has not allowed international journalists into the country since 2007 (CPJ, 27/04/2015).

Mines and ERW

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

Reviewed: 26/10/2015

LIBYA DISPLACEMENT, CIVIL WAR, POLITICAL UNREST



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

19-23 October: On 23 October, 12 people were killed and 39 injured in a missile attack on demonstrators protesting the proposed peace deal in Benghazi. Five people were killed in a separate attack on Al Jalaa hospital, also in Benghazi, on 19 October (AFP).

20 October: The mandate of the government of the House of Representatives in Tobruk expired (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- 3.08 million people affected (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

- 435,000 IDPs (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

- 250,000 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in need of assistance (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

- Indiscriminate shelling and targeting of civilian areas (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).

- Access is a major concern (OCHA, 01/10/2014).

OVERVIEW

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

Much of the fighting takes place in urban centres, posing serious security concerns for civilian populations. An estimated 20% of hospitals and 18% of primary healthcare facilities are not functioning. 60% of hospitals were closed or made inaccessible at least once during the six month period from April to October 2015 due to the conflict.

Politics and security

Libya has had two rival parliaments and governments since mid-2014, **neither of which currently have an internationally recognised mandate (WP, 20/10/2015)**. A struggle over resources and a sharp drop in oil production have exacerbated the crisis (Financial Times, 19/03/2015). Militias now exert much control on the ground. Some areas, notably Sabrata and Zuwara towns near the Tunisian border, have been taken over by smugglers, who are making use of official ports for their operations (BBC, 29/04/2015). Furthermore, Islamic State (IS) has exploited the volatile security situation (Asharq Al Awsat 04/05/2015).

The mandate of the House of Representatives government expired on 20 October (WP, 20/10/2015). The House of Representatives (HoR), was voted for in June 2014, and moved to Tobruk in early August (AFP, 12/11/2014). Its government, led by Prime Minister Al Thani, was sworn in in September. In October, the House of Representatives officially endorsed former General Haftar and his Operation Dignity (now known as the Libyan National Army).

The Islamist-dominated General National Congress (GNC), which preceded the House of Representatives and never stood down, voted to replace the HoR in August 2014. It is supported by an alliance of groups called Libya Dawn. On 6 November, the Tripoli-based

Supreme Court ruled the House of Representatives unconstitutional. Members of the House of Representatives declared they did not recognise the ruling (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

Peace talks

The rival parliaments held their first direct meeting in March 2015, led by the UN (AFP, 06/03/2015; 11/03/2015). A new round of peace talks began on 26 June (Reuters, 29/06/2015). On 11 July, Libyan political parties agreed on a UN-proposed peace accord, but the GNC was absent (AFP, 12/07/2015). Talks resumed in Geneva in August and on 21 September, the UN announced the finalisation of the peace agreement (VOA, 21/09/2015). However, the GNC rejected the deal on 12 October, and the HoR formally rejected it on 19 October (Reuters, 19/10/2015).

Stakeholders

The conflict in Libya is being fought by between 1,000 and 1,700 armed groups, comprising a complex web of allegiances to the main stakeholders

Libya Dawn

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

Libyan National Army

Former General Khalifa Haftar launched Operation Dignity in May 2014, in support of the House of Representatives. Operation Dignity and its supporters have since been renamed the Libyan National Army (LNA), with Haftar as army chief (ICG, 05/01/2014; Middle East Eye, 24/02/2015). 40-80% of the supporting forces are thought to be neighbourhood militias (NYT, 02/10/2015). Support also comes from the Al Qa'qa' and Al Sawai'q brigades, allied with the city of Zintan, and fighters from the Warshefana region west of Tripoli. The House of Representatives has repeatedly appealed to the international community for more weapons (Reuters, 06/06/2015).

Islamic State and allies

The Shura Council of Islamic Youth, IS's affiliate in Libya, is not affiliated with either of the rival governments and has warned all governments and militia groups not to interfere with its activities. Territorial gains made by IS between January and March 2015 reportedly

dwindled between March and September (ACLED, 19/09/2015). Recent reports indicate that Russian airstrikes in Syria may be pushing IS fighters into Libya (IBT, 19/10/2015).

Abu Salim Martyr's Brigade

Abu Salim Martyrs Brigade, linked to Al Qaeda, are among the militias fighting IS, and they have been joined by civilians (VoA, 15/06/2015).

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

UNSMIL was established in 2011 as a political mission mandated to help restore state institutions. In September, its mandate was extended for six months, until 15 March 2016 (UNSC, 11/09/2015).

Regional involvement

Prime Minister Al Thani announced in October 2014 that Egypt would help to train the Libyan army. The Egyptian Air Force carried out airstrikes against IS in February in response to the beheading of 21 Coptic Christians from Egypt. The airstrikes targeted IS training camps and targets, particularly in Derna (Reuters, 23/02/2015).

Islamist fighters pushed out of Mali are said to be hiding in Libya's south. Experts see links between these groups and Islamist militias in northern and eastern Libya (AFP, 26/10/2014). Palestinian, Sudanese, and Syrian nationals have been banned from entering Libya (Libya Herald, 05/01/2015). Tuareg from Mali and, reportedly, Tebu from Chad, have joined their respective Libyan tribe members in fighting over Ubari (Al Jazeera, 05/12/2014).

Conflict developments

Over 2,244 deaths have been reported since the beginning of 2015 (ACLED, 19/09/2015). Civilians accounted for an estimated 75% of people injured or killed by explosives in the first half of 2015 (OCHA, 23/09/2015). In 2014, there were 2,383 reported fatalities from battles and remote violence (ACLED, 15/01/2015). The surge in violence since July 2014 has affected more than two million people (UN, 21/09/2015).

Tripoli and western Libya: Tripoli is largely under the control of Libya Dawn. On 20 March, the LNA announced an assault to recapture Tripoli (Reuters, 23/03/2015). IS was suspected to be behind attacks on the Spanish, South Korean, and Moroccan embassies in April (International Business Times, 13/04/2015; AFP, 21/04/2015). Since then, the intensity of violence has reportedly decreased as of early October (ACLED, 09/10/2015).

Sirte: On 12 August, clashes broke out between IS and armed residents trying to push back against the group. IS reportedly shelled parts of the city and beheaded 12 opponents (ALJ, 17/08/2015). IS, backed by local militias and militias from Misrata reportedly seized control of Sirte in March, Sirte airport in May, as well as infrastructure supplying water to

Libyan cities (NYT, 10/03/2015; BBC, 29/05/2015).

Benghazi and Eastern Libya: New fighting between IS and the Libyan National Army broke out 26–27 September in the Saberi district of central Benghazi (Al Arabiya, 28/09/2015). IS appeared to have entered Benghazi in the middle of the year, joining the fight against the LNA (Reuters, 15/06/2015). Fighting between the LNA and IS-aligned armed groups is ongoing (Reuters, 25/10/2015). **On 19 October, an attack claimed by IS struck Al Jalaa hospital, killing five people (AFP, 19/10/2015). On 23 October, a demonstrators protesting against the proposed peace deal were hit by a missile: 12 were killed and 39 injured (AFP, 25/10/2015).**

Derna: IS was reportedly pushed out of its stronghold in June by Abu Salim Martyr's Brigade and the LNA, and in August launched an offensive to retake Derna (Reuters, 13/08/2015; ISS, 02/10/2015). On 9 August, a car bomb killed three people and wounded 13 (Reuters 09/08/2015). Derna has been hit by airstrikes several times, both by pro-HoR and Egyptian planes (Reuters, 05/05/2015; 23/02/2015).

Inter-communal violence

Intermittent violence in the south, linked to intra and inter-ethnic rivalries, has been exacerbated by geopolitics and shifting allegiances. Fighting has occurred between the Tebu and the Tuareg since last September. In July, 40 were killed in inter-ethnic clashes between the Tebu and Tuareg in Sabha, southern Libya (Reuters, 21/07/2015; AFP, 22/07/2015).

Economic crisis

The Libyan economy contracted over 23% in 2014, and is expected to contract an additional 10% in 2015, depending on domestic stability as well as international oil prices. Oil production is down to 500,000 barrels a day, compared to 1.6 million barrels before mid-2014 (AFP, 25/08/2015). Insecurity-induced supply chain disruptions are likely to contribute to increased inflation in 2015.

Displacement

Libya hosts an estimated 685,000 displaced persons, including IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers, and migrants. Over 40% of IDPs have been displaced multiple times due to conflict, as have 66% of refugees and 30% of migrants (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

IDPs

435,000 are estimated to be internally displaced, up from 63,985 in April 2014. The majority live with host families in urban areas but over 100,000 are estimated to live in schools or other public facilities (OCHA, 01/10/2015). At least 56,544 IDPs have been displaced since 2011 (IDMC, 23/09/2014).

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

Tripoli and its surroundings hosted 269,000 IDPs at end March (IDMC, 30/03/2015). Near Tripoli, an estimated 83,270 people are living in settlements, schools and abandoned buildings (UNHCR, 16/01/2015).

Benghazi hosts about 105,000 IDPs (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

More than 8,700 displaced Tawerghas, mostly women and children, are in nine camps in Qasr ben Ghashir, Abu Salim, Janzour in Tripoli, Ajdabiya, Bani Waleed, Tarhuna and Benghazi (UNICEF, 01/06/2015).

18,492 people from Ubari are displaced in six towns: Sabha, Wadi Shati, Jufra, Ghat, Murzuq, and Lewenat (IDMC, 30/03/2015; UNHCR, 16/01/2015). Services have been severely disrupted by fighting: Schools, hospitals and markets are completely inaccessible (UNHCR, 16/01/2015; ALJ, 22/06/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

An estimated 100,000 refugees and asylum seekers are in Libya, and 150,000 other migrants (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

Others

Third-country nationals face extreme difficulties leaving the country, as passage through Libya's borders with Egypt and Tunisia is restricted. Migrants continue to embark on unseaworthy vessels to reach Italy. More than 650,000 people have tried to cross the Mediterranean so far in 2015, many of them using Libya as their starting point; 3,138 are believed to have died in the attempt (IOM, 20/10/2015). More than 400 people died trying to reach Europe from Libya in August (IOM, 28/08/2015). The Libyan Naval Coast Guard intercepts many boats, which has increased the number of migrants in need of urgent assistance in Libyan ports (IOM, 12/05/2015). In 2014, 170,000 migrants departed from Libya and arrived in Italy. An estimated 3,200 people died crossing the sea (IOM, 31/03/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Since July 2014, most humanitarian agencies have relocated out of Libya, the majority to Tunisia. Armed groups often limit access to the remaining humanitarian agencies. The national agency tasked with leading the humanitarian response evaluates its own response capacity as almost non-existent (IRIN, 07/08/2014). In particular, the humanitarian impact on the civilian populations within Benghazi is severe (OCHA, 05/06/2015).

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

Security and physical constraints

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

Food security and livelihoods

1.28 million people are thought to be food insecure, including 175,000 IDPs, and the prices of food staples such as flour, rice, and sugar have tripled since May 2014 (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

Food availability

Insecurity is affecting the food supply chain, including a substantial decline in food imports as foreign shippers fear making deliveries (Reuters, 31/07/2015). The HoR has reported it had started tapping into the country's strategic wheat reserves to ensure bread supplies. Some bakeries in Tripoli and Benghazi have closed or reduced production (Reuters, 04/02/2015).

Food access

Warehouses (both public and private) are situated in conflict areas, and fuel shortages are aggravating food access (Save the Children, 18/06/2015). Basic food items in Benghazi are only available in areas controlled by the LNA (Save the Children, 18/06/2015).

Health

1.9 million people are in need of healthcare. An estimated 20% of hospitals and 18% of primary healthcare facilities are not functioning. 60% of hospitals were closed or made inaccessible at least once due to the conflict between April and October 2015 (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

In a June assessment, 24% of households reported having little or no access to health facilities (UN, 31/07/2015). The situation is worse for refugees and migrants, with 44% of refugees and 33% of migrants reporting limited or no access to health facilities, and those without documents often being denied healthcare. Civilian access to secondary care is particularly limited in conflict-affected areas such as Sirte, Zintan, Sabha, Kikla and Al Kufra due to influxes of wounded civilians and fighters requiring priority treatment (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

Large numbers of expatriate medical personnel have left Libya, and such staff make up 80% of all medical personnel, according to the Ministry of Health. Severe shortages of medical supplies are also reported throughout the country (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

WASH

Disruptions to the main water network has led to an estimated 680,000 people needing water and sanitation assistance (OCHA, 01/10/2015). Lack of adequate WASH facilities has been reported in detention centres in and outside Tripoli where refugees and migrants are held (Human Rights Watch, 21/05/2015). Inadequate sanitation and hygiene conditions are reported in the nine displacement camps hosting Tawerghas (UNICEF, 01/06/2015).

Education

An estimated 150,000 children are at risk of no longer having access to education (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

Benghazi is particularly affected, with enrolment rates as low as 50%. Only 65 out of 239 schools in the city are functioning, with 110 schools inaccessible due to insecurity, and 64 occupied by IDPs (UNICEF, 02/09/2015; OCHA, 01/10/2015). Many of the schools in the northeast and south are occupied by IDPs (Save the Children, 18/06/2015).

Protection

Much of the fighting takes place in urban centres, posing great protection difficulties for civilian populations. 2.44 million people are estimated to be in need of protection from violence, violation of human rights, and other forms of abuse (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

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

626 people are reported to have been abducted between February 2014 and April 2015, including an estimated 378 whose whereabouts continue to be unknown. 508 were abducted in Benghazi (Amnesty, 04/08/2015). Throughout the first half of 2015, IS has kidnapped and executed Ethiopian Christians, Coptic Christians, and foreign oil workers (AFP, 19/04/2015; HRW, 24/02/2015; BBC, 09/03/2015).

Mines and ERW

Incorrectly armed fuses or faulty ammunition have resulted in large quantities of unexploded ordnance in conflict areas (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). In a June assessment, 57%

of informants reported landmines/UXO in their communities (UN, 21/09/2015).

Children

An assessment in May found a high incidence of child recruitment, with over 67% of informants in western Libya reporting recruitment of children from their communities, and 90% of informants in southern Libya (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Third-country refugees and asylum-seekers, including unaccompanied children, face arbitrary arrest and indefinite detention for migration control purposes by both state and non-state actors. Torture, including whippings, beatings and electric shocks, has also been reported (Human Rights Watch, 21/05/2015). As of May, 16,000 people, mainly African migrants, were reported to be in detention, mainly in the Tripoli region and in Misrata (Reuters, 24/05/2015). There are 18 government-run detention centres and 21 operated by armed militias (PI, 05/2015; Save the Children, 18/06/2015). The centres are reported to be overcrowded and lack adequate WASH facilities (Reuters, 24/05/2015).

Documentation

Over 86% of households reported having lost legal documentation due to conflict and displacement, and 77% reported difficulty registering newborn children, including over 90% of IDPs (OCHA, 01/10/2015).

Updated: 27/10/2015

NIGERIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

23–24 October: Suspected Boko Haram bomb blasts in Maiduguri killed more than 30 people and injured at least 20 (AFP).

23 October: An explosion in a mosque in Yola, Adamawa, killed at least 27 people and injured 116 (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- Around 7,730 deaths from Boko Haram-related violence between January and August 2015 (ACLED, 22/08/2015).

- 4.6 million people in need of humanitarian aid, including 2.1 million IDPs (OCHA, 05/06/2015; IOM, 03/09/2015).

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

- 1.7 million are in need of nutrition assistance, including 461,000 children under five forecast to have SAM in 2015 (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

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

OVERVIEW

Violence has displaced close to 2.2 million people, restricted movement, disrupted food supply, seriously hindered access to basic services, and limited agricultural activities. People affected by violence in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, and neighbouring Bauchi, Taraba, and Gombe states are in urgent need of protection, shelter, food, and access to health services and education. Some 9.7 million people, including IDPs, are staying in the 34 areas worst affected by the Boko Haram insurgency. The entire population of northeast Nigeria – 24.5 million people – is indirectly affected; 4.6 million are in need of humanitarian aid (OCHA, 30/04/2015; 09/07/2015).

For more information, visit the [ACAPS country analysis page](#).

Politics and security

Armed Islamist group Boko Haram's (BH) insurgency in the northeast began to gain momentum in 2014, when 7,711 deaths were reported (ACLED, 11/01/2015). Between January and August 2015, more than 340 BH-related incidents and 7,330 deaths were reported in the northeast (ACLED, 22/08/2015). As of 11 July, 69 suicide attacks had been recorded in 2015, compared to 38 in all 2014 (ACLED, 11/07/2015). **Military offensives in 2015 have regained territory from BH, but the group continues to have strongholds in areas that are hard to access, including the Sambisa forest, the Mendera mountains, and the Lake Chad islands (AFP, 23/10/2015).**

Since the end of 2014, the conflict with Boko Haram has taken on a more regional dimension, with attacks in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, and a strengthened multinational force (UNHCR, 22/05/2015).

Presidential handover

Muhammadu Buhari was sworn in as President on 29 May, succeeding Goodluck Jonathan, whose party had led the country since 1999. Buhari is a former president and military ruler from northern Nigeria (local media, 29/05/2015; AFP, 02/04/2015). He has put strategies in place to tackle insecurity, which has led to the liberation of several towns from BH control, and rescues of people abducted by BH (AFP, 19/09/2015). Much of the northeast remains dangerous and attacks against civilians continue (AFP, 22/09/2015; 24/09/2015).

Stakeholders

Boko Haram (BH)

Boko Haram (“Western education is forbidden”) is leading an insurgency to create an Islamic state in the predominantly Muslim regions of northeastern Nigeria. The Nigerian authorities have been fighting BH since 2009. Precise numbers are not known, but BH’s strength is estimated at around 15,000 (Amnesty, 13/04/2015). In March, BH pledged allegiance to Islamic State (AFP, 07/03/2015). The group is thought to hide in the Lake Chad region and the Sambisa forest (AFP, 31/07/2015).

Nigerian troops

Recent successes in the fight against BH are reportedly improving morale among Nigerian troops, which had previously been low. Changes in command and deployment of adequate weapons are thought to have increased the army’s capacity (This Day Live, 10/09/2015; Information Nigeria, 24/08/2015).

Regional forces

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF) has reached 8,700 military and civilian personnel, including contingents from Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria (BBC, 03/03/2015). Deployment of the troops, which was expected in August, has been delayed (AFP, 31/07/2015; 03/10/2015). The scope and remit of the regional force is unclear. The force will be led by a Nigerian commander (AFP, 11/06/2015; 25/04/2015; 20/03/2015).

Conflict developments

So far in October, at least 110 have people died and 134 injured in BH-related violence. In September, 282 people were killed in 13 BH attacks in Borno and Adamawa state (ACLED, 10/10/2015). **There are often discrepancies between the number of deaths reported by media and hospitals, and government agencies (AFP, 23/10/2015).** Though violence remains widespread in the northeast, the number of attacks and fatalities has decreased somewhat since August. July was the deadliest month since March, with 980 fatalities due to violence. 67% were related to BH; the highest proportion since January (ACLED,

07/08/2015). Recent military operations are pushing insurgents further east and south in Borno state, and towards neighbouring Gombe, Yobe, and Adamawa (UNHCR, 17/08/2015).

BH has been using guerrilla tactics including village raids, abductions, bombings and suicide attacks, increasingly targeting civilians (AFP, 23/03/2015; US Institute of Peace, 09/01/2015). The raids tend to follow a similar pattern, with houses set on fire, food and cattle seized, and a number of villagers killed. The attacks often lead to displacement (AFP, 20/07/2015).

Borno state: On 24 October, a suicide bombing in Dala Yazaram neighbourhood of Maiduguri killed three people and injured many others (AFP, 24/10/2015). On 23 October, a bomb blast in a mosque in Maiduguri reportedly killed 28 people and injured 20 others (AFP, 23/10/2015). On 21 October, BH fighters pushed out of their camp by the military opened fire on vehicles outside Jingalta village, north of Maiduguri, killing 20 people (AFP, 21/10/2015). On 19 October, five travellers were killed and another injured in a BH attacks outside of nearby Mile 40 village (AFP, 21/10/2015). On 15–16 October, multiple suicide attacks in suburbs of Maiduguri killed 52 people and injured at least 48. Some say more than 60 were killed (ECHO, 17/10/2015; AFP, 16/10/2015). On 13 October, three bomb blasts in Maiduguri killed and injured an unknown number of people (AFP, 13/10/2015). On 7 October, three people were killed in a suicide bombing in Gubia town, north of Maiduguri (AFP, 07/10/2015). On 1 October, up to seven bomb blasts were reported in Maiduguri, some of which were suicide attacks. Several occurred as people fled their houses after the sound of the first explosion. 15 people were killed and more than 35 were injured (AFP, 01/10/2015; OCHA, 06/10/2015). In September, more than 120 people were killed and 100 others injured in suspected BH attacks (AFP, 27/09/2015; BBC, 21/09/2015; AFP, 22/09/2015). In August, village raids, bomb blasts, and road attacks killed at least 141 people (The Guardian, 31/08/2015; The News Nigeria, 16/08/2015; AFP, 12/08/2015; 05/08/2015; 02/08/2015; Reuters, 12/08/2015; 09/08/2015).

Adamawa state: On 23 October, an explosion in a mosque in Yola killed at least 27 people, and injured 116 (AFP, 23/10/2015). On 18 October, at least 11 people were killed in a suspected BH attack on Dar village, close to the border with Borno state. Two female suicide bombers were among residents fleeing into the bush when their bombs detonated (AFP, 18/10/2015). In September, at least 28 people were killed and 21 injured in village raids and explosions in Adamawa, which had been relatively peaceful until mid-September (AFP, 02/10/2015; Reuters; AFP, 11/09/2015; ECHO, 15/09/2015; Reuters, 11/09/2015).

Yobe state: On 7 October, three bomb blasts in Damaturu killed 14 people and injured ten others (AFP, 07/10/2015).

Federal Capital Territory: On 2 October, at least 18 people were killed and 41 injured in two suicide bombings by suspected BH in the outskirts of the capital Abuja, targeting a

police station and a bus stop. Nyanya, where one of the blasts occurred, was the target of two BH attacks last year that killed more than 90 people (BBC, 03/10/2015; AFP, 05/10/2015).

Anambra and Kogi states: Clashes between security forces and armed men suspected to be members of BH were reported late September. Three people were killed in Anambra, and three others in Kogi (UNHCR, 06/10/2015).

Inter-communal violence

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

In Taraba state, at least seven people were killed in attacks against returning IDPs, after they were told by local authorities to return home and regain their confiscated land. Several other returning IDPs were killed as they were clearing their farmland and rebuilding their houses (UNHCR, 06/10/2015). In Plateau state, daily conflict continues, and causing displacement. 25 villages have been destroyed (UNHCR, 06/10/2015). On 22 September, 35 people were killed in Niger state, by unidentified armed men believed to be Fulani herdsmen. More than 25 houses were set on fire, several people were injured, and many fled into the bush (This Day Live, 24/09/2015). Incidents had fallen in previous months (ACLEDA, 2014; ICG, 01/10/2014).

Natural disasters

Floods

Adamawa: Since 30 August, 206,000 people have been affected by floods in 15 local government areas, including 42,800 who have been displaced or evacuated (OCHA, 29/09/2015). The floods were caused by a technological breakdown between Dadin Kowa dam in Gombe state and Kiri dam in Adamawa state, exacerbated by heavy rainfall (OCHA, 04/09/2015). Seven people were killed (TCV News, 13/09/2015). Farmland, houses, and livestock have been lost (Premium Times, 30/08/2015).

Cross River: Over 1,220 families (around 5,000 individuals) were displaced by flooding in coastal communities in early October. 4,500 farms were destroyed. The loss of crops is affecting the farmers' livelihoods and resilience. The risk of epidemics such as cholera has increased (ECHO, 10/10/2015).

Kebbi: Early October, 25,950 people were affected by floods in 12 local government areas. 70% of farmland in these areas is affected, and nearly 5,500 houses were damaged (AFP, 02/10/2015).

Kaduna: Late September, flooding forced more than 30,000 people to temporarily leave

their homes. 2,000 houses were submerged (local media, 21/09/2015).

Displacement

More than two million Nigerians have been displaced by conflict, including more than 2.1 million internally and more than 170,000 abroad.

IDPs

As of early September, more than 2.1 million IDPs have been identified in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe states, a drastic increase (58%) from 1.4 million IDPs in June (IOM, 03/09/2015). The increase is a result of increased Boko Haram attacks in July, as well as increased access to areas in Borno state, enabling assessments in areas previously not covered by the Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM, 03/09/2015).

More than 1.9 million are staying with host families; the rest are staying in 59 camps and camp-like sites. More than 1.6 million (77%) are in Borno, which is the state of origin for 81% of IDPs. 195,900 are in Yobe (9%) and 118,000 in Adamawa (5%). People displaced by inter-communal violence are mostly in Taraba and Nasarawa states (IOM, 03/09/2015).

58% of IDPs are children; half are under five. About 67% of IDPs were displaced in 2014, and 31% in 2015 (IOM, 03/09/2015). Many people have been displaced several times (OCHA, 24/09/2015).

IDPs report food as a priority need, followed by shelter and NFIs. 27% of registered IDPs are not receiving any assistance. This proportion is higher among IDPs living with host families (40%) than those in IDP sites (11%) (IOM, 03/09/2015). Conditions in IDP sites are deteriorating, and needs are unmet in WASH, education, health, and shelter (UNHCR, 17/08/2015).

Returns: 262,342 returning IDPs in northern Adamawa state are in urgent need of assistance (IOM, 03/09/2015). Shelter and food are reported as priority needs. Other priorities include restoration of WASH and transport infrastructure, and repair of schools and health facilities. Farming inputs, including equipment, fertiliser, and seeds, are also needed. Returnees face sporadic attacks (UNICEF, 01/09/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

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

Returnees

11,490 undocumented Nigerian refugees have been forcibly returned from Cameroon, following BH attacks in the country. The majority have returned to Maiduguri, Borno state; others are staying in camps and with host communities in Adamawa state (UNHCR,

11/10/2015).

Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries

Nearly 170,000 Nigerian refugees are in neighbouring countries. 58,570 registered refugees are in Cameroon and 14,160 are in Chad. More than 94,150 Nigerians have crossed the border into Niger (UNHCR, 31/08/2015; 28/09/2015; Government of Niger, 05/08/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Humanitarian assistance is very limited in remote areas that are or were formerly under BH control (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). Host communities receive very little assistance, as access remains difficult and needs are hard to assess (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

An estimated 2.3 million people do not have access to humanitarian aid and are in critical need of assistance (INGO Forum, 17/07/2015).

Security and physical constraints

The security situation in the northeast continues to impair access to affected populations, especially in remote areas (ACF, 30/06/2015).

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

Food security and livelihoods

As of September, an estimated 4.6 million people in the northeast are food insecure, including 3.5 million severely insecure. An estimated two million people residing in Borno state and much of Adamawa and Yobe are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, and worst-affected areas, including Maiduguri IDP settlements, are experiencing Emergency (Phase 4) outcomes (OCHA, 08/06/2015; FEWSNET, 30/09/2015; 07/08/2015; WFP, 25/09/2015).

Most areas outside the northeast will be facing Minimal (Phase 1) food security outcomes through December (FEWSNET, 07/08/2015).

Food availability

The October harvest will somewhat improve food security outcomes, but much of Borno and parts of Yobe and Adamawa will continue to face Crisis between October and

December (FEWSNET, 07/08/2015). The main harvest in October is expected to be well below average for a third consecutive year, limiting market supply and household stocks (FEWSNET, 07/08/2015; 30/09/2015).

Inter-communal conflict continues to disrupt agricultural activities in areas of Bauchi, Kaduna, Benue, Nasarawa, Plateau, Taraba, Katsina, FCT and Zamfara states. In some areas, markets are also negatively affected (FEWSNET, 07/08/2015).

Food access

Access to markets is restricted for households affected by conflict (FEWSNET, 26/09/2015). Boko Haram enforces rigid movement restrictions and some limitations on trade (Amnesty, 13/04/2015; FEWSNET, 25/06/2015).

Major urban markets, such as Maiduguri, Potiskum, Yola and Mubi, continue to operate, but at reduced levels due to limited demand and supply, and disrupted trade routes. Some markets in areas not directly affected by the conflict are also negatively affected (FEWSNET, 07/08/2015).

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

Livelihoods

Business activity is estimated to have decreased by 80% in areas affected by violence (OCHA, 25/09/2015). Communities in northeastern rural areas largely depend on farming for their livelihoods, but families returning from displacement will not be able to support themselves, as staple crops have not been planted (INGO Forum, 17/07/2015). Insecurity prevents those who remain in the northeast from carrying out typical farming activities (FEWSNET, 25/06/2015; 07/08/2015). Fishing and cross-border trade, particularly with Niger, have also fallen due to insecurity (OCHA, 24/09/2015).

Only 14% of registered IDPs have a source of income, compared to 66% prior to displacement (IOM, 03/09/2015).

Health

3.5 million people need health support (OCHA, 16/10/2015). Mortality rates are increasing and vaccination programmes are severely hit. There is an increased risk of children dying from malaria, measles, and diarrhoea due to the disruption of health services (Inter Press Service, 26/08/2015).

A nation-wide cholera outbreak is ongoing. Most cases have been reported outside of northeastern states, but several IDP camps in Maiduguri are also affected (ECHO,

18/09/2015; MSF, 17/09/2015). Malaria is the most prevalent health problem among IDPs in camps (IOM, 30/06/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Routine health services, including immunisation and maternal and child care, have been disrupted in areas affected by the insurgency. Many health workers have fled and those who remain are not able to access people in need (UNICEF, 30/09/2015). Less than 40% of health facilities are operational in areas affected by the conflict (Inter Press Service, 26/08/2015). In Borno state, only half of the local government areas had access to healthcare facilities in May (USAID, 17/06/2015). IDPs lack access to adequate healthcare and medicine, which is resulting in high mortality rates for common illnesses (ECHO, 18/09/2015).

Cholera

A cholera outbreak has been reported in four IDP camps in Maiduguri and surrounding communities in Borno state. As of late September, at least 737 cases and 22 deaths had been reported. The number of new cases in the camps is decreasing, but surrounding communities are reporting an increase in new cases (MSF, 02/10/2015). The outbreak is thought to be due to overflowing sewage after heavy rainfall, and inadequate water supply (WHO, 24/09/2015). The majority of IDPs are outside official camps, where access to WASH facilities is severely limited (ECHO, 18/09/2015; MSF, 17/09/2015).

Nutrition

An estimated 461,000 children under five will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2015, in addition to 1.7 million suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

Malnutrition is thought to be worse among IDPs in host communities, as they lack access to nutrition services. In May, GAM in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe IDP camps was around 12% among children under five. Food insecurity and a lack of safe water and health services are likely to increase malnutrition in the northeast (OCHA, 19/08/2015).

WASH

2.2 million people are in need of WASH assistance (OCHA, 09/07/2015).

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

More than 75% of IDP camps lack handwashing and drainage facilities. The number of

people sharing a toilet far exceeds the Sphere standard (USAID, 23/07/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

One million people are in need of shelter and NFIs (OCHA, 09/07/2015).

Shelter

IDP sites are often overcrowded (IRIN, 05/06/2015). The number of IDPs in formal camps has increased since April, and shelter and other basic needs have risen (OCHA, 08/06/2015). There is a reported need for shelter repair materials in half of IDP sites. 4% of IDPs in camps (some 4,450 individuals) were living in self-made tents, while others were staying in public buildings, such as schools and community centres, and government buildings (IOM, 30/06/2015; OCHA, 19/08/2015).

45% of registered IDPs report that their houses have been completely burned down or destroyed, while 24% report that their houses are partially burned down or damaged (IOM, 03/09/2015).

Education

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

Many schools are closed or face major disruption of services; classrooms have been damaged, looted, or occupied. Teachers and students have been deliberately targeted by attacks (UNICEF, 30/09/2015). Low numbers of qualified teachers, scarcity of teaching materials, and fear of sending children to school are main concerns for IDP children's access to education (UNICEF, 01/06/2015).

Protection

2.2 million people are in need of protection (OCHA, 09/07/2015). Reported protection incidents include killing of civilians, forced displacement, destruction of property, and arbitrary detention. Priorities for IDPs are the denial of access to assistance and family separation (UNHCR, 31/08/2015; UN, 29/09/2015).

In Taraba, returning IDPs have been attacked in disputes over land, as land and property had been taken in their absence. In some cases IDPs are facing stigma, discrimination, and isolation (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

IDP camps are facing a significant threat from militant infiltration; cases of BH militants disguised as IDPs have been reported from Maiduguri (UNHCR, 29/05/2015). BH has forcibly recruited young men, and carried out executions (Amnesty, 13/04/2015).

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

Gender

Women and girls kidnapped by BH have experienced physical and psychological abuse, forced marriage and labour, and sexual slavery (OCHA, 24/09/2015). Women are at particular risk of sexual violence and trafficking in displacement sites (OCHA, 30/04/2015).

So far in 2015, women have carried out most of the largest suicide attacks. There are reports that BH is using intellectually disabled women to bomb civilian areas (Action on Armed Violence, 10/08/2015).

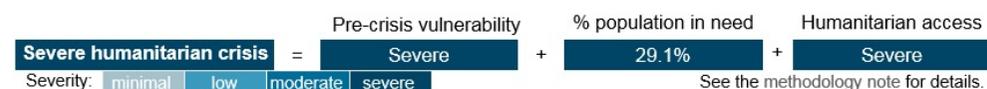
Children

Nearly 1.2 million children, half of whom are under five, have been forced to flee their homes, and have increased protection needs (UNICEF, 30/09/2015). Physical and emotional abuse of children is reported in many IDP sites. The majority of unaccompanied and separated children are in Borno state, followed by Yobe and Adamawa (IDMC, 16/04/2015; UNICEF, 13/04/2015; OCHA, 07/07/2015; Protection Sector Working Group, 17/07/2015). The increasing use of children and women for suicide bombings is of great concern (UNHCR, 29/05/2015; OCHA, 25/09/2015).

At least 23,000 displaced children in the northeast have been separated from their parents (UNICEF, 30/09/2015).

Updated: 26/10/2015

SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

25 October: Kenyan troops seized an Al Shabaab base along the Juba river, in an attempt to cut off militant supply lines to the Al Shabaab headquarters in Jilib, Lower Shabelle (ABC News).

23 October: El Niño is causing heavy rains in south-central Somalia, leading to flash floods in Mataban, Mahadey Weyne, Jowhar, and Mogadishu. More flooding is likely as water levels of the Shabelle river have increased (FAO).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.1 million IDPs, mainly in the south-central region, with high concentrations in Mogadishu (UNHCR, 11/08/2014).
- 2.75 million people need safe water (OCHA, 29/09/2015).
- 3 million are estimated to need emergency health services (OCHA, 29/09/2015).
- 855,000 people are facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food insecurity outcomes (FSNAU and FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).
- Some 214,700 children under five are estimated to be acutely malnourished, mainly in south-central Somalia, including 39,700 severely (FSNAU and FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).
- 1.7 million children are out of school (OCHA, 29/09/2015).
- Nearly one million Somali refugees live in neighbouring countries, mostly Kenya, Ethiopia, and Yemen (UNHCR, 11/08/2015).

OVERVIEW

Protracted conflict, consecutive years of drought, natural hazards, and disruption of basic infrastructure have led to large-scale displacement in Somalia and across the region. Almost half the population of Somalia, around 3.2 million people, is vulnerable to external shocks and lacks access to basic goods and services, with an estimated 1.5 million people living in seven regions affected by the Somalia–African Union military offensive: Bakool, Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan, Bay, Banadir, and Lower Juba. Insecurity and bureaucratic impediments hinder humanitarian access.

Politics and security

Somalia suffers from a chronic fragility of state institutions as a result of two decades of civil war. Vision 2016, the Federal Government's policy covering constitutional revision, the establishment of regional administrations, and transition to multiparty democracy, is opposed by key figures within the state (UNSC, 25/09/2014; ICG, 01/11/2014). Government and parliament agree that it will not be possible to collect votes from all individuals during the elections planned in 2016 (AFP, 28/07/2015; UNSOM, 03/08/2015).

Armed conflict

Between January and September, more than 855 incidents involving Al Shabaab were reported, causing more than 2,000 deaths. Nearly 20% of all reported incidents were attacks against civilians. Throughout 2015, an average of 16 attacks against civilians has been reported per month (ACLED, 26/09/2015). However, for many incidents no number of casualties is confirmed.

In the first half of 2015, insurgent attacks and inter-clan conflict had a high impact in southern areas of Lower Juba, south and east Gedo, south and west Bay, Bakool, Lower Shabelle, southern Hiraan, and central Galgaduud (FSNAU, 02/10/2015). Most incidents between January and May 2015 were reported in Mogadishu, Baidoa (Bay), Belet Weyne (Hiraan) and Kismayo (Lower Juba) (FSNAU, 26/06/2015). Al Shabaab has made substantial advances in Lower Shabelle region, taking control over towns that were in the hands of government and AU troops (Horseed media, 18/09/2015; Reuters, 06/09/2015).

Somali armed forces and the African Union launched new offensives against Al Shabaab in the middle of the year, and the number of reported security incidents increased in July and August, as did the number of reported fatalities, with 355 deaths in July and 514 in August; most were killed in clashes between Al Shabaab and security forces (ACLED, 26/09/2015). **In September, 293 deaths were reported, of which 184 were due to clashes between Al Shabaab and security forces (ACLED, 24/10/2015).**

The new offensives by SNAF-AMISOM since July and parallel operations by Ethiopian and Kenyan defence forces have affected areas of Bakool, Bay, Galgaduud, Gedo, Hiraan, and Lower Shabelle, leading to new displacement (OCHA, 20/08/2015). **Kenyan troops reportedly captured an Al Shabaab base in Yantoo, along the Juba river. The base has been used to launch cross-border attacks in Kenya. The attack was meant to disrupt militant supply lines to Jilib, where Al Shabaab has its headquarters (World Bulletin, 26/10/2015; ABC News, 25/10/2015).**

Over 2,200 conflict incidents with humanitarian impact were reported in the first nine months of 2014, including military operations, active hostilities, and other forms of violence against civilians (OCHA, 17/10/2014).

Stakeholders

Al Shabaab

Al Shabaab is a militant Islamist group and off-shoot of the Islamic Courts Union. It took over most of southern Somalia in 2006, seeking to establish an Islamic state. Numbering 7,000–9,000 militants, Al Shabaab typically targets Somali government officials, AMISOM forces, and perceived government allies. Attacks in urban centres and along transport axes are common, although a shift in tactics has seen Al Shabaab concentrate attacks on small and remote AU bases in 2015 (CNN, 03/09/2015). Al Shabaab has also carried out a number of attacks in Kenya. Al Shabaab was forced out of Mogadishu in 2011 and

Kismayo in 2012, and lost Barawe, Lower Shabelle, in October 2014.

SNAF-AMISOM offensive

In November 2013, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) force was increased to 22,000 from 17,600. Its mandate has been extended until 30 November 2015 (UNSC, 25/09/2014). The Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF) and AMISOM started a military offensive against Al Shabaab-held areas in March 2014 (OCHA, 05/2014). New offensives began in July, affecting Bay, Gedo, Bakool, Galgaduud, Hiraan, and Lower Shabelle regions (AMISOM, 19/07/2015; OCHA, 20/08/2015).

The government's inability to pay soldiers threatens to undermine the military gains against Al Shabaab as morale falls. Soldiers may defect or set up checkpoints to extract bribes. Corruption at higher levels of the military is reportedly one of the reasons for non-payment of soldiers (Reuters, 08/10/2015).

Conflict developments

Al Shabaab continues attacks on civilians, humanitarian personnel, and government officials. In September, at least 84 incidents involving Al Shabaab have been reported, leading to 210 fatalities. At least 18 incidents were attacks against civilians. Often, numbers of fatalities are not confirmed and the number of deaths from Al Shabaab-related violence is expected to be much higher. So far in October, 46 Al Shabaab-related incidents have led to 100 deaths. Bakool, Banadir, Bay, Gedo, Hiraan, and Shabelle regions are all affected by the violence (ACLED, 17/10/2015).

On 25 October, at least three women were injured in an Al Shabaab attack on an Ethiopian military base in Bardhere airport (local media, 25/10/2015). On 7 October, a suspected Al Shabaab bomb blast killed five people, including three civilians, at a market in Afgoye town, northwest of Mogadishu (Horseed Media, 07/10/2015). On 26 September, a bomb blast in a restaurant in Kismayo by suspected Al Shabaab killed four people, including three civilians, and wounded several others (Xinhua, 27/09/2015).

Mogadishu: Al Shabaab attacks in Mogadishu mainly target political figures. On 7 October, a Ministry official and a relative of the President were killed. Al Shabaab claimed responsibility (Horseed media, 07/10/2015). Several car bomb explosions in September killed and injured a number of people. Government buildings and security forces are among the main targets (AFP, 21/09/2015).

Natural disasters

El Niño

In the coming months a strong El Niño is expected to cause heavy rainfall leading to floods in south-central Somalia, and exacerbate drought in Somaliland. Over 600,000

people are expected to be affected by flooding in south-central and Puntland, which is likely to lead to displacement, additional health concerns, and restricted access to affected areas. More than 30,000 people could be further affected by drought in Somaliland (ECHO, 20/10/2015).

Heavy rains have already been reported in parts of the Shabelle river basin, leading to flash floods in Mataban, Mahadey Weyne, Jowhar and Mogadishu. River levels have increased significantly in the middle reaches of the river, resulting in a high flood risk level, particularly in downstream areas (FAO, 23/10/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

An estimated 1.1 million Somalis were IDPs in June 2015, 893,000 in the south-central region, 129,000 in Puntland, and 84,000 in Somaliland. 369,000 IDPs live in makeshift camps in Mogadishu (UNHCR, 02/09/2015). Despite new displacement, overall figures have been stable since December 2014 (OCHA, 04/12/2014).

Between May and July, about 46,000 people were newly displaced, mainly due to insecurity. 24% were displaced by the military offensives in south-central Somalia, particularly in Lower Shabelle and Bay regions (OCHA, 10/08/2015; 16/07/2015; ECHO, 21/07/2015; FSNAU, 02/10/2015). The majority moved within their region; others moved to Lower Juba and Mogadishu. Many are staying in settlements, particularly in Baidoa, Elwak, Luuq, and Mogadishu, while others are staying in host communities (OCHA, 20/08/2015).

IDPs returning to Bardhere in Gedo, and Dinsoor in Bay region, are in need of support. Prolonged inaccessibility means these areas have received little assistance. Looting and burning of public facilities during recent military operations further increased the need for support (OCHA, 21/08/2015).

Returnees

The security and socio-economic situation in large areas of Somalia is not yet right for large-scale returns, but some refugees are eager to come back (UNHCR, 16/10/2015). Between 8 December 2014 and 11 October 2015, 5,171 Somalis returned from Kenya: 2,705 to Kismayo, 1,226 to Mogadishu, 925 to Baidoa, and the remainder to Luuq, Bardhere, Afgoye, and other places (UNHCR, 11/10/2015). More than 4,000 others have signed up to return (UNHCR, 16/10/2015). The original target for voluntary returns from Kenya in 2015 was 10,000 (UNHCR, 08/12/2014). Among those who are not returning, the main reasons cited are the lack of functioning public schools and job opportunities (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).

As of 2 September, UNHCR repatriated 33 Somali refugees from Eritrea to Hargeisa.

Further repatriation is anticipated in the coming months (UNHCR, 02/09/2015).

Returnees and refugees from Yemen

As of 1 October, 29,470 arrivals from Yemen have been registered since April: at least 19,731 have arrived in Bosaso, Puntland, and 9,332 in Berbera, Somaliland. 20–150 people continue to arrive per week. The rate of arrival has fallen significantly since August. This may be due to information on living conditions for new arrivals in Somalia reaching people who intend to leave Yemen, and because the conflict in Yemen is having a greater effect on the two main ports of departure to Somalia. Nearly 500 people arrived in August, and 425 people in September, a large decrease from the 9,860 arrivals in July (IOM, 15/10/2015; 01/09/2015; UNHCR, 05/10/2015).

89% of arrivals are Somali returnees, 10% Yemeni refugees, and 1% third-country nationals (IOM, 15/10/2015). 75% of arrivals are women and children (OCHA, 10/08/2015). Some Yemenis have indicated their intention to return, particularly to Aden (UNHCR, 05/10/2015). More than half of Somali returnees intend to go to Mogadishu (UNHCR, 05/10/2015). People in Mogadishu and Hargeisa are reportedly staying in IDP settlements (UNHCR, 14/07/2015; 14/09/2015). Priority needs for new arrivals in Somaliland include shelter support and food (UNHCR, 21/09/2015).

Somali refugees in neighbouring countries

There are 967,046 Somali refugees in neighbouring countries, of whom around 5,000 were registered in 2015. At least 420,199 are in Kenya, 248,894 in Ethiopia, and 246,648 in Yemen, with the remainder in Uganda, Djibouti, Eritrea, and Tanzania (UNHCR, 11/08/2015; 31/08/2015; 09/09/2015).

Humanitarian access

Restricted humanitarian access continues to affect aid delivery to affected populations in south-central Somalia. Even in areas where there is no active conflict, illegal checkpoints, banditry, and demands for bribes are common (OCHA, 09/10/2015). The latest SNAF-AMISOM offensive further restricts population movement, trade, and humanitarian access (USAID, 17/08/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

In the first six months of 2015, there were more than 60 security incidents involving aid workers. Eight people were killed, 14 injured, five abducted, and 30 arrested or detained (OCHA, 16/07/2015; 20/07/2015). The majority of incidents involving aid workers include shooting (25%) and abduction (20%) (INSO, 09/2015). A 400-strong UN military unit was deployed in Mogadishu with a mandate to protect aid workers in May 2014 (UN).

Roadblocks in Hudur, Bakool region, have eased somewhat in recent months, facilitating

the movement of goods to the town. However, surrounding areas continue to be affected by violent clashes and cannot be accessed by humanitarian organisations (FSNAU, 02/10/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Between January and August 2015, 3,217 security incidents were reported in Somalia. Monthly fluctuations are relatively small, with 360–440 incidents reported every month (INSO, 09/2015). Insecurity on the main roads makes needs assessment and response difficult. Inaccessibility of major supply routes is disrupting markets and livelihoods (OCHA, 10/08/2015).

The latest military offensives have further complicated access to areas in Bakool, Bay, Gedo, and Hiraan. Non-state actors are blocking roads and limiting movement. Humanitarian actors and commercial transporters have suspended movement in affected areas, including Wajid and Hudur (OCHA, 20/08/2015). Access to some areas in Bay region is extremely limited (OCHA, 20/07/2015). Bulo Burde, Hiraan region, is only accessible via an airstrip secured by AMISOM (FSNAU, 02/10/2015).

Access to some areas along the Juba and Shabelle rivers is expected to deteriorate in the coming months, as heavy flooding is expected to occur due to El Niño. These areas are also the worst affected by other access constraints, including active hostilities, roadblocks, and unauthorised checkpoints (OCHA, 19/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Food insecurity has increased by 17% since February–June, with 855,000 people facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes through December. 61,000 people are facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes; more than half are in Banadir, and the majority are IDPs (FSNAU, 02/10/2015). The increase is attributed to below-average cereal harvests, poor rainfall in agropastoral and pastoral areas in the north, trade disruption due to insurgent activities, and continued displacement (FSNAU and FEWSNET, 31/08/2015; FSNAU, 08/09/2015). Overall, IDPs make up 68% of the severely food insecure, rural populations 25%, and urban populations 7% (FSNAU, 02/10/2015).

Of those facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes, 240,000 people are in Somaliland, where a drought is ongoing. The main food-producing regions of Awdal, Maroodijeeh, and Gbiley are worst affected (Somalia NGO consortium, 17/09/2015).

Areas with the highest proportion of households facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes include Banadir, South Mudug, North Mudug, and Lower Juba in south-central Somalia; Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed in Somaliland; and Bari in Puntland. Vulnerable urban populations that have been affected by trade disruptions due to the insurgency in Bulo Burde, Hiraan region, and Hudur and Wajid, Bakool region, are also

a priority for humanitarian assistance (FSNAU, 02/10/2015). Below-average *gu* harvest in August–September also affected riverine areas of Middle Shabelle, where poor households are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

Deterioration in food security is projected until December, in agricultural livelihood areas of Bay, Bakool, Hiraan, Middle Juba and Middle Shabelle, where reduced crop yields are expected (FSNAU, 26/06/2015; FAO, 27/07/2015). Above-average October–December rains are expected to improve food security conditions across most pastoral livelihood zones in south-central Somalia (FSNAU, 02/10/2015). In agropastoral areas of Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed the *gu* maize harvest was low, resulting in increased food insecurity. The *karan* harvest in November is expected to be below average. Households will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes through December. Above-normal livestock deaths reported since July in coastal pastoral areas of Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed, and along the Golis Mountains means poor households are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes, even with humanitarian assistance (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

Food access

Prices of essential staple foods in areas affected by trade embargos in Bakool, Gedo, and Hiraan have stabilised due to the delivery of aid, improved seasonal harvest, opening up of secondary supply routes, and adjustments by local traders for food transportation (FSNAU, 02/10/2015).

In agropastoral areas of Middle Juba, sorghum prices are at their lowest since February 2014 thanks to supplies from Bay, resulting in improved access to food. Many poor households will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes from October–December, as income from agricultural activities increases (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

Livelihoods

From November–January, flooding is likely to affect agricultural activities in Middle Shabelle, resulting in poor households facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes due to low revenues (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

In most parts of Coastal Deeh pastoral livelihood zone in the central regions, pasture conditions deteriorated and water sources were only partially replenished. In most pastoral areas, depletion of water sources and deterioration of rangeland conditions have been faster than normal (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

Health

Around 3 million people are in need of emergency health services, particularly in Bay, Bakool, Galgaduud, Middle Juba, and parts of Gedo. Children under five are a priority group (OCHA, 27/08/2015; UNICEF, 31/08/2015).

Serious crude death rates (CDR of over 0.5 deaths/1000 people/day) were recorded in agropastoral areas of the Shabelle regions, among IDPs and urban populations in Mogadishu, and among IDPs in Dolow and Dhusamareb in Galgaduud. The highest CDR was observed among IDPs in Dhobley (1.18), where, diarrhoea, malaria and pneumonia are the main causes of death for children under five (FSNAU, 16/10/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

1.5 million people are without access to primary or secondary health services, including 300,000 children under five, due to funding shortfalls. Secondary health service provision is not seen as a priority, which further impacts people's access to these services (WHO, 31/08/2015). Ten hospitals have closed or significantly scaled down services since May. Basic health posts and clinics are struggling to meet primary health needs. Many aid agencies have withdrawn health workers due to lack of funds (WHO, 23/07/2015). Hospitals in Dhobley, Galkayo, Jowhar, and Kismayo risk having to suspend services. In 2014, 20 health facilities closed due to limited funding (OCHA, 16/07/2015).

Health facilities outside Hudur, Bakool region, are not functional and humanitarian actors cannot access the areas due to insecurity (FSNAU, 02/10/2015).

Measles

Suspected measles cases continue to be reported in all zones of Somalia, though underreporting is probably underestimating the actual caseload (WHO, 31/08/2015). From January to July, 5,350 cases of measles were reported (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). The measles outbreaks in 2015 and 2014 have each recorded at least double the caseload of 2013 (OCHA, 14/07/2014).

Nutrition

343,400 children are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition from August–December 2015, including 63,400 from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (FSNAU and FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). Nationwide, global acute malnutrition (GAM) is at 13.6%, including 2.3% SAM (FSNAU, 08/09/2015; 16/10/2015).

85% of livelihood areas in south-central and northeast Somalia show a serious or critical nutrition situation, with more than 10% GAM. Priority groups for nutrition, where GAM is more than 15%, are pastoral, agropastoral, and riverine populations in Gedo region; people in Belet Weyne and Mataban districts in Hiraan region; coastal pastoral areas and the cowpea belt in Mudug and Galgaduud regions; Bay region; and IDPs in Dolow, Baidoa, Dhobley, Garowe, and Galkayo (FSNAU, 16/10/2015).

In pastoral areas of northern Awdal and Woqoyi Galbeed in Somaliland, GAM is 22.3% as of September, and SAM 5.9%. Children up to 29 months and girls are at higher risk of SAM (FSNAU, 02/10/2015).

20.6% GAM and 15.7% SAM were observed in Hudur, Bakool, in September. Though this is a decrease from the 33% and 19% GAM and SAM, respectively, measured in a MUAC assessment in July, the situation remains very critical. The proportion of severely malnourished out of all acutely malnourished children has dramatically increased to 76%, which poses a problem for response, as current supplies for SAM treatment are already insufficient (FSNAU, 02/10/2015; 27/07/2015).

Bulo Burde, Hiraan, is seeing a continued decline in overall acute malnutrition, although the situation remained very critical in September, with 18% GAM and 14% SAM. The prevalence of SAM has barely decreased since June, and its proportion of overall acute malnutrition is increasing, which indicates an increased risk of mortality (FSNAU, 02/10/2015).

IDPs

Malnutrition among IDPs is particularly critical. A May–July nutrition assessment found a significant deterioration among IDPs in Kismayo and Dhobley in south-central Somalia. Five sites have over 15% GAM: Baidoa, Dhobley, Garowe, Galkayo and Dolow. In the last three sites, acute malnutrition has been above the critical threshold over the past two years. Among Dhobley IDPs, GAM has nearly doubled since the last assessment (October–December 2014), from 11% to 20.7%. SAM levels are above 4% in Baidoa, Galkayo, and Dolow (FSNAU, 08/09/2015; 16/10/2015).

The high malnutrition rates in Dhobley, combined with critical crude death rates, suggest a nutrition emergency, which requires urgent response to prevent more deaths (FSNAU, 16/10/2015).

WASH

2.75 million people are estimated to be in need of safe water. There is a need for maintenance of WASH infrastructure, particularly in displacement settlements and areas affected by drought. Newly displaced people, including those evicted in Banadir and Lower Shabelle, are in need of access to water and sanitation services (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter

An estimated 937,000 people are in need of shelter. Needs have increased due to forced evictions and conflict (OCHA, 27/08/2015; UNHCR, 07/09/2015). IDPs in Mogadishu are living in makeshift shelters (OCHA, 03/06/2015).

Education

1.7 million children are out of school. 78% are in south-central Somalia (OCHA,

30/07/2015). Children of displaced families remain the most vulnerable and neglected regarding access to education (OCHA, 02/06/2015).

There is a lack of teachers and learning materials, and learning facilities are inadequate (OCHA, 20/07/2015).

Protection

1.11 million people are considered in need of protection, mainly due to the physical insecurity resulting from the SNAF-AMISOM offensive and inter-clan fighting; SGBV, including cases of sexual violence during inter-clan conflict; child protection violations; separation of children; and forced/secondary eviction (UNHCR Protection Cluster, 10/2014; OCHA, 29/09/2015). Protection of civilians living in areas affected by the SNAF-AMISOM offensive remains a key challenge (OCHA, 20/08/2015).

AMISOM forces have been accused of killing civilians in their homes on several occasions. Human Rights Watch has called for an official investigation (HRW, 13/08/2015).

Forced evictions

Forced evictions of IDPs surged in 2015. In the first five months, 96,000 people were forcibly evicted, compared to 32,500 in the whole of 2014 (OCHA, 20/07/2015). Thousands more are at risk of eviction, mainly in Kismayo and Mogadishu (OCHA, 30/07/2015). Forced evictions have also been reported in Kismayo, Bosaso, Baidoa, and Luuq (UNHCR, 28/02/2015; ECHO, 25/03/2015; NRC, 18/05/2015; OCHA, 20/07/2015).

Children

167 grave child rights violations were recorded in June, compared to 125 in May. The majority of cases were related to abduction (UNICEF, 31/05/2015; 30/06/2015).

Both Somali national armed forces and Al Shabaab have been accused of killing and recruiting children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 01/09/2015). More than 1,000 grave violations were recorded January–April 2015. Grave violations include recruitment or use of children, killing, maiming, rape or other sexual violence (UNICEF). Boys are more affected than girls. 291 cases of child recruitment into armed groups and the national army were reported in the first four months of 2015 and 75 cases of sexual violence against children, compared to 370 and 30, respectively, during the same period in 2014 (OCHA, 03/06/2015).

Mental health

In Somaliland, people with mental health conditions are increasingly forced into institutions, where they face serious abuse, particularly in private centres. Patients face punitive and prolonged chaining, confinement, seclusion, and severe

restrictions on their movement (Human Rights Watch, 25/10/2015).

Updated: 26/10/2015

SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

22 October: All humanitarian organisations have withdrawn from Koch and Leer, Unity, as of 3 October. 250,000 people no longer have access to humanitarian assistance, beside airdrops (Protection Cluster, 22/10/2015).

21 October: 30,000 people are in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) food security outcomes in Leer, Guit, Koch and Mayendit counties, Unity state. The situation is likely to deteriorate without immediate humanitarian assistance (IPC, 22/10/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 6.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2015; 4.6 million people to be assisted by the end of 2015 (OCHA, 08/01/2015; UN, 12/06/2015).
- 3.9 million people in South Sudan are estimated to be experiencing Crisis (IPC phase 3), Emergency (IPC phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC phase 5) food security outcomes. 30,000 are in Catastrophe (IPC, 22/10/2015).
- An estimated 250,000 children are severely malnourished (OCHA, 13/06/2015).
- 1.66 million IDPs since December 2013. 182,200 IDPs are sheltering in six sites on UNMISS bases (UNICEF, 24/09/2015; UNMISS, 12/10/2015).
- 265,296 refugees in South Sudan (mainly from Sudan, DRC, Ethiopia, and CAR (UNHCR, 15/08/2015).
- 620,762 South Sudanese refugees since December 2013 (UNHCR, 21/08/2015).

OVERVIEW

Violence began to spread across eastern and northern South Sudan in December 2013. Fighting was focused in the oil-rich northeastern states during the first six months of 2015. Strife has progressively adopted the characteristics of an inter-communal conflict between the Dinka tribe allied to South Sudan President Kiir and government forces, and the Nuer, loosely allied with former South Sudan Vice President Riek Machar.

Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity are priority states of humanitarian need, and the priority sectors are food security and livelihoods, health, NFIs and shelter, nutrition, and WASH. Insecurity is hampering the delivery of assistance. The UN reports widespread violation of human rights and targeted violence against civilians. Pockets of extreme food insecurity have caused for calls for immediate humanitarian assistance.

Politics and security

Civil War

President Kiir's Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA), who are predominantly Dinka and backed by Ugandan troops, have been fighting a loose alliance of military defectors loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar, the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army-In Opposition (SPLA-IO), along with ethnic Nuer militia, since December 2013. Conflict was most intense in the first weeks, but it has persisted throughout 2014 and 2015, periodically escalating. By November 2014, 50,000 people were thought to have died, although access restrictions make numbers hard to verify (ICG, 15/11/2014). Fighting is concentrated in Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile states.

In August, Machar and Kiir signed a peace deal, but fighting has continued, and Machar's support has splintered, further reducing the likelihood of the deal putting a stop to the conflict (Sudan Tribune, 05/08/2015). At least seven ceasefires have been signed and broken since the civil war started (The Daily Star, 29/06/2015).

Political developments

On 4 October, President Kiir announced the reorganisation of South Sudan into 28 states, from the current ten states, as of November. Breaking up the states may enable the SPLA to reduce the area controlled by supporters of the SPLM-IO. International sponsors of the deal (UK, USA, Norway) and SPLA-IO, have stated that the move may jeopardise the August peace agreement (VOA, 05/10/2015; Troika, 06/10/2015; Sudan Tribune, 21/10/2015).

Parliament voted to extend President Kiir's term by three years in March, until mid-2018, cancelling elections (AFP, 24/03/2015).

Sudan–South Sudan

Relations between Sudan and South Sudan have been poor since South Sudan gained independence in 2011. The violence in South Sudan since December 2013 has exacerbated tensions, with additional concerns in Khartoum regarding an influx of refugees and arms, as well as disruption of oil flow. Sudan has accused South Sudan of using Sudanese militia groups to fight insurgents. South Sudan has made similar accusations.

Border tensions

On 7 October, Sudanese and South Sudanese officials met to continue negotiations to finalise negotiations on borders and the disputed territory of Abyei (Sudan Tribune, 07/10/2015).

The Ugandan army has allegedly occupied contested land involved in a border dispute, displacing 300 farmers from Eastern Equatoria state (UNHCR, 15/08/2015).

International military presence

The mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) expires on 15 December 2015. As of 28 February 2015, there were 11,669 uniformed UN personnel in the country. On 8 October, UNMISS forces were halted and physically assaulted by SPLA troops outside Wonduruba, Central Equatoria (UNMISS, 08/10/2015).

The Ugandan army, which has been supporting the SPLA, has announced that its forces will leave South Sudan as by 1 November, as part of the August ceasefire agreement (BBC, 12/10/2015).

Conflict developments

Government forces have failed to retake any lost territory in Greater Upper Nile since June 2015 (ACLEDA, 31/08/2015; Small Arms Survey, 01/07/2015).

Clashes intensified in the first months of 2015, with significant escalation in March. In April, the capital of Unity state was transferred from Bentiu to Mankien, Mayom county (UNMISS, 15/04/2015).

Violence subsided in late June–July, as the rainy season reached its peak, and in August, peace talks and a ceasefire agreement kept fighting from intensifying. However, the ceasefire has been repeatedly broken by both sides in Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, and along the White Nile (Protection Cluster, 22/10/2015; IRIN, 09/10/2015; Sudan Tribune,

31/08/2015).

Between April and September, 1,000 civilians were killed in Leer, Mayendit, and Koch in Unity state; 1,600 women and children were abducted. This is more than the number of civilians killed and abducted across the country over more than a year. Witnesses have said the SPLA were the main perpetrators (UNHCR, Protection Cluster, 25/09/2015). On 29 September, the African Union announced the creation of a court to look into suspected war crimes in southern Unity (BBC, 29/09/2015).

Unity: The SPLM-IO stormed government strongholds in Leer and Koch on 2 October. At least 150 people were displaced and 80 civilians killed. As of 22 October, clashes in Koch Leer were reported as ongoing (Protection Cluster, 22/10/2015; IRIN, 09/10/2015).

Upper Nile: In October, sporadic fighting and shelling around Malakal continues to be reported (IRIN, 12/10/2015). There has been intermittent fighting south of Malakal since 1 September (UNHCR, 18/09/2015).

Western Equatoria: On 12 October, 600 people were displaced from Mundri county, following clashes between the SPLA and an unknown armed militia (Sudan Tribune, 12/10/2015).

Inter-communal violence

Violence between communities is frequent, but underreported. Ownership of cattle is a common source of tension, particularly among pastoralists. The displacement of people and cattle due to conflict has intensified inter-communal clashes (UNHCR, Protection Cluster, 25/09/2015; IRIN, 15/01/2015). An increase in violence is expected in southern Unity for these reasons (UNHCR, Protection Cluster, 25/09/2015).

Between July and October, clashes in Unity, Central Equatoria, Lakes, Warrap, and Western Equatoria killed 140 people, and as many as 30,000 were displaced. Inter-communal clashes have also taken place in IDP camps (UNHCR, 08/2015; Sudan Tribune, 07/2015; 08/2015; Radio Tamazuj, 07/2015; 08/2015). On 16 October, 92 deaths were reported and 144 people injured in fighting in Tonj East, Warrap state. The cause is unclear but cattle raids among Dinka are a likely motivator factor (Sudan Tribune, 16/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

The delivery of aid is restricted by heavy fighting, logistical constraints, and administrative impediments. The rainy season and insecurity have forced humanitarian organisations to deliver aid via air drops. As least 250,000 people are

without direct access to humanitarian assistance, mainly in Unity (Protection Cluster, 22/10/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Assault, burglary, harassment, arrest, and detention have all been reported in 2015. Crime targeting humanitarian actors in Juba increased in September. On 10 September, an aid worker was killed in an armed robbery at an NGO office compound in Juba (OCHA, 18/09/2015). In Unity and Upper Nile, threats against humanitarian staff and facilities are common (UNHCR, 02/10/2015; PI, 11/09/2015). Six have been killed in Unity since May 2015 (UNHCR, Protection Cluster, 25/09/2015). Overall, 34 aid workers have been killed since December 2013 (OCHA, 18/09/2015).

Security and physical constraints

The security situation in Unity, Jonglei, and Upper Nile remains volatile. Although seasonal floods (August–October) are over, they are not expected to recede totally until January 2016, and access to those in Greater Upper Nile will remain restricted until then (FEWSNET, 2015).

Some organisations are returning to sites in Unity and Upper Nile state as the frequency of fighting has declined from its peak in April–June. UNICEF and WFP resumed operations in Malakal in August (OCHA, 31/08/2015). However, a resurgence in fighting in Leer and Koch counties, Unity, and threats against staff have led to all humanitarian organisations have withdrawn as of 3 October. An estimated 250,000 people no longer have access to humanitarian assistance, although airdrops continue (Protection Cluster, 22/10/2015).

Humanitarian staff from several organisations have been evacuated from Katigiri, Central Equatoria (PI, 11/09/2015).

Insecurity in Western Equatoria in September limited WFP's movement (WFP, 21/09/2015).

An estimated 11,500 people are only accessible by air drop in the swampy terrain surrounding Toch, Jonglei (ICRC, 03/09/2015). Heavy rains are preventing humanitarian actors from using the Rubkona airstrip in Unity (Logistics Cluster, 30/08/015). All roads in Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile are closed. Roads in Western Equatoria, Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal, and Warrap states remain difficult, and are mainly only passable with the light vehicles. Transport along the Nile remains possible (Logistics cluster, 16/10/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

Reports from 11 September suggest that persistent floods have displaced 2,000 –3,000 households (14,000–21,000 people) around Bor, Jonglei state (Sudan Tribune, 11/09/2015).

Displacement

As of September 2015, around 2.27 million people have been displaced, both internally and to neighbouring countries since December 2013 (IOM, 21/09/2015). Fluid displacement patterns and limited access to rural areas make numbers difficult to verify and registration problematic (UNHCR 18/09/2014).

IDPs

As of 22 October, there are an estimated 1.66 million IDPs in South Sudan. Around 877,000 are children (UNICEF, 22/10/2015). This is an increase of over 35,000 since 16 August (OHCA, 15/09/2015). Confirming the location of IDPs is difficult, but reports suggest that at least 463,000 are in Jonglei, 576,170 in Unity, 309,040 in Upper Nile, 120,070 in Lakes, 93,280 in Western Equatoria, 52,930 in Central Equatoria, 24,660 in Western Bahr el Ghazal, 8,910 in Eastern Equatoria, 9,400 in Abyei, and 1,920 in Warrap (OCHA, 08/10/2015).

On 12 October, 600 people were displaced by SPLA and opposition forces fighting in Mundri county, Western Equatoria state (Sudan Tribune, 12/10/2015). 150 people were displaced from Leer and Koch in Unity by fighting between SPLA and SPLM-IO on 2 October (09/10/2015). 18,000 people have arrived at Nyal IDP camp, Unity state, so far in September, bringing the total camp population to 78,000. The new arrivals require nutrition assistance. 300 unaccompanied children were with the group (OCHA, 18/09/2015). 28,000 people who were displaced by fighting in southern Unity have been displaced to Panyijar county. They are in need of WASH and shelter assistance (Radio Miraya, 29/09/2015).

Reports suggest that around 5,600 people have been displaced near Katigiri, Central Equatoria, following fighting in the area in early September (PI, 22/09/2015).

Protection of Civilian sites

As of 12 October, 184,284 people are in UNMISS Protection of Civilian sites (PoCs). This is approximately 10,000 fewer than in 30 September, which may be attributed to people returning home to harvest crops, and to the slight improvement in security conditions, particularly in Unity. 107,649 are in Bentiu, 27,950 in Juba UN House, 45,462 in Malakal, 2,289 in Bor, 700 in Melut, and 234 in Wau (UNMISS, 12/10/2015).

There has also been a decrease in new arrivals, most notably in Bentiu where 2,155 new IDPs arrived between 21 and 28 August compared to around 1,200 a week in September and October. Nonetheless, Malakal PoC's total population is now around 45,000 despite being designed for 18,000. This has resulted in a complete lack of shelter for some IDPs (IOM, 21/09/2015; MSF, 08/09/2015). People are beginning to leave in large numbers (UN, 14/10/2015).

95% of new arrivals to PoCs reported their displacement was due to food insecurity on 7 October, compared to 63% on 19 September. This may indicate that those who remain and continue to arrive at PoCs do not have land to return to, or that their food stocks and crops were destroyed or looted during the April–June offensive. 21% of new arrivals were from Koch county, 16% from Leer, 42% from Rubkona, and 17% from Guit (IOM, 07/10/2015; 21/09/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 14 October 265,700 refugees are in South Sudan (UNHCR, 16/10/2015). 235,000 are from Sudan, 15,500 from DRC, 4,900 from Ethiopia, and 2,040 from CAR. 101,203 refugees are in Unity, 134,435 in Upper Nile, 2,339 in Jonglei, 18,518, in Central Equatoria, and 9,725 in Western Equatoria (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

Most Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile state reside in four refugee camps in Maban county (OCHA, 03/04/2014).

As of 26 September, over 2,100 Sudanese refugees are being relocated to the Lasu refugee camp from near Yei town in Central Equatoria. Lasu camp already has a population of 8,300, mostly refugees from DRC (UNHCR, 26/09/2015).

Over 69,919 refugees are in Yida, Unity state, although the number is fluid as people move across the border as safety and needs dictate. 14,589 have arrived since December 2014 from South Kordofan in Sudan. The rate of new arrivals slowed to 251 in September (UNCHR, 07/10/2015; PI, 03/07/2015). The South Sudan government wants to close Yida camp and relocate refugees further from the border to a camp at Ajuong Thok: 15,954 refugees have been relocated since 23 December 2014. Local authorities have banned refugees from leaving camps in the Yida area to fish and farm, after tensions with host communities in June (UNHCR, 14/07/2015).

Ajuong Thok's total population is 31,284. Most live under plastic sheeting, which in many cases has been damaged by recent rainstorms (UNCHR, 16/10/2015; 07/10/2015)

South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries

Nearly 90,000 South Sudanese have fled the country since the beginning of 2015, bringing the total of South Sudanese refugees arriving in neighbouring countries since December 2013 to around 640,400. 68% of South Sudanese refugees are under 17 (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).

Sudan: As of 16 October, 197,942 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since December 2013 (UNHCR, 16/10/2015). The Sudanese Government refuses to recognise South Sudanese nationals as refugees and instead considers them to be Sudanese citizens (UNHCR, 03/04/2014). UNHCR declared this constitutes an obstacle to accessing humanitarian assistance.

Ethiopia: 225,136 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).

Uganda: 169,620 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).

Kenya: 46,728 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

As of October, 3.9 million people in South Sudan are estimated to be experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3), Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) food security outcomes. This is a drop from the peak of 4.6 million during the lean season, before the harvests began, but is an 80% increase compared to the same period last year.

The 30,000 people in Catastrophe are in Leer, Guit, Koch and Mayendit counties, Unity state, areas among the worst affected by the civil war. These people are likely to be among those who fled to the bush during the intensification of violence from April. ICRC reported in September that coping mechanisms are completely exhausted in Koch and Mayendit in Leer, Unity state (ICRC, 12/09/2015). Large areas of the conflict-affected states of Unity, Jonglei, and Upper Nile are expected to remain in Emergency throughout the harvest period as food stocks have been depleted (FEWSNET, 27/08/2015). The situation in central Unity is likely to deteriorate without immediate humanitarian assistance (IPC, 22/10/2015). The government of South Sudan, in contrast, asserts that the food security situation has improved in recent month (Reuters, 22/10/2015).

IPC also reports a deterioration in the Greater Equatoria region due to market disruption, economic downturn, insecurity and localised crop failures. It is the first time it has ever reported such poor indicators for the Greater Equatoria region. 30% of the urban poor in South Sudan are also estimated to be in Emergency (IPC, 22/10/2015).

The impact of El Niño on food availability may be negative or positive. Heavy late rains may allow for earlier planting next season, but are also likely to increase post-harvest losses due to poor storage and poor market connectivity (WFP, 30/09/2015).

Food availability

Due to conflict and erratic rainfall throughout August, planting in Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei (Greater Upper Nile), as well as parts of Central and Eastern Equatoria, remains severely limited for the second consecutive year. Significant soil moisture deficits remain and pasture conditions are well below average. Pastoralist areas are also being affected by declining pasture (FAO, 23/09/2015; WFP, 30/09/2015).

Poor and IDP households are expected to exhaust food stocks by December (FEWSNET, 19/08/2015). Food stocks are depleting in Bentiu PoC camp, owing to rapid population increase. Significant interruptions to the delivery of food assistance are expected after September due to funding constraints (WFP, 08/08/2015). 26,000 IDPs in Melut PoC are in dire need of food assistance (UNHCR, 15/08/2015).

On 5 August, UNHCR implemented a 30% reduction in food rations, starting in Doro and Gendrassa refugee camps (UNHCR, 15/08/2015).

Food access

The lean season is over but high levels of trader uncertainty, fuel shortages, and economic crisis will continue to increase inflation through to November (WFP, 30/09/2015). 52% of household's food is purchased on markets (WFP, 30/09/2015). The consumer price index is now 58.7% higher in August 2015 than it was a year ago, and around 7% higher than in July 2015. Fuel costs continue to increase across the country. This has also limited the impact of local food on the national market. Bentiu (Unity), Kapoeta (Eastern Equatoria) and Bor (Jonglei) have suffered severe shortages of fuel (WFP, 31/08/2015).

In September there was a general reduction in the nominal price of some cereals, mainly white sorghum, due to the effects of the green harvest. Prices still remain at a five-year high (WFP, 30/09/2015). Between July and August the price of food and non-alcoholic beverages has grown by 72.1% on average across the country compared to 2014, and as much as 101% in Wau, Western Bahr el Ghazal state (WFP, 31/08/2015). Compared to the same period in 2014, sorghum prices in Juba were 167% higher at the end of August, and 23% higher than in July. Similarly, maize prices were 158% higher than in 2014, and rice was 217% higher (FAO, 31/08/2015). Most households spend 80–85% of their income on food (FAO, 02/07/2015; IPC, 27/05/2015).

Food use

The affected population, particularly in Unity, Jonglei, and Upper Nile states, have reportedly prepositioned supplies in case of displacement. However, increased use of coping strategies during 2014 due to fighting and a difficult lean season has diminished their effectiveness and long-term food security (PI, 01/07/2015). Reports suggest that coping mechanisms are completely exhausted in Koch and Mayendit in Leer, Unity state (ICRC, 12/09/2015). People are consuming one meal per day compared to the typical two meals, when compared to 2014 (WFP, 30/09/2015).

Livelihoods

Intensive and abnormal migrations due to insecurity have seriously depleted livestock health throughout the country (FEWSNET 24/06/2015). Greater Equatoria and Greater Bahr el Ghazal have been particularly affected by disease outbreaks and conflicts over cattle raids (FAO, 15/09/2015).

Health

4.6 million people need health assistance (UN, 12/06/2015). Responders are unable to conduct the measures necessary to tackle preventable diseases. The response is further hampered by conflict (international organisation, 24/07/2015). Malaria has epidemic proportion and over 40% morbidity (WHO, 11/09/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Malakal and Bentiu PoC's health services are both overwhelmed and health indicators are deteriorating, largely due to overcrowding. The weekly number of diarrhoea cases reported at Malakal's facilities doubled between June–August and respiratory tract infections increased 80% from June to July (MSF, 21/08/2015). In Bentiu, 456 measles cases, including 14 deaths, have been registered since the beginning of 2015, with a case fatality rate of 3.1%. An increased number of hepatitis E cases has been reported (WHO, 27/09/2015; USAID, 04/09/2015).

Fashoda county, Upper Nile, reportedly has no drug stocks (Cordaid, 03/09/2015).

Cholera

The current cholera outbreak began on 18 May in Juba PoC. 1,818 suspected cases and 47 deaths have been recorded nationwide as of 18 October. 1,622 cases and 45 deaths were in Juba. Incidence seems to be falling, with no new cases being reported 28 September–4 October. The case fatality rate is 2.58% (WHO, 18/10/2015).

Malaria

Malaria among IDPs increased by nearly 1.4% from the previous week, reaching

epidemic proportions of 40.4% morbidity in the week ending 11 October, (WHO, 11/09/2015). MSF reported that the number of cases has tripled in Yida, increasing from 200 on 6 September to 700 on 20 September (UNHCR, 01/10/2015). The number of malaria cases recorded per week in Malakal PoC in August was almost triple the figures recorded in June (MSF, 21/08/2015). Outside camps, there were approximately 989,400 cases of malaria and 445 deaths from January to August 2015, compared to nearly 744,200 cases and 303 deaths during the same period in 2014 (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Measles

On 1 October, three measles cases were confirmed in UN House PoC in Juba, and a measles outbreak declared (WHO, 04/10/2015). In 2015, Bentiu PoC has reported 470 measles cases including 14 deaths (CFR 2.98%) while UN House Juba has reported 21 measles cases with no deaths (WHO, 11/09/2015).

Hepatitis E

In 2015, 1,823 cases of hepatitis E, including 22 deaths, have been reported in South Sudan. Bentiu PoC reported 61 cases of hepatitis E between the 5 and 11 October. This brings the total cases reported to 1,571 in Bentiu, including 14 deaths, with a case fatality rate of 1.3% (WHO, 04/10/2015).

Nutrition

An estimated 4.1 million people are in need of nutrition assistance (OCHA, 15/10/2015). The national severe acute malnutrition rate is above the emergency threshold of 2%, at 2.6%. Global acute malnutrition (GAM) is at 13%. Many areas exceed the GAM emergency threshold of 15%. 647,000 children are believed to be acutely malnourished and an estimated 250,000 children severely malnourished (WFP, 24/10/2015; 30/09/2015; 30/07/2015).

Nutrition is a primary concern in the conflict-affected states of Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity in September. In Upper Nile, screening found 9.1% GAM and 2.8% SAM, with 24.8% GAM and 3.9% SAM in Jonglei. In Unity state, UNICEF surveys have found GAM and SAM rates to exceed emergency thresholds throughout 2015. A rapid assessment in October in Mayendit town, Unity, found 22.6% GAM and 2.8% SAM (UNICEF, 22/10/2015; UNICEF, 10/09/2015; WFP, 22/10/2015). Before withdrawing in early October, MSF mobile clinics in Leer reported levels of GAM far exceeding 28–34% in communities they reached. Following its withdrawal, MSF has raised concerns about potentially high levels of SAM among children in those communities (MSF, 22/10/2015).

Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap states have recorded 17.6% and 24.2% GAM, respectively (WFP, 30/09/2015).

Conditions among the displaced population are also dire. The worst malnutrition results have been recorded by a SMART survey carried out in Bentiu PoC in August: 34% GAM and 10.5% SAM (WHO, 04/10/2015; 13/09/2015). SAM rates are above the 2% emergency threshold in all PoCs, and GAM was higher than 15% in Malakal PoC (UNHCR, 02/10/2015). Initial reports suggest that new arrivals at Nyal IDP camp in Unity require nutrition assistance (OCHA, 18/09/2015). In Yida refugee camp, Unity state, 9.7% GAM was recorded, as well as 0.9% SAM, in September (UNHCR, 02/10/2015).

Pregnant and lactating women are among the most malnourished group, with an average 26.6% GAM recorded in IDP camps, and 29.8% among in Doro refugee camp (UNHCR, 18/09/2015).

WASH

Nationwide, 55% of people have access to safe drinking water (OCHA, 15/07/2015). 6.4 million people are in need of WASH assistance (UN, 12/06/2015).

Water

80% of people in Juba report a lack of access to clean water (OCHA, 01/07/2015). Due to the increasing cost of fuel, the price of water has dramatically increased, causing more people to resort to drinking water from unsafe sources (OXFAM, 31/07/2015).

Most recent information for Melut, Bentiu, and Malakal PoCs shows water coverage at 11, 12.9, and 9 L/person/day, respectively (IOM, 22/07/2015; UNICEF, 23/10/2015). In Yida refugee camp, crude water coverage was 14 L/p/d. In Ajuong Thok refugee camp, 11.4 L/p/d was recorded (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).

Sanitation

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

Education

An estimated 2 million people are in need of education assistance (UN, 12/06/2015). Only 6% of 13-year-old girls have completed primary school (Plan, 10/06/2015).

In Ajuong Thok, Napere, and Makpandu refugee camps, the pupil: teacher ratio is 72:1, 52:1 and 43:1. All fall short of the UNHCR standard of 40:1 (UNHCR, 24/07/2015; 14/07/2015). There has been a 37% drop in educational attendance between August–September (UNHCR, 18/09/2015).

Protection

Reports of torture, rape, censorship, and targeting of civilians are widespread. Seven journalists have been killed in 2015 in allegedly targeted attacks. On 20 August a journalist was killed soon after President Kiir threatened journalists who reported “against the country” (Reuters, 20/08/2015; AFP, 05/08/2015)

Gender

Rape has been used as a weapon of war between government and opposition forces (HRW, 21/07/2015). At least 1,300 women and girls were raped between April and September in Leer, Mayendit, and Koch in Unity state (UNHCR, Protection Cluster, 25/09/2015). Some were burned alive inside their homes after being raped. Human Rights Watch has published evidence of rape and violence in Unity state by government and government-aligned forces (HRW, 21/07/2015). The abduction of IDP women from outside PoCs continues to be reported (UNHCR, 12/06/2015).

Early and forced marriage, rape, and domestic violence have been reported in and around PoCs (MSF, 08/09/2015). In Melut (Upper Nile), firewood collection remains a major safety concern for women and girls, with reports of GBV (OCHA, 26/10/2014).

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

Children

A UN Security Council report stated that all parties to the conflict since December 2013 were responsible for grave violations against children, including killing and maiming, recruitment and use, abduction, and rape and other forms of sexual violence (UN, 30/12/2014). There are over 900 unaccompanied and separated children in southern Unity (UNHCR, Protection Cluster, 25/09/2015). In the second quarter of 2015, there were at least 166 incidents of child rights violations, affecting 4,184 children (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

25,000 children have been separated from their families (UN, 16/06/2015). 13,000 children have reportedly been recruited by armed groups since the beginning of 2014

(OCHA Monitor, 16/06/2015).

Updated: 26/10/2015

SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

25 October: Heavy rains caused flash floods that affected an estimated 3,900 people in the villages of Shediab, Teljereib and Haya Red Sea state. 650 houses were damaged or destroyed (Sudan Tribune, 25/10/2015; Radio Dabanga, 26/10/2015).

23 October: 39 cases of haemorrhagic fever, including 16 deaths, have been reported in Zalingei IDP camp. The outbreak is believed to have begun in July (Radio Dabanga, 23/10/2015; Sudan Tribune, 23/10/15).

KEY CONCERNS

- 6.6 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (USAID, 30/09/2015).
- 4.4 million people in Darfur, more than half of the region's population, need humanitarian assistance. This includes 2.5 million IDPs and 150,000 returnees (OCHA, 30/06/2015).
- 1.29 million people face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes. Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and West Kordofan are worst affected (IPC, 01/07/2015; FSNWG, 26/05/2015).
- 1 million children under five are acutely malnourished; 550,000 are estimated severely acutely malnourished (OCHA, 09/08/2015).
- 3.1 million IDPs. Two million in Darfur prior to 2014. 400,000 displaced in Sudan during 2015 (OCHA, 31/07/2015).
- Humanitarian access remains a significant problem due to insecurity, mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), logistical constraints, and restrictions placed by the

authorities.

OVERVIEW

Large-scale internal displacement due to violence, widespread food insecurity, malnutrition, lack of access to basic services, and recurrent natural disasters. Humanitarian access to conflict zones is severely restricted.

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

Politics and security

Profound divisions within Sudanese society have persisted since independence in 1956, and the Government's exploitation of intercommunal differences has aggravated the situation.

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

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

As of 17 October, Sudan has sent troops to join the Arab coalition ground forces in Yemen, currently aligned against the Houthis. The coalition is mainly composed of Saudi Arabian, Bahraini and United Arab Emirates (UAE) soldiers (Sudan Tribune, 17/10/2015).

Sudan–South Sudan

Tensions between Khartoum and Juba, persistent since South Sudan's independence in 2011, increased when violence erupted in South Sudan in December 2013. The disruption of oil flow is a key concern for both countries.

The Sudanese Government has accused Juba of using Sudanese militia groups, and the South Sudanese army (SPLA) has accused Khartoum of supporting the Sudan People's Liberation Movement -in-Opposition (SPLM-IO). Both the opposition and Khartoum have denied the accusations. In 2014, South Sudanese officials accused the Sudanese Government of attacking locations in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile states, where more than 220,000 Sudanese refugees are living (AFP, 14/11/2014).

Civil conflict

Extensive military operations aimed to end armed opposition in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile began at the end of 2013.

While the SPLM governs the independent South Sudan, the SPLM-North continues to control areas in Sudan's Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, which have routinely opposed government rule.

On 20 August, President Omar al Bashir stated that his regime was willing to offer an amnesty to armed groups in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur who were willing to join the national peace negotiations, in addition to a possible two-month ceasefire. The SPLM-N alleges that government forces bombed their positions in South Kordofan on 13 September (Sudan Tribune, 13/09/2015). On 20 September, the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) announced willingness to declare a six-month ceasefire in Blue Nile, South Kordofan and Darfur, if Khartoum would accept the dialogue process proposed by the SRF (Sudan Tribune, 20/09/2015). As of 18 October, the SRF declared a unilateral ceasefire with government forces. The ceasefire is planned to continue until 19 April 2015 (Sudan Tribune, 18/10/2015).

Stakeholders

Sudan Revolutionary Front

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

UN peacekeeping mission

Relations between the Government of Sudan and the UN peacekeeping mission deteriorated following the government's refusal to allow an African Union/United Nations hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) to investigate mass rape in North Darfur at the end of 2014 (AFP, 30/11/2014). Despite protests from the Sudanese

government, the Security Council has extended UNAMID's mandate until June 2016 (Firstpost, 29/06/2015). UNAMID consists of 17,750 personnel (UNAMID, 2015).

Conflict developments

August saw the lowest levels of political violence in 2015 in Sudan, partly due to the rainy season and ongoing peace talks. Nationwide, there were no reported attacks from government-aligned militias and opposition activity decreased over July–August, although attacks by unidentified gunman remain common (ACLED, 01/09/2015). At least six deaths and 22 injuries were recorded in June, similar to the figure recorded in the same period in 2014 (The Sudan Consortium, 06/2015).

Large-scale violence by pro-government militia against the IDP population in Darfur continues in 2015, and airstrikes by the Sudanese Air Force (SAF) remain frequent. Information on Blue Nile and South Kordofan states is difficult to obtain, as government authorities severely restrict access to the fighting zone. According to Human Rights Watch and local media, the Government of Sudan continues to target civilian areas of South Kordofan's Nuba Mountains. Fighting between SPLM-N and government troops intensified in March in Blue Nile and South Kordofan (SKBNCU, 03/2015).

With the start of the rainy season, attacks by the Sudanese government have fallen by more than 50% in South Kordofan, though homes and clinics continue to be targeted in bombing raids. On 13 September, the SPLM-N has accused the Sudanese army of bombing SPLM-N held areas in South Kordofan (Sudan Tribune, 13/09/2015).

Intercommunal violence

Conflict between communities over resources and due to ethnic tensions is common throughout Sudan. Tribal fighting intensified in Darfur and Kordofan regions in 2013 and 2014, leading to thousands of deaths and injuries and forcing over 300,000 people to flee their homes (SKBNCU, 03/2015).

Early migration of cattle due to poorer pasture in central Sudan means that arable land in Kassala and Blue Nile states is being crossed by livestock, increasing the risk of conflict between pastoralists and cattle and local farmers (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). Water shortages in the area have also exacerbated tensions (Radio Dabanga, 02/10/2015). In North and South Darfur, reports of herders raiding farms, physical assault, and attempted rape have become increasingly common since late September. They have burned houses and destroyed crops (Radio Dabanga, 12/10/2015; 07/10/2015; 25/10/2015). In late October, an unknown number of people have been displaced and at least four people killed in clashes between Misseriya and Salamat tribes in Um Dukhun locality, Central Darfur, and another two tribes in

Mellit, North Darfur (Radio Dabanga, 25/10/2015; 23/10/2015).

Darfur

Security in South Darfur is deteriorating. The frequency of robberies near IDP camps has been increasing (Radio Dabanga, 04/08/2015). On 27 September, UNAMID peacekeepers were attacked near Mellit, North Darfur, by an armed group. One peacekeeper was killed and four were injured (UN, 27/09/2015). On 19 September, an armed group attacked and looted villages in Kutum county, North Darfur, killing four (Sudan Tribune, 19/09/2015).

Natural disasters

Heavy rains and storms

On 25 October, flash floods reportedly affected an estimated 3,900 people in the villages of Shediab, Teljereib and Haya Red Sea state. 650 houses were damaged or destroyed. 100 cattle are reported killed. People are in need of shelter and WASH assistance (Sudan Tribune, 25/10/2015; Radio Dabanga, 26/10/2015).

On 6 October, over 3,000 displaced people were affected when 450 shelters in Deleig camp, Central Darfur, were damaged in heavy rains. Over 1,000 people were affected in the nearby village. Livestock were also killed and 170 farms were reportedly damaged (Radio Dabanga, 06/10/2015).

Throughout September, torrential rain affected 13,000 people in Blue Nile's Ed Damazin and El Roseires localities (USAID, 30/09/2015). On 29 September, rains and heavy winds injured an unspecified number of people in Ed El Fursan, South Darfur, and destroyed 50 houses (Radio Dabanga, 02/10/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

There are a total of 3.1 million IDPs in Sudan, including 2.5 million in Darfur. 1.5 million of the displaced are children (UNCIEF, 13/10/2015).

Since January 2015, over 400,000 people have been displaced in Sudan. 23,000 IDPs have been displaced during 2015 in South Kordofan (IOM, 31/08/2015). As of 31 August, 173,592 IDPs displaced in 2015 were in Darfur (104,098 verified IDPs, 69,494 reported but not verified). 73% of displaced households in 2015 were female headed (IOM, 31/08/2015). Over 50,300 IDPs have reportedly returned to their place of origin in 2015 (OCHA, 31/08/2015). A total of 56,000 people remain displaced in Blue Nile, including new IDPs as well as relocated and recent returnees (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Displacement figures are similar to figures for the previous year, which saw the biggest displacement for a decade (OCHA, 31/12/2014).

IDPs reside in 46 camps and 68 settlements in Darfur (including 82,530 orphans and 52,350 sick and elderly), according to a survey conducted by the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) from December 2013 to April 2014. OCHA reported in June that government policy to prevent the creation of new camps is an obstacle to the verification and registration of IDPs (IRIN, 02/06/2015). The displaced in Darfur report insecurity as a major concern. Other concerns include lack of access to basic services such as water, food, shelter, and medicines (IRIN, 02/06/2015).

Jebel Marra: Up to 38,000 people were displaced between February and May by fighting between the government and armed groups. They have not been provided with any assistance since they were displaced (OCHA, 02/08/2015).

North Darfur: As of 31 August, 82,702 IDPs are verified and 16,197 are reported but not verified as having been displaced in 2015. Another 25,319 have reportedly returned to their place of origin during 2015 (OCHA, 31/08/2015). Over 22,000 IDPs remain displaced due to clashes between the Berti and Zayadia ethnic groups near Mellit in May (OCHA, 25/08/2015). The displaced are in need of NFIs, shelter, health services, and psychological support (OCHA, 26/07/2015). An unconfirmed number of people were displaced during inter-communal fighting on 22 October in Mellit and by herder raids on Kutum locality (Radio Dabanga, 25/10/2015; 26/10/2015).

Central Darfur: As of 31 August, 17,976 IDPs are verified and 47,712 are reported as having been displaced in 2015. Another 24,985 have reportedly returned to their place of origin during 2015 (OCHA, 31/08/2015). Due to the rainy season, the needs of 5,500 IDPs in Golo town have increased significantly. Emergency shelter, NFIs, health, and education services are urgently required (OCHA, 20/09/2015).

East Darfur: As of 31 August, there are 17,976 verified IDPs and 6,197 reported but not verified as displaced in 2015 (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

West Darfur: As of 31 August, 2,250 people are reported but not verified as displaced in 2015 (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

South Darfur: As of 31 August, 3,420 people verified as newly displaced in 2015 (OCHA, 31/08/2015). The rainy season has exacerbated already low levels of sanitation and food shortages (Radio Dabanga, 30/09/2015). There are reports that voluntary return programmes run by the government, targeting around 235,000 protracted IDPs living in Kass IDP camp, are putting pressure on the population to return, prioritising dismantling the camps rather than facilitating returns (Radio Dabanga, 22/09/2015).

Blue Nile and South Kordofan: Over 378,000 people are estimated displaced in SPLM-N territory (OCHA, 03/02/2015). 50,000 people have been displaced in Blue Nile since the start of 2015 (OCHA, 21/09/2015; 15/06/2015).

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

Returning IDPs

As of 9 September, 9,000 displaced people have returned to their homes in Tawila locality, North Darfur. They are in need of health, education, livelihood and agricultural assistance (OCHA, 13/09/2015). As of 31 August, 26,000 IDPs have returned home in Blue Nile (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

There are over 310,000 refugees in Sudan (UNHCR, 30/04/2015). Nearly 198,000 are South Sudanese, most of whom have arrived since December 2013. This exceeds the original planning figure of 196,000 South Sudanese refugees (USAID, 16/10/2015). There are at least 112,000 from Eritrea and nearly 10,000 from Chad (UNHCR, 19/08/2015; OCHA, 16/08/2015).

From South Sudan

As of 16 October, 197,942 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since 15 December 2013: around 134,100 are children (UNHCR, 01/10/2015; UNICEF, 31/08/2015). 109,324 South Sudanese refugees live in White Nile (approximately 9,952 in the host community), 34,487 in Khartoum, 25,564 in West Kordofan, 374 in North Kordofan, 24,368 in South Kordofan, 3,661 in Blue Nile, and 164 in East Darfur (UNHCR, 20/10/2015). 91% of households are female-headed (UNHCR, 29/01/2015).

Nearly 5,000 South Sudanese refugees entered Sudan in August. The highest influx was recorded in South Kordofan, with 3,386 new arrivals, 1,158 arrived in West Kordofan, 243 in White Nile and 106 in Khartoum. The figures from South and West Kordofan remain fluid as people move in search of assistance and better livelihood opportunities (UNHCR, 16/10/2015). 7,000 refugees arrived in El Leri locality in September – their place of origin is unclear (18/10/2015). 2,496 displaced South Sudanese are living in the disputed area of Abyei (UNHCR, 17/09/2015).

Most are women and children, and require food and shelter assistance (OCHA, 27/09/2015). Over 4,800 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Kharasana, West Kordofan (OCHA, 20/09/2015).

Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries

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

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

Humanitarian access

Humanitarian access is a major problem for international relief organisations. Humanitarian operations are hampered by insecurity, the presence of mines and ERW, logistical constraints, and government restrictions. The rainy season continues to hinder access, particularly in Blue Nile state and in South, West and Central Darfur (WFP, 08/10/2015; OCHA, 09/08/2015). Access to areas of active conflict in Darfur remains largely denied (Radio Dabanga, 10/09/2015). The government has banned humanitarian access to areas controlled by opposition groups (IRIN, 02/06/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

An increase in carjacking incidents targeting aid organisations has been reported in 2015 (OCHA, 24/05/2015). In 2015, there have been 131 security incidents affecting humanitarian workers in Darfur. These include abductions, armed attacks, carjackings, looting and theft (OCHA, 14/09/2015). On 10 September, WHO staff were attacked while travelling in Kreinik locality, West Darfur. Two people were killed (UN, 10/09/2015). In July, healthcare facilities in Central Darfur were shut down after government forces allegedly beat and detained several workers (Sudan Tribune, 07/08/2015).

25 aid workers were abducted in Darfur in 2014, the highest number of abduction cases recorded since 2004 (OCHA, 22/01/2015).

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

Access of affected populations to assistance

Jebel Marra in Darfur has been virtually inaccessible since 2010. This has resulted in approximately 47,600 people without access to assistance, including 1,700 IDPs who have not received any food rations since being displaced between March–June in West Jebel Marra, Central Darfur (OCHA, 20/09/2015; 31/08/2015). There has been no humanitarian access from Sudan to opposition-held areas in South Kordofan since

October 2013. The ICRC has not been able to fully resume operations in Jebel Marra to 2014 levels (OCHA, 30/08/2015). Between 90,000 and 250,000 in SPLM–N areas of Blue Nile state and South Kordofan are without access to humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 31/09/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Security incidents in El Fasher (North Darfur) and Zalingei (Central Darfur) reported in recent months have restricted operations in the area (OCHA, 30/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

1,289,000 people are reportedly facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes. Areas with the highest proportion of people in Crisis food security outcomes include non-government areas in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and areas of Jebel Marra, as well as the IDP population in South Kordofan and Darfur (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015; OCHA, 27/09/2015).

WFP in September found 23,000 displaced people who had relocated to Ed Damazin, El Roseires, and Bau localities, Blue Nile state and were in need of food assistance. Food insecurity was cited as the main reason for displacement. In September, they were reported to be receiving food and water from the host community (OCHA, 11/10/2015).

Food availability

Poor rainfall at the start of the 2015 cropping season is delaying planting and affecting crop quality (FEWSNET, 02/09/2015). As a result, the amount of land cultivated has decreased from 714,000 hectares in 2014 to 504,000 hectares in 2015 (OCHA, 16/08/2015).

Food access

The areas that remain the worst affected by food insecurity are those affected by conflict, which prevents food distribution. Newly displaced households and IDPs without access to humanitarian assistance are facing Crisis food security outcomes (IPC, 01/07/2015). Local media reports suggest that displaced people in Zamzam camp, North Darfur, have not been provided with food for eight months (Radio Dabanga, 05/08/2015).

Conflict has disrupted cultivation and livelihood activities, contributing to the increase in the sorghum price, which rose by 290% in central South Kordofan and 585% in West Jebel Marra between June and July 2015. Access to markets in these areas remains severely constrained (OCHA, 27/09/2015). However, outside of these

areas, sorghum and millet remain 29% lower in August 2015 than prices in 2014 (GIEWS, 29/09/2015; FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

Food use

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

Health

There are indications that the health situation in Darfur is deteriorating; many have no access to healthcare, and malaria is a particular concern (Radio Dabanga, 28/07/2015). In White Nile refugee camps, acute respiratory infections and malaria are the main cause of people seeking consultations, together making up nearly half of visits (OCHA, 04/10/2015). As of 7 October, the health ministry has reported an outbreak of 323 suspected cases of whooping cough in El Sireaf locality. The outbreak is believed to have begun in early September (OCHA, 11/10/2015).

Mortality in health centres in Central Darfur, among children from Thur and Golo areas in North Jebel Marra, has increased. It is believed to be linked to an increase in severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in Thur and Golo (OCHA, 30/08/2015).

On 13 October 13 the Minister of Health reported that the maternity mortality rates have increased in Darfur since 2006, due to the rise of urinary fistula cases, particularly in West and South Darfur. A fistula is an abnormal opening between two organs. A urinary fistula results in the constant flow of urine due to an opening between the bladder and vagina. It usually occurs when a women goes through a obstructed labour without appropriate medical care (Radio Dabanga, 15/10/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

In Darfur, 12 functioning health facilities are inaccessible as of late August. Another 190 facilities in Darfur lack essential staff and are operating at severely reduced capacity (WHO, 27/08/2015). Deaths recorded in Murnei IDP camp, West Darfur and North Darfur's Saraf Umra locality have been reported as being linked to a lack of funds to purchase medicines (Radio Dabanga, 29/09/2015; 03/09/2015).

In East Darfur, a health clinic in Labado has no medical staff. This has left 13,500 refugees without any access to health assistance (OCHA, 04/10/2015).

The UN estimated in mid-December 2013 that 165,000 children in SPLM-N-controlled

parts of South Kordofan and Blue Nile do not have access to basic health services (UNHCR, 24/07/2015).

Haemorrhagic fever

A outbreak of Haemorrhagic fever outbreak was reported as of 7 October when nine cases of suspected, including four deaths, were reported at Central Darfur's state hospital in Zalingei (Radio Dabanga, 07/10/2015). As of 21 October, 39 cases have been reported, including 16 deaths in Zalingei IDP camp, Central Darfur. The first case is believed to have originated from Hamidiya IDP camp, Central Darfur in July (Radio Dabanga, 23/10/2015; Sudan Tribune, 23/10/2015). Local authorities have denied the existence of the virus, whereas national authorities have encouraged the declaration of a state of emergency in Darfur (Radio Dabanga, 23/10/2015).

Malaria

1,000 cases of malaria, including seven deaths, were recorded in El Geneina, Habila, and Kereinik, West Darfur, between 12 and 25 September. Some reports suggest as many as 27 deaths but these figures cannot be verified. Peak malaria season is between August and October in Darfur. The annual number of malaria cases in Sudan is around 5.5 million. According to the WHO, nearly 75% of the total population is at risk of malaria (OCHA, 04/10/2015).

Measles

As of 4 August, 3,351 confirmed measles cases and 71 deaths (2.1% case fatality rate) have been reported in 2015, in all of Sudan's states Darfur (OCHA, 18/10/2015). This is five times the usual number of confirmed cases per year (UNICEF, 30/09/2015). West Darfur reports the most cases, with 667, followed by Red Sea with 563 and Kassala with 533. The highest number of deaths (23) was reported in North Darfur (OCHA, 18/10/2015). The outbreak began in late 2014.

According to a 2014 survey, 39% of children have not been vaccinated against measles (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

Nutrition

National GAM is 16.3%, with 550,000 children believed to suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), mainly in North Darfur, El Gezira, South Darfur, Khartoum, and Gedaref. 51% of all SAM cases come from these states. GAM rates above 25% are recorded in the three North Darfur localities of El Sireaf, Ailliet, Dar El Salam, and Kalimendo (OCHA, 04/10/2015). 22.7% GAM and 3.4% SAM has been recorded in Kutum locality among host and IDP communities (OCHA, 04/10/2015).

500,000 children are severely malnourished in Darfur, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan (ECHO, 01/07/2015). Among localities with IDPs, where 20% of the population face severe consumptions gaps, 2.2–7% of the population is severely malnourished (IPC, 01/07/2015). According to UNICEF, MAM is at 6% and SAM 2.6% in White Nile (UNICEF, 25/08/2015).

There is no humanitarian access to Thur and Golo in the north Jebel Marra, but nutrition screening of newly displaced children and pregnant and lactating women has found global acute malnutrition (GAM) exceeding emergency thresholds (15%) at 17.3% and SAM exceeding critical thresholds at 3.8% (OCHA, 30/08/2015).

WASH

WASH conditions inside refugee camps have deteriorated with the recent new influx of refugees from South Sudan (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Water

Across Sudan, approximately one in nine people do not have access to a clean water supply (Kimse Yok Mu, 24/06/2015). 75% of drinking water in South Darfur has been declared unsafe by government officials (Radio Dabanga, 17/09/2015). All refugee camps, except Dabat Bosin, are below the standard of 20L of water per person per day (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Kassab IDP camp in Kutum has been suffering from a severe shortage of drinking water since the beginning of May. Reports suggest that 11 of the 20 water pumps at the camp are non-operational (local media, 25/05/2015).

Reports suggest there has been no regular maintenance of hand pumps in So

uth Kordofan for up to four years (PI, 03/07/2015).

UNICEF and the Government of Sudan have reported that 3,300 IDPs in Mosey camp, in Nyala, South Darfur, have experienced a severe lack of water service since August (OCHA, 11/10/2015).

Sanitation

All refugee camps except Dabat Bosi have dangerously low levels of sanitation. The worst conditions are in El Redis II refugee camp, where the ratio is 186 people per latrine (OCHA, 16/08/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

In White Nile, 6,600 South Sudanese refugee families (46,200 individuals) are in need of shelter and NFI assistance (OCHA, 26/08/2015).

Education

3.1 million of 7.9 million children aged 5–13 are out of school in Sudan (OCHA, 27/09/2015). 1.9 million are of primary-school age (UNICEF, 14/04/2015). The highest percentages of non-attendance are in Blue Nile (47%), Kassala (45%), and West Darfur (46%) states (OCHA, 13/09/2015). Schools are frequently used as shelters for IDPs (UNICEF, 30/06/2015). 70% of school closures are due to insecurity on the route to school (Education Cluster, 13/10/2015).

Reports suggest that fear of attacks by armed groups and the long distances between camps and schools restrict access to education for children from Darfur IDP camps (Radio Dabanga, 11/09/2015).

In some IDP camps in South Darfur, the average class size is 93 students, more than double the UNHCR maximum of 35–40 (OCHA, 25/08/2015).

Protection

Human rights violations including torture, targeting of civilians, rape, censorship, and arbitrary arrest are widespread in Sudan. One human rights organisation reports that in July, in Darfur, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan, 56 specific incidents of human rights abuses were committed, mainly by largely pro-Government militias. 221 people were killed during these incidents. 19 victims of abduction and cases of arrest and torture were also reported in the same month (SUDO, 31/07/2015). In October, Sudanese intelligence has been accused of threatening the coordinator of Saraf Umra IDP camps to stop him reporting to local media or UN agencies (Radio Dabanga, 07/10/2015).

Mines and ERW

On 2 August, one boy was killed and another injured when an ERW exploded in Tabit, North Darfur (Radio Dabanga, 04/08/2015). 250 locations covering an estimated 32km² are contaminated by mines and ERW, with the greatest concentrations in Kassala, Gedaref, Red Sea, Blue Nile, South Kordofan, and Darfur (UNMAS). South Kordofan is the most heavily mined area of Sudan, according to the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor.

Gender

Four female IDPs were raped in two separate incidents by new settlers in abandoned

villages in East Jebel Marra (Radio Dabanga, 10/08/2015). Sudan Social Development Organisation reports 35 incidents of rape in July (SUDO, 31/07/2015). Rape of IDPs by pro-government militia was frequently reported by local media in North, South, and Central Darfur and Jebel Marra in 2014.

Documentation

As of March 2014, the Sudanese government refuses to recognise South Sudanese nationals as refugees and instead considers them to be Sudanese citizens (UNHCR, 03/04/2014). All foreigners in Sudan had to register with the immigration administration by 1 April. UNHCR has declared this constitutes an obstacle to humanitarian assistance.

Updated: 26/10/2015

CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 20/10/2015. Last update: 16/10/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- 81,700 IDPs in the Far North region (OCHA, 10/10/2015).
- 314,000 refugees (OCHA, 10/10/2015).
- 1.23 million people are reported to be food insecure; 230,000 are in severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or 4) (OCHA, 10/10/2015; 24/09/2015).

OVERVIEW

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

Politics and security

Boko Haram

The armed Islamist group Boko Haram (BH), based in Nigeria, began to intensify attacks in Cameroon in December 2014 (ECHO, 06/01/2015). At least 37 BH attacks took place in northern Cameroon between January and end July, and then the number spiked, with over 20 up to the beginning of September (ACLED, 27/07/2015; BBC, 03/09/2015; Amnesty International, 16/09/2015). Amnesty International estimates at least 380 civilians and dozens of security personnel have been killed since January 2015 (Amnesty International, 16/09/2015). Cameroonian authorities said on 1 September that over 600 Koranic schools will be closed, as will some mosques, in response to the surge in BH attacks (Cameroon Online, 01/09/2015). In the two weeks up to 28 September, BH carried out four attacks in the Far North: in Kolofata, Mora, Kerawa, and Gouzoudou; there have been continuous incursions and an increased frequency of attacks in the departments of Mayo Sava and Logone et Chari (OCHA, 28/09/2015).

Stakeholders

Boko Haram

Boko Haram (“Western education is forbidden”) is leading an insurgency to create an Islamic state in the predominantly Muslim regions of northeastern Nigeria. The Nigerian authorities have been fighting BH since 2009. Precise numbers are not known, but BH’s strength is estimated at around 15,000 (Amnesty, 13/04/2015). In March, BH pledged allegiance to Islamic State (AFP, 07/03/2015). The activity of Boko Haram in Cameroon has intensified in the past months, with an increased number of attacks, killings and kidnappings. As of 16 September, between 3,000 and 4,000 Cameroonians are estimated to have joined the insurgent group (Amnesty International, 16/09/2015).

Cameroonian Army

2,000 extra troops have been deployed to the Far North, bringing the total to 8,500 (AFP, 28/07/2015). Operations against BH so far have included air and ground offensives (Daily Mail, 14/01/2015; New York Times, 05/02/2015). The United States is supplying equipment and logistics training to the Cameroonian military, aiding its efforts to counter BH (VoA, 12/12/2014; Reuters, 17/02/2015).

Multinational Joint Task Force

A proposed Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF), which would bring at least 8,700 forces from Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin under a common command, is yet to be deployed (AFP, 15/10/2015).

United States Forces

On 14 October, the United States announced plans to deploy 300 soldiers to Cameroon to conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations to help counter Boko Haram violence (AFP, 14/10/2015).

Recent security incidents

In Far North, the situation was reported to be highly volatile and insecure as of 4 September, with incursions of insurgents causing significant displacement, especially in Logone-et-Chari department (UNHCR, 04/09/2015). On 11 October, a double suicide bombing in Kangaleri village killed 11 people and wounded at least 39 (WHO, 11/10/2015). Suicide attacks in September in the Far North region killed at least 42 and injured over 120 people (OCHA, 12/10/2015).

Central African Republic

Armed groups from CAR are reported to have conducted frequent incursions into Cameroon since the beginning of the crisis in Central African Republic in March 2013: kidnappings and harassment of the local population have been reported (IFRC, 27/08/2015).

Displacement

Cameroon hosts 81,700 IDPs in the Far North region, as well as over 314,000 refugees, mainly from Nigeria and Central African Republic. In most locations, the number of refugees and third-country nationals exceeds the local population. Host communities and refugees are competing over already inadequate resources and living conditions have become very difficult for all (FAO, 11/12/2014).

IDPs

81,700 people are internally displaced in Far North region due to BH attacks (OCHA, 10/10/2015). 36% live with host families, 28% live in shared housing and the rest in improvised, damaged, or public buildings. Food security, WASH, and health are the priority needs. Nearly half of IDPs are displaced within the same department.

36,000 IDPs have returned to their place of origin after being affected by flooding in June and July (OCHA, 23/09/2015)

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 10 October, the number of registered refugees in Cameroon is reported to be over 314,000 (OCHA, 10/10/2015).

Central African Republic: Around 260,300 refugees from CAR are reported to be in Cameroon as of 24 September. Around 166,300 are registered in East region, 65,500 in Adamawa, 14,800 in Centre region, 9,200 in Littoral region, and 4,500 in North region

(OCHA, 24/09/2015). Over 135,000 of these have arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR, 07/09/2015). As of December 2014 the number of CAR refugees in Cameroon was reported to be 124,958 (UNHCR, 07/09/2015). Many refugees have not been registered. Only 10% of UNHCR's response plan for CAR refugees in Cameroon was funded as at 13 October (UNHCR, 13/10/2015).

Around 60,000 live in seven UNHCR camps, while the remaining are scattered among host communities (IRIN, 14/09/2015). More than 8,000 have settled in Timangolo, which previously had a population of 13,000; the influx is causing severe strain on food stocks (IRIN, 11/08/2015).

The Cameroonian government is reportedly arresting refugees from CAR, putting them in camps, and instructing families not to host CAR refugees, on the grounds that some refugees have been involved in kidnappings and cattle theft (VOA, 13/08/2015).

Nigeria: At 12 October, 62,423 Nigerian refugees were registered in Cameroon (UNHCR, 12/10/2015). More than 57,000 have entered the country since July 2014. The rate of daily arrivals has fluctuated: from 400 per day in April–May, 60–70 daily in June, to 150–300 in August (FAO, 30/06/2015; IRIN, 12/08/2015). 11,490 refugees have returned to Nigeria from the Far North in 2015, mostly in August (UNHCR, 11/10/2015).

An estimated 12,000–17,000 unregistered refugees are living in the immediate border areas, and the government has begun registration (UN, 31/07/2015). The number of registered refugees spiked recently – around 1,500 people sought registration in July – due to Cameroon's decision to increase deportations of undocumented migrants (USAID, 21/08/2015). Cameroonian authorities forcibly repatriated around 15,000 Nigerians between the end of July and the end of August (IRIN, 21/08/2015). As of 4 September, some 299 Nigerians, pending repatriation, are still living in IOM transit sites in Kentzou and Garoua Boulai in eastern Cameroon, on the border with CAR (IOM, 04/09/2015).

Minawao camp (Mayo-Tsanaga), with a planned capacity for only 15,000, is currently hosting 46,571 people (UNCHR, 30/09/2015; UNHCR, 12/10/2015). As of 6 September, 20,088 new arrivals had been recorded in Minawao camp since January (UNHCR, 13/09/2015). **Insufficient policing and lack of psycho-social support are reported (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).** 15,100 are located in Logone-et-Chari, and 746 in Mayo-Tsanaga. Unknown numbers are in Mayo-Sava and Diamare (UNHCR, 12/10/2015).

Refugee returnees

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

Humanitarian access

The limited number of humanitarian actors involved in the response in the Far North has

made comprehensive humanitarian intervention almost impossible.

Security and physical constraints

The deterioration of the security situation has made access to the Far North extremely difficult (OCHA, 10/04/2015). UN agencies have only been undertaking priority activities such as assisting refugees and some host communities, according to WFP (IRIN, 15/08/2014). Bad road conditions delay the provision of assistance (USAID, 21/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

1.27 million people are reported to be food insecure, and around 230,283 are in severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or 4) (OCHA, 10/10/2015; 24/09/2015). In Far North region, food insecurity has spiked in recent months, to affect one in three people: WFP estimates that 360,000 people are moderately to severely food insecure, facing Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phases 2 and 3) food security outcomes, in the Lake Chad basin areas of the Far North (UN, 14/09/2015; WFP, 14/10/2015). According to WFP, famine will be unavoidable in 2016 if IDPs cannot go home and cultivate their farmland (UN Human Rights Council, 29/09/2015).

Health

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

Healthcare availability and access

Cameroon's Far North, North, Adamawa, and East regions suffer chronic shortages of health workers. 46% of health centres do not have access to electricity and 70% do not have piped water (Inter Press Service, 19/08/2014). **Limited capacities of public health infrastructure around Minawao camp are reported (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).**

Nutrition

2015 estimates indicate that 228,178 people will suffer acute malnutrition, including 194,919 in the priority regions of Far North, North, Adamawa, and East. 33,259 are refugees (OCHA, 05/09/2015). According to UNICEF, global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates exceed 12% in Cameroon (IRIN, 11/09/2015).

Approximately 66,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (OCHA, 10/10/2015). 840 SAM cases have been reported among Nigerian refugees in Minawao camp, and 8,500 among CAR refugees (OCHA, 05/09/2015; 17/09/2015). There were 40% more cases of severe malnutrition in January 2015 than January 2014 (OCHA, 30/01/2015).

WASH

IDPs face a high risk of water-related disease due to lack of adequate water and sanitation facilities (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). In Logone et Chari, Far North, 62% of the population has no access to drinking water and an additional 319m³ per day are needed to fill the existing gap. Over 8,000 households throughout the department need WASH kits and NFIs (OCHA, 24/09/2015).

220 water access points and 43 water pumps need repair or replacement across 62 host communities in Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Tsanaga in the Far North (ICRC, 13/10/2015).

As of 31 August, in Minawao camp, the ratio of water provision was 17 litres/person/day. Water trucking provides 58% of the water supply. 2,269 emergency latrines are operational (UNHCR, 24/09/2015).

Education

There are not enough classrooms or teachers nationwide (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). Only 50% of primary school-aged children are enrolled in school.

152,000 children have suffered from interruption or disruption in education. 519 schools are open in the Far North, down from 737 before the conflict (IOM/UNHCR, 29/06/2015). In Fotokol, Cameroonian armed forces have occupied several schools (OCHA, 24/09/2015). In 2014, over 70 schools on the northern border with Nigeria's Borno state, were closed due to fear of attacks, and 100,000 students were relocated (VOA, 07/09/2015).

In Minawao camp, there are only 24 classrooms for 18,000 children, so only 50% of primary school-aged children are enrolled. Lack of teachers and non-enrolment in the country of origin are also affecting the school attendance. 6,000 school kits are needed (UNHCR, 24/09/2015; OCHA, 24/09/2015).

Protection

Children

Approximately 1,500 children have been abducted by Boko Haram in Cameroon since late 2014 (AFP, 04/06/2015).

As of July, families hosting IDPs reported to be facing food shortages were using children to find food, which exposed them to dangers such as sexual exploitation and abuse (UN Human Rights Council, 29/09/2015).

Vulnerable groups

The main protection issues among assessed IDPs are family separation, lack or loss of personal identity documentation, early marriage, and harassment or discrimination (IOM/UNHCR, 29/06/2015).

Updated: 20/10/2015

CHAD FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 21/10/2015. Last update: 13/10/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- At least 57,000 people have been internally displaced in Lac region since 21 July (OCHA, 07/10/2015)
- 378,604 refugees are in Chad, including 296,359 from Sudan, 66,228 from CAR, and 14,163 from Nigeria (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).
- 3.4 million people are food insecure: 403,000 people are severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or 4) (OCHA, 31/08/2015; 17/09/2015).
- 154,000 severely malnourished children (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

Politics and security

Conflicts in Nigeria and Central African Republic have affected stability in Chad: hundreds of thousands of refugees have entered the country. Chadian troops have been instrumental in military operations against Boko Haram (BH); the capital Ndjamenas serves as headquarters for a regional anti-Boko Haram force. Chad also hosts 3,000 French troops, deployed to tackle the increasing insecurity in the Sahel region (Reuters, 11/07/2015).

Boko Haram

Boko Haram (BH) launched its first cross-border attack in Chad in February and carried out over 14 attacks on civilians and soldiers in Lac region in the months until July (ACLED, 07/2015). Three suicide attacks in Ndjamenas during June and July killed a total of 39 people and injured 181 (AFP, 15/06/2015; Reuters, 11/07/2015).

President Deby has said he believes BH can be defeated by the year's end (Reuters, 06/10/2015). Chad first aided Nigerian security forces to reclaim several towns from BH in

Borno state at the beginning of 2015 (Reuters, 08/03/2015). Chad began military action in the Lac region in May; in July, Chadian forces pushed BH back from the country's islands (Vice News, 28/07/2015). They bombed BH positions in Nigeria in June, following attacks on Ndjamena (AFP, 18/06/2015). At the end of June, the border with Cameroon was closed, 300 Cameroonians expelled, 60 suspects arrested and a cell was dismantled in Ndjamena (ICG, 01/07/2015). Security measures have been reinforced, and 395 people of 14 nationalities were arrested in July (UNHCR, 14/07/2015). Ten BH members were executed at the end of August (The Guardian, 30/08/2015). As of October, continuing Boko Haram attacks and military operations against them continued to induce large-displacement (OCHA, 07/10/2015).

A proposed Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF), which would bring at least 8,700 forces from Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin under a common command, is yet to be deployed (AFP, 15/10/2015).

Recent security incidents

On 10 October, three explosions blamed on BH and reportedly carried out by groups of female suicide bombers killed 43 and wounded 60 in Lac region (OCHA, 12/10/2015). One hit a busy market in central Baga Sola; the other two hit a refugee camp on the town's periphery (AFP, 11/10/2015; BBC, 10/10/2015).

Two BH attacks in late September on Bikaram village in the southern Lac region resulted in damaged houses, stolen food stocks, and widespread displacement (OCHA, 05/10/2015).

Natural disasters

Droughts

Around 772,000 people are affected by chronic drought in Chad in 2015 (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

Displacement

In total, around 750,000 displaced people are in Chad, including long-term refugees from CAR and Sudan in severe need of food assistance (WFP, 04/09/2015). Recent displacement is mainly caused by the Boko Haram conflict in the Lac region to the west, and the CAR conflict to the east.

IDPs

In the Lac region, at least 57,162 people have been displaced since 21 July (OCHA, 07/10/2015). An additional 14,000 people were displaced from islands near Ngouboua on 5–6 October on orders from the Chadian army (OCHA, 07/10/2015). The displaced are living in 19 spontaneous sites and face urgent shelter, food, WASH and health needs (OCHA,

07/10/2015). Between January and June, 11,000 Chadians were internally displaced in the Lac region, while 9,000 returned from Nigeria to escape BH (OCHA, 07/10/2015).

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

Refugees and asylum seekers

Chad hosts the world's seventh largest refugee population (UNHCR, 25/09/2015). As of 27 August, the total number of refugees in Chad was reported to be 435,164 (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Central African Republic (CAR): As of 30 August 2015, there are 91,054 refugees from CAR (UNHCR, 30/08/2015). 84,030 live in sites in Amboko, Belom, Dosseye, Doholo, Gondje and Moyo (UNHCR, 01/05/2015; 15/05/2015). 6,690 live in host communities (UNHCR, 03/04/2015).

Nigeria: As of 30 September, 14,163 Nigerian refugees are in Chad (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). On 21 September, 7,139 refugees were living at the Dar es Salam site (OCHA, 21/09/2015). Estimates indicate that by December 2015 the number of Nigerian refugees could increase to 30,000 (UNHCR, 22/07/2015).

Sudan: As of 30 September, 296,359 refugees from Sudan were living in protracted displacement in 12 camps in Chad (UNHCR, 30/09/2015; WFP, 04/09/2015). On 21 September, UNHCR and the governments of Chad and Sudan reportedly signed a tripartite agreement for the voluntary repatriation of 300,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad and 8,500 Chadian refugees in Sudan. However, according to local media, Sudanese refugees in Chad largely reject the scheme and are not prepared to return (Radio Dabanga, 23/09/2015). On 11 September, Sudanese refugees living in Touloum and Ardemi camps reported their movements had been restricted to a 5km radius. WFP has reported ration cuts due to funding constraints (DabangaSudan, 11/09/2015).

Refugee returnees

239,854 returnees are reported in Chad: 130,000 from CAR, 100,000 from Libya, and 9,854 from Nigeria (OCHA, 27/08/2015). Additionally, there are between 5,000 and 15,000 unregistered returnees (ECHO 27/07/2015).

As of end August, around 75,000 Chadians had returned to the country since January 2015 (OCHA, 21/08/2015). 9,000 returned from Nigeria between January and June (OCHA, 07/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

Security and physical constraints

Chad's President Idriss Déby announced in May 2014 that the southern border with CAR would be closed to all except Chadian citizens until the CAR crisis is resolved (Al Jazeera, 13/05/2015). As of September 2015, the border remained closed (US Government, 30/09/2015).

Along the border with Nigeria, Chadian security forces are screening road users and their property. Navigation on the Chari River and its tributary, the Logone, which flow along the border of Chad and Cameroon, has been halted (AFP, 30/04/2015).

Severe access issues due to insecurity are reported in Lac region. In October, OCHA reported the security situation had prevented humanitarian access to at least 8,000 newly displaced near Daboua and Liwa (OCHA, 07/10/2015). On 7 September, night curfews were still in place in Bagasola prefecture (UNHCR, 16/09/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Improved food availability since the September harvest began has lifted most of the country into Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity levels (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). At the peak of the lean season, 3.4 million people in Chad were food insecure (OCHA, 31/08/2015), including at least 403,000 severely food insecure people (IPC Phase 3 or 4) nationwide (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

Refugees from CAR and displaced populations in the Lac region remain heavily reliant on food assistance. 40,000 out of at least 57,000 newly displaced in the Lac region since July are in urgent need of food assistance (OCHA 07/10/2015). 400,000 people affected by displacement in the Lac region are estimated to be moderately to severely food insecure (IPC Phases 2 and 3) (**WFP, 14/10/2015**). New waves of displacement in Lac region are stretching humanitarian providers and worsening food security outcomes (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

Food availability

Improving growing conditions after rainfall followed by near-average harvests mean food prices have largely stabilised across the country (GIEWS, 06/10/2015). In Lac region, food access has improved to a lesser extent, meaning that overall the area remains in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

Livelihoods

Livelihoods have been affected by decreased inflows of remittances from family members in Libya due to conflict (IFRC, 30/05/2015). The closure of the Nigerian border, and the consequent reduction of exports, has led to a drop in cattle prices and continues to impede trade (UNICEF, 30/06/2015; OCHA, 29/09/2015).

Health

Due to the influx of refugees, there is a need to strengthen healthcare in host communities and to recruit more qualified medical personnel (UNHCR, 06/03/2015). In Lac region, several new mobile health clinics are needed to provide access to primary healthcare for at least 14,500 people in Koudouboul, Melia Kalidar, Tagal, and Kanembou spontaneous sites. 8,000 newly arrived IDPs in Daboua and Liwa require health assistance (OCHA, 07/10/2015).

Mental health

Mental health needs in the Lac region are reported to be high and rising, due to widespread violence and displacement (MSF, 27/08/2015).

Nutrition

Global acute malnutrition in Chad reached 22.5% in September, in part because of the displacement caused by Boko Haram in Lac region (VOA, 10/09/2015). 154,000 children are estimated to suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in Chad in 2015, with an additional 257,000 facing moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

At the beginning of September, 9,503 children were facing severe acute malnutrition in Lac region (OCHA, 07/10/2015). In Dar es Salam site, 12.3% of children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Other spontaneous sites remain to be screened (07/10/2015). **Improvements in nutrition rates are expected by November, as seasonal food availability increases (MSF, 16/10/2015).**

WASH

Water

As of the end of August, only 5% of displaced people in Lac region are reported to have access to safe drinking water (MSF 20/08/2015; IASC 21/08/2015). At least 27,418 new IDPs have no access to water (OCHA, 07/10/2015). 49.8 litres/person/day is reported in the Dar es Salam camp at 7 September (UNHCR, 16/09/2015).

Sanitation

Almost 90% of IDPs in Lac region do not have access to latrines and 52% have no access to hygiene promotion activities (OCHA, 07/10/2015). In Dar es Salam camp, one latrine per 48 people was reported on 7 September (UNHCR, 16/09/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

24,000 displaced people are reported to be in need of shelter and essential household items in 16 sites in Bol and Bagasola, and on the Meli-Bol axis (OCHA, 11/09/2015).

Education

In Lac region, 13,938 school aged children are in need of education assistance (OCHA, 07/10/2015).

Protection

Gender

A ban on wearing full faced veils has been in place since June attacks in Ndjamena sparked fears that female suicide bombers were concealing explosives under their garments (BBC, 10/10/2015).

Documentation

Profiling and registration of the displaced in Lac region has not yet reached all spontaneous sites, making identification of needs challenging (OCHA, 07/10/2015).

Second and third-generation Chadians from CAR have been recognised as de facto nationals by the government, and UNHCR is working with authorities to formalise recognition and avoid statelessness. The government will provide birth certificates to every child born in a transit site (UNHCR, 07/2014).

Reviewed: 21/10/2015

DJIBOUTI DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

16 October: Poor conditions in Markazi camp have forced some refugees to leave (UNHCR).

KEY CONCERNS

- An estimated 300,000 people need humanitarian assistance, including more than 12,000 refugees (ECHO, 01/08/2014; UNICEF, 13/08/2015).
- Humanitarian organisations fear the influx of people from Yemen may worsen an already difficult humanitarian situation in Obock (ECHO, 20/04/2015).

Displacement

Conflict in Yemen has led to displacement from Yemen to Djibouti since March, in particular to Obock. As of 7 October, 28,389 people have arrived, including 4,095 registered refugees, 1,879 returnees, 14,839 Yemeni nationals and 11,671 third-country nationals (IOM, 09/10/2015; UNHCR, 06/10/2015).

An estimated 12,000 will need humanitarian aid, mainly health assistance, protection and shelter, by the end of 2015 (IOM, 05/10/2015). Djibouti was already hosting more than 27,000 refugees from Somalia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea (UNHCR, 01/01/2015).

Between 29 September and 8 October, 1,844 Yemenis arrived in Obock. This is a huge increase given that the average registration in July and August was between 10 and 20 individuals per week. There is an urgent need for shelter (UNHCR, 09/10/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

4,095 new arrivals from Yemen, of which 3,915 are Yemenis, have been registered as refugees since March (UNHCR, 09/10/2015). 1,540 are in Markazi camp in Obock. The rest live in Obock town or Djibouti city (UNHCR, 12/09/2015; 06/10/2015). Refugees have left Markazi camp because of the poor conditions. It is remote, humanitarian access is limited, the food and health situation is critical, and protection risk factors are present, for instance long distances between dwellings and latrines (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).

As of mid-August, 12,763 refugees and 2,614 asylum seekers from Somalia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea were living in Djibouti, mainly in Ali-Addeh and Holl Holl refugee camps (UNICEF, 13/08/2015).

Other

Many who have not been registered as refugees are staying in Obock or Djibouti cities, often hosted by Djiboutian relatives. Humanitarian actors in the country are concerned about the strain on host communities' resources (UNICEF, 13/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

As of September, an estimated 120,000 people, primarily in Southeastern and Obock regions, are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, which are likely to persist through December (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

Food availability

Two consecutive poor rainy seasons (October–February and March–May) have resulted in below-average pasture availability, particularly affecting Obock region. The poor seasons have caused depletion of pasture and water resources, and have negatively impacted livestock productivity and milk production (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015).

Food access

Limited livelihood opportunities, inadequate humanitarian assistance, and few available coping mechanisms have reduced food access (FEWSNET, 28/08/2015).

WASH

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

Updated: 20/10/2015

ETHIOPIA FOOD INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

9 October: 7.7 million people are estimated in need of food assistance as drought continues, and the number is expected to increase further in the coming months. The nutritional situation is deteriorating (ECHO).

KEY CONCERNS

- Up to 7.7 million people are estimated in need of food assistance as drought continues. The nutritional situation is deteriorating (OCHA, 30/09/2015; ECHO, 09/10/2015).
- 728,000 refugees, mainly from Somalia, South Sudan, Eritrea, and Sudan (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).
- Some 303,000 severely malnourished children are thought to require nutritional support; an increase of 14% since February (Government, 24/08/2015). An additional 700,000 moderately malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women are expected to need assistance in the last quarter of 2015 (OCHA, 28/09/2015).

OVERVIEW

The majority of refugee camps have reached full capacity, and main concerns include overcrowding, malnutrition, and critical shortfalls in humanitarian aid. Most of the refugees in Ethiopia have been there for years, but assistance remains necessary.

Much of Ethiopia is facing drought, due to consecutive below-average rainy seasons. This is leading to high levels of food insecurity, particularly in Afar, in Sitti zone of Somali region, and parts of Amhara, Oromia, and SNNPR. Malnutrition has increased significantly. Priority areas are mainly in Afar, Amhara, and Oromia. 7.7 million people are estimated in need of food assistance as of September 2015.

[For more information, visit the ACAPS country analysis page.](#)

Politics and security

Ethiopia is considered comparatively stable, but deep clan tensions and intra-communal violence persist. Two decades of deadly conflict in the southeastern region of Ogaden have had a severe impact on the Ethiopian ethnic Somali population, especially after years of a relatively successful government counter-insurgency campaign. The government has yet to address the root causes of the violence. However, weak political opposition, and the government's determination to accelerate economic growth all make continued stability likely.

Ethiopia has historically been a key player in peacekeeping and counter-terrorism operations in East Africa. Peace talks on the South Sudan conflict, under the mediation of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, are taking place in Addis Ababa. Ethiopian troops are currently part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which has launched an offensive against Al Shabaab, together with the Somali National Army.

Natural disasters

Drought

Far below average rainfall during both the March–May and July–September rainy seasons has led to very dry conditions (FEWSNET, 24/08/2015). **Afar region is most severely hit, and pastoralists are particularly affected (WFP, 07/10/2015). Livestock deaths have been reported across north-central and eastern Ethiopia (NOAA, 07/10/2015).** Many planting activities have also been delayed (NOAA, 23/07/2015).

Southern areas also lack rainfall (FEWSNET and NOAA, 25/09/2015). Drought conditions continue in parts of Oromia and SNNPR, affecting at least 211,000 people in Arsi, Bale, East Shewa, East and West Hararge in Oromia, and Mirab Abaya of Gamo Gofa zone and Humbo *woreda* of Wolayita zone in SNNPR (OCHA, 03/08/2015; FEWSNET, 24/08/2015; All Africa, 29/09/2015).

Displacement

As of June, more than one million people are displaced in Ethiopia, including refugees, IDPs, and returnees. The majority of refugees are from Somalia, South Sudan, and Eritrea, and are mainly staying in camps in Gambella, Dolo Ado in Somali region, and Shire in Tigray. Many have been displaced for more than a year. Since April, nearly 5,000 people escaping the conflict in Yemen have arrived in Ethiopia; they are mainly returnees. Some 34,000 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers are in Kenya and Djibouti. IDPs are mainly displaced by conflict and flooding in Somali, Gambella, and Oromia regions.

IDPs

As of June 2015, there are 470,261 IDPs in Ethiopia, a decrease from 505,150 in March 2015 (IOM, 09/07/2015). About 10% were displaced between April and June. The majority live in Somali, Gambella and Oromia regions. Protracted displacement has arisen from inter-clan and cross-border conflict, and to a lesser extent natural disasters such as fires and flooding (PI, 06/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 30 September, Ethiopia hosts some 733,000 refugees, mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan. The majority are staying in camps in Gambella, Dolo Ado and Shire (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). 36,733 refugees arrived in the first six months of 2015 (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

South Sudan: There are over 287,000 South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR, 09/10/2015). **As of October, 28,706 South Sudanese refugees have entered Gambella region since December 2014, bringing the total of South Sudanese refugees in Gambella to 277,757. 67% are children. Women make up 71% of the adult population (UNHCR, 09/10/2015).** 10,093 refugees are in Benishangul-Gumuz region near Assosa.

Around 3,760 people arrived in August, a decrease from the 7,260 arrivals in July, the highest number so far in 2015. **On average 35 refugees are arriving per day (UNHCR, 09/10/2015).** The majority are fleeing generalised violence and food insecurity in Jonglei and Upper Nile states. They are mainly arriving through Pagak, Matar, Akobo, Burbiey, and Raad entry points (UNHCR, 01/09/2015). 290 people are awaiting transfer to camps at Pagak (UNHCR, 25/09/2015).

The majority of South Sudanese are staying in camps: 63,022 are in Pugnido, 52,371 in Tierkidi, 47,471 in Kule, 47,737 in Jewi, and 7,568 in Okugo. 43,841 people are staying with host communities (UNHCR, 11/09/2015). Relocation to a new camp, Pugnido II, has started. The camp is expected to accommodate more than 75,000 people (UNHCR, 21/08/2015).

Somalia: As of 31 August, there are 248,894 Somali refugees in Ethiopia. Most are located

in Dolo Ado camps (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Between January and August 2015, 4,394 new refugees arrived. The number of new arrivals reached 525 in August, the highest monthly total since March (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Eritrea: As of July, 139,039 Eritrean refugees are registered in Ethiopia, including 33,000 arrivals in 2014 (ECHO, 17/04/2015; OCHA, 03/08/2015). In the week to 3 August, on average 157 new refugees arrived daily, the majority being students and unaccompanied or separated children. High levels of onward movement are thought to have reduced the number of refugees to less than a third of those registered (OCHA, 03/08/2015).

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

Yemen: As of 21 September, 1,763 refugees and asylum seekers have arrived from Yemen, including 932 Yemenis, 822 Somalis, and several people of other nationalities, who were previously registered as refugees in Yemen (UNHCR, 22/09/2015).

Refugee returnees

As of 16 September, 7,035 Ethiopian nationals have returned from Yemen (UNHCR, 22/09/2015). Some people have been injured in the conflict, and many are in need of transport and shelter (IOM, 26/05/2015; 23/07/2015).

Ethiopian refugees in neighbouring countries

As of 7 July, there were 31,023 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya (UNHCR, 07/07/2015). 4,172 Ethiopian refugees are in South Sudan as of 31 August (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Results of a mid-September assessment indicate the food security situation has deteriorated further, with 7.7 million people estimated to be in need of assistance, compared to 4.5 million in August (ECHO, 09/10/2015). This is a dramatic increase from 2.9 million projected in February (government, 18/08/2015). **Due to continued drought related to El Niño, relief food needs are highly likely to double in 2016, to around 15 million (OCHA, 28/09/2015; ECHO, 09/10/2015).**

Sitti zone in Somali region, and southern Afar are worst affected. As of September, 954,000 people are facing Crisis or Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security outcomes, due to high livestock mortality and reduced food access (FEWSNET, 23/09/2015). Poor milk productivity is leaving poor households without access to milk as a source of food or income (FEWSNET, 23/09/2015).

Even with humanitarian assistance, poor households in *belg*-dominant areas in SNNPR, northeast Amhara, southern Tigray, and central and eastern Oromia will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes from October to December (FEWSNET, 14/08/2015;

24/08/2015).

Food availability

A delayed *belg* harvest extended the lean season until September instead of August in SNNPR, northeast Amhara, south Tigray, and areas of central and eastern Oromia (FEWSNET, 14/08/2015). Many sorghum and maize crops have wilted in eastern Amhara, Tigray and Oromia (FEWSNET, 24/08/2015). In SNNPR, maize production is also well below average. The region received 20–50% less rain than in a typical year, and the planted area is less than 60% (FEWSNET, 26/06/2015; 24/08/2015). The *meher* harvest (October–January) is also anticipated to be below average (FEWSNET, 14/08/2015).

Food access

Prices of staple foods such as lentils have increased by up to 73% in Addis Ababa, and livestock prices are decreasing, with declines of 80% reported in Somali region, compared to the same time last year (OCHA, 30/09/2015). Poor households in southeastern and southern pastoral areas do not have enough income to pay for essential non-food expenses. In southern Shebelle and Afder and Liben zones of Somali region, and in the lowlands of Borena zone in Oromia, income from livestock and food access remain below normal (FEWSNET, 14/08/2015).

Livelihoods

An estimated 200,000 livestock have died so far in 2015, and this number is expected to double in the coming year (OCHA, 30/09/2015). In Sitti zone, 75% of livestock resources have been lost (ECHO, 09/10/2015). Poor livestock conditions and productivity are also reported in eastern Oromia, and in eastern Tigray and Amhara. Household incomes have not increased as they normally would after the start of the rains (FEWSNET, 24/08/2015; 14/08/2015; ECHO, 10/07/2015).

Health

Malaria incidence rates are high in all Gambella refugee locations, including entry points and transit centres. Highest rates are reported in Kule (46.8/1,000 persons/day) and Pagak (41.8/1,000 persons/day). The rainy season contributed to an increase in malaria in August (UNHCR, 01/09/2015). **Diarrhoea and other water-related diseases have decreased in Gambella after the rainy season subsided in September (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).**

Nutrition

Acute malnutrition is rapidly increasing. **In Sitti zone of Somali region, 40–69% GAM and 9–20% SAM was found among IDPs, in an MoH nutrition screening (ECHO, 09/10/2015).**

142 'priority one' *woredas* were identified in August, an increase from 97 in May. 273 additional high-priority *woredas* risk deterioration if there is no intervention (OCHA, 14/09/2015). The priority areas are mostly in Afar, Oromia and Amhara regions (OCHA, 04/06/2015). As of late August, 42% of the priority one *woredas* are not covered by nutrition interventions (OCHA, 14/09/2015).

As of August, 302,600 children are expected to suffer from SAM in 2015, a 14% increase from February projections (Government, 18/08/2015). In July, more than 31,700 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases were admitted for treatment across the country. The admission rates are 50% higher than in July 2014, reaching levels reported during the drought in 2011 (OCHA, 07/09/2015; Nutrition Cluster, 17/06/2015). Moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) has also doubled compared to last year, with 374,000 cases admitted into supplementary feeding programmes in the third quarter of 2015. The situation will deteriorate further, with 700,000 MAM cases expected to be in need of assistance in the last three months of 2015 (OCHA, 28/09/2015).

Refugees

In Afar region, the nutrition situation has deteriorated in two camps. In Barahle, GAM is at 22.9%, compared to 16% in 2014. In Aysaita camp, GAM increased from 17.2% in 2014 to 19.8% in 2015 (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

WASH

1.43 million people are estimated in need of WASH support, including provision and rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation services, and hygiene promotion (Government, 18/08/2015).

Water supply

Water trucking activities are ongoing in areas of southern Afar and Sitti zone in Somali region, but many households still do not have adequate access to water sources (FEWSNET, 23/09/2015). Water shortages continue in parts of Oromia region. Many people in the region continue to be at high risk of water shortage. In SNNPR, people have turned to unprotected water sources, as surface water has not been replenished (OCHA, 03/08/2015).

The water supply in most camps in Gambella is below the UNHCR standard of 20L per person per day: 15L in Tierkidi, 16L in Kule and Pugnido, and 9L in Jewi. In Pagak entry point, 20 L/p/d is available; an improvement since early September (UNHCR, 02/10/2015). Water supply in Barahle and Aysaita camp in Afar is at more than 20L per person per day (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Sanitation

Sanitation in Gambella has improved, and latrine to user ratios in the camps are better than the UNHCR standard of 1:50. Ratios are 1:26 in Tierkidi, 1:11 in Kule, 1:33 in Pugnido, 1:25 in Okugo, and 1:49 in Jewi (UNHCR, 07/08/2015).

Education

Households affected by food insecurity cannot afford to send their children to school, as they are struggling to meet their food needs (OCHA, 05/10/2015).

In Gambella camps, only 45% of the school-aged population is attending school. Attendance rates are worse among girls than boys, at 39% and 50%, respectively. Primary education enrolment averages 66%. Worst attendance rates are reported in Jewi (43%) and Pugnido (54%). Secondary education enrolment averages 11%, and is only reported in Okugo (8%) and in Pugnido (12%) (UNHCR, 01/09/2015).

Protection

Children

There are more than 73,170 unaccompanied and separated minors in Ethiopia. Unaccompanied Eritrean children in Shire are of particular concern, due to their large numbers (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). **20,982 unaccompanied and separated South Sudanese children are in Gambella (UNHCR, 09/10/2015).**

Updated: 12/10/2015

KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

30 September: Drought is increasing, particularly in Samburu, Meru, and Isiolo counties, where water is becoming increasingly scarce, and pasture is limited (government).

23 September: More than 6,000 households (over 50,000 individuals) remain affected by inter-clan conflict since March 2014. The majority are displaced and staying in camps (KIRA).

KEY CONCERNS

- Violence in the capital Nairobi, as well as northeastern and coastal areas; many attacks are attributed to the Somali Islamist Al Shabaab movement.
- Inter-communal violence caused 310 deaths, 195 injuries, and displaced 216,294 people in the first six months of 2015 (OCHA, 04/08/2015).
- More than 590,000 refugees, including at least 420,000 Somalis and 90,000 South Sudanese (UNHCR 31/05/2015).

Politics and security

Kenya is considered relatively stable in the Horn of Africa. However, the country remains ethnically polarised and affected by two decades of conflict in neighbouring Somalia. Cross-border attacks by Al Shabaab persist, particularly in the north of the country, and deadly inter-communal violence remains common in a number of areas, particularly in Turkana and Baringo.

The increasing radicalisation of the ethnic Somali Muslim population is allegedly fuelled by systematic ethnic profiling and discrimination. Muslims make up 11% of Kenya's 40 million population. In addition, a devolution process and land reform challenge stability in a country, where institutions are perceived to be weak.

Al Shabaab

In 2011, Kenyan troops began operating in Somalia, after a spate of cross-border attacks by Al Shabaab. Since then, the number of attacks in Kenya has continued to rise. Al Shabaab has built a cross-border presence and clandestine support network among the Muslim population in the northeast, in Nairobi, and on the coast. Non-Muslims continue to be targeted. More than 400 people were killed by Al Shabaab in Kenya between April 2013 and May 2015 (Reuters, 26/05/2015; Guardian, 26/05/2015).

The frequency of attacks spiked between April and June 2015, particularly in Garissa and Lamu counties, but also in Mandera and Wajir. 186 people died and 144 were injured in 39 incidents (OCHA, 04/08/2015). In July 2015, a new military offensive including Kenyan forces began in Somalia, targeting Al Shabaab in Somalia's Gedo region (BBC, 22/07/2015).

In September, Kenya launched a 90-day security operation in Lamu county. It aimed to force Al Shabaab out of Boni forest, from which it has previously launched attacks. Households in the area had to vacate their lands (Kenya Daily Nation, 21/09/2015).

Conflict developments

Al Shabaab-related violence

Fifteen Al Shabaab attacks have been recorded since February 2015 (ACLED, 27/07/2015). Most violence occurs in eastern and northeastern counties along the border with Somalia, including Wajir, Mandera, and Lamu. The deadliest attack so far was in Garissa in April 2015, when 148 people were killed (BBC, 07/07/2015).

Since July, attacks have mainly occurred in Lamu county. Around 20 people have been killed (AFP, 07/07/2015; 14/07/2015). On 15 August, Al Shabaab militants stormed a village in Lamu county. No casualties or injuries were reported, but many people fled to neighbouring towns (Kenya Daily Nation, 18/08/2015).

Inter-communal violence

In the first half of 2015, inter-communal violence caused 310 deaths and 195 injuries in 273 recorded incidents, and led to the displacement of 216,294 people. A comparable number of people were killed, injured and displaced between January–November 2014, indicating that the situation has since deteriorated. Reasons for the increase in violence include population growth, of both people and livestock, and the availability of small arms. The northern Rift Valley and northeastern regions are most affected: Turkana, Baringo, Samburu, Marsabit and Isiolo counties. Conflict occurs particularly between the Pokot and Turkana communities, and the Samburu and Turkana (OCHA, 04/08/2015; 31/11/2014). Scarcity of water and pasture is a key driving force for conflict between communities in Marsabit, Moyale, Garissa, Isiolo, and Wajir counties (Reuters, 22/09/2015).

In Tana River county, clashes between pastoralist Wardei and farmer Giriama communities killed six people in early August, and displaced more than 2,000 people (OCHA, 21/08/2015). In July, several clashes were reported in Samburu, Garissa, Wajir, and Turkana counties, mainly involving disputes over livestock raids (CrisisWatch, 01/08/2015).

In Mandera county, attacks using explosives and grenades continue in Mandera town and Lafey Road. One attack in July killed 14 people and injured 11 (KIRA, 23/09/2015).

Natural disasters

Drought

Dry conditions are reaching into Lake Victoria region in western Kenya. There are concerns about the availability of moisture for pastoral and cropping activities (NOAA, 21/10/2015). There is a high risk of drought across Samburu county, with parts already facing severe drought. Water is scarce, particularly in lowlands, where water sources have dried up. In Meru county, dry conditions in September have led to a significant decrease in river levels, especially in agropastoral livelihood zones.

Water shortages in Isiolo are increasing the risk of drought, and depleting pasture (government, 30/09/2015).

Displacement

Kenya's refugee population is among the largest in the Africa, with nearly 600,000 refugees as of 1 September. The large majority have fled conflict in Somalia and South Sudan, and have been living in camps for several years. In 2015, 8,000 new arrivals have been reported so far from Somalia and South Sudan. Other refugees originate from Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, and Uganda. In addition, more than 200,000 Kenyans were internally displaced due to inter-communal conflict in the first half of 2015.

IDPs

In the first half of 2015, inter-communal conflict led to the displacement of 216,294 people. The majority were in Mandera (103,000), Turkana (69,900), and Wajir (22,800).

In Mandera county, 6,275 households (over 50,000 individuals) remain affected by an escalation of inter-clan conflict in March 2014. The majority are living in camps in Mandera North and South. Hosts and IDPs have similar needs, due to the use of negative coping strategies. Priorities are food, water, shelter, and NFIs (KIRA, 23/09/2015).

3,000 people are staying in makeshift camps after leaving their houses due to ongoing security operations in eastern Lamy county (Kenya Daily Nation, 21/09/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 1 October, Kenya is hosting 593,530 refugees and asylum seekers. 222,800 are in Dadaab, 182,310 in Kakuma, 126,680 in Alinjugur, and 61,740 in Nairobi (UNHCR, 10/10/2015).

From Somalia: As of 9 September, 420,670 Somali refugees are in Kenya. 6,206 new refugees have been registered since January 2015 (UNHCR, 09/09/2015; 11/09/2015). 13,162 arrived in 2014, representing a considerable drop in arrivals (UNHCR, 01/04/2015; 06/05/2015). Most are in the northeastern Dadaab and Alinjugur refugee camps, which host around 350,000 people (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Somali refugees remain entirely dependent on humanitarian aid (Institute for Security Studies, 31/08/2015).

The Tripartite Agreement between the Kenyan and Somali Governments and UNHCR, signed in November 2013, establishes the legal framework for Somali refugees wishing to return home (IOM, UNHCR, 09/12/2014). As of 27 September, 4,339 returnees had arrived in Somalia (UNHCR, 27/09/2015).

From South Sudan: Kenya hosts 91,967 South Sudanese refugees as of 14 October.

46,728 have arrived since mid-December 2013 (UNHCR, 19/10/2015). 5,678 have registered since January 2015 (UNHCR, 29/09/2015). They are mainly living in Kakuma camp. 64% are children (UNICEF, 05/02/2015). **The trend of daily arrivals remains low, with the weekly average around 100 (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).**

On 19 June, land for a new camp in Kalobeyei, some 20km from Kakuma camp, was officially handed over by the local government in Turkana county. The camp will be able to accommodate 80,000 people. Kakuma camp was hosting 184,527 refugees as of 25 June, which far exceeds its capacity of 125,000. 50% of Kakuma camp's residents are South Sudanese (UNHCR, 26/06/2015; Reuters, 20/06/2015).

From other countries: 7,797 refugees from Burundi are mostly living in Kakuma camp. The majority arrived before the electoral violence in Burundi that began in 2015 (UNHCR, 11/09/2015). 23,091 refugees from DRC are in Kenya, including 5,040 who have registered since January 2015 (UNHCR, 11/09/2015; 30/06/2015). 30,832 Ethiopian and 10,328 Sudanese refugees live in Kenya (UNHCR, 11/09/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

So far in 2015, 33 security incidents involving NGOs have been reported, including one fatality, one abduction, and six injuries (INSO, 26/08/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

More than 3,000 people affected by ongoing security operations in eastern Lamu county had not yet received any assistance as of 21 September. They have vacated their houses and are staying in makeshift camps (Kenya Daily Nation, 21/09/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Humanitarian access is constrained in northern, eastern, and coastal regions due to inter-communal violence and attacks by armed opposition groups, including Al Shabaab. Hilly terrain and poor roads increase insecurity and inaccessibility in some regions (UNICEF, 30/06/2015; OCHA, 04/08/2015).

People displaced by fears of Al Shabaab attacks in Bodhai, Lamu county, cannot be reached as militants are thought to have planted landmines on the road to the affected areas (Kenya Daily Nation, 18/08/2015).

Security in Dadaab and along the border with Somalia is volatile, with frequent incidents and implications for the safety of humanitarian workers (ECHO, 17/04/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

1.1 million people are acutely food insecure. Contributing factors include poor distribution of and below-average rainfall, the cumulative effects of three consecutive poor rainy seasons, high food prices, crop pests, livestock diseases, conflict in pastoral areas, and human-wildlife conflict in areas bordering game reserves. Areas most affected by food insecurity include northwestern and northeastern pastoral areas, and southeast marginal agricultural areas (IPC, 31/08/2015).

In northern Isiolo and western Wajir, drier conditions and low milk production mean households will continue to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes throughout October. The situation will improve by December, as the October–December short rains are forecast to be above average. However, though rangeland resources will increase, most households will still face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) conditions in December. Flooding from October–December could worsen food security conditions, and affected households may reach Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

In most pastoral areas and southeastern and coastal marginal agricultural areas, food security will continue to deteriorate until October, as the lean season peaks. The majority of households will face Stressed (Phase 2) food security outcomes. October rains will improve the situation, but the majority of pastoral areas will remain under Stressed (Phase 2) conditions (FEWSNET, 27/08/2015).

Food availability

Since June, refugees in Kakuma and Dadaab camps are receiving 30% less food assistance than required, as WFP is facing funding shortfalls. The ration cuts are expected to continue until December 2015 (UNHCR, 15/08/2015; WFP, 30/06/2015; Institute for Security Studies, 31/08/2015).

Food security is seasonally deteriorating in coastal agricultural areas. The majority of households depleted their stocks much earlier than usual, owing to a well below-average short rains harvest. There has been little demand for agricultural labour (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

Food access

Insecurity is making pasture inaccessible in Samburu North (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

Livelihoods

Little pasture is available in lowlands of Samburu county. Milk production and consumption have decreased. Pasture quality and quantity have also decreased in Meru county, resulting in unseasonal livestock migration and in-migration of livestock from Isiolo county, where livestock body conditions worsened in September compared to August. In Kinna and Kumulawe, livestock deaths have been reported (government, 30/09/2015).

Health

Insecurity in northern, eastern, and coastal regions has led to the departure of many health actors since December 2014, negatively impacting healthcare provision and nutrition assistance (OCHA, 04/08/2015). Eleven of 26 health facilities in Mandera have closed because staff have left the county (UNICEF, 05/02/2015).

Cholera continues to affect ten counties (IFRC, 22/09/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Access to healthcare in counties affected by insecurity is limited by the closure of hundreds of health centres, due to a lack of staff, and presence of humanitarian actors is limited (IFRC, 02/09/2015).

Health posts are often overcrowded in the refugee camps. **In Kakuma camp, the number of consultations per clinician is more than 100 per day, far above the Sphere standard of 50 per day (UNHCR, 14/10/2015).** In Kambioos and Ifo camps in Dadaab, minimum consultation times are negatively affecting the quality of services (UNHCR, 11/08/2015).

Cholera

An ongoing cholera outbreak has affected 21 counties in Kenya, of which ten still have active transmission (IFRC, 22/09/2015). **As of 11 September, 6,529 cases and 131 deaths have been reported since December 2014 (Red Cross, 02/10/2015).** Counties at high risk include Turkana, Marsabit, Baringo, Siaya, Migori, Kajiado, Nairobi, Kiambu, and Kilifi. The overall case fatality rate (CFR) is 2% (IFRC, 02/09/2015). A cholera outbreak has been declared in Dadaab camp, with 14 reported cases, including one confirmed, as of 11 September (UNHCR, 11/09/2015).

The need to contain the outbreak is of special concern, because floods are expected in the coming months due to El Niño (ECHO, 20/10/2015).

Nutrition

Among conflict-affected populations in Mandera, global acute malnutrition was 24% as of late September, and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) 4.1% (KIRA, 23/09/2015).

Malnutrition levels are rising in West Pokot county, 12% GAM is far above the normal 7.5% at this time of the year. Nutritional status is also deteriorating in Kajiado county, with 13.2% GAM in September, compared to 9.8% in July (government, 30/09/2015).

WASH

As of 14 October, Kakuma 4 camp residents have access to an average of 17.3L of water per person per day – below minimum standards. In Dadaab, water supply is at 23.5 L/p/d (UNHCR, 11/09/2015; **14/10/2015**).

The latrine:user ratio in Kakuma is at 1:14, which is better than the minimum standard of 1:50 (UNHCR, 11/09/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter

Dadaab refugee camps are overcrowded, and shelter inadequate. In Kambioos, many people are staying in tents that have a lifespan of 6–7 months. In Ifo camp, some shelters have not been replaced since the founding of the camp in 1991 (UNHCR, 11/08/2015).

Education

465,000 children remain out of school due to drought, food insecurity, lack of access to safe water and conflict-related displacement (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

80,000 children are without access to education due to the absence of 1,600 teachers in conflict-affected counties (UNICEF, 30/06/2015). Secondary schools are most affected, but primary schools along the Kenya–Somalia border are also without teachers (local media, 21/05/2015).

Protection

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

Gender

In Dadaab, 533 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were reported between January–June 2015, compared to 623 during the same period in 2014. The majority of cases (96%) affected women, 9% affected children, and 4% men. Limited safe spaces are predisposing women and children to danger; poverty resulting from a lack of livelihood opportunities is a factor for abuse and exploitation; and long distances to basic requirements such as firewood expose women and children to heightened protection risks (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

Children

16,442 unaccompanied minors have been registered among the refugee population (UNHCR, 11/09/2015). **In Kakuma camp, the number of separated and unaccompanied**

children is 15,645 (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).

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

Updated: 22/10/2015

MALAWI FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY



For more information, visit the [ACAPS country analysis page](#).

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

30 September: Average maize prices will be about 50% above the three-year average from October through December (FEWSNET).

KEY CONCERNS

- 2.8 million people are estimated to be at risk of food insecurity between October 2015 and March 2016 as a result of the combined effect of floods and drought (Oxfam, 30/09/2015, FEWSNET, 29/09/2015).
- Maize production in the current agricultural season has yielded 2,898,123 metric tons, representing a 28% deficit (VOA, 19/08/2015).
- 100,000 people are living in 131 displacement sites as a result of January floods (UNICEF, 05/08/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

A 0.6% decrease in GDP is expected for 2015 because of flood damage at the beginning of the year (Government, 18/06/2015). More than 1.1 million people were affected, and 106,000 remained displaced in October; the southern districts of Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe, and Zomba were most affected (UNICEF, 07/10/2015; ICRC, 17/07/2015). 1,220km of roads and 185 bridges were damaged or destroyed (Government, 18/06/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

In October, around 106,000 displaced people were still being hosted in temporary sites in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts (UNICEF, 07/10/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

21,768 refugees and asylum seekers are in Malawi, mostly from DRC, Burundi, and Rwanda, live in Dzaleka camp in Dowa district in central Malawi, or among host communities (UNHCR, 05/2015). Hundreds of Mozambicans were reported to have arrived in the middle of the year, fleeing fighting between the army and RENAMO insurgents (ABC News, 27/07/2015; VOA, 13/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

The food crisis is expected to be the most severe in a decade: 2.8 million people are estimated to be at risk of food insecurity between October 2015 and March 2016 as a result of the combined effect of floods and drought (Christian Aid, 30/09/2015; Oxfam, 30/09/2015, FEWSNET, 29/09/2015). 25 of 28 districts are already affected (Red Cross, 05/10/2015; UNICEF, 07/10/2015). Households affected by flooding are considered particularly vulnerable.

Poor households in southern districts, including Phalombe, Chikwawa, and Nsanje, are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes between October and December, and will require humanitarian assistance to meet basic food needs (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food availability

The floods destroyed around 64,000 hectares of crops and 195,032 animals (ICRC, 17/07/2015; FAO, 09/08/2015). Maize production in the current agricultural season is at 2.9 million metric tons, representing a deficit of 27.7% (VOA, 19/08/2015). Nut production has reduced by 21%, and rice production by 13% compared to the previous year (Red Cross, 05/10/2015).

Food access

Food prices continue to rise as more households rely on purchases for food needs. Average maize prices will be about 50% above the three-year average from October through December (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). In the second quarter of 2015, maize prices almost doubled in Southern (+95%) and Central (+99%) regions. In the same period the cost of the minimum food basket increased more than 10% (WFP, 30/07/2015).

Health

Malaria, respiratory infections, and diarrhoea were the most prevalent health problems in IDP camps in May. The long distance to health facilities (over 3km) is a challenge in more than half of IDP sites (IOM/government, 20/05/2015).

23 health facilities and significant medical supplies have been damaged or destroyed by floods (Government, 18/06/2015).

Nutrition

There has been a significant increase in the number of malnourished children as a result of the floods and poor harvests. 25,313 children aged 6–59 months had been admitted for treatment for severe acute malnutrition by July 2015 (UNICEF, 27/09/2015).

WASH

Some 2,990 boreholes and six water treatment plants have been damaged or destroyed by floods (government, 18/06/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

523,350 houses have been damaged or destroyed by floods, making this the largest recovery need (government, 18/06/2015).

Education

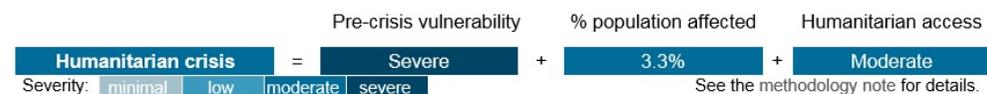
508 schools have been damaged or destroyed by the floods (Government, 18/06/2015).

Protection

Reports of rape and cross-border trafficking between Malawi and Mozambique are a concern (Government/UN, 07/04/2015). On 30 July, police rescued 21 trafficked children in Blantyre while they were in transit to Mangochi from Mozambique (The Times Malawi, 30/07/2015).

Updated: 20/10/2015

MALI CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

13 October: At least six people were killed in a suspected Islamist attack in Tassgilat, Timbuktu region (AFP).

9 October: Three civilians were killed in Dounapen, Mopti region, in an attack attributed to an Islamist armed group (AFP; Le Figaro).

30 September: More than 450 schools remain closed in northern and central regions. Some have not been functional since 2012 (OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS

- Security remains volatile, particularly in the north, but tensions are spreading to southern and central regions. Access for aid workers is limited.
- 71,300 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 11/08/2015).
- 2.86 million people are affected by moderate and severe food insecurity as of June, with households in the north facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes as of September (Government, 07/2015; FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).
- 690,000 people are in need of health assistance and 840,000 are in need of WASH (OCHA, 15/06/2015).

For more information, visit the [ACAPS country analysis page](#).

Politics and security

Municipal and regional elections scheduled for 25 October have been delayed, due to insecurity and a lack of administration in northern regions. The elections were meant to reassert the government's authority in the north (AFP, 22/09/2015). The state lost control of the north of the country in 2012, after Tuareg groups from the northern region known as Azawad began a campaign for greater autonomy, and a separate coup d'état further destabilised the country. The fragile alliance between Tuareg and Islamists was quickly broken, and Islamists took control of key northern cities. Civilian rule was re-established in mid-2013, with the aid of French and African Union troops. A UN mission, MINUSMA, was set up, but Mali continues to face security and political challenges. Limited access to basic social services and the poor capacity of public administration are key drivers of the crisis.

The Algiers peace agreement was signed by the government and the Azawad Movement Coalition (AMC), which comprises the main Tuareg armed groups operating in the north. Gaps in the agreement regarding the recognition of Azawad territory have been considered a possible risk of future violence, particularly as there are concerns that both parties do not have absolute control over their forces (ACLED, 10/07/2015). The main Islamist armed groups operating in the country were excluded from the peace negotiations.

While the intensity of violence is much lower than at the peak of the insurgency in 2012, attacks by Islamist militants have become more widespread in recent months and continue to hamper security. Every province has reported at least one attack in 2015. In addition to the northern provinces of Kidal, Gao, and Timbuktu, security incidents have been reported in the central regions of Mopti and Segou since January, and more recently in the south. Trends indicate that violence is increasingly directed at targets in the south, and is mainly targeting security forces and foreigners, including civilians and international forces (ACLED, 10/07/2015).

Stakeholders

Tuareg armed groups

The AMC, comprising the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), the High Council for the Unity of Azawad (HCUA), and the Arab Movement of Azawad (MAA), has been the main actor carrying out attacks in northern and central regions. They strive for more autonomy of the territory they call Azawad, which includes Timbuktu, Gao, Kidal and parts of Mopti.

Pro-Government armed groups

Several mainly ethnic Tuareg armed groups opposing the AMC are organised in the Platform Movement. The government has some authority over these groups, but it is limited. One of the main actors in the Platform is Gatia, which has been involved in multiple clashes with the AMC in the central and northern regions.

Islamist armed groups

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

Since 2015, a Fulani Islamist group linked to Ansar Dine has claimed several attacks carried out in Mali. Between January and September, around 30 people were killed in central Mali in attacks claimed by the Macina Liberation Front (MLF) (AFP, 23/09/2015; 08/08/2015; 11/08/2015).

International armed forces

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

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

On 1 August 2014, France deployed a 3,000-strong counterterrorism operation across the Sahel region. Based in Chad, Operation Barkhane is active in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger (Local Media, 01/08/2014).

Conflict developments

AMC and the Platform Movement signed an agreement on 15 October to cease all hostilities between the two armed groups. The ceasefire follows disputes over control of the town of Anefis, Kidal region, in August and September (MaliWeb, 19/10/2015; 02/09/2015; AFP, 19/09/2015). The security situation seems to be worsening particularly around Timbuktu, with an increasing number of attacks on villagers and people on the road to markets (Reuters, 09/08/2015). On 16–17 August, seven people were killed in violence between Tuareg and Sonrai communities in Tinassamede, Gao region (MaliActu, 19/08/2015).

Security incidents in southern and central regions have increased since June. Islamist insurgent groups Ansar Dine and MLF have claimed some of the attacks (AFP, 30/06/2015; 27/06/2015; UN, 29/06/2015; local media, 11/06/2015). **On 13 October, at least six people were killed in a suspected Islamist attack involving rockets in Tassgilat, Timbuktu region. Two others were wounded. No group has claimed responsibility (AFP, 13/10/2015). On 9 October, three civilians were killed in Dounapen, Mopti, close to the border with Burkina Faso. Several others were injured. The attack was attributed to an Islamist armed group (AFP, 09/10/2015; Le Figaro, 09/10/2015).**

International and Malian armed forces continue to be targeted by armed group attacks. On 11 September, two peacekeepers were injured in an attack on a UN convoy on the Gao-Anefis road. This is the 50th reported attack on MINUSMA (UN, 11/09/2015). On 1 September, armed men killed two Malian soldiers and injured another at a checkpoint near Timbuktu (MaliWeb, 01/09/2015).

Displacement

More than 60,000 people are internally displaced due to the conflict in the north, and more than 130,000 have sought refuge in neighbouring countries such as Niger and Burkina Faso. The majority have been displaced since mid-2013, when the number of IDPs and refugees reached its peak. Since then, people have gradually returned, particularly IDPs, though increased insecurity brought a new surge in internal displacement in April–May

2015. Those who have returned are often still in need of assistance.

IDPs

There are 61,920 IDPs in Mali, as of 17 September: a decrease of more than 16,000 since July. The decrease is due to returning IDPs in Timbuktu region, which currently hosts 26,500 IDPs, compared to more than 42,000 in July. Goundam district hosts 9,400 IDPs, followed by Dire (5,300) and Gourma Rharous (4,400) (IOM and government, 17/09/2015).

IDPs outside of Timbuktu region are mainly staying in Gao (12,000), Bamako (8,500), and Kidal (5,200), and the remainder in central regions (IOM and government, 17/09/2015).

Nearly 400,000 IDPs have returned home. They are often still in need of assistance, as general conditions in the north have deteriorated. Infrastructure and houses have degraded due to a lack of maintenance (IOM, 03/08/2015; OCHA, 08/10/2015).

Refugees in Mali

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

Returnees

As of 30 September, 16,610 Malian refugees have returned from neighbouring countries. The majority returned in 2014. Since January, around 1,500 people returned (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

Malian refugees in neighbouring countries

There are 137,319 Malian refugees in neighbouring countries (OCHA, 08/10/2015).

As of 30 September, 52,880 Malian refugees are in Niger, and 50,270 are in Mauritania. Burkina Faso hosts 34,020 refugees (UNHCR, 30/09/2015; 31/08/2015).

Humanitarian access

In August and September, nine incidents limiting humanitarian assistance were reported in Mopti, Timbuktu, and Gao. Nearly 80% were related to violence against personnel, goods, and infrastructure (OCHA, 30/09/2015). Up to July, 56 access constraints were reported in 2015. 40% were incidents of violence directed at humanitarian personnel or goods and 32% resulted from military operations. The majority (76%) were directed at INGOs, 16% at UN agencies. Most incidents involved armed groups, often unidentified. In comparison, 22 constraints were reported in the whole of 2014 (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Insecurity due to the presence of armed groups continues to hamper access to populations in need in Segou, Mopti, Gao, and Timbuktu regions. In Segou, localities north of Niono are particularly hard to access. In Gao, the axis Gao-Gossi, Gao-Intillit, Gao-Ansongo-Menaka, and Gao-Bourem-Anefis are most affected by insecurity (OCHA, 15/09/2015).

Three communes in Gao have been difficult to access for WFP since May, due to insecurity and roads damaged by rain. The rainy season is expected to continue disrupting humanitarian activities through September (WFP, 04/09/2015).

Since the signing of the peace agreement, main access constraints in the north come from Islamist armed group attacks and banditry. Several roads are controlled by these groups, hampering access to affected communities (IOM, 03/08/2015).

Food security

As of September, populations in the north are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes, as the agropastoral and pastoral lean seasons have ended, following increased availability of crops and animal products and stable market prices (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). 2.86 million people were food insecure in June, according to the Cadre Harmonisé (Government, 07/2015).

Poor pastoral households in the north, who have experienced decreased revenue and loss of livestock in the past months, were facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes during September, but will be in Minimal (Phase 1) food insecurity starting October (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food availability

In the agropastoral zones of Gao, Bourem, Niafunke, Rharous and Youwarou, households have had a prolonged dependence on markets due to reduced harvests. With the presence of humanitarian assistance they are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes until September, but the situation will improve from October, after the harvest (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Livelihoods

Insecurity has led to reduced access to grazing grounds for animals in the north, and an increasing number of farmers are abandoning their farms for fear of attacks by armed groups (IRIN, 04/09/2015). Trade ruptures have been reported in the north, as well as loss of livelihoods due to looting of livestock and other goods (Government, 30/07/2015).

The use of coping strategies is limited for poor agropastoral households in riverine areas of Gao and Bourem districts (Gao region), the lake zone in Goundam, Haoussa in Niafunke

(Timbuktu region) and the north of Youwarou (Mopti region), thanks to the presence of humanitarian assistance (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Health

More than 2.2 million people are thought to be in need of health services (OCHA, 08/10/2015).

Malaria

A sharp increase in malaria cases has been reported since early October. A seasonal surge in cases is normally seen during the rainy season, but outbreak investigation is ongoing. In the second week of October, more than 11,369 malaria cases were recorded in Timbuktu, Gao, and Kidal regions, a decrease of over 500 cases compared to the previous week (government, 16/10/2015; ECHO, 07/10/2015). The proportion of cases among children under five is increasing, from 20% in the first week of October, to 41% in the second week (government, 10/10/2015; 16/10/2015).

Polio

A polio outbreak was declared on 7 September, after a vaccine-derived polio case was confirmed in Bamako. The patient is thought to have been infected in Guinea. This is the first polio case in Mali since 2011 (WHO, 07/09/2015).

Nutrition

Results of a May 2015 SMART survey indicated 12.4% global acute malnutrition (GAM) and 2.8% SAM nationwide (OCHA, 11/08/2015; 15/06/2015). **The nutritional situation is deteriorating. 2015 has seen an increase in SAM cases compared to 2014. As of early October, 96,121 SAM cases had been reported, which is already a more than 30% increase from the planning figure for the whole of 2015. Over 530,000 children were expected to suffer from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). WFP has suspended 50% of its assistance for MAM treatment due to funding shortfalls. Higher SAM rates are reported in all regions, but particularly in Segou, Koulikoro, and Mopti (ECHO, 06/10/2015).**

A nutrition emergency was declared in Timbuktu in September, with GAM 17.5%. This is a significant increase from the 14.8% reported in the same period in 2014 (OCHA, 30/09/2015).

As of September, 106,000 children were acutely malnourished in Segou region, where GAM is 11.2%. In Mopti, GAM is 10% and 85,000 children are malnourished. In Gao, GAM is 11.5%, corresponding to 26,400 children under five suffering from acute malnutrition (OCHA, 15/09/2015). In Koulikoro, GAM is at 13%, including 2% SAM (MaliWeb, 02/09/2015).

WASH

Water supply

In Timbuktu, 310,000 people do not have regular access to drinking water. 278,000 people lack access to drinking water in Gao, 746,000 in Segou, and more than one million in Mopti (OCHA, 15/09/2015).

Nomad communities are putting additional pressure on remaining water sources. Some households are losing their cattle. Worst affected are Bourem, Dorey and Ntillit in Gao; Tassik in Kidal; and Ebang Malane and Gossi in Timbuktu (OCHA, 11/08/2015; 31/07/2015).

In flooded areas in Menaka, Gao region, floodwater has submerged wells, making the town's usual source of drinking water unfit for use (AFP, 09/08/2015).

Education

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

Access and learning environment

As of mid-September, 454 schools across 60 communes in Gao, Kidal, Mopti, Segou, and Timbuktu were not operating. Some have been closed since 2012, others closed due to the deterioration of the security situation in 2015. In Kidal, no schools were officially open in the 2014–2015 school year. In conflict-affected areas, teachers were not teaching due to fear of being targeted by violence. In the three northern regions there is a shortage of at least 590 teachers compared to the pre-crisis level (OCHA, 30/09/2015).

Protection

Nearly 550,000 people are estimated in need of protection (OCHA, 08/10/2015). The increase in Islamist violence in recent months increases protection concerns. Though national and international security forces are often targeted, transportation for civilians and for commerce purposes also face an increased risk (UNOHCHR, 19/10/2015).

Mines and ERW

The number of casualties from explosive remnants of war (ERW) has decreased considerably since 2015, but improvised explosive device (IED) casualties are increasing. Since 2013, IEDs have caused 136 civilian casualties, nearly half of which were recorded in the first half of 2015 (OCHA, 15/06/2015). ERW caused 101 casualties from 2012 to June 2014 (OCHA, 30/06/2014).

Children

Three armed groups (Ansar Dine, MNLA, and MUJAO) are reportedly recruiting and using children, and are listed for rape and other forms of sexual violence (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 01/09/2015).

Gender

Since March 2015, 441 gender-based violence incidents have been reported. 90% of victims were female, and 34% involved minors. Victims often lack livelihood support services and safe accommodation. Survivors generally refuse referral to legal or protection services, in fear of retaliation or stigmatisation by their community (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Updated: 21/10/2015

NIGER FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

14 October: Niger declared a 15-day state of emergency in Diffa region after a rise in Boko Haram violence, imposing a curfew and restricting the movement of goods and people (Reuters).

KEY CONCERNS

- 457,000 people affected by conflict in Diffa region are food insecure (WFP, 14/10/2015).
- 224,424 children have been admitted for SAM treatment in 2015. 368,000 cases are expected by the end of the year (OCHA, 30/09/2015).
- At least 94,000 Nigerian refugees are in Diffa region (Government, 05/08/2015).

Politics and security

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

in Niger declared a state of emergency for a 15-day period in October, imposing a curfew and restricting movement of goods and people in Diffa region. Similar security measures were enforced in February (Reuters, 14/10/2015).

Thousands of troops from Niger and Chad launched a major ground and air offensive against BH in southeastern Niger in March (AFP, 14/03/2015). **A proposed Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF), which would bring at least 8,700 troops from Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin under a common command, is yet to be deployed (AFP, 15/10/2015)**

Large populations were evacuated from the Lake Chad islands in May due to military operations against BH (OCHA, 11/09/2015; UNICEF, 16/07/2015). BH attacks have since been reported in several villages in Diffa region: the withdrawal of Chad and Niger troops from northeastern Nigeria due to the rainy season has left Diffa more vulnerable to attack (UNHCR, 17/08/2015).

Elections

The first round of presidential elections is scheduled to take place 21 February 2016, coinciding with legislative elections. Relations between the ruling party and the opposition have been tense since the opposition accused President Issoufou of unilaterally forming a government of national unity in 2013 (AFP, 13/09/2015; Reuters, 15/09/2015).

Recent incidents

BH has conducted regular attacks on civilians in Diffa region, which has suffered 57 attacks since February (Reuters, 14/10/2015). On 4 October, five civilians and a police officer were killed in two explosions (AFP, 04/10/2015). On 25 September, BH killed 15 civilians in an attack in the village of N'Gourtoua as residents celebrated Eid al Adha (Reuters, 25/09/2015). Two civilians were reportedly killed in the village of Dagaya, in early September (UNHCR, 07/09/2015). In July and August, at least 24 were killed in three separate attacks in Diffa (Reuters, 27/08/2015; AFP, 18/07/2015, 10/07/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

Floods in seven central and southern regions between late July and September killed 25 people and affected at least 87,037. 6,607 homes have been destroyed. Dosso and Zinder were among the worst affected regions (OCHA, 22/09/2015, 30/09/2015).

Displacement

There are 66,400 IDPs in Niger, at least 94,152 Nigerian refugees, and 52,879 refugees from Mali (Government, 05/08/2015; UNHCR, 30/09/2015). 41,169 people have returned to

Niger in the wake of increased BH violence in the region (Government, 05/08/2015; OCHA, 17/09/2015).

Between 80,000 and 120,000 refugees and migrants are expected to pass through the major transit point of Agadez this year, four times more than initial estimates (IOM, 15/09/2015; OCHA, 18/09/2015).

Boko Haram crisis

The BH insurgency has triggered widespread displacement in northeast Nigeria and is increasingly threatening citizens on and around Lake Chad, including in Niger, Chad, and Cameroon (UNHCR, 24/09/2015). While estimates vary, at least 94,152 Nigerians were seeking refuge in Niger's Diffa region in August (Government, 05/08/2015). An estimated 130,000 Nigerian refugees could be in Niger by the end of 2015 (OCHA, 09/09/2015).

At least 30,000 people in Diffa are entirely reliant on humanitarian aid: priority needs are for food, WASH, nutrition, health, and protection (ECHO, 08/06/2015). 457,000 people are estimated to be moderately to severely food insecure after harvests and livelihoods have been disrupted by insecurity (WFP, 14/10/2015).

34,000 people remain displaced from islands around Lake Chad after they left in May. 8,267 are in Kimengaga site in Nguigmi and 2,501 are in Kablewa camp (UNHCR, 17/09/2015). An additional 6,289 are at a site in Assaga, and 1,239 are in Sayam Forage camp (UNHCR, 17/09/2015; WFP, 05/09/2015).

Mali crisis

As of 30 September, 52,879 Malian refugees are in Niger (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). 55% of the 3,612 new arrivals in 2015 are in camps, 26% in reception centres, and 18% in urban areas (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). 14,750 Malian refugees are in Intikane camp, and 13,658 in Abala camp in Tillabery region. 62% of refugees are children (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

A curfew and restrictions on movement have been imposed on Diffa after a state of emergency was declared in October (Reuters, 14/10/2015). Movement within Diffa, and northern parts of Zinder, Tahoua, and Tillabery regions, is possible only with military escorts (OCHA, 16/02/2015). Access to displaced populations in Bosso department is still restricted, with its southeastern part nearly inaccessible (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). On 17 August, WFP launched air operations to Lake Chad and other hard-to-access areas (WFP, 31/08/2015).

Security and physical constraints

The presence of landmines along the border between Niger and Nigeria, especially around Komadougou River, is preventing access to certain areas (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

A peak in the rainy season has made some roads inaccessible, impacting humanitarian access, particularly in the Tazalit refugee hosting site in Tahoua region (WFP, 04/09/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Niger faces chronic food insecurity. At the height of the May–September lean season, 2.7 million people were estimated to be food insecure and in need of food assistance (OCHA, 30/09/2015, 10/10/2015). **Strong rains since July have eased food insecurity to Minimal and Stressed levels (IPC Phases 1 and 2) across the country, except in Diffa region where insecurity is keeping people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).**

Food availability

In most agricultural zones of Niger, conditions have improved since July after good rains, although 32 villages in Diffa were unable to sow because of insecurity (OCHA, 30/09/2015).

Food access

Insecurity driven by BH continues to limit food access in eastern Niger (FEWSNET, 26/09/2015). **In Diffa, 457,000 people are estimated to be facing Stressed and Crisis (IPC Phases 2 and 3) food security outcomes (WFP, 14/10/2015).**

Livelihoods

In Diffa region, insecurity and poor rains in 2014 have particularly affected the livelihoods of households growing pepper and maize in the valleys of Lake Chad and Komadougou Yobe. Other activities in the south of Diffa, particularly fishing and the sale of fish around Lake Chad, have stopped entirely (FEWSNET, 31/07/2015).

Health

Healthcare availability and access

Health services are overcrowded in Diffa region with the arrival of new IDPs, and lack medicines and qualified personnel (OCHA, 20/05/2015). Diffa regional hospital is short of staff, as are 11 of 51 health centres in the region (WFP, 01/09/2015). Health facilities in Sayam Forage and Kablewa displacement camps are weak. Sayam Forage camp's nearest hospital is 45km away (UNHCR, 09/09/2015). Waterborne diseases such as malaria and diarrhoea are increasing among the displaced and refugee population during the rainy season (MSF, 21/08/2015).

Cholera

51 cholera cases have been recorded in 2015 (OCHA, 10/10/2015). Cholera outbreaks in Nigeria and Cameroon since June threaten to spread to Niger (UNICEF, 29/09/2015).

Measles

5,546 measles cases, including at least 14 deaths, have been recorded in 2015 in all eight regions of Niger (OCHA, 10/10/2015). 60% of cases have been in Zinder region (OCHA, 12/08/2015; UNICEF, 31/05/2015).

Mental health

High mental health needs have been observed among the displaced, especially children (MSF, 27/08/2015).

Nutrition

As at 10 October, 250,123 children have been admitted for SAM treatment in 2015. 368,114 SAM cases are expected by the end of the year (OCHA, 10/10/2015). SAM admissions have risen by 22% in Dosso and 129% in Diffa between 2014 and 2015 (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

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

An increase in children hospitalised due to malnutrition was reported in August, particularly in Zinder region (PI, 19/09/2015).

Shelter

35% of households in Diffa live in shelters that do not meet minimum standards. Each host family hosts around 17 people. 60% of IDPs in sites are homeless (OCHA, 20/05/2015). In particular, recent arrivals to Assaga camp report a lack of shelter assistance (AFP, 17/09/2015).

WASH

Displaced populations have limited access to safe water and sanitation (MSF, 21/08/2015). In Diffa, 260,880 people are in need of safe drinking water, including 90,490 IDPs (WFP, 01/09/2015). 43% of populations recently displaced from Lake Chad are estimated to have insufficient access to water sources (ACTED, 01/06/2015).

Education

37 schools are closed in Diffa due to insecurity, affecting 3,000 children (WFP, 01/09/2015). Across Niger, only 10% of girls are enrolled in secondary school (CARE, 09/10/2015).

Protection

In Bosso department, a large number of displaced people have settled near military positions along the Komadougou River, where operations are ongoing (UNHCR, 07/09/2015).

Children

UNHCR have identified 511 unaccompanied or separated minors in Niger (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Niger has the highest percentage of child brides in the world, many of whom sold by families to help cope with drought. 76% of girls marry before they are 18 years old, and have little access to contraception or reproductive health services (CARE, 09/10/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Migrants face significant protection risks in the transit city of Agadez, where smugglers and traffickers of people, drugs and counterfeit goods take advantage of vulnerable migrants heading north to or returning from Libya (UNODC, 20/08/2015). IOM estimates up to 120,000 migrants will transit through Niger in 2015, with between 2,000 and 2,500 passing through Agadez each week (IOM, 15/09/2015).

Documentation

82% of 13,000 Nigerian refugees surveyed in Diffa did not have identity documents in a February assessment, which could impact their ability to access assistance (IOM, 23/02/2015).

Updated: 20/10/2015

SIERRA LEONE FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

14 October: Sierra Leone has not recorded a single new case of Ebola in the past four weeks (AFP). This is also the second consecutive week with zero confirmed cases across Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone (WHO).

KEY CONCERNS

- 2,945 cumulative Ebola cases, including 3,955 deaths. 28,421 cumulative Ebola cases reported across Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, including 11,297 deaths (WHO, 15/10/2015). The numbers of registered cases and deaths are believed to be largely inaccurate.

- 43% of the population is food insecure, including 7% severely. This corresponds to around 420,000 severely food insecure people (Government/FAO/WFP, 30/06/2015).

For more information on the Ebola crisis in West Africa, visit the [ACAPS Ebola Needs Analysis Project page](#).

Politics and security

The state of emergency linked to the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone has been extended to deal with new occurrences of the disease in the country since end August (international media, 08/09/2015). There were concerns that the state of emergency measures were used by the ruling party against the opposition. Police have been accused of using excessive force, protests have been banned, journalists have been arrested for criticising the response, and political figures have been arrested (local media, 26/04/2015; Amnesty International, 04/05/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

4,290 people were affected by heavy rainfall in Bo and Pujehun districts in Southern province on 5–6 September. Flooding and landslides also damaged parts of the capital Freetown on 16 September, causing extensive damage to homes and property (PI, 18/09/2015). Nine people were killed, and up to 13,000 people were affected and still seeking assistance at two displacement sites in stadiums as of end September (UNICEF, 27/09/2015; IOM, 23/09/2015). Protection of unaccompanied minors is a concern (international organisation, 21/09/2015).

Displacement

Refugees

As of February, there were nearly 2,430 refugees in Sierra Leone (UNHCR, 02/03/2015).

Humanitarian access

Response activities are hampered by poor terrain and lack of transport (Doctors of the World, 04/05/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Food insecurity gradually improved in September due to green harvests of sweet potatoes, maize, rice and vegetables. This is expected to continue in October (FEWSNET, 09/2015). Most areas are expected to face Minimal (IPC Phase 1) and poor households in Moyamba, Kenema and Kailahun districts are projected to remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (FEWSNET, 09/2015).

Food security had deteriorated generally in Sierra Leone due to the Ebola outbreak, especially among households in rural areas who have a high dependence on agriculture but very low incomes (WFP, 16/09/2015; WHO/OCHA, 12/07/2015).

As of April, 2.58 million people (43% of the population) were food insecure, including 426,000 severely (7%). Kailahun, Kenema, Bo, Port Loko and Kono districts are most severely affected by disruptions to agricultural production and market activities due to the Ebola outbreak. In Kailahun, household food insecurity has surged to 74%, compared to 13% in 2011 (Government/FAO/WFP, 30/06/2015).

Food availability

Markets supplies of local cereals have been decreasing since June due to a seasonally normal decline in trader stocks, high transportation costs, and limited cross border trade flows (FEWSNET, 09/2015). In most areas, food stocks have depleted one to two months earlier than normal; farmers' self-imposed movement restrictions during the Ebola outbreak led to a 30% drop in agricultural output (local media, 17/09/2015; FEWSNET, 01/06/2015). Agricultural activity was also reportedly below normal levels due to Ebola containment measures (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). The vast swathes of Sierra Leone that were quarantined are still struggling to return to normal, as movement restrictions affected the ability to farm and market produce (Al Jazeera, 13/09/2015, WFP, 09/07/2015).

Food access

In a June survey, 39% of respondents reported that the most important market in their area operated at reduced levels and 4% of traders reported market closures. Inadequate food availability was reported on most markets, but most particularly in Kambia, Tonkolili and Kono districts (FEWSNET, 08/09/2015).

Food use

Poor households in Crisis food security outcomes were reportedly reducing their food intake throughout the lean season, as food stocks depleted (FEWSNET, 09/07/2015). 45%

of households were considered to have an inadequate diet, based on cereals, oil, some vegetables and a few other commodities (Government/FAO/WFP, 30/06/2015).

Livelihoods

The economic slowdown due to Ebola has resulted in low income levels and weak household purchasing power (FEWSNET, 09/07/2015). Typical livelihood activities remain below average due to reduced market activities caused by Ebola-related fears and reduced purchasing power (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015). In a June assessment, 56% of respondents reported reduced wage opportunities from agricultural work, while 30% of traders reported that they were not able to sell their cash crops as well as usual (FEWSNET, 08/09/2015).

The use of coping strategies, such as a reduction in meal size and frequency, increased across the country during the lean season; Kambia and Port Loko were most affected (WFP, 30/06/2015; 28/05/2015; BRAC, 21/05/2015). 32% of households used emergency strategies, such as begging, to cope with lack of income. Households' high economic vulnerability translated into food purchases representing 65% of total expenditures for at least 45% of households (Government/FAO/WFP, 30/06/2015).

Health

Pre-existing vulnerabilities in Sierra Leone's health system have been exacerbated during the Ebola outbreak: no mass immunisation activities took place, increasing the risk of preventable outbreaks (government, 08/06/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

As of May 2015, the Ebola outbreak had caused a 5% reduction in the number of doctors and a 7% reduction in nurses and midwives, leaving only 3.4 health personnel for every 10,000 citizens (local media, 17/09/2015; World Bank, 08/07/2015). 307 health workers have been infected with Ebola and 221 have died (WHO, 02/09/2015).

40 hospitals and 1,300 primary health care facilities across the country need to be restored (Government, 09/07/2015). During the outbreak, many health facilities were temporarily closed and people were reluctant to seek healthcare due to fear of infection. It is likely there has been an increase in morbidity and mortality of other diseases, including malaria, diarrhoea, TB, and HIV (World Bank, 08/07/2015).

Child health

Under-five mortality rates are estimated to have increased by 19% compared to before the Ebola outbreak, up to 191 per 1,000 live births (World Bank, 08/07/2015).

Maternal health

Delivery of maternal health services improved in May: 89% of households report that a

member gave birth in a clinic, compared to 64% in January–February, and 28% in November 2014 (World Bank, 15/06/2015). The loss of health workers is expected to have had an impact on maternal health. The World Bank estimates a maternal mortality ratio of 1,916 per 100,000 live births in May 2015, a 74% increase on 2013 (World Bank, 08/07/2015). The number of women giving birth at health centres fell by 11% between May 2014 and April 2015, and those receiving care before or after birth fell by around a fifth (LSTM, 06/10/2015).

Ebola

Sierra Leone has not recorded a single new case of Ebola in the past four weeks, keeping the country on course to being declared free of the virus next month (AFP, 14/10/2015). The last confirmed cases of Ebola were reported in the week to 13 September from Kambia and Bombali districts. **As of 15 October, 13,945 cumulative Ebola cases have been reported in Sierra Leone, including 3,955 deaths (WHO, 14/10/2015). Nobody remains under quarantine and all contacts linked to the most recently active chains of transmission had completed 21-day follow-up by 4 October (AFP, 15/10/2015; WHO 14/10/2015). However, two high-risk contacts remain untraced (WHO, 15/15/2015).**

Some people still resist infection prevention and control measures, such as safe burials (Local media, 14/09/2015). Safe transportation of suspected Ebola cases and ambulance safety also remain priorities (OCHA/UNCR, 06/08/2015). **A recent study found that the virus may persist in some men's semen for nine months after they were initially infected, longer than previously known (WHO, 14/10/2015, AFP, 15/10/2015).**

Sierra Leone has the highest number of survivors across all three countries (3,500), including nearly 1,580 children. They are mostly in Western Urban Area, Port Loko, and Bombali (OCHA, 30/09/2015; PI, 21/09/2015). Challenges faced by Ebola survivors include persistent physical pain, adverse psychological effects, community stigmatisation and re-integration difficulties, and diminished livelihoods (WHO, 31/07/2015).

Regional outbreak

This is the second consecutive week with zero confirmed cases across Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea (WHO, 07/10/2015). In total, 28,454 cumulative Ebola cases have been reported across the three countries, including 11,297 deaths (WHO, 11/10/2015).

In August, cross-border movements increased to 2,100 per day as Sierra Leone lifted some Ebola restrictions, raising the risk of rapid spread of the virus (WHO/OCHA, 25/08/2015). Porous borders between Sierra Leone and Guinea pose a challenge to surveillance, and empowering county authorities to improve surveillance at points of entry along the borders remained a priority (OCHA/UNCR, 06/08/2015; UNMEER, 15/04/2015).

Officials from both countries have established screening and information sharing protocols at points between areas of active Ebola transmission (UNMEER, 07/04/2015; 15/04/2015).

Nutrition

It is predicted that, compared to observed trends from 1992 to 2012, the number of undernourished people during 2014–2016 could increase by 1.30–1.4% due to the Ebola outbreak (UNDG, 11/03/2015). A UNICEF assessment in 60 of 150 chiefdoms identified 273 (1.27%) children with SAM (UNICEF, 25/03/2015). Data is lacking on this issue.

WASH

In August, health facilities along international borders were striving to comply with medical procedures and lacked basic WASH facilities to ensure minimal hygiene conditions (OCHA/UNCR, 06/08/2015).

Education

87% of households reported all children were attending school in May. Of those who were not attending, less than 2% cited the school was still closed or was unsafe due to Ebola (World Bank, 15/06/2015). In another survey, 46% of households who reported not sending a child to school cited inability to afford school as the main reason (BRAC, 21/05/2015).

Protection

There have been allegations of beatings by police during the Ebola outbreak (Voice of America, 22/06/2015). Child protection issues have also emerged during and as a result of the Ebola outbreak.

Child

Orphans are considered particularly vulnerable: 8,624 Ebola orphans have been registered as of 31 August (UNICEF, 02/09/2015).

The Ebola outbreak has also had a significant impact on birth registration (UNICEF, 31/07/2015).

Due to limited household resources, children are predisposed and sometimes forced to engage in income-generating activities. There are reports of girls turning to sex work for income (The Guardian, 28/04/2015).

Updated: 08/10/2015

BURUNDI FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, POLITICAL UNREST



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

20 October: Radio France Internationale and Agence France Presse filed legal complaints against the torture of their correspondent, Esdras Ndikumuna (All Africa).

17 October: The African Union decided to place sanctions on key figures and deploy human rights observers and military staff to investigate alleged rights abuses (AU).

7 October: Burundi ordered a Rwandan diplomat to leave the country, heightening regional tensions (Jeune Afrique).

KEY CONCERNS

- 204,463 Burundians fleeing political unrest are registered as refugees in Rwanda, DRC, Tanzania, and Uganda (UNHCR, 21/10/2015)

- Estimated 500,000 people affected by ongoing political violence (OCHA, 13/10/2015).

OVERVIEW

The political turmoil is exacerbating a chronic situation of unmet humanitarian need. 500,000 people are estimated to be affected, including those displaced to neighbouring countries. Priority areas are Kirundo, Citiboke, Rumonge, Makamba and Bujumbura Rural provinces, and the city of Bujumbura. Immediate humanitarian needs have been highlighted in protection, food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance, WASH and essential health care services, and education.

Politics and security

High levels of political instability and frequent violence persist following widespread demonstrations opposing President Nkurunziza's intention to run for a third term. The security situation deteriorated rapidly after Nkurunziza's re-election at end July, and some say risks are degenerating into a renewed armed conflict, with possible repercussions in the region and the possibility of mass atrocities (IRIN, 12/10/2015).

On 20 August, President Nkurunziza was sworn in for a third term, ahead of schedule and with short notice (AFP, 20/08/2015). His new cabinet has been criticised as being dominated by loyalists, despite assurances that he would put in place a government of

national unity (AFP, 25/08/2015). Nkurunziza has announced the creation of special security committees (ICG, 01/09/2015). In September, a commission of inquiry categorised the April protests as an “insurrection” punishable in court and issued arrest warrants for a number of opposition and civil society leaders (AFP, 17/09/2015; 11/09/2015).

Burundi’s main opposition coalition has called for international sanctions against the government (AFP, 15/09/2015). On 29 September, the EU announced travel bans and asset freezes against four of President Nkurunziza’s associates (AFP, 29/09/2015). Days later, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution authorising it to scrutinise Burundi’s human rights situation through 2016 (FIDH, 02/10/2015). **On 17 October, the African Union (AU) decided to impose sanctions, targeting figures in Burundi allegedly responsible for the violence. The AU also launched an investigation into human rights abuses, involving 100 rights observers and military staff (AU, 17/10/2015).**

Political instability

Nkurunziza was re-elected on 24 July, with 69% of the vote. The election was widely declared as not credible (UN, 27/07/2015; AFP, 27/07/2015). The ruling party also won a majority of seats in parliamentary elections on 29 June, which were condemned by the EU and AU for taking place in an inappropriate context; a boycott by 17 opposition groups kept the turnout low (AFP, 07/07/2015; Al Jazeera, 29/06/2015).

Large protests denouncing Nkurunziza’s candidacy for a third term were held between April and July, mostly in the capital Bujumbura, where military forces have been deployed, but also in some communes in Bujumbura Rural and Bururi provinces (OCHA, 12/05/2015; AFP, 05/06/2015; Reuters, 18/05/2015). A coup led by the former head of intelligence was attempted in May, but failed after two days of intense clashes in the capital (BBC, 13/05/2015). Several top officials have fled the country, including the Vice President and head of parliament, at end June (AFP, 28/06/2015; 25/06/2015). Rifts within the army are reportedly widening (IRIN, 12/10/2015). On 1 August, opposition leaders met in Addis Ababa to form a coalition, the National Council for the Restoration of the Arusha Accords and the Rule of Law (IRIN, 12/10/2015). Despite calls from the influential Catholic Church for dialogue, the government has categorically ruled out negotiations with the opposition (AFP, 23/09/2015).

Instability is growing regionally. Clashes in July in Kayanza and Citiboke provinces on the Rwandan border left 31 dead and 221 were captured (OCHA, 16/07/2015). Tensions between Burundi and Rwanda, which the Government accuses of backing opposition forces, are souring. On 7 October, Burundi ordered a Rwandan diplomat to leave the country, heightening tensions between the two countries (Jeune Afrique, 13/10/2015).

Recent incidents

It is estimated that over 190 people have been killed since violence began in April (ACLED, 19/09/2015). Clashes have been occurring regularly in the capital during police patrols in areas where people have been protesting Nkurunziza’s third term. A number of figures in government and civil society have been killed (IRIN, 05/10/2015). Both the spokesman for and the president of the Union for Peace and Democracy party have been assassinated (AFP, 08/09/2015). On 11 September, a failed attempt by uniformed men to assassinate the head of Burundi’s armed forces resulted in the deaths of seven soldiers in Bujumbura (AFP, 11/09/2015). On 1 October, an opposition party official was killed near his home in Muramvya province (News24). A series of shootings and explosions in the Citiboke and Mutakura areas of the capital Bujumbura on 3 October left at least eight dead. Witnesses claim that members of the ruling party’s youth wing, the Imbonerakure, and police were responsible for the violence. Police deny the accusations (Reuters, 04/10/2015; AFP, 04/10/2015). On 14 October, violence in the opposition neighbourhood of Ngagara in Bujumbura saw a police officer killed and seven civilians shot dead, including a journalist and his family (AFP, 14/10/2015).

Economic situation

Tax collection was off target by 25.1% in September because of ongoing political violence, further deteriorating the country’s economic situation (Reuters, 20/10/2015). International partners fund approximately half of Burundi’s national budget (UNHCR/OCHA, 17/09/2015). Foreign aid has significantly decreased since the onset of the crisis; following Nkurunziza’s re-election, a number of countries declared that trade and political and development aid cooperation would be reviewed (UNICEF, 26/08/2015; AFP, 24/07/2015). On 2 October, Belgium announced it would be cutting around USD 55 million in aid (Reuters, 02/10/2015). **On 12 October, Burundi asked that the Belgium Ambassador be replaced (Reuters, 12/10/2015).**

Displacement

The political crisis since April has displaced more than 203,350 Burundians to neighbouring countries; internal displacement has been limited (UNHCR, 15/10/2015). There are 77,600 protracted IDPs in Burundi, mostly ethnic Tutsis, and 79,000 returnees going through a reintegration process. Burundi also hosts 54,800 refugees from DRC, mainly in border regions.

IDPs

As of January, Burundi had 77,600 protracted IDPs, mostly ethnic Tutsis, living in and around 120 sites in northern and central Burundi (IDMC, 31/01/2015). Internal displacement resulting from current political violence has been limited and difficult to track, with IDPs reluctant to identify themselves for fear of retribution (OCHA, 13/10/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of end July, Burundi is host to 53,977 refugees from DRC, mainly in the border regions of Ngozi, Ruyigi, Muyinga and Cankuzo (UNHCR, 31/07/2015). However, refugees have been requesting relocation since the beginning of the political crisis (UNHCR, 05/06/2015).

Refugee returnees

79,000 Burundian returnees were going through a slow reintegration process in April, including 43,000 who had been forcibly repatriated from Tanzania. Most have not been registered due to a lack of reception facilities, while tensions have risen with host communities over land ownership issues (IOM, 01/2014; HCT, 24/04/2015).

Burundian refugees in neighbouring countries

As of 21 October, 204,463 Burundian refugees fleeing political violence are registered in Rwanda, DRC, Uganda, and Tanzania (UNHCR, 21/10/2015). The majority of refugees are women and children (WFP, 13/07/2015).

Tanzania: 106,977 Burundians fleeing political violence are in Tanzania (UNHCR, 17/10/2015). Arrivals average around 300 per day, although they spiked to 4,490 arrivals during the week ending 2 October (WFP, 23/09/2015; UNHCR 04/10/2015). Almost 100,000 of the refugees are in Nyarugusu refugee camp, which is overcrowded and where protection, health, and WASH conditions are critical (**World Vision, 20/10/2015**; UNHCR, 08/09/2015). Refugees have begun to populate Nduta camp since early October, which now accommodates 7,891 out of a planned capacity of 50,000 (UNHCR, 07/10/2015; 17/10/2015).

Rwanda: 69,301 Burundians fleeing political violence are in Rwanda (UNHCR, 19/10/2015). 44,715 are in Mahama camp – where lack of safe water and latrines is of great concern (UNHCR, 19/10/2015; IFRC, 10/09/2015). Another 21,581 are living in Kigali, and 2,843 are in Huye district. Two reception centres at Bugasera and Nyanza as well as a transit centre in Nyagatare temporarily host small refugee populations (UNHCR, 19/10/2015).

DRC: 15,300 Burundians fleeing political violence have been registered in DRC, and are being relocated from host communities to Lusenda refugee site in South Kivu, where approximately 9,000 are now living (WFP, 08/10/2015; UNHCR, 21/09/2015).

Uganda: 15,139 Burundian refugees are in Uganda (UNHCR, 13/10/2015), including 11,427 in the Nakivale refugee settlement in Mbarara and 3,222 urban refugees living in Kampala (UNHCR, 13/10/2015).

Access

UN agencies have reported restricted access during periods of violence (WFP, 30/06/2015). The block out of independent media is hindering aid agencies' ability to

communicate with communities in need of assistance (OCHA, 17/09/2015; IOM, 09/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

128,130 people in Kirundo, Makamba, and Bujumbura Mairie are reliant on food assistance (WFP, 23/09/2015; FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). In September, WFP announced that food rations would be halved for 100,000 conflict-affected beneficiaries because of funding shortfalls (WFP, 30/09/2015).

Poor households are expected to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes through December in the presence of assistance (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food availability

Food availability improved over the Season B harvest, which was near average. Above-average rains forecast for October to December also point to favourable conditions for Season A production, although planting could be disrupted due to insecurity and population movements (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015; OCHA, 13/09/2015).

Food access

Staple food prices began to stabilise or increase in September, slowing the trend of declining food prices over the post-Season B harvest period of June–July (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015; 31/07/2015; 30/06/2015). However, insecurity is keeping food prices well above long-term averages; in some areas, prices are between 39% and 95% above five-year averages, especially Muyinga and Bujumbura (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

Livelihoods

Insecurity has proven a major disruption to livelihoods. There are reports of people selling their harvest early and at low prices in order to seek asylum in neighbouring countries. Seasonal workers have been impeded by insecurity (OCHA, 13/10/2015).

Health

A shortage of hospital beds has been reported during periods of mass casualties in Bujumbura. Emergency services are hindered by the small number of ambulances venturing out at night (MSF, 26/08/2015). Stocks of essential medicines are falling rapidly due to supply chain interruptions, while access to and use of primary health services is being prevented by insecurity (OCHA, 13/10/2015).

Mental health

Children are increasingly in need of psychological care as a result of the prolonged crisis (UNICEF, 15/07/2015).

Cholera

On 23 September, seven cases of cholera were reported in Citbitoke province (WFP, 23/09/2015). 160 households had to be sprayed (Croix Rouge du Burundi, 04/10/2015).

Nutrition

Malnutrition is a key concern in Kirundo province: below-average rainfall in the past months has taken GAM rates to 6%, including 1.5% SAM (OCHA, 29/06/2015). Malnutrition has also increased in Nyanza-Lac health district in Makamba province, a transit area for many Burundians fleeing to Tanzania, reaching 8.3% GAM, including 1% SAM (UNICEF, 12/08/2015; OCHA 13/08/2015). Reduction of household income is reportedly starting to impact nutrition levels (Save the Children/War Child/Terre des Hommes, 23/07/2015).

WASH

WASH has been identified as a priority in the context of the political crisis and potential cholera outbreak.

Hygiene

Non-availability of soap, in part due to high prices, is a barrier to handwashing for households and a concern in the context of a recent cholera outbreak (UNICEF, 29/07/2015; 15/07/2015).

Education

In July, school attendance was low due to fear of insecurity (Save the Children/War Child/Terre des Hommes, 23/07/2015). Cases of exclusion from secondary school on the grounds of students' political affiliation have been reported from Muyinga province (UNICEF, 29/07/2015).

Protection

Police and intelligence services have reportedly responded to demonstrations with a pattern of excessive and disproportionate force (Amnesty, 22/07/2015). At least 148 cases of arbitrary arrests and ill treatment by intelligence officials, police and members of the Imbonerakure – the youth wing of the ruling party – were documented between April and July (HRW, 06/08/2015). The UN High Commissioner on Human Rights has documented 90 cases of torture since April as well as 704 arrests in September alone (OHCHR, 28/09/2015). Burundians are reporting harassment and disappearance of family members associated with the political opposition (ICG/UNHCR, 17/04/2015). Imbonerakure is accused of severe abuse including torture, threats, and intimidation, including toward refugees (Amnesty, 24/08/2015; Reuters 04/10/2015; AFP, 04/10/2015).

On the road from Rwanda, travellers are frequently searched and detained. The Burundi government accuses Rwanda of hosting dissidents and allowing the formation of a rebel army in its territory. Some 200 Rwandans have been arrested since April; although 50 have been released, 150 remain missing (AFP, 04/10/2015).

Over 15–16 September, more than 100 men were arrested by security forces in Gitega province while trying to leave through the province's southern border. According to a regional official, the arrests were intended to stop the men from joining opposition movements (AP, 16/09/2015).

Increasing violations and incidents affecting the exercise of public freedoms, including the rights of peaceful assembly, association, and expression, are a major concern (UNSC, 07/07/2015). Independent media remain closed (Voice of America 29/09/2015). Journalists are reportedly facing violence and intimidation from authorities and members of the Imbonerakure (CPJ, 26/08/2015, RSF, 30/04/2015; HRW, 22/01/2015). Across the border in South Kivu, DRC, a leading Burundian radio journalist was arrested after being accused of threatening the peace in Burundi (AFP, 14/10/2015). **International media outlets Radio France Internationale (RFI) and Agence-France Presse (AFP) filed a torture complaint in Burundi's Supreme Court following the beating and torture of their correspondent Esdras Ndikumana after he was detained in Bujumbura on 2 August (All Africa, 20/10/2015).**

Children

Following fighting in Kayanza province in July, 52 children have been arrested and charged with involvement in armed groups (UNICEF, 26/08/2015).

Many children caught up in protests have been detained (OCHA/UNHCR, 25/06/2015).

70% of the refugees fleeing into neighbouring countries are under 18 and a significant number have been separated or are unaccompanied (UNICEF, 12/04/2015; IFRC, 10/06/2015).

Updated: 22/10/2015

MADAGASCAR DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 27/10/2015. Last update: 30/09/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- Currently experiencing the worst drought conditions in six years (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, 15/06/2015; FAO, 11/05/2015).

Natural Disasters

Drought

The worst drought conditions in six years have led to a three year low for crop production, and early exhaustion of food stocks (FAO, WFP, FEWSNET, 15/06/2015; FAO, 11/05/2015). The worst affected regions are Atsimo Andrefana, Androy and Anosy (FEWSNET, 19/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Nearly 2.78 million people are food insecure in the seven southern regions of Madagascar. 579,000 people are severely food insecure, according to a food security assessment, and 200,000 people require immediate food assistance (FEWSNET, 19/08/2015).

The food security situation will deteriorate for many households between August and February, if current drought conditions, low food availability and reduced effectiveness of coping strategies trends continue. 20% of households in these in Tsihombe and Ambovombe districts of Androy are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between September and December 2015 (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food availability

This is the third consecutive annual decrease in production, which is now at a five-year low: 9% less rice has been produced than average, 11% less maize, and 13% less cassava (FAO, WFP, 15/06/2015; FEWSNET, 26/09/2015). Maize production is lowest in Tsihombe and Ambovombe districts of Androy.

Food access

In markets, staple food prices have doubled in the worst-affected regions of Androy and Anosy, and have increased 40% nationally (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Livelihoods

Poor households are engaging in some atypical coping strategies, such as increased consumption of cactus fruit in the post-harvest period, and some are starting to borrow to access food (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015). This is predicted to worsen as El Nino causes below average rainfall between November and April 2015/16, reduced the crop yield and labour opportunities in the secondary harvest in December–March (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Health

On 17 August, pneumonic plague was recorded in Moramanga district. As of 30 August, 14 cases and ten deaths have been reported, with no additional cases reported as of 6 September (WHO, 06/09/2015). Plague is endemic in Madagascar. The last major outbreak began in August 2014 in Tsiroanomandidy district, peaked in November 2014 and killed 81 people. There were 482 cases in 2014 (WHO, 05/2015).

Protection

Security forces have been accused of conducting summary executions of civilians in the south of the country and violently repressing demonstrations in the capital. On 31 August, police forces violently suppressed a student demonstration at the University Ankatso (Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme, 25/09/2015).

Reviewed: 27/10/2015

UGANDA DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

2 October: A suspected cholera outbreak was reported in Kabwoya sub-county in Hoima district (Government, 13/10/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 187,809 DRC refugees, 190,855 South Sudanese refugees, and 25,656 refugees from Burundi, are in Uganda (UNHCR, 26/08/2015; 20/08/2015; 29/09/2015).

- Border statistics may not reflect the real number of Burundians in Uganda, as reports indicate many do not enter at official border points (UNICEF, 12/08/2015).
- Malaria is still reported as the leading cause of morbidity among refugees, yet only 23.3% of those requiring treatment for malaria receive it (UNHCR, 22/07/2015).
- In Gulu district alone, 76,904 patients have been diagnosed with malaria at different health facilities since April. 3,398 of these were hospitalised because of severe impact of the disease and 62 died. The number of malaria cases per day per medical facility rose from 40 in May to 100 in July (Acholi Times, 30/07/2015; The Independent – Uganda, 10/08/2015).
- In Karamoja, GAM rates of 13.4% are the highest recorded in the last five years, while SAM remains above 3% (UNICEF, 23/01/2015).

Politics and security

At least 50 Ugandan soldiers belonging to the AMISOM peacekeeping contingent were killed in Mogadishu, Somalia, on 1 September. Another 50 are reported to be missing (HUBII, 02/09/2015)

The Ugandan national forces has intervened in disputes at the border with South Sudan. Communities in Lamwo district were in conflict with people in Eastern Equatoria, Sudan (International Crisis Group, 01/09/2015).

Presidential and parliamentary elections are due to be held in February 2016. Security forces have been accused of the arbitrary arrest of political activists and opposition figures to the current regime (HRW, 14/10/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of March, Uganda has 30,136 IDPs (OCHA, 19/05/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 21 September, Uganda is hosting 463,026 refugees (UNICEF, 21/09/2015). Refugees are hosted in settlements in Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Kampala, Moyo, Nakivale, and Arua districts (UNHCR, 24/11/2014). Refugees from Burundi and South Sudan are expected to remain in need of assistance up to February 2016 (FEWSNET, 19/08/2015).

Burundi: As of 30 September, there are 25,656 refugees from Burundi. 14,464 have arrived since 1 January 2015. Some 50% of those arriving after 1 January are children below age 18 (7,232 individuals), and 2% are elderly. **Over 11,309 are being hosted in Nakivale, and around 3,172 in Kampala** (UNICEF, 30/09/2015; UNHCR, 08/10/2015;

30/09/2015). However, reports indicate that the majority of Burundians entering Uganda do not cross at official border points and therefore have not been counted (UNICEF, 12/08/2015). Many new arrivals enter the country through Mirama Hills, Kisenyi Police Post, Kagitumba, and the border points at Kikagata. **The weekly average of new arrivals has declined from 147 in the week ending 1 October to 69 by 8 October** (UNICEF, 30/09/2015; UNHCR, 08/10/2015). As of late August, there were 223 in Kyaka II (Kyenjojo district in Western Uganda), 130 in Oruchinga in Southern Uganda, and 206 in Kisoro Transit Centre in Southwestern Uganda (UNHCR, 27/08/2015). As of 16 September, the response plan revised its total expected refugees from Burundi to arrive by December 2015 from 30,000 to 20,000, because arrival numbers were declining (UNHCR 16/09/2015).

South Sudan: As of 30 September, 168,372 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Uganda since December 2013. 64% are children below 18 years of age (UNHCR, 30/09/2015; 23/09/2015). The total number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda is 190,855 and is expected to reach 210,000 by the end of 2015 (WFP, 11/08/2015; UNHCR 28/08/2015; 30/09/2015).

4% of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda are identified as people with specific needs, including elderly, disabled, single women caregivers (UNHCR, UNICEF, et al., 28/08/2015; JOAC, 15/08/2015). Priority needs are NFIs, livelihoods, and psychological support. Refugees cite continued insecurity, economic hardship, and lack of food as their reason for fleeing (UNHCR, 03/07/2015; WFP, 26/06/2015; ACT, 15/04/2015). Children account for 104,221 of all the South Sudanese refugees in Uganda (UNICEF, 21/09/2015).

Somalia: As of 2 September, the total number of Somali refugees in Uganda is 29,053 (UNHCR, 02/09/2015).

DRC: As of 30 July, 187,809 refugees are from DRC: 18,479 arrived in the first half of 2015 (UNHCR 31/07/2015).

Humanitarian access

A proposed new law would give Ugandan authorities the right to supervise, approve, inspect, and dissolve all NGOs working in Uganda, in addition to imposing severe criminal penalties for violations (IRIN, 10/07/2015). The law was being debated in parliament as of 1 September (Guardian, 01/09/2015).

Security and physical constraints

According to Human Rights Watch, NGOs working on politically sensitive issues have reportedly been subject to intimidation and threats (HRW, 02/07/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

As of 30 September, inflation in the country is reported to be on the rise, with the Annual

Headline Inflation having increased to 7.2% compared to 4.8% for the 12 months up to August 2015 (Government, 30/09/2015). Karamoja is the most food insecure region in Uganda. 24% of households in Karamoja are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, and 6% are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) as a result of limited purchasing power (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). Poor households do not have sufficient income to maintain adequate food consumption in Kaabong, Moroto, and northern parts of Nakapiripirit (FEWSNET, 30/06/2015). 30% of households were found to be using emergency negative coping strategies in Karamoja (WFP, 31/08/2015).

Food availability

Crop production in Karamoja is expected to suffer a three-month delay and to be 20–30% of the normal average. The harvest is likely to start in September, however it will not adequately refill households' stocks. Early depletion and poor food access are likely to occur through December (FEWSNET 31/08/2015).

Food access

Projections indicate that prices will remain stable, ensuring the households preserve some purchasing power, however many households are likely to remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) throughout December (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015).

As of August Uganda was expected to face a breakdown in the provision of food and humanitarian assistance after August 2015, but new funding contributions from USAID allowed the service to continue (WFP, 11/08/2015;06/10/2015).

Health

Cholera

On 2 October, a suspected cholera case was reported in Kabwoya sub-county in Hoima district. Another 58 suspected cases have been identified as of 9 October (Government, 08/10/2015). Disaster-prone areas of east Africa, including Kasese district in Uganda, are expected to have a high incidence of cholera this year due to flooding caused by El Niño (local media, 22/08/2015).

Malaria

On 12 September, the number of malaria cases is still reported to be higher than average, with a 12% increase at a national level, probably due to an increase in the reporting rate. The most affected districts are Gulu (8021 cases), Arua (7048), Agago (4514), Kitgum (4514) and Yumbe (4023). The first four are currently experiencing an outbreak (Government, 12/09/2015).

In 2014, there were 1.5 million malaria cases in Uganda (WHO, 2014).

Malaria is still reported as the leading cause of morbidity among refugees, yet only 23.3% of those requiring treatment for malaria receive it (UNHCR, 22/07/2015).

Measles

Between 7 and 13 September the number of suspected cases of measles has slightly decreased compared to the beginning of the outbreak in July. Nine districts have reported more than five suspected cases: Kampala (17), Kalangala (9), Ibanda (9), Buikwe (7), Mbarara (7), Lira (6), Kiruhura (6), Rakai (6) and Kamwenge (5) (Government, 12/09/2015; 20/07/2015).

Typhoid

More than 10,230 cases of typhoid have been confirmed in Kampala, Wakiso, and Mukono districts in 2015, due to consumption of contaminated water. Six deaths have been reported. The outbreak was declared under control on 16 June (local media, 16/06/015). The number of cases was declining as of July (Government, 20/07/2015).

Unknown Haemorrhagic Fever

On 23 September, Ministry of Health officials reported several cases of a suspected haemorrhagic fever in Buliisa and Hoima districts, in Western Uganda. The symptoms included blood-vomiting, bloody diarrhoea, abdominal pain, fever and general weakness. Of the eight cases identified, none tested positive for any of the known types of haemorrhagic fever, including Ebola, Marburg, Rift Valley Fever (RVF) and Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever. Four deaths were recorded in Buliisa, and two in Hoima. Contact tracing was done with no additional cases reported (Government, 05/10/2015).

Nutrition

Food availability is not a major issue in Uganda, however the use of food or food access can be inadequate in some areas. GAM is at critical levels (above 15%) in four out of seven districts in Karamoja and was above 10% in the whole region (WFP, 30/06/2015).

As of 28 August, SAM among Burundian refugee children in Kabazana refugee reception centre is 2.3%, and GAM 6.4%, according to a recent assessment. These are lower than the rates registered in the previous week, when GAM was 14.2%, and SAM 3.5% (UNHCR, 27/08/2015).

WASH

Four villages out of 10 that are hosting Burundians have water shortages. Nyarugugu has only 14 litres of water/person/day, below the emergency levels of 15L/p/d (UNHCR, 08/10/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Urgent food, NFI, and shelter needs have been identified within the new Mahiga site in Rwamwanja refugee settlement, Kamwenge district. There are 11,200 refugees in Mahiga and new arrivals continue to overstretch capacities (ACT, 05/06/2015).

Nakivale reception centre lacks separate cubicles for men and women: men, women, and youth share shelter space. Adolescent girls reported being sexually harassed in their sleep (UNICEF, 12/08/2015).

Education

In Isingoro district, the influx of Burundian refugees to Nakivale refugee settlement is expected to strain the resources of local schools (UNICEF, 17/06/2015).

58% of South Sudanese child refugees in Uganda are enrolled in primary school, and 7% in secondary school (UNHCR, UNICEF, et al., 28/08/2015).

Language barriers make it difficult for refugee children to access education (UNICEF, 17/06/2015).

Protection

The Ugandan security forces have been accused of using extreme force and live ammunition when confronting protests, as well as arbitrary detention for political activists (HRW, 14/10/2015).

Children

Among Burundian refugees, child labour is very common, with the majority of child workers employed in bricklaying, fish farming and stone quarrying. Some children have reportedly been sexually abused during the flight from their country of origin (UNICEF, 12/08/2015).

At Nakivale reception centre, where men, women, and youth share shelter space, adolescent girls reported being sexually harassed in their sleep (UNICEF, 12/08/2015).

On 24 September, the International Criminal Court reported 60 new charges against the deputy leader of Lord's Resistance Army, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, as well as the use of sex slaves (AFP, 24/09/2015).

Updated: 14/10/2015



AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, LANDSLIDES, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 October: A 7.5 magnitude earthquake with its epicentre in Jurm, Badakhshan province, in the Hindu Kush mountains, struck Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. The most affected areas are sparsely populated rural districts, with some damage also reported in Fayzabad (The Guardian). 82 people are reported killed, 300 injured, and 4,000 houses destroyed in Afghanistan's Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Parwan, and Nangarhar provinces of Afghanistan. Landslides have occurred access to remote rural areas is severely hindered. Telecommunications and electricity networks have been affected. (ECHO).

26 October: The death toll from the bombing of MSF hospital in Kunduz city continues to rise, with at least 30 people reported dead (MSF).

21 October: A Taliban attack on the city of Lashkar Gah, capital of Helmand province, was pushed back by US–Afghan coalition forces (AFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- Nearly 1.2 million people are internally displaced because of conflict (ECHO, 13/10/2015). Around 41,200 remain displaced in northeastern and central regions of Afghanistan, and are in critical need of food and shelter (OCHA).
- 7.4 million in need of humanitarian aid (IOM, 31/08/2015).
- 2.5 million estimated to experience Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase

4) food insecurity between September and November (USAID, 16/10/2015). Over 200,000 are in immediate need of food assistance (FAO, 10/09/2015).

OVERVIEW

Natural disasters and armed conflicts in Afghanistan have caused humanitarian crisis. Assistance needs include food, healthcare, and protection. 7.4 million are reported in need of humanitarian assistance as of 31 August 2015 (IOM, 31/08/2015).

The Afghan Government faces internal and external challenges to its capacity, legitimacy, and stability. The security environment is highly volatile and has deteriorated since the end of the ISAF mission and the withdrawal of most international forces. The outflow of people from Afghanistan has significantly increased in 2015, despite calls from the Government to stay and contribute to the reconstruction of the country.

Politics and security

A steep surge in violent attacks was recorded in the first months of 2015, making it the most violent year since the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was set up in 2001 (Brookings, 26/05/2015; Talk Radio News Service, 22/06/2015). ISAF withdrew in December 2014, and only around 12,000 NATO personnel remain in Afghanistan to provide training and equipment to the Afghan security forces. Concerns have been raised regarding the capacity of Afghan forces to keep the country secure, as the Taliban remains present in a number of areas, and the government struggles to maintain unity.

Political instability

President Ashraf Ghani and Prime Minister Abdullah Abdullah were sworn in in September 2014 (Reuters, 29/09/2014). Rival presidential candidates in disputed elections, they have been struggling to maintain a unity government (Reuters, 08/07/2015; AFP, 26/09/2014). Leaders of ethnic groups have criticised Ghani for filling key government posts with Pashtun kin (Reuters, 08/07/2015; AFP, 26/09/2014). Parliamentary elections scheduled for April 2015 were postponed because of security concerns and disagreements over vote procedure (Reuters, 19/06/2015; local media, 01/04/2015). In September, President Ghani promised that a date would be set in the “immediate future” (1tvnews Afghanistan, 05/09/2015; Tolo News 17/09/2015).

Peace talks

Afghan officials and Taliban met in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 8 July for a first round of

peace talks (AFP, 08/07/2015). The Taliban pulled out at the end of the month, likely to deal with uncertainty about new leadership after the public announcement that Mullah Omar had died in 2013 (AFP, 24/07/2015; The Telegraph, 30/07/2015; The Age, 31/07/2015). The current Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour is considered to be in favour of peace talks, although some factions remain opposed (BBC, 30/07/2015; The Telegraph, 30/07/2015).

Pakistan–Afghanistan relations

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have long been tense; both states have accused each other of harbouring terrorists (Journal of Political Studies, 2015). At the beginning of September, Afghanistan accused Pakistan of organising insurgent attacks in Afghanistan, indicating in particular the December 2014 attack on an army school (The Tribune, 03/09/2015).

Conflict developments

The total reported number of conflict-related casualties from January until July 2015 is 4,921 (1,592 dead, 3,329 injured), 90% of them civilians (UNAMA, 05/08/2015). 3,699 civilians were killed and 6,849 injured in all 2014 (UNAMA, 18/02/2015).

Incidents in 2015 have been concentrated in Helmand and Kabul, although intense fighting between Afghan forces, the Taliban, and other anti-government groups has also been reported in northern provinces, including Kunduz, Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Faryab, Baghlan, and Nuristan (Cordaid, 07/07/2015; RSF, 07/07/2015; local media, 16/07/2015). Remote parts of southern and southeastern Afghanistan, near the border with Pakistan, remain under Taliban control.

As of 12 October, the Taliban are reportedly increasing the number of districts under their control in Farah and Faryab, and have captured areas in Badakhshan, Takhar, and Baghlan (UNSC, 02/02/2015; ECHO 12/10/2015). The Taliban said their forces had withdrawn from Kunduz, and as of 18 October, only sporadic fighting was reported, on the outskirts of the city (CNN, 14/10/2015; OCHA, 13/10/2015). President Ashraf Ghani has appointed a commission to investigate the bombing of the hospital run by MSF that killed at least 22 and wounded 37 (Real Time News, 10/10/2015). The commander of the US forces in Afghanistan has stated they were called in to provide air support to Afghan forces under attack from the Taliban (MSF, 05/10/2015; CNN, 05/10/2015; CNN 05/10/2015; BBC 05/10/15).

Balkh: On 5 September, 13 people belonging to the Shi'ite Hazara minority were killed by gunmen in the Zari district of Balkh province (DAWN, 05/09/2015). 12 Hazaras have been kidnapped and four killed in Balkh in the past month (Reuters, 05/09/2015).

Kabul: On 5 October two armed men attacked the house of a tribal elder and a building belonging to a Helmand politician. The same day a suicide attack was carried out against an intelligence centre, also in the capital (Reuters, 05/10/2015). On 8 October, two people about to carry out a suicide attack were reportedly shot dead by Afghan police before they could detonate their bombs (Daily Mail, 08/10/2015). On 11 October, a suicide attack targeting a convoy of foreign military personnel caused the toppling of an armoured vehicle, injuring three civilians (Reuters, 11/10/2015).

Kunduz: As of 18 October, only sporadic fighting is reported on the outskirts of Kunduz city (OCHA, 13/10/2015). The Taliban have said they have withdrawn, after storming and taking control of most of the city on 28 September (CNN, 14/10/2015). This was the first major Afghan city to fall to the Taliban since the war began (Belfast Telegraph, 28/09/2015).

Other incidents: On 21 October, Taliban fighters attacked the city of Lashkar Gah, capital of Helmand province, but were pushed back by the US–Afghan coalition forces (AFP, 21/10/2015). In Nangarhar province, hundreds of insurgents reportedly belonging to IS attacked Afghan forces at a checkpoint in Achin district at the end of September. At least three Afghan police were killed (VOA, 27/09/2015). On 20 September, one person was killed and three were injured in a bomb attack in the district of Daman, in Kandahar (Afghanistan News, 20/09/2015). The same day, at least 16 civilians were injured by a bomb attack in eastern Kunar province, near a power station, and five civilians were injured in a bomb attack in eastern Saibak, in Samangan province (San Francisco Chronicle 20/09/2015). On 19 September, five police officers were killed by a roadside bomb in Zurmat district of Paktia province (DAWN, 20/09/2015).

Stakeholders

Taliban

Despite confirmation of the death of Mullah Omar, historical leader of the Taliban, the Taliban has regained strength, especially since ISAF forces withdrew in December 2014. The ultraconservative Islamic force's activities have expanded from south and southeastern areas to northern provinces, especially Kunduz, Balkh, and Faryab (The Telegraph, 30/07/2015; Daily Mail, 28/09/2015). The Taliban is increasingly financed by criminal enterprises including heroin laboratories, illegal mining, and kidnapping (UNSC, 02/02/2015). On 13 August, Ayman al Zawahiri, leader of Al Qaeda, reportedly delivered an audio message pledging allegiance to Mansour, the new Taliban leader (The Guardian, 13/08/2015).

Islamic State (IS)

Militants fighting under the IS banner in Afghanistan, including an unknown number of Taliban defectors and foreign fighters, have reportedly seized territory from the Taliban in at least six of Nangarhar's 21 districts. Uncertainty remains regarding their links with IS in the Middle East (Reuters, 29/06/2015). IS has reportedly been active in northern areas of Afghanistan, especially on the border with Turkmenistan (Global Research, 16/06/2015). IS launched its first offensive against Afghan forces on 27 September, attacking a checkpoint in Nangarhar (The Tribune, 28/09/2015).

International military presence

NATO ended its combat mission in Afghanistan on 31 December 2014, leaving just 13,000 troops in the country. The US has changed its withdrawal plans and will maintain all its 9,800 NATO troops until the end of 2016 (BBC, 15/10/2015). Other NATO troops from Germany, Italy and Turkey have not set an end date to their presence (Fox News, 11/10/2015). The headquarters of the mission are in Kabul, operating from Kabul/Bagram. Four other bases are in Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Kandahar, and Laghman (NATO, 27/02/2015). The focus of the mission is on supporting Afghan forces' fight against the Taliban, along with US counter-terrorism operations (NATO 06/2015).

Afghan National Security Forces

The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) are composed of around 350,000 personnel, including soldiers, police, and air forces personnel.

Pro-government militias

In Khanabad district, Kunduz province, the membership of U.S. funded pro-government militias, also known as Afghan local police, has grown to 3,000 this year, 1,000 more than last year, according to the district governor Hayatullah Amiri. This militia force was founded with the purpose of mobilising rural communities against the Taliban. However, in recent months, civilians have reported a rise in abuse by these groups, including extortion, theft, and assault (Daily Mail, 03/06/2015; IRIN, 07/09/2015).

Natural disasters

Earthquake

A 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India on 26 October. The epicentre was in Jurm, Badakhshan province, in the Hindu Kush mountains, in

northern Afghanistan. The most affected areas are sparsely populated rural districts, with some damage also reported in Fayzabad (The Guardian, 26/10/2015). As of 27 October, the death toll is reported to be 82 people, with around 300 people injured and 4,000 houses destroyed in Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Parwan, and Nangarhar provinces of Afghanistan. Landslides have occurred in several places and access to remote rural areas is severely hindered. Telecommunications and electricity networks have been affected (ECHO, 27/10/2015).

Displacement

As of October 2015, nearly 1.2 million people are reported internally displaced because of conflict in Afghanistan (ECHO, 13/10/2015).

IDPs

Increasing insecurity has led to a rise in internal displacement. As of July, 139,000 people were reported displaced by conflict in 2015, with a surge in Kunduz and Helmand (OCHA, 31/07/2015). By the end of 2015, an additional 324,000 are estimated to become displaced because of conflict (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

As of 12 October, another 100,000–140,000 people were reported to have been displaced in the northeast since late September, fleeing violence that began in Kunduz (ECHO, 12/10/2015). Their critical needs are food and shelter. They also need NFIs, health, WASH and protection (OCHA, 18/10/2015). An estimated 9,500 displaced families (an estimated 34,200 individuals) were reported in Taloqan, Takhar province, mostly staying in camps about 20km from the city centre. Between 1,400 and 2,000 families found refuge in Kabul (OCHA, 07/10/2015; 12/10/2015; 13/10/2015, 18/10/2015). On 26 October, reports indicated that IDPs have started returning home, despite security concerns in northeast and central regions. 41,200 of the over 100,000 people displaced by the conflict in the northeastern regions, remain displaced, and are in critical need of food and shelter (OCHA, 26/10/2015).

Displacement in 2015 is expected to exceed 2014 numbers, and IDPs and returnees from Pakistan will not have access to enough humanitarian assistance (FEWSNET, 01/08/2015). Priority needs are for water, food, housing, and employment (IDMC, 16/06/2015; UNHCR 31/12/2014). The security context challenges access and identification of IDPs (UNCHR, 24/05/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

Displacement from Pakistan to Afghanistan's Khost and Paktika provinces has been ongoing since mid-June 2014 and the beginning of military operations in Pakistan's FATA region. As of 13 October, these provinces were hosting around 227,880

refugees from Pakistan, the majority in Khost (including 10,210 families in Gulan camp) (UNHCR, 11/06/2015; ECHO 13/10/2015). There are concerns about the host communities' ability to support the refugee population, particularly in terms of food, shelter, and education (UNHCR, 15/06/2015).

Refugee returnees

As of 16 October, around 334,600 undocumented Afghan refugees have returned from Pakistan in 2015 (USAID, 16/10/2015). Numbers began to rise after security incidents in Pakistan, particularly the December 2014 Taliban attack in Peshawar. Some returnees report an increasing number of protection issues as the main reasons for return: eviction notices by authorities, discrimination, movement restrictions, settlement closure, and harassment (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

The eastern region hosts almost 40% of undocumented returnees (Food Security Cluster, 31/07/2015). 30–40% of them are vulnerable and in need of assistance; 80% of Afghanistan is reportedly not safe for people to be sent back to (BBC, 16/07/2015; OCHA, 15/07/2015).

Refugees from Afghanistan in other countries

As of 24 September, an estimated 10,000 Afghans are reported to be applying for passports each day, up from a daily average of 7,000 reported at 7 September. In Afghanistan the passport is used primarily as a document for travel (VOA, 24/09/2015; 07/09/2015).

Pakistan: As of October, around 3 million Afghan refugees are reported to be in Pakistan. Over 1.4 million of these are unregistered (ECHO, 13/10/2015). In Sindh, only 67,000 of an estimated one million Afghan refugees are registered (DAWN, 31/08/2015).

Some Afghan refugees have reported harassment in Pakistan, and not feeling any safer than in Afghanistan. The deterioration in relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan is being highlighted by the reported increase in issues with Afghan refugees (Thomson Reuters Foundation, 03/09/2015). According to UNHCR estimates, between 100,000 and 150,000 Afghans might voluntarily repatriate in 2016 (UNHCR, 06/10/2015). In August, the government of Afghanistan requested that Pakistan allow 1.5 million registered Afghan refugees to stay on its territory for another two years (ALHASAN, 24/08/2015). As of October, the Pakistani government remains undecided over the extension of their stay (New York Times, 17/10/2015).

Iran: Around 950,000 registered and 1.5 million unregistered Afghan refugees are reported (ECHO, 13/10/2015).

Europe: Tens of thousands of Afghan refugees have crossed into Europe in 2015, most via Greece, where 59,938 Afghan asylum seekers are reported to have entered in 2015 (ECHO, 13/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

On 3 October, a hospital run by MSF in Kunduz was hit by a US airstrike. As of 26 October, the death toll is still rising, with at least 30 people reported dead. At least 37 were injured. (Reuters 05/10/2015; MSF, 09/10/2015; 26/10/2015; BBC, 05/10/2015,). The International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission has been activated for the first time ever, to investigate the attack, and is awaiting the agreement of the Afghanistan and US governments to proceed (MSF, 14/10/2015).

Some reports indicate that the Taliban accessed offices of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) in Kunduz while taking the city. They have reportedly been able to gather access to addresses, phone numbers and photos of NGO staff, security operators and government officials (Amnesty International, 01/10/2015).

Between January and 17 August, 33 aid workers were reported to have been victims of attacks in the country: 20 national aid workers were killed, two were wounded, and 11 were kidnapped (Aid Workers Security Database, 17/08/2015). In 2014, 57 aid workers were killed in Afghanistan (Reuters, 17/08/2015).

Security and physical constraints

As of 15 October, access to Kunduz city was still restricted, hindering the delivery of assistance. IEDs were the main threat (UN, 15/10/2015; OCHA, 15/10/2015).

Deteriorated security conditions in Helmand significantly hamper the delivery of assistance (OCHA, 15/07/2015). Journalists have had to withdraw from Badakhshan and Nangarhar (RSF, 07/07/2015).

Security has made roads inaccessible between Mazar-e-Sharif and Taloqan, Sherkhan Bander and Baghlan, and Baghlan and Mazar-e-Sharif (OCHA, 18/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Between September and November, an estimated 2.5 million people in Afghanistan will experience Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity. The majority of food-insecure people reside in Badakhshan, Badghis, Ghor, Nuristan, and Samangan provinces (USAID, 16/10/2015). As of 13 October 2015,

2.1 million people are reported suffering from severe food insecurity, compared to around 1.2 million in 2014. 7.3 million people are moderately food insecure (FAO, 10/09/2015; 13/10/2015)

The food security situation for IDPs is worsening, with around 200,000 people in need of immediate assistance (FAO, 10/09/2015). Newly displaced people, which will likely number 324,000 by the end of 2015, are projected to be in Crisis in the months up to March 2016 (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

A May–June seasonal food security assessment indicated worsening food security among urban households. 13% of households indicated food insecurity as a primary issue, compared to 3% in 2014 (Food Security Cluster, 31/08/2015). Additionally, female-headed households are 50% more likely to be food insecure than others, due largely to lower incomes and consequent poorer diet (FAO, 10/09/2015).

Food availability

Severe food gaps are reported in 14 villages in Arghanjkhah district of Badakhshan, affecting 17,940 people (Food Security Cluster/USAID, 14/07/2015).

The 2015 wheat harvest is expected to be better than the last two years, except in Ghazni, Bamyan, Daikundy, Kandahar, Hilamand, Zabul, Uruzgan, Paktya, Paktika, and Khost (FAO, 03/07/2015; FEWSNET/WFP, 07/06/2015).

Food access

As of 11 October, civilians in Kunduz reportedly have been left without food since 28 September, when the Taliban took control of most of the city (ToloNews, 11/10/2015).

The prices for wheat and rice are reported to be generally lower than last year, but higher than the last 5-year average (WFP, 22/09/2015).

Health

The increase in insecurity and civilian casualties have impacted the work of health organisations and NGOs. High incidence of trauma, caused by widespread conflict, is making specialised trauma-care essential, especially for the remotest and most inaccessible areas of the country. Gaps in health services include lack of maternal care and problems in the delivery of treatment to victims of GBV (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

There is a shortage of trained surgeons, anaesthetists, and trauma capacity in

conflict-affected areas (OCHA, 25/11/2014). Only 19% of the districts affected by conflict are reported to have access to specialised trauma-care centres (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Hundreds were wounded in Kunduz after the Taliban's offensive, but the only public trauma care facility, run by MSF, was bombed and MSF withdrew. The Taliban seized a 200-bed government-run hospital in the city (MSF, 28/09/2015; Reuters, 28/09/2015).

Measles

In the first quarter of 2015, 445 laboratory-confirmed cases of measles were reported, compared to 581 cases in all of 2014 (WHO, 26/04/2015). The Afghan Ministry of Public Health has confirmed 12 outbreaks so far in 2015 (SalamWatandar, 25/07/2015). In 2014, the measles vaccination coverage of children between 12 and 23 months of age was 66%; in 2013 it was 60% (World Bank, 2014).

Polio

12 cases have been recorded so far in 2015 with the last case reported on 6 September (Polio Eradication Initiative, 07/10/2015). 28 cases were reported altogether in 2014, mostly in conflict-affected areas (WHO, 26/04/2015).

Nutrition

As of 21 September, 1.2 million children are reported to be acutely malnourished (IMMAP, 21/09/2015). 48,000 children under five die of malnutrition each year (Government, 04/08/2015).

WASH

In Afghanistan, only 27% of the population is reported to have access to an improved water source. The percentage goes down to 20% in rural areas, the lowest level in the world. Only 5% of people nationwide, and 1% in rural areas, have access to improved sanitation facilities (ATN News, 16/09/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter is one of the main needs identified among IDPs in Faryab and Kabul, with people living in makeshift shelters, and overcrowded conditions (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

Education

A large number of children cannot access education and significant obstacles remain

in terms of gender equality (UNHCR, 15/09/2015).

Schools have closed because of fighting and insecurity. Following fighting in the northeast, all schools in Kunduz province have been closed (OCHA, 13/10/2015). As of 2 September, 30 schools are reported to be closed in Baghlan as intense fighting continues, with the Afghan national forces trying to reclaim strategic areas in Faryab (Salamwatandar, 02/09/2015). Over 100 educational facilities were reported closed in Helmand at 24 July (Tolonews, 24/07/2015).

Protection

UNAMA reported a 23% increase in casualties among women and a 13% increase among children over the first half of 2015, compared to the same period in 2014 (OCHA, 31/07/2015).

Afghan local police have reportedly been involved in intimidation, physical abuse or violence, bribe-taking, salary fraud, and theft. Incidents of rape, drug trafficking, drug abuse and the selling or renting of local police weapons and vehicles have also been reported (ICG, 05/06/2015).

During the first three days of Taliban control over Kunduz, from 28 September to 1 October, mass murder, gang rapes and house-to-house searches performed by insurgent squads have been reported (Amnesty International, 01/10/2015).

Mines and ERW

22% of civilian casualties over January-June were caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) (US Ministry of Defense, 04/09/2015). An average of 98 civilians per month are recorded to be victims of mines or ERWs (MAPA, 14/09/2015). During August and September, 5 civilians were reported to have been casualties of ERWs (UN, MAPA, 30/09/2015).

559km² (4,321 hazardous areas) are contaminated by minefields and explosive remnants of war (ERW). In 2015, a monthly average of 103 total casualties from mines, IEDs, and ERW is reported (UNMAS/MAPA, 30/06/2015). On 16 September, MAPA reported a decrease in funding that might jeopardize its long-term objective of a mine-free Afghanistan by 2023. As of 16 September, still 4,266 hazardous areas exist in 1,603 communities, over 255 districts of 33 provinces (MAPA, 16/09/2015).

Gender

On 3 September, hundreds of schoolgirls had to be admitted to hospital after inhaling a poisonous gas. Officials suspect foul play. This was reportedly the third

such incident in the province in the first week of September (Voice of America, 03/09/2015). UNAMA registered 44 cases of sexual violence between January 2014 and January 2015 (UN Security Council, 15/04/2015). Sexual violence is underreported because of resulting social stigma as well as lack of access to Taliban-controlled areas.

During the fighting in Kunduz, women were particularly targeted, and experienced rape and harassment (AFP, 17/10/2015).

Children

40 reports of sexual violence against children, affecting 27 boys and 24 girls, were registered by UNAMA between September 2010 and December 2014 (UNAMA, 24/08/2015).

The Afghan national and local police and three armed groups (Taliban, Haqqani Network, and Hezb-e-Islami) have been listed for recruitment and use of children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict 02/05/2015). Children have been used as suicide bombers: 20 boys were killed carrying out suicide attacks between September 2010 and December 2014 (UNSC, 15/05/2015; UNAMA, 24/08/2015).

Vulnerable groups

When taking control of Kunduz the Taliban has reportedly targeted media workers, occupying the headquarters of some news agencies. Several media workers are missing. The Taliban has also torched and destroyed equipment (RSF, 29/09/2015).

Updated: 27/10/2015

IRAQ CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST, DISPLACEMENT



For the latest Briefing Notes, visit the [ACAPS country analysis page](#).

For information relating to the Syria crisis, see [SNAP's latest reports](#).

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

24-26 October: Attacks targeting Shia Muslims celebrating the Ashura holiday killed at least 18 and wounded 23 in Baghdad. Another person was killed and 30 wounded in an attack in southwest Kirkuk (ISW).

21 October: Iraqi Security Forces supported by coalition airstrikes and Popular Mobilisation Forces recaptured Baiji city and oil refinery (ISW).

20 October: 1,811 laboratory-tested cases of cholera have now been confirmed. Pilgrimages in October and December elevate the risk of the outbreak spreading (WHO).

September: 2,470 Syrian refugees, including children seeking schooling, returned to Syria from KR-I through the Peshkhabour border in September (UNHCR).

KEY CONCERNS

- 537 civilians were killed and 925 injured in conflict-related violence in September, bringing total civilian casualties to 17,013 for 2015 (UNAMI, 01/10/2015).
- 8.6 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 3.2 million IDPs (OCHA, 29/09/2015).
- Access continues to be severely constrained in large parts of Anbar, Salah al Din, Diyala, Kirkuk, and Ninewa (OCHA, 26/07/2015).
- 245,585 registered Syrian refugees are in Iraq; 42% are children (UNHCR, 15/10/2015).

OVERVIEW

The Islamic State insurgency has compounded an already fragile political and humanitarian situation, leading to a level 3 humanitarian crisis and international military intervention. Iraq now hosts one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world. Priority needs are food, water, shelter, fuel, and access to healthcare. Access constraints and human rights violations, particularly in IS-controlled areas, are of major concern.

Politics and security

More than 17,013 conflict-related civilian casualties have been recorded in 2015, including 537 killed and 925 injured in August (UNAMI, 01/10/2015). Although August and September recorded the lowest total casualty figures since March, end September and early October have been marked by renewed attacks on civilians. Casualty numbers are hard to verify in conflict areas.

In June 2014, Islamic State seized Iraq's second largest city, Mosul, in less than 24 hours.

They have control over swathes of Anbar, Ninewa, and Salah al Din governorates. 2014 saw more than 35,400 recorded casualties, including 12,280 deaths, in the worst violence since 2006–2007 (OHCHR, 13/07/2015; UNAMI, 01/01/2015).

Political instability

The perceived marginalisation of Sunni groups by former President Maliki's Government is considered one of the main drivers of the current conflict. Maliki stepped down in August 2014 after losing regional and international support. A unity government, led by Prime Minister Abadi and with former President Maliki as Vice President, was formed in September 2014, and a plan for national reconciliation is under consultation (UNAMI, 22/07/2015). While trying to balance sectarian tensions inside the country, Abadi has been seeking international support in the fight against Islamic State (Foreign Affairs, 16/01/2015).

Widespread protests against perceived corruption and rising unemployment took place in July amid record temperatures and electricity cuts. The protests led to a number of government reforms, including the elimination of certain senior government positions, ending sectarian party quotas at the regional level, and reopening corruption investigations (ALJ, 11/08/2015). Weekly demonstrations have continued in Babil, Baghdad, Basra, Dhi Qar, Diwaniya, Karbala, Maysan, Muthanna, and Wasit, with clashes recorded in Karbala and Diwaniya (ISW, 15/10/2015). On 9 September, Abadi dismissed 123 senior officials (ISW, 10/09/2015). On 18 October, an arrest warrant was issued for the trade minister on corruption charges (AFP, 19/10/2015).

Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I): KR-I President Masoud Barzani's extended term expired on 20 August, however he continues to rule, leaving KR-I in a legal vacuum that parties are still trying to resolve. Opposition parties are reasserting objections to the political dominance of Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (ISW, 20/08/2015; AFP, 20/08/2015). Ongoing tensions between KR-I and the Iraqi Central Government around oil revenues since late January have affected infrastructure works, public sector salaries, and market stability (UNHCR, 31/08/2015; UN, 13/07/2015; local media, 26/04/2015). In October, four people were killed in protests over unpaid salaries that turned to demands for President Barzani's removal (AFP, 10/10/2015). **The growing instability is negatively impacting the economy: unemployment is rising and property prices are falling (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).**

Stakeholders

Islamic State (IS): In June 2014, IS declared the establishment of a Sunni caliphate, covering the area between Aleppo in northern Syria and Diyala in eastern Iraq. Abu Bakr al Baghdadi was declared caliph and leader for Muslims worldwide. IS now controls nearly 300,000km² of territory in Syria and Iraq (AFP, 01/06/2015). It has attracted up to 30,000 foreign fighters (Reuters, 29/09/2015). Senior commanders were killed in an airstrike in

October (Guardian, 11/10/2015).

Government forces: Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), numbering around 48,000 troops, are involved in offensives around Baghdad and in central governorates (Foreign Policy, 28/03/2015). Falling global oil prices have led to significant budget deficits, hampering the government's capacity to undertake military operations and finance basic services for affected populations (Deutsche Welle, 11/06/2015).

Shi'a militias: Three militias have been supporting government forces on all major fronts against IS since the beginning of the insurgency, as part of the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF): Asa'ib, Kita'ib Hezbollah, and the Badr Brigades. PMF number around 100,000 fighters, including 30,000 reportedly backed by the Iranian Government (Al Jazeera, 23/01/2015).

KR-I forces: The Kurdish Peshmerga, supported by Kurdish fighters from Syria and Turkey, are engaged in a counter-offensive against IS. Kurdish fighters receive training and equipment from multiple countries, including the United States (AFP).

International forces: Since August 2014, a US-led coalition against IS, which brings over 30 countries under a Combined Joint Task Force, has been conducting airstrikes against IS locations in support of Iraqi government forces (**BBC, 21/10/2015**, Business Insider, 09/12/2014). In late July 2015, Turkey joined the US-led coalition against IS, but also stepped up airstrikes in northern-Iraq against the PKK – who oppose IS (The Economist, 01/08/2015). Iran has dispatched members of its elite Revolutionary Guard and reportedly carried out airstrikes against IS (The Economist, 03/01/2015; The Guardian, 05/01/2015, 04/12/2014). **Prime Minister Abadi is reportedly under domestic pressure to call on Russia for air support (Independent, 21/10/2015).** Russia has begun airstrikes in Syria, but has denied any plans to expand air raids to Iraq (Anadolu, 01/10/2015).

Conflict developments

Violent clashes are ongoing, particularly in Anbar province, where IS is battling to take Haditha, and ISF is fighting to regain control of Ramadi and Falluja (ISW, 14/09/2015; IBT, 01/09/2015). ISF and Peshmerga forces regained territory in early 2015, taking populated areas of Diyala in January, and Al Baghdadi in Anbar early March (AFP, 26/01/2015; 08/03/2015). Peshmerga forces are fighting IS in Kirkuk.

Baghdad: Frequent attacks continued to hit Baghdad in September and October, despite the re-opening of Baghdad's heavily fortified administrative Green Zone to public traffic (BBC, 05/10/2015). **A bomb attack on 26 October targeted Shi'a pilgrims celebrating the holy day of Ashura, killing seven people and wounding 23 (Reuters, 26/10/2015). Nine people were killed in a similar attack on 24 October in Al Shaab (ISW, 26/10/2015).** Earlier in October, 39 were killed and 106 wounded in a series of blasts (AP, 10/10/2015; BBC, 05/10/2015; New York Times, 03/10/2015). In September, attacks killed

at least 56 and wounded 123 across Baghdad.

Anbar: IS remains dominant in Falluja and remains in control of Ramadi, despite two major efforts by ISF and the US-led coalition to retake the city, most recently in July (AP, 16/08/2015). **In October, ISF forces made progress against IS around Ramadi, and a build-up of military reinforcements north of Ramadi on 22 October suggests an imminent escalation in the offensive (ISW, 26/10/2015).**

Basra: At least ten died and 24 were wounded in a car bomb attack in Zubayr, southwest of Basra city, on 5 October. IS claimed responsibility (AFP, 05/10/2015).

Diyala: Attacks – most often bombings – are frequent, as IS is growing stronger in the area (ISW, 05/10/2015). Between 27 and 35 reportedly died in mortar attacks on the capital Baquba on 8 October, while over 45 were left wounded (Reuters, 08/10/2015; AP, 09/10/2015). At least 40 were killed in bombings in the Shia-majority town of Khalis on 5 October (BBC, 05/10/2015). Two IS suicide attacks on Shia areas in and around Baquba killed at least 57 and wounded more than 80 on 11 August (Al Jazeera, 11/08/2015).

Kirkuk: Peshmerga and PMF have been conducting operations to dislodge IS from areas of southwestern Kirkuk since February (ISW, 18/03/2015, ISW, 05/10/2015). Advances by Peshmerga in southwest Kirkuk displaced over 11,000 people in late August (IOM, 13/09/2015). **Peshmerga and US forces freed 70 hostages from IS control in Hawija on 22 October. The same day, an IS bombing killed one and wounded 30 at a mosque in Tuz Khurmatu, south Kirkuk. Popular Mobilisation Forces retaliated with a security crackdown, detaining at least 170 civilians (ISW, 26/10/2015).**

KR-I: Airstrikes and cross-border clashes between Turkish security forces and members of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) killed at least 60 on 29 September (AP, 29/09/2015). On 2 August, ten civilians were reportedly killed in Turkish airstrikes targeting members of the PKK in Zarkel village (AFP, 02/08/2015).

Ninewa: IS enjoys support in swathes of Ninewa and continues to carry out operations south of Mosul, to control resistance and safeguard one of its most important areas of control (ISW, 06/07/2015). Heavy coalition airstrikes targeted areas around Mosul over 21–25 September (ISW, 25/09/2015). ISF and allied militia forces reportedly advances towards Mosul after making key gains against IS held territory near Baiji (AFP, 17/10/2015).

Salah al Din: Baiji town and its nearby oil refinery are fiercely contested and highly strategic targets. **ISF, supported by coalition airstrikes and Popular Mobilisation Forces, recaptured Baiji city and oil refinery from IS on 21 October after months of clashes (ISW, 26/10/2015).**

Displacement

There are more than 3.2 million IDPs and 245,585 Syrian refugees. Internal displacement has been ongoing since January 2014 as IS advances and military operations to repel them have affected large areas across the country. **In October, an escalation in operations near Baiji, as well as armed clashes in Hawija and Shirqat, have displaced thousands in Salah al Din (OCHA, 20/10/2015).**

IDPs

As of 29 September, there are 3,206,736 IDPs in 3,476 locations in Iraq. 22% were displaced between June and July 2014; 26% were displaced in August 2014; 17% were displaced between September 2014 and March 2015, and 19% have been displaced since April 2015 (IOM, 29/09/2015).

In the month to 29 September, overall displacement increased by approximately 24,000. Anbar currently hosts 583,050 IDPs, Baghdad 577,584, Dahuk 426,966 and Kirkuk 401,280. 87% of IDPs have fled three governorates: Anbar, Ninewa and Salah al Din. Over 500,000 have fled Anbar since April 2015 (IOM, 29/09/2015).

69% of IDPs are living in private settings. 20% are in critical shelter arrangements while 8% live in camps. In Dahuk, 29% of IDPs are living in critical shelter arrangements, while 54% live in camps. In Anbar, 26% of IDPs are in critical shelter conditions (IOM, 29/09/2015). The number and spread of IDPs pose a major challenge to needs assessment and assistance.

IDP returnees: As of 29 September, 402,660 IDPs have returned to their locations of origin, predominantly to areas in Salah al Din and Tikrit since mid-June (IOM, 29/09/2015). Many returnees find their areas of origin have been destroyed by armed conflict, including 20,000 who returned to Salah al Din over 22–29 September (OCHA, 29/09/2015). Heavily disrupted basic services and infrastructure, mines, insecurity, and lost documentation increase risks for returnees (OCHA, 29/09/2015; UNHCR, 15/04/2015). 98% of displaced families intend to return to their place of origin, with only 51% feeling safe in their current location (IOM, 29/09/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

245,585 Syrian refugees are registered in Iraq and 41,700 non-Syrian refugees (UNHCR, 15/10/2015, 23/04/2015).

Syrian refugees: As of 15 October, children make up 42% of all Syrian refugees in Iraq. KR-I hosts an estimated 97% of refugees, with 111,639 in Erbil, 96,283 in Dahuk, and 29,458 in Sulaymaniyah; 4,510 were last known to be in Anbar and 1,588 in Ninewa (UNHCR, 28/09/2015). A reduced number of arrivals has been reported since 2 June due to changes in admission procedures into KR-I (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

38% of refugees live in nine camps; nearly half are in Domiz camp in Dahuk (47,147),

10,082 in Kawergosk, and 10,370 in Darashakran in Erbil (UNHCR, 15/10/2015). 1,519 Syrian refugees were last reported in Al Obaidy camp, in IS-controlled Al Qa'im in Anbar, but access constraints limit information; information on the fate of some 2,800 urban refugees in Al Qa'im is also lacking (UNHCR, 15/10/2015; 15/03/2015).

Over 15,500 Syrian refugees have returned to Syria in 2015 – including 3,747 in August – in part because of the high cost of living and lack of employment opportunities in KR-I (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). **In September, 2,470 refugees returned to Syria from KR-I through the Peshkhabour border, including children reportedly seeking schooling in Syria (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).**

Iraqi refugees in neighbouring countries

Around 180,000 Iraqi refugees are thought to be residing in neighbouring countries, mostly in Turkey and Jordan (UNHCR, 04/06/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Access to the estimated five million people in areas under armed opposition groups' control is limited (OCHA, 12/08/2015; 04/10/2015). Several INGOs have suspended activities in IS-controlled areas, or provide emergency assistance through local partners. Long delays in obtaining clearance from Iraqi authorities also hinder access (OCHA, 05/12/2014). Road closures are blocking supply lines and raising food prices, especially in Anbar, Kirkuk, Salah al Din, and Ninewa governorates (OCHA, 04/10/2015).

Anbar remains largely inaccessible due to ongoing military operations. Only two UN agencies and eight other humanitarian organisations are operating, excluding government and the Red Crescent actors (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Ninewa: Access to Mosul is impossible for humanitarian actors and communications with areas outside the city are allegedly cut off. Conditions have dramatically deteriorated since IS took control (OCHA, 02/03/2015; WFP, 02/02/2015).

Salah al Din: Humanitarian presence remains limited. Roads are only usable from the south through Baghdad and Samarra (OCHA, 14/07/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

Baghdad, Babylon, Kirkuk, and Diyala have implemented strict security policies, affecting IDPs' movements. On 23 August, local authorities in Kirkuk asked all IDPs from Diyala to leave the governorate within one month (31/08/2015). An estimated 71,000 IDPs returned to Diyala in August, despite ongoing insecurity. An unknown number of these returns are thought to have been coerced (OCHA, 01/08/2015). IDPs attempting to enter KR-I by land

require a local guarantor (UNHCR, 29/05/2015).

Border crossings: Syrian refugees' access to safety and asylum remains a concern following changes in exit and admission procedures into KR-I (UNHCR, 31/07/2015). Most refugees enter via the Peshkhabour crossing (UNHCR, 15/03/2015; 08/2015). Movement across the Ibrahim Khalil border crossing to Turkey is unpredictable, although officials have reported the crossing open as of 13 September (OCHA, 15/09/2015). Insecurity prevents most civilian movement at the IS-controlled Al Qa'im and Al Waleed crossings, as well as at Rabia (Reuters, 23/11/2014; UNHCR, 28/02/2015; 15/01/2015).

Anbar: Tens of thousands of people are reportedly trapped in Falluja and Ramadi districts, as many routes are blocked or closed (OCHA, 11/08/2015). **In mid-October, the Bzibz bridge to Baghdad was intermittently closed, creating concerns for populations from Anbar seeking safety from escalating military operations around Ramadi and Falluja (OCHA, 20/10/2015). An estimated 50 families remain stranded on the Anbar side of the crossing. While Sadr al Yusufiya camp on the Baghdad side was opened in September and hosts 2,000 IDPs, another three camps with a capacity to host at least 6,000 IDPs are situated on the Anbar side, vulnerable to access constraints (UNHCR, 20/10/2015).** The situation is also worrying for more than 80,000 people who have limited access to services and commodities in Haditha, including food, safe water, health and electricity (OCHA, 20/10/2015).

Security and physical constraints

High insecurity and unexploded ordnance (UXO) hinder access to affected populations (OCHA, 05/12/2014). IEDs are also a concern for returnees to recaptured areas (OCHA, 14/07/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

4.4 million people need food assistance (WFP, 01/10/2015). Funding shortfalls mean WFP has been forced to reduce its assistance to IDPs and refugees on multiple occasions in 2015. Only 1.5 million people received assistance in August (OCHA, 04/10/2015). In September, rations were reduced for IDPs in camps and non-camp settings in all provinces except Anbar, Baghdad, and Salah al Din (WFP, 01/10/2015).

Food availability

The October–November 2014 and April–May 2015 agricultural seasons were significantly affected by conflict, especially in major producing areas such as Salah al Din, Ninewa, and Anbar; government seed distributions were delayed end 2014, impacting planting (FAO, 27/05/2015). Below-average wheat production is expected in 2015 (OCHA, 14/07/2015). IS controls major wheat storage silos in Ninewa and Salah al Din (FAO, 10/02/2015). Lack of water supply and agricultural inputs are reported to be the biggest constraints on production (OCHA, 04/10/2015).

Food access

Household food consumption deteriorated in August, indicating that improvement in July was largely attributable to temporary factors associated with Ramadan. 4.3% of households reported inadequate food consumption in August, compared to 2.8% in July.

Among IDPs, reports of inadequate food consumption doubled from 8% in July to 17% in August. However, reliance on negative coping mechanisms dropped from July (15.5%) to August (13.1%) nationally, with significant decreases reported in Diyala and Sulaymaniyah governorates. Reliance on negative coping mechanisms among IDPs remained similar, at 26% (WFP, 08/10/2015).

Food prices are particularly high in Anbar, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Salah al Din, and Dahuk due to conflict and blocked supply lines. Wheat prices rose by 30–50% in August in conflict-affected northern governorates (WFP, 08/10/2015). A 12% increase in the average cost of a food basket in Anbar in August reversed a declining trend that had held for four months. Costs also increased 7% in both Salah al Din and Sulaymaniyah, but remained stable in Ninewa, Diyala and Kirkuk, and decreased by 11% in Baghdad (WFP, 08/10/2015).

Refugees: Vulnerability-based assistance to Syrian refugees was introduced in August: 50,000 previously assisted refugees no longer receive food vouchers; the monthly voucher value was reduced to USD 10 per person for over 49,000 moderately vulnerable refugees, while 1,000 considered the most vulnerable continue to receive USD 19 (WFP, 30/09/2015).

Livelihoods

3.4 million people are in need of emergency livelihood support, compared to 800,000 end February (OCHA/UNCT, 04/06/2015; UN, 18/02/2015). 72% of IDPs report access to employment among their top three needs, while 22% are unable to afford basic needs (OCHA, 04/10/2015). Household purchasing power held in line with improved July levels. Slight decreases were reported in Anbar and Salah al Din, but remained above April to June levels (WFP, 08/10/2015).

Health

More than 7.8 million people need health support, 89% of whom are in critical need (WHO/Gol, 07/09/2015). 64 humanitarian health projects have closed due to funding shortfalls; 46 projects are at risk of closing by the end of 2015 unless further funding is secured (WHO, 13/10/2015).

Key concerns include the lack of specialised services; shortages of essential supplies; disruption of treatment for chronic illnesses; mental health support, and the risk posed by communicable diseases (OCHA, 04/08/2015; WHO, 04/06/2015).

The leading causes of morbidity in refugee and IDP camps are acute respiratory infections, acute diarrhoea, and skin diseases. The prevalence of skin diseases in particular has increased at a rate of 6% since the beginning of June due to poor WASH conditions (WHO/Gol, 11/09/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Across Iraq, 14 major hospitals and more than 170 other health facilities are non-functional or destroyed, and 45% of health staff have been displaced (WHO, 13/10/2015). In some areas, 80% of health facilities are non-functional. 50% of health personnel have left Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al Din, and Diyala governorates (Health Cluster, 13/09/2015).

Anbar: Health capacities are severely strained in Haditha city and al Baghdadi subdistrict, with at least six out of 14 primary health care centres not functioning due to damage in Haditha city, and two out of three in al Baghdadi (WHO, 11/08/2015). Most health facilities in Khaljdiya are reported closed since the departure of health workers in June (WHO, 07/06/2015). Ramadi's main hospital came under IS control on 16 May, and the city hospital in Hit district is no longer accessible for civilians (OCHA, 17/05/2015; 05/05/2015). Shortages of fuel have affected healthcare delivery, leading to critical shortages of medicine.

Ninewa: The majority of health facilities in Sinjar remained closed end June due to infrastructure damage, and lack of staff and medical equipment (WHO, 28/06/2015).

Refugees: 20% of the non-camp population has difficulty accessing health services, due to cost and perceived availability. Access to specialised primary services, including mental healthcare and control of communicable diseases, remain priorities, especially outside camps (WHO/UNHCR, 30/06/2015; 28/02/2015).

Measles

980 suspected measles cases have been recorded so far in 2015, including 544 in Baghdad and 115 Babylon; 493 cases were suspected during the same period in 2013, and 563 in 2014 (WHO, 28/08/2015; 01/08/2015).

Cholera

Iraq's health ministry declared a cholera outbreak on 15 September after the illness was detected in Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad. **As of 20 October, 1,811 laboratory-tested cases had been confirmed in 15 of the country's 18 governorates (WHO, 20/10/2015). Pilgrimages in October and December pose an additional transmission risk (WHO, 20/10/2015).** Broken water supply systems as well as the use of unsafe water sources for drinking and farming contributed to the outbreak (OCHA, 29/09/2015; Reuters, 23/09/2015).

WASH

7.1 million people need WASH support, including 4.1 million in critical need (OCHA, 14/07/2015). Extreme temperatures are aggravating the already critical water access problem in areas affected by conflict or controlled by armed groups (OCHA, 11/08/2015). At least 30% of WASH programmes supported by humanitarian agencies have shut down, leaving 1.8 million without access to WASH services (UN, 27/07/2015).

Urgent WASH needs are reported for displaced people in camps and informal settlements near Bzibiz bridge and Ameriyat al Falluja in Anbar; and for newly displaced IDPs in Laylan camp in Kirkuk (OCHA, 04/10/2015). Purification material is lacking or unavailable in Anbar, Salah al Din, Baghdad and Najaf, leaving a critical gap, especially in light of the cholera outbreak (OCHA, 15/09/2015). 4,000 displaced students in Abu Ghraib are in urgent need of WASH support (OCHA, 25/09/2015).

Refugees: The operation and maintenance of WASH facilities, and the delivery of WASH services in camps remain challenges. Transition to safe water supply and sanitation in Qushtapa, Kawergosk, Darashakran, and Basirma camps is ongoing, but challenged by funding constraints (UNICEF/UNHCR, 31/07/2015; 30/06/2015).

Water

The rate of water flow in the Euphrates River has more than halved since IS took control of the dams in Ramadi and Falluja in early June. This is threatening access to drinking water in Anbar and in Kerbala, Babylon, Najaf, and Qadisiyah (WHO, 28/06/2015). Defects in Khaljdiya's water network in Anbar have been reported (OCHA, 18/08/2015). **88% of households surveyed in Kirkuk do not have consistent access to water and 67% reported their main water source as partially functioning or worse (NRC, 30/09/2015).**

Shelter and NFIs

Around 2.9 million people require shelter and NFI support, mainly in non-camp settings in central and southern Iraq (OCHA/UNCT, 04/06/2015). 659,256 IDPs are living in critical shelter conditions, including in informal settlements, religious buildings, schools, unfinished and abandoned buildings (IOM, 29/09/2015). 20% of non-camp IDPs living in critical shelter conditions are in need of winterisation assistance (Shelter Cluster, 17/08/2015). 132,000 Syrian refugees and 585,000 Iraqi IDPs in need of winter assistance have been targeted (UNHCR, 01/10/2015).

340,354 IDPs are currently living in 86 formal settlements, with plans for the construction of a further ten settlements with capacity to shelter 351,795 IDPs. 222,253 of the IDPs living in settlements are in KR-I, while 118,101 are in central and southern regions. Arbat IDP camp in Sulaymaniyah is severely overcrowded, hosting 11,148 people instead of the planned 4,800 (CCCM, 06/10/2015).

8,750 Yazidis on Mount Sinjar are in particular need of shelter and winterisation

assistance, having escaped IS advances in August 2014, (IRIN, 30/09/2015).

Refugees: Refugees are increasingly seeking to move to camps due to the high cost of living in KR-I and lack of livelihood opportunities for low to medium-skilled workers (DRC/UNDP, 31/07/2015; UNICEF 31/08/2015). 3,134 new or improved shelter plots are required in Gawilan, Kawergosk, Basirma and Qushtapa camps, and a further 719 shelter units are required in Erbil (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Non-camp refugee populations require shelter upgrading and community infrastructure support. (UNHCR, 31/07/2015). **In September, 60% of Syrian refugees living outside camps were found to be in need of financial support for rent (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).**

Education

More than three million children did not attend the full 2014/2015 school year, and more than 650,000 who have received no schooling at all (UN, 30/06/2015). 70% of displaced school- aged children have lost a full year of education (OCHA, 29/09/2015). Shortages of space and resources remain a major learning barrier (UNHCR, 30/09/2015; OCHA, 29/09/2015). Many schools continue to operate at least two shifts per day (UNICEF, 30/09/2015). The scheduled September start of the school year has been delayed in many parts of the country as a precaution against the spread of cholera (UNICEF, 30/09/2015).

Anbar: More than 1,500 schools have been damaged or destroyed by conflict in the province (AFP, 03/08/2015).

Refugees: 68% of school-aged refugee children are attending school, including 74% in camps and 62% outside camps. Attendance in primary school in camps varies from 67% in Arbat to 95% in Kawergosk. **Schooling challenges in camps include overcrowded classrooms, and shortages of teachers and support personnel (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). Refugees also face multiple barriers to education in host communities in KR-I (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). Lack of space blunted the effectiveness of an August 2015 agreement between the Ministry of Education and UNHCR to allow Syrian parents to register children in Kurdish schools (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).** At least 50% of Syrian teachers have been unpaid since at least April, due to KR-I's limited budget (UNICEF/Save the Children, 31/07/2015; UNICEF, 31/08/2015). Only 5% of 15-17 year olds attend formal education (UNICEF/Save the Children 31/08/2015).

Protection

IS has committed targeted attacks, killings, torture, rape, forced religious conversion, and child conscription. Sharia courts have been established in IS-controlled territories, carrying out extreme punishments against men, women, and children (UN, 19/03/2015; 20/01/2015). As many as 3,700, predominantly from the Yazidi community and other ethnic and religious groups, remain in IS captivity (Reuters, 09/10/2015). ISF and associated militias have allegedly carried out looting, killing, torture, and abduction during their

counter-offensives against IS (Reuters, 04/04/2015; 21/03/2015; Amnesty, 02/04/2015). Reports of possible use of chemical weapons by IS against Kurdish forces in August are a serious concern (Reuters, 07/10/2015).

Increasing violence and intimidation against media workers has been reported in IS-controlled areas, particularly in Ninewa governorate (UNESCO/UNAMI 01/09/2015). In Mosul alone, 40 journalists have been assassinated since IS took the city in June 2014 (IJS, 16/08/2015). There are also reports of security forces and unidentified gunmen threatening journalists covering the protests across Iraq (ISW, 14/09/2015; Reporters without Borders, 12/10/2015).

Eviction and threats of eviction of displaced people living in public buildings, apartments and houses in Anbar, Babylon and Baghdad have been reported in September (OCHA, 15/09/2015).

Refugees: In August, humanitarian agencies received increasing reports of people smugglers operating in camps in Iraq to facilitate departures of heads of households to Turkey and Europe (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). **Some refugees already in the resettlement process are reportedly opting to travel to Europe independently due to delays in processing (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).**

Children

Around 2.4 million children are living in the most affected governorates of Iraq. Grave violations against children, including sexual violence, maiming, and forced recruitment, are prominent (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 20/06/2015). IS has reportedly sold children as sex slaves, is using minors as suicide bombers, and providing military training to schoolchildren in Syria and Iraq (AFP, 08/06/2015; OCHA, 06/02/2015). The group abducted 400 children in Anbar during the last week of May (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Child marriage is increasingly used as a strategy by families to protect young girls from sexual violence and deprivation (OCHA, 12/08/2015).

Children are reportedly being arrested for begging on the streets in Erbil (UNICEF, 30/09/2015).

Refugees: 40% of Syrian refugees in Iraq are children (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). Child labour is affecting 16-30% of Syrian refugee children in Dahuk (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

Documentation

IDPs: Lack of documentation among IDPs is a key concern, especially as it is a prerequisite for residency permits and difficult to obtain outside a person's area of origin: many children born in displacement lack birth registration, while up to 50% of IDP families are reportedly missing at least one important personal identity document (OCHA,

14/07/2015). There are reports of IDPs from Diyala and Kirkuk having their documentation confiscated and being forced to return to their province of origin (OCHA, 04/07/2015). Reports also highlight arrests of IDPs without documentation in Kirkuk (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Refugees: Residency permits in KR-I are only issued for 3-6 months, which has limited access to legal employment (DRC/UNDP, 31/07/2015). Many of the 37,500 Syrian refugee children aged 0–4 lack birth registration documents because their parents do not have any (UNHCR, 25/05/2015). Refugees in Al Obaidi camp in Anbar continue to lack access to legal documentation and assistance due to inaccessibility of government services (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

Gender

Accurate numbers of women and girls affected by abuse across Iraq are hard to obtain. Reports show an increase in sexual violence, abduction, trafficking, and forced recruitment of women. IS reportedly carried out systematic sexual violence against Yazidi women and girls in northern Iraq (HRW, 15/04/2015).

Mines and ERW

The Government estimates there are approximately 25 million landmines in Iraq (UN, 26/10/2015). IS is reportedly planting more (MAG, 07/2015). Landmines present a major danger to people returning to homes that have been affected by conflict (OCHA, 04/10/2015).

Updated: 27/10/2015

SYRIA DISPLACEMENT, CIVIL WAR



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

24 October: Both IS and government forces have advanced in Aleppo governorate over the last weeks, causing an estimated 35,000 people to become newly displaced in the governorate (ISW, 24/10/2014; AFP, 21/10/2015).

23 October: The foreign ministers of US, Russia, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia met in Vienna to discuss Syria – new talks between the parties are expected before end October (Reuters).

KEY CONCERNS

- 11,000 people were killed in the first six months of 2015 (SNHR, 01/07/2015). Over 250,000 deaths documented March 2011–October 2015, including over 74,000 civilians, 12,000 of them children (SOHR, 16/10/2015).
- 12.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including 5.6 million children (OCHA/UNICEF, 12/2014).
- 7.6 million IDPs (OCHA, 28/12/2014).
- 4.8 million people live in hard-to-reach areas (OCHA, 12/2014).
- 4.2 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 15/10/2015).

OVERVIEW

12.2 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including 5.6 million children.

The conflict has killed over 250,000 people and caused large-scale displacement. Protection concerns are widespread. WASH and access to food are high priorities, as well as access to health services. Humanitarian needs in areas under prolonged and ongoing siege are particularly high because access is obstructed.

For more information, see the SNAP project's reports.

Politics and security

The conflict in Syria has been ongoing since 2011, when fighting broke out between pro-government and opposition forces. Widespread conflict and high levels of violence continue, including indiscriminate aerial bombing by government forces and indiscriminate shelling by armed opposition (UNSC, 23/06/2015). Civilians have been subject to direct and indiscriminate attacks, including the widespread use of barrel bombs and other explosives in populated areas (UNSC, 18/06/2015).

Over the first six months of 2015, 11,090 people were killed, according to the Syrian Network for Human Rights. Government forces are believed to be responsible for 77% of the deaths, including 6,928 civilians (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 01/07/2015). 1,500 people were reported killed in September; 33% of these were women and children. These figures do not include casualties among government or IS forces (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 01/10/2015).

2014 saw the highest annual death toll since the war began, with 76,000 people killed in conflict, including 18,000 civilians (SOHR, 02/01/2014). More than 250,000 people have been killed since fighting began in March 2011 and more than one million people have been wounded or suffered permanent disability (SOHR, 15/10/2015; UNICEF, 03/2015).

On 23 October, the US Secretary of State Kerry met with the Russian, Turkish, and Saudi Arabian foreign ministers in Vienna to discuss the Syrian conflict. According to Kerry, new talks among the international stakeholders are expected to begin before November (AFP, 25/10/2015; Reuters, 25/10/2015; 23/10/2015).

Stakeholders

Government forces have control of an estimated 20–30% of Syrian territory: Aleppo city, Damascus city, Homs city and surroundings, Tartous governorate, parts of As-Sweida, Dar'a, Hama, Latakia, and Quneitra governorates, and some areas in Al Hasakeh, Deir-ez-Zor, and Idlib governorates (ISW, 14/09/2015).

Islamic State (IS, formerly the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant): Ar-Raqqa governorate is IS's stronghold in Syria, and under IS control since October 2014. IS holds significant swathes of territory in Aleppo, Al Hasakeh, Homs and Deir-ez-Zor governorates (ISW, 14/09/2015).

Democratic Union Party (PYD) and People's Protection Units (YPG): Syrian Kurds have been in de facto control of Kurdish zones in the north since government forces withdrew mid-2012. This includes large areas of the northern parts of Al Hasakeh, Ar Raqqa, and Aleppo governorates (ISW, 14/09/2015).

Other armed groups include the Al Qaeda-affiliated Jabhat al Nusra (JAN), which controls areas in Idlib governorate (ISW, 19/06/2015). In some governorates, JAN and other armed groups, including Ahrar al Sham and Jaysh al Islam, have joined forces in so-called Operations Rooms, including the Jaysh al Fatah Operations Room in Idlib, the Ansar al Sharia Operations Room in Aleppo governorate, and Aleppo Conquest Operations Room active in Aleppo, Hama and Idlib governorates (BBC, 02/07/2015; ISW, 20/05/2015; 28/04/2015).

International intervention: Hezbollah forces are present in government-held areas bordering Lebanon and have been a key actor in military operations against armed groups in the border areas (ISW, 14/09/2015). In early September, Russia confirmed it had delivered military equipment and advisers to Syria (SOHR, 13/09/2015; Reuters, 10/09/2015). According to US officials, several hundred Iranian troops were deployed to Syria in late September (ISW, 01/10/2015; Reuters, 01/10/2015).

A US-led coalition began airstrikes on IS and JAN military installations in September 2014. Turkey began airstrikes in Syria in July 2015 (BBC, 24/07/2015). Russia launched

its first airstrikes in Syria on 30 September. Russian airstrikes have reportedly mainly targeted opposition-held territory in Aleppo, Idlib, and Homs governorates, in addition to IS targets in Ar-Raqqa governorate (ISW, 19/10/2015; BBC, 12/10/2015). Russian ships have also been deployed to the Caspian Sea (ISW, 07/10/2015). **In late October, US and Russia agreed on measures to ensure air safety over Syria (AFP, 21/10/2015).**

Conflict developments

Since mid-September, fighting and airstrikes have intensified in almost all governorates over recent months, and frontlines continue to shift (UNHCR, 08/09/2015). Over October, government forces have launched renewed military offensives in Aleppo, Idlib, Homs, Hama, and Lattakia governorates, supported by Russian airstrikes (ECHO, 19/10/2015; BBC, 15/10/2015; ISW, 14/10/2015).

In late September, a six-month ceasefire was agreed in Zabadani town (Rural Damascus), and al Foua and Kefraya towns – the two last government-held areas in Idlib. The ceasefire will allow for 10,000 civilians to be evacuated from the besieged Idlib towns (AFP, 24/09/2015).

Ar-Raqqa: An alliance of armed groups called the Democratic Forces of Syria, which includes YPG, are reportedly planning to launch an offensive on Ar-Raqqa city, IS's stronghold in Syria (BBC, 12/10/2015).

Aleppo: Both IS and government forces have been advancing in Aleppo governorate over October, while opposition groups are losing territory (ISW, 24/10/2015). Government forces, supported by Russian airstrikes and reportedly Hezbollah and Iranian ground forces, launched an offensive in southern Aleppo governorate on 15 October. Government forces have reportedly regained control over at least five villages (AFP, 21/10/2015). Reports indicate that close to 35,000 people have become displaced in the governorate since the beginning of the offensives (AFP, 21/10/2015).

Hama: Ground fighting and airstrikes continue in northern Hama, but government forces are reportedly yet to make significant gains (ISW, 14/10/2015). Government forces launched a ground offensive with the support of Russian airstrikes in early October along the strategically important M5 highway, which connects Hama and Aleppo cities (ISW, 07/10/2015).

Homs: Fighting has intensified following a renewed government offensive in mid-October, leading to a spike in displacement (ECHO, 19/10/2015; BBC 15/10/2015). Clashes between government and IS forces in the Shaer gas field intensified late September, coupled with intensified government airstrikes in the governorate (AFP, 31/09/2015). In early September, IS forces seized Jazal oil field, the last oil field under government control (SOHR, 07/09/2015).

Idlib: Extensive shelling and fighting was reported in Idlib mid-October, following a

government offensive that began earlier in the month (ECHO, 19/10/2015). In early September, Jaysh al Fatah Operations Room seized Abu Duhur airbase from the government (ICG, 01/10/2015). Government airstrikes targeting Jaysh al Fatah Operations Room intensified mid-September (BBC, 19/09/2015).

Lattakia: As of mid-October, government forces have renewed operations in northern Lattakia governorate, in an attempt to regain control of the whole governorate (BBC, 19/10/2015; AFP, 17/10/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

There are 7.6 million IDPs within Syria; 50% are children (OCHA, 31/08/2015; 25/11/2014).

As of 22 September, an estimated 1.2 million people have been internally displaced so far this year. Many of them have been displaced several times since the conflict broke out (OCHA, 22/09/2015). The largest numbers of newly displaced IDPs are reported in Idlib, Ar-Raqqa, Al Hasakeh, and Dar'a governorates (OCHA, 22/09/2015).

As a result of renewed military offensives in Hama and Idlib governorates, a spike in displacement has been reported. Almost 53,000 people have reportedly become newly displaced in Hama and Idlib governorates so far in October. The majority are staying in open spaces or with host families (ECHO, 19/10/2015). In October, an estimated 15,500 people in Homs governorate and **estimated 35,000 people in Aleppo governorate have become newly displaced (AFP, 21/10/2015; BBC 19/10/2015; ECHO, 19/10/2015).**

Refugees

Palestinian refugees in Syria (PRS): 560,000 Palestinian refugees are currently registered in Syria. Of these, 80,000 have fled to other countries. Over 95% of the 480,000 Palestinian refugees who remain within Syria are dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 31/08/2015).

Iraqi refugees: An estimated 29,000 Iraqi refugees live in Syria (UNHCR 25/11/2014).

Returnees

73,500 Syrian refugees in Turkey have returned to Kurdish-controlled areas in northern Syria so far in 2015 (OCHA, 22/09/2015). Syrian refugees in Jordan are also increasingly returning to Syria, as funding shortfalls have led to a worsened humanitarian situation for refugees. Almost 4,000 Syrian refugees returned from Jordan in August (AP, 05/10/2015).

Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries

Almost 4.2 million Syrians are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries as of 4

October; a million more than in September 2014 (UNHCR, 19/10/2015). Since the war began, more than 500,000 Syrian asylum seekers have been registered in Europe – more than 180,000 asylum applications were registered between July and September 2015 (UNHCR, 13/10/2015).

Turkey: 2,072,290 registered refugees (UNHCR, 02/10/2015).

Lebanon: 1,078,338 refugees (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

Jordan: 629,627 refugees (UNHCR, 19/10/2015).

Iraq: 245,585 refugees (UNHCR, 15/10/2015).

Egypt: 128,019 refugees (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

PRS: 42,000 Palestinians previously registered as refugees in Syria have been recorded with UNRWA in Lebanon, 14,348 in Jordan and 860 in Gaza. Around 4,000 are reportedly in Egypt (UNRWA, 02/03/2015; 28/10/2014).

Humanitarian access

4.6 million people are living in 137 hard-to-reach areas, including up to two million children (OCHA, 27/08/2015; UNICEF, 12/2014; UNFPA, 31/05/2015). Delivery of aid continues to be hampered by ongoing insecurity and lack of access for humanitarian organisations to government and opposition-held areas (AFP, 28/08/2015).

Local and international NGOs are reporting a lack of staff due to Syrians fleeing the country, in particular affecting NGOs that provide health services (IRIN, 07/09/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Ten aid workers have been killed and three injured since the beginning of 2015 (OCHA, 30/04/2015; Aid Worker Security Database, 20/04/2015). 77 humanitarian workers have been killed in the conflict since March 2011 (OCHA, 30/04/2015). 27 UN staff (including 24 UNRWA staff) have been detained or are missing (UNSC, 21/11/2014).

Access of affected populations to assistance

4.6 million people live in hard-to-reach communities; an estimated 2.7 million of these live in IS-controlled areas where humanitarian access continues to deteriorate (OCHA, 27/08/2015; 30/04/2015). 422,000 civilians are living in besieged areas (OCHA, 22/06/2015).

UN agencies only reached 1% of the population in besieged areas with food assistance in the first half of 2015, and only 2% with health supplies. In July, they reached none of the besieged areas. Only 12% of people living in hard-to-reach areas were reached with food assistance in the first half of 2015, only 3% of them with health supplies (OCHA,

27/08/2015).

Aleppo: The town of Mare and surrounding areas have been out of reach of humanitarian actors since late August due to heavy fighting (ECHO, 09/09/2015).

Damascus: 600,000 people living in Al Tal, Al Hameh, and Qudssaya in northern Damascus have come under siege since late July. No humanitarian supplies are reaching the areas (MSF, 10/09/2015). Eastern Ghouta remains under siege; the population is in urgent need of assistance after weeks of intense bombing and hospitals are overwhelmed (MSF, 10/09/2015). The UN has removed Yarmouk from its list of besieged areas, despite UNRWA not having been able to deliver aid within the camp for four months (IRIN, 24/07/2015).

Deir-ez-Zor: IS has cut off access to government-controlled areas of Deir-ez-Zor, leaving an estimated 228,000 civilians under siege since February: minimal relief supplies have been airlifted into the city (UNICEF, 30/04/2015).

Homs: IOM reached areas in Homs governorate in late August, however report that access is very limited (IOM, 01/09/2015).

Idleb: Lack of access due to insecurity continues to significantly hamper tracking of population movement, safe registration of IDPs, identification of lifesaving needs and provision of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 14/04/2015).

Rural Damascus: 40,000 people are in urgent need of basic services in Moadamiyah town, which has been cut off for several months. Little to no food or water is available; access to healthcare is lacking; and there is no electricity (ICRC, 18/06/2015). As of September, the siege of Moadamiyah has tightened: humanitarian assistance cannot reach the town, and people cannot enter or leave (MSF, 10/09/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Humanitarian access has become further affected by the escalation of fighting following the first Russian airstrikes in late September – increased aerial bombardment from all parties is making supply routes more dangerous (AFP, 16/10/2015).

Siege tactics are used by all actors in the conflict. Parties to the conflict continue to target public infrastructure and facilities, including water supply and electricity (OCHA, 27/08/2015). Electricity is only available for two–four hours a day, or not available at all, in most parts of Syria (UNHCR, 08/09/2015). In the north, fuel shortages are severely limiting transportation (MSF, 22/06/2015). Since January 2014, prices of diesel have increased by 110%, and petrol prices by 65% (Logistics Cluster, 25/09/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

9.8 million people require food, agriculture, and livelihoods-related assistance, according to

the Food Security and Livelihoods sector. Of these, around 6.8 million people live in high-priority districts and need critical food assistance (WFP, 26/03/2015). High food prices have caused households to reduce the number of meals and eat lower quality and less nutritious food (UNICEF, 08/09/2015).

Food availability

Wheat production in 2015 is estimated to be 40% lower than pre-conflict levels, although higher than in 2014. It is the smallest estimated harvested wheat area since the 1960s (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015). Government-controlled areas are suffering a shortage of wheat, as government forces have lost control over many wheat-producing areas, and insecurity causes losses during transportation (Reuters, 23/09/2015).

Crop production has been adversely affected by the lack or the high price of agricultural inputs (such as seeds, fertiliser, and fuel); damage to agricultural machinery, irrigation systems, and storage facilities; disruptions in electricity supply; and destruction of standing crops (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015; FAO, 17/06/2015).

Food access

Food prices increased sharply in early 2015 (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015). Since 2011, the average monthly prices of wheat flour and rice have increased 301% and 629%, respectively. In besieged areas, wheat flour and rice prices have risen by 669% and 560%, respectively. Subsidised bread prices have risen by 180%, and commercial prices by 220% (WFP, 05/2015).

Livelihoods

More than half of Syria's population are estimated to be living in extreme poverty (ECHO, 09/09/2015). Unemployment stood at 57% the last quarter of 2014; an 8% increase since early 2014 (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015). Gross domestic product has contracted by more than 40%, and exports have fallen by 90%. Oil production has dropped by 96% (World Bank/IMF/AFP, 02/12/2014). Insecurity is hampering transportation (FAO/WFP, 23/07/2015).

Health

Over 2.4 million people are in need of health assistance (MSNA, 30/10/2014).

Healthcare availability and access

25% of hospitals are not functioning, and 32% of hospitals are only partially functioning, due to shortages of staff, equipment, and supplies, or damaged infrastructure (UNICEF, 31/07/2015). Health services in Aleppo, Dar'a, Homs, Hama, Idleb and Al Hasakeh governorates have been the most affected by conflict (UNICEF, 31/07/2015). The number

of available health professionals has fallen to approximately 45% of 2011 levels (WHO, 27/03/2015). **Local production of medicines has fallen by 60% and many lifesaving treatments are not available (Health Cluster, 30/09/2015). A shortage of ambulances is also reported (Health Cluster, 30/09/2015).**

Populations living in hard-to-reach or besieged areas have very limited access to healthcare. In rural areas, access to healthcare is adversely impacted by shortage of medicines, medical supplies and sufficient numbers of medical personnel. Health facilities in urban areas are overwhelmed by large numbers of IDPs (Health Cluster, 30/09/2015).

Since 2011, 654 medical personnel have been killed (Health Cluster, 30/09/2015). Physicians for Human Rights has recorded 271 attacks on 202 medical facilities. Government forces were found to be responsible for 90% of attacks on medical facilities – including 51 attacks with barrel bombs – and 97% of medical personnel deaths – including 142 deaths by torture or execution (PHR, 18/06/2015).

Waterborne diseases

Water shortages have led to a significant increase in waterborne diseases, including typhoid and diarrhoea. Aleppo, Rural Damascus, and Deir-ez-Zor are the most affected (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). In the first five months of 2015, 1,000 hepatitis A cases were recorded per month (UNHCR, 10/05/2015). Significant increases in hepatitis A and typhoid cases were reported over May–July in Hama, Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb, and Rural Damascus (UNICEF, 31/07/2015).

In late August, 26 cases of typhoid were reported in Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus (UN News Centre, 21/08/2015).

WASH

4.6 million people are in need of WASH assistance. Six out of ten governorates report major problems in the WASH sector (MSNA, 30/10/2014). New waves of displacement have put further strain on water and sanitation networks (UNICEF, 10/07/2015).

Water

Syria's water infrastructure has been severely affected by the conflict: an estimated half of the total production capacity has been lost or damaged (ICRC, 02/09/2015). The availability of clean drinking water is estimated to be less than one-third of pre-crisis levels (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). The reliability of urban piped water is severely reduced and the quality of drinking water cannot be guaranteed due to a lack of testing facilities. Fuel shortages also affect water supply (UNICEF, 10/07/2015).

Deliberate disruptions to water supply systems are increasingly being used by various

parties to the conflict as a tactic of war (UNICEF, 19/08/2015). Water from the main distribution system in Aleppo was cut for the first two weeks of August, and again at the end of the month (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). During August, water prices in Aleppo increased as much as 3,000% (UNICEF, 25/08/2015). In and around Damascus, water cuts in the last weeks of August affected at least five million people. Water supplies have been restored, but not to adequate levels (ECHO, 21/08/2015). Water pumping stations in Idleb governorate are operating only two hours a day (UNICEF 10/07/2015).

On average, the population of Aleppo has access to running water for only half of the month (Reuters, 15/10/2015).

Sanitation

One-third of water treatment plants no longer function, and sewage treatment has halved (PHR, 10/2014; WHO/UNICEF, 22/07/2014). New waves of displacement have put further strain on sanitation networks (UNICEF, 10/07/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

In late 2014, 1.6 million people were estimated to be in need of shelter and NFI assistance (2015 Syria SRP, 17/12/2014).

Shelter

Extremely limited information is available on shelter needs of the 7.6 million IDPs (IOM, 31/08/2015; Shelter Cluster, 29/07/2015).

98% of IDPs live in unofficial settlements and/or in host communities; 2% live in communal shelters, (IOM, 31/08/2015). Buildings are often overcrowded and IDPs lack access to basic services (UNHCR, 02/09/2015; IOM, 31/08/2015).

More than one million houses have been damaged, 400,000 of which have been totally destroyed (UNHCR, 02/09/2015).

Education

2.7 million children are currently out of school – approximately half of all school-aged children (UNICEF, 01/10/2015; Education Cluster, 22/09/2015). Another one million children are at risk of dropping out as a result of insecurity and displacement (Education Cluster, 22/09/2015; UNICEF, 15/09/2015). In areas of prolonged active conflict, education enrolment is estimated to be around 6% (Save the Children, 03/2015).

Attendance levels have further dropped in Homs, Idleb, Hama, and Aleppo governorates following increased airstrikes and ground fighting since late September (UNICEF, 10/2015).

52,000 teachers are no longer teaching (UNICEF, 01/10/2015). Other obstacles to education include the lack of safe learning spaces and learning material, and lack of adequate WASH facilities (Education Cluster, 22/09/2015).

Schools are frequently deliberately targeted. One in four has been damaged, destroyed, occupied, or is used as shelter by IDPs (Education Cluster, 22/09/2015).

Protection

Non-state armed groups and pro-government forces continue to commit human rights violations. Ethnic and religious communities in IS-occupied areas have been targeted (UN Human Rights Council 11/2014). Human and organ trafficking are reported (UNHCR 20/11/2014). Chemical weapons attacks have been reported (Reuters, 18/07/2015; HRW, 03/06/2015). Forced displacement and demolitions have been reported in YPG-controlled areas in northern Syria (Amnesty International, 13/10/2015).

Both government and opposition forces have reportedly carried out arbitrary detention and abduction (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 30/08/2015).

Since the start of the conflict, 11,500 people have died from torture while in detention; government forces were responsible for 99% of cases (Syrian Network for Human Rights, 26/06/2015).

Journalists and other media workers are systematically targeted. Since the conflict began in 2011, 84 journalists have been killed, more than 90 abducted, and 25 remain missing (Institute for War and Peace Reporting, 12/08/2015).

Mines and ERW

Large quantities of unexploded ordnance and many booby-trapped houses in the eastern sector of Kobane city and the surrounding countryside are preventing return (OCHA, 17/02/2015). Since late January, there have been 45 explosions and 66 people killed, the vast majority of them civilians, according to a demining NGO (IRIN, 07/05/2015).

Children

Various opposition groups, including JAN, Kurdish groups, and IS have been found to recruit children (NOREF, 16/02/2015). In 2015, IS has trained over 400 children as fighters (AFP, 24/03/2015). 52 children recruited by IS have been killed so far in 2015, including 16 who were used in suicide bombings (SOHR, 15/07/2015). The YPG has recruited 59 children since June 2014 (HRW, 15/07/2015). More than 12,000 children have been killed since 2011 (NRC, 06/10/2015).

Updated: 26/10/2015



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 October: A de facto blockade of Taizz city means humanitarian actors cannot access the 200,000 people inside (ECHO, 26/10/2015; OHCHR, 23/10/2015).

23 October: 2,577 civilian deaths make up half of all conflict-related deaths since the escalation of conflict in March (OHCHR).

KEY CONCERNS

- 21.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 10/06/2015).
- 12.2 million people directly affected by the conflict (OCHA, 10/06/2015).
- 12.9 million people are food insecure (IPC Indicative Analysis, 18/06/2015). Six million are estimated to be severely food insecure (OCHA, 05/06/2015).
- More than 15 million people lack access to healthcare (OCHA, 03/06/2015).
- 1.6 million children under five are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition, including 400,000 potential SAM cases (OCHA, 13/07/2015; 12/06/2015).
- At least 20 million people lack access to clean water. Since the escalation of the crisis, 9.4 million people have lost access to safe water (OCHA, 05/06/2015).
- 2.3 million IDPs in Yemen (Protection Cluster, 14/10/2015).

OVERVIEW

Yemen's political transition has turned into armed conflict between Houthis from the north and the government. Southern secessionists, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), and Islamic State activity throughout the country compound the security and political challenges. Access to safe drinking water, healthcare, and other basic services continues to decline. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) has declared Yemen a Level 3 emergency based on the severe humanitarian situation.

Politics and security

Instability and violence continue across the country. 21 of Yemen's 22 governorates are directly affected by airstrikes, armed clashes, and shelling (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Conflict between Houthi and government forces began to escalate significantly from late March 2015, and several ceasefires have failed to hold (AFP, 27/07/2015; 13/07/2015). Peace talks have not brought any agreement: the last round of UN-led talks including government and Houthi representatives concluded in Geneva on 19 June (AFP, 19/06/2015). A new round was expected to begin in mid-September, but the Hadi government will only join if the Houthis withdraw their forces from all the territory they seized during the conflict (AFP, 14/09/2015; 10/09/2015). On 7 October, Houthi representatives announced they would accept the UN Security Council resolution that calls for this (BBC, 07/10/2015; AFP, 07/10/2015). On 18 October, government representatives announced their decision to join UN-brokered peace talks (Reuters, 18/10/2015).

Houthi forces took control of the capital in September 2014. In February 2015, the Houthis dissolved Parliament, and President Hadi fled to Aden. In March, Houthi forces advanced further south, and President Hadi escaped to Saudi Arabia; he was reported to have returned to Aden on 22 September (AFP, 22/09/2015). On 25 March, a Saudi-led coalition began airstrikes in support of pro-government forces. Islamist groups, including AQAP, Ansar al Sharia and Islamic State (IS), have exploited the power vacuum to take control of large areas in southeastern Yemen (ICG, 2015; Al Jazeera, 27/03/2015; CNN, 27/03/2015; New York Times, 25/01/2015; UNHCR, 26/06/2015). As of August 2015, Houthi forces have lost control over much of southern Yemen, but remain strong in northern governorates (ECHO, 17/08/2015; ICG, 12/08/2015).

By 15 October, 5,564 conflict-related deaths and 26,568 injuries had been registered since March (OCHA, 15/10/2015). **Civilians account for almost half of those killed – 2,577 deaths as of late October (OHCHR, 23/10/2015).** These numbers are expected to be much higher due to underreporting (OHCHR, 01/09/2015).

Stakeholders

Pro-government forces, supported by Saudi-led coalition airstrikes, aim to regain control over Houthi- and AQAP-controlled areas. President Hadi has been in command of government forces. However, the Yemeni army is deeply divided, with units loyal to President Hadi fighting pro-Houthi units (ABC 15/04/2015).

The Houthis, also referred to as Ansar Allah, are based in Sa'ada governorate. They have taken up arms before, citing political, economic, and religious marginalisation (Al Jazeera, 16/11/2009). Factions in the Yemeni army who are allied with the Houthis include members of the former central security force, a unit seen as loyal to former President Saleh (Reuters, 12/03/2015; ABC, 23/03/2015). Estimates put the number of Houthi militants at around 20,000–30,000 (Al Jazeera, 04/03/2015).

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and Ansar al Sharia: AQAP is based in the south and east of the country. Ansar al Sharia has gained a foothold in the south and is believed to be a local branch of AQAP (ICG, 27/02/2015). According to the national security service, there are around 1,000 Al Qaeda militants in Yemen, from 11 Arab and non-Arab countries (AFP, 17/01/2015).

Islamic State (IS) has carried out several attacks on Shi'ite mosques in Sanaa over 2015. In October, IS attacked the temporary government headquarters and a military installation belonging to the Saudi-led coalition in Aden, the first IS attack during the conflict targeting government and military targets (AFP, 07/10/2015; BBC, 06/10/2015).

International involvement: A Saudi-led coalition began airstrikes in support of pro-Hadi forces on 26 March. UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, and Egypt are also members of the coalition (CNN, 29/03/2015). The coalition has deployed an estimated 10,000 ground troops in Yemen (Reuters, 08/09/2015). Saudi Arabia claims that Iran backs Houthi militants financially and materially, a claim the Iranian government denies (Amnesty 26/03/2015).

Conflict developments

As of mid-October, the governorates most affected by conflict are Sanaa, Sa'ada, Hajjah, Marib, Hodeidah, Al Dhalee, Ibb, Taizz, and Abyan (IOM, 15/10/2015). Pro-government forces have regained control over Aden, Abyan, Shabwah, Lahj, and Al Dhalee governorates (WFP, 21/08/2015). Houthi forces had reportedly lost all the territory they held in southern governorates by mid-August (ECHO, 17/08/2015; ICG, 12/08/2015). In mid-September, government forces launched a new offensive aiming to regain control of Sanaa, as well as Marib and Al Jawf governorates (AFP, 14/09/2015).

Aden: On 17 October, hundreds of Sudanese troops – part of the Saudi-led coalition – arrived in Aden to secure the governorate following an escalation of violence (AP, 17/10/2015). On 6 October, the temporary government headquarters in Aden city were targeted by two bomb attacks claimed by IS – two guards were killed and several ministers were lightly wounded. On the same day, IS also claimed two bomb attacks targeting military installations used by the Saudi-led coalition. This was the first IS attack on government and military targets (AFP, 07/10/2015; BBC, 06/10/2015).

Marib: In late September, Saudi-led coalition ground forces began advancing west from eastern Marib; heavy fighting is reported between coalition and Houthi forces (ICG, 01/10/2015; ECHO, 21/09/2015).

Sa'ada: Intensified airstrikes and continuous shelling were reported in September, causing frequent electricity shortages and damage to infrastructure (OCHA, 29/09/2015; ECHO, 14/09/2015).

Sanaa: Saudi-led coalition airstrikes have increased in Sanaa and other northern

governorates since early September (Logistics Cluster, 28/09/2015; ECHO, 21/09/2015). IS has in recent months claimed responsibility for several bombings targeting Shi'ite mosques in the capital (AFP, 03/09/2015). On 6 October, seven people were killed in another bombing outside a Shi'ite mosque (AFP, 07/10/2015).

Taizz: Indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas in Taizz city is reported late October. Houthi forces have established checkpoints around the city, which has led to a de facto blockade (OHCHR, 23/10/2015; ICRC, 21/10/2015). Government forces have reportedly made gains in southwestern Taizz city (Reuters, 25/10/2015). Intense conflict is also reported between Bab al Mandab and Mokha (AP, 04/10/2015).

Displacement

It is difficult to estimate displacement figures and needs due to several waves of conflict, lack of access, and the fluidity of displacement. 2.3 million people are thought to have been displaced in Yemen since March – adding to an estimated 800,000 returnees, refugees, and migrants in need of assistance (Protection Cluster, 14/10/2015; OCHA, 12/06/2015).

IDPs

As of October, 2.3 million people have been internally displaced since the escalation of conflict, almost 900,000 more than in August. The increase in number is partially explained by better data collection, however continued insecurity has also led to increased displacement (Protection Cluster, 14/10/2015). More than 1.3 million of the IDPs (57%) originate from the five most conflict-affected governorates: Abyan, Aden, Al Dhalee, Hajjah and Taizz (Protection Cluster, 14/10/2015).

Most IDPs are staying with friends and family (OCHA, 19/06/2015; OCHA, 10/06/2015). IDPs and host communities are in need of food, shelter, health services, and fuel (IOM, 23/07/2015).

In Taizz governorate, IDPs are in immediate need of food, shelter, health, and WASH services (Protection Cluster, 22/09/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 15 September, 263,933 registered refugees are living in Yemen: most are Somali (249,583), and 6,067 are Ethiopian (UNHCR, 15/09/2015). Since the escalation of conflict in March, more than 25,000 Somalis and 4,000 Ethiopians have returned to their countries of origin (IOM, 17/09/2015; 11/09/2015).

Conflict in areas close to refugee-hosting sites has resulted in further displacement of refugees and asylum seekers, loss of livelihoods, and a breakdown in basic services (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Insecurity is limiting access to Kharaz refugee camp in Lahj

governorate, which has a population of 17,000 (UNHCR, 15/09/2015).

Other people of concern in Yemen

Estimates indicate that over 883,000 returnees, refugees, and migrants in Yemen currently require assistance, including Yemeni migrants deported from Saudi Arabia (OCHA, 12/06/2015).

Ethiopians make up the vast majority of the 18,000 people who have arrived in Yemen since March; the rest are from Somalia (UNHCR, 01/10/2015; 14/07/2015). Almost 50,000 new arrivals have been registered in Yemen in 2015, a 50% reduction compared to 2014 (UNHCR, 01/10/2015). Many new arrivals reported they were unaware of the security situation in Yemen before arriving. Others reported they were aware of the situation, and still preferred it to the situation in their country of origin (UNHCR, 03/07/2015).

Arrivals from Yemen in other countries

Since March 2015, more than 121,000 people, consisting of Yemenis, returnees, and third-country nationals (TCNs) have left Yemen (UNHCR, 20/10/2015). As of 14 October, 29,350 have arrived in Djibouti and 29,500 in Somalia (UNHCR, 14/10/2015). 12,000 arrivals have been recorded in Ethiopia, 5,500 in Sudan, and 5,000 in Oman. 30,000 Yemenis and 10,000 TCNs have arrived in Saudi Arabia; all but 5,000 have since left Saudi Arabia for other countries (UNHCR, 01/10/2015; 27/08/2015; IOM, 17/09/2015).

Humanitarian access

Checkpoints, insecurity, and the reluctance of transporters to access volatile areas are hampering the delivery of assistance by both road and sea (WFP, 29/07/2015). Fuel shortages are further hampering humanitarian operations (OCHA, 30/06/2015). The arms embargo on the Houthis and commercial shipping restrictions also significantly impact the supply of humanitarian relief (OHCHR, 29/09/2015; OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Humanitarian access constraints are particularly severe in Sa'ada, followed by Lahj, Aden, Al Dhalee, Taizz, Abyan, Shabwah, Marib, and Al Jawf (OCHA, 07/07/2015). As of October, humanitarian access to Taizz governorate is extremely limited due to fighting (Logistics Cluster, 19/10/2015; OCHA, 31/08/2015). Access in Sanaa has been affected by intensified airstrikes in late September (Logistics Cluster, 28/09/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

On 30 September, two Yemen Red Crescent Society volunteers were killed in an airstrike in Taizz. Eight Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers have been killed since March (ICRC, 30/09/2015). Humanitarian workers in Taizz governorate are increasingly being targeted, harassed, and abducted by armed groups (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

A de facto siege has been in place in Taizz city since the beginning of September, with little to no humanitarian assistance reaching the 200,000 people in the city (ECHO, 26/10/2015; OCHA, 24/10/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Sanaa and Seiyun are the only airports operating international flights (Logistics Cluster, 07/09/2015). Aden airport has reopened but requires repair and is not fully operational (Logistics Cluster, 15/09/2015).

The Hadi government has formally banned ships from entering the country's waters without prior inspection (IRIN, 17/04/2015). Few shipping companies are willing to operate in Yemen due to insecurity (OCHA, 16/09/2015). The Saudi-led coalition has declared the Red Sea coastline from Mokha to Hodeidah and Salif ports a "restricted area", further limiting imports (ECHO, 12/10/2015). Administrative hurdles continue to hamper access to Hodeidah port (Logistics Cluster, 28/09/2015). Aden port is accessible, but land transportation from Aden to northern governorates remains restricted (OCHA, 29/09/2015). **Bridges and roads are frequently damaged in airstrikes (ECHO, 26/10/2015).**

Yemen imports 70% of its fuel, but in September, fuel imports reached only 1% of Yemen's monthly needs (OCHA, 11/10/2015). Fuel prices have increased by 250% compared to pre-crisis levels: fuel prices in Sanaa and Taizz have increased by 400% (WFP, 30/09/2015). The fuel shortage is creating severe challenges for the transportation of food, water, and medical supplies, and the operation of water pumps and generators (ECHO, 14/05/2015). On average, Yemenis have less than one hour of electricity per day (OCHA, 05/06/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

12.9 million people are food insecure, 2.3 million more than before the escalation of the crisis in March (FAO, 31/08/2015). 6.1 million people (22.7% of the population) face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes, mainly in Sa'ada, Aden, Abyan, Shabwah, Hajjah, Al Hodeidah, Taizz, Lahj, Al Dhalee, and Al Bayda. 6.8 million people (25.7%) are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), according to the June 2015 IPC Analysis. This is a 21% increase in food insecurity since last year (FAO, 31/08/2015; Indicative IPC Analysis, 18/06/2015).

More than 40% of the population are estimated to have poor or borderline food consumption, and almost 55% of IDPs –governorates in the northwest and centre-south are worst affected (WFP, 07/10/2015). Since August, food security has particularly deteriorated in Al Mahwit, Ibb, and Dhamar governorates (WFP, 07/10/2015).

Food availability

While Yemen ordinarily imports 90% of its food, imports of staple foods, such as cereals, have almost completely ceased since the escalation of conflict (FAO, 01/10/2015; OCHA, 29/05/2015). Cooking gas is only sparsely available in the worst conflict-affected governorates (OCHA, 13/07/2015).

Wheat and meat products are only sparsely available in 15 governorates (FEWSNET, 18/08/2015; MSF, 29/07/2015; OCHA, 13/07/2015). It is increasingly difficult to store and transport fruit and vegetables due to fuel shortages. Fuel shortages have also affected transportation of livestock (FAO, 23/06/2015). The main mills in Hodeidah and Salif port cities are facing severe fuel shortages, while the mill in Aden is working at only 20–40% capacity (OCHA, 11/10/2015).

A 30% reduction in the harvest is expected in the key cropping regions (central highlands, southern uplands, and western coastal plain) compared to previous years (FAO, 31/08/2015). The cropping season has been disrupted by conflict, malfunctioning markets, the high cost of fuel and other inputs, high operating costs for irrigation, and below-average rainfall during the planting season (FAO, 01/10/2015; 31/08/2015).

A 75% reduction in fish production is estimated in Taizz, Aden, Lahj, and Abyan governorates, while in other governorates the reduction is estimated to be around 50% (FAO, 31/08/2015).

Food access

Staple food prices have increased by 40–160% since the start of the crisis, with the highest prices in southwestern governorates (FAO, 01/10/2015; 08/07/2015). Food prices in September were 28% higher than in August (OCHA, 11/10/2015).

The average national price of a food basket has increased by more than 30%, compared to pre-crisis levels (WFP, 07/10/2015). Wheat prices have increased by 45%, and by more than 100% in Taizz (WFP, 07/10/2015).

Airstrikes have reportedly targeted local markets and trucks carrying food (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Livelihoods

More than 2.5 million people have lost their source of income due to the suspension of basic services and social safety nets. Livelihoods have also been affected by the closure or downsizing of companies: only 3% of businesses were reported to be functioning normally in May (FEWSNET, 18/08/2015). An assessment in Hodeidah governorate found that 70% of households had lost some or all of their monthly income since March (UNICEF, 25/08/2015).

In areas affected by ground conflict, many people have not received public salaries since

March (FEWSNET, 18/08/2015). Aden, Taizz, Lahj, Al Dhalee, Abyan, Hajjah, and Sa'ada are most affected (FAO, 31/08/2015). The Social Welfare Fund, which provides financial assistance to poor households, has stopped functioning (ECHO, 22/09/2015).

65% of fishermen have lost their job and income, as a result of insecurity, lack of fuel causing spoilage, and market disruption (FAO, 31/08/2015; OCHA, 06/07/2015; FAO, 08/07/2015).

Health

About 15.2 million people lack access to basic healthcare, 40% more than in March (OCHA, 03/06/2015; 14/06/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Out of 5,642 health facilities in Yemen, 754 (13%) are non-functional and 559 (10%) partially functional as a result of the conflict (WHO, 30/07/2015).

Qualified medical staff were already in short supply before the crisis: health staff are increasingly unable to report to work, and non-Yemeni health staff, who made up at least 25% of health workers, have been evacuated (WHO, 27/04/2015). Health professionals who continue working have not been paid in months (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Ambulance services are non-functional in most areas heavily affected by conflict due to fuel shortages and security threats (OCHA, 14/06/2015). There have been reports of ambulances being commandeered by militias (OCHA, 27/08/2015).

Prior to the conflict, Yemen imported 80% of its medical supplies (OCHA, 30/06/2015). Medicines for diabetes, hypertension, and cancer are no longer available and there are acute shortages in critical medical supplies – trauma kits, medicines, blood bags and other necessities (OCHA, 12/06/2015). The only oxygen-generating plant in Yemen ceased to function in April due to lack of fuel (OCHA, 19/04/2015). Yemen's national blood transfusion centre in Sanaa is operating at a minimum, due to fuel shortages and shortage of essential supplies (WHO, 27/09/2015).

Outbreak response, including surveillance and early response, is no longer functioning (OCHA, 13/07/2015; 14/06/2015). 25% of Yemen's health facilities are no longer conducting routine vaccination (UNICEF, 07/07/2015). 87 out of 333 districts lack a functioning cold room to store vaccines (UNICEF, 07/07/2015).

Taizz governorate's health system has collapsed, affecting 3.2 million people. **Only six of Taizz's 20 hospitals continue to function, often only partially (MSF, 25/10/2015). Most health facilities in rural areas have closed, due to a lack of staff, fuel, and essential medicines (MSF, 25/10/2015; WHO 20/10/2015).** Humanitarian organisations are struggling to deliver medical and surgical supplies due to insecurity (WHO, 20/10/2015).

In Sa'ada governorate, there is only one hospital to serve over one million people (OCHA, 15/10/2015).

Electricity shortages in Sanaa are posing a major threat to the functioning of health facilities (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015).

Insecurity is preventing vector control (OCHA, 30/06/2015). Lack of electricity and medical supplies make laboratory testing for dengue and malaria challenging (OCHA, 30/06/2015).

Nutrition

Around 1.7 million children are likely to suffer from malnutrition in Yemen in 2015 – one million more than in 2014. Of these, a projected 537,000 are at risk of severe acute malnutrition, compared to 160,000 in 2014 (UNICEF, 02/10/2015).

There was a 150% increase in hospital admissions for malnutrition between March and June (WHO, 19/06/2015).

An assessment in Hodeidah governorate found global acute malnutrition (GAM) to be at 31% among children under five, 9% of whom have SAM – a significant increase from 18% GAM in the governorate in 2014 (UNICEF, 25/08/2015). An August assessment in Aden found 19.2% GAM in the governorate (FEWSNET, 30/09/2015). In Hajjah governorate the GAM is above the emergency threshold of 15%, and SAM is at 3.8% (OCHA, 15/10/2015).

WASH

At least 20 million people lack access to clean water (WHO, 19/06/2015). Since the escalation of the crisis, 9.4 million people have lost access to safe water due to fuel shortages (OCHA, 05/06/2015). Diesel needed to deliver public water and sanitation is either not available or only sporadically available in 20 of 22 governorates (OCHA, 13/07/2015).

Water

Lack of power combined with damaged water pumps have forced people to resort to water collection from unprotected and abandoned wells. Access to water trucks is limited as fuel shortages are hindering deliveries (OCHA, 22/05/2015). The price of water doubled between July and August, with some families spending one-third of their income on water (Thomson Reuters Foundation, 12/08/2015). In Sanaa, the price of water has tripled since the escalation of conflict (WFP, 19/08/2015). **In some areas, running water is only available for 30 minutes a day (Thomson Reuters Foundation, 21/10/2015).**

The water network in Taizz city, which previously served 300,000 people, has been closed since 18 August, as insecurity makes transportation of fuel to the water pumps too dangerous (UNICEF, 15/09/2015; OCHA, 02/09/2015). **The price of water in Taizz city**

has increased by 300% since mid-October (OHCHR, 23/10/2015).

Sanitation

Solid waste collection has been suspended and sewage treatment plants have reduced operations in several major cities (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Garbage has been accumulating on the streets (UNICEF, 07/07/2015). In Taizz city, solid waste has not been collected since mid-August (OCHA, 02/09/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

1.2 million people are in need of emergency shelter or essential household items (OCHA, 12/06/2015).

Shelter

The majority of IDPs are hosted by relatives. Some families are reportedly hosting up to six or seven displaced people (IOM, 22/05/2015). The availability of housing for rent is becoming increasingly limited and costly; in some areas rental prices have tripled (Shelter Cluster, 31/08/2015).

IDPs staying with host families are reporting overcrowding, lack of food, and lack of adequate WASH facilities (OCHA, 22/05/2015). Many IDPs are staying in public buildings, such as schools or health facilities, open spaces or makeshift shelters (OCHA, 15/10/2015).

Refugees who were previously self-reliant are now dependent on humanitarian assistance and unable to afford adequate shelters in urban areas, leading to overcrowding (OCHA, 19/06/2015).

Education

Over 1.8 million children have lost access to school since the escalation of conflict in March (UNICEF, 11/08/2015). Prior to the conflict, an estimated 2.5 million children were not in school (OCHA, 04/2014).

3,584 schools have closed since March – one out of every four schools in Yemen (UNICEF, 18/08/2015).

More than 500 schools have been damaged: 398 partially damaged and 146 destroyed (UNICEF, 01/10/2015). Hajjah, Marib, Sa'ada, Sanaa, and Taizz are the governorates where most schools have been damaged. Some 20 schools are occupied by armed groups, and 439 are hosting IDPs (UNICEF, 01/10/2015; OCHA, 21/09/2015). The Saudi-led coalition has stated that schools are legitimate targets if used for military purposes, and have targeted school buildings claimed to be hosting military equipment (Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, 11/06/2015).

In schools hosting IDPs, classroom equipment, such as desks and benches, is being used for firewood (UNICEF, 23/06/2015).

Protection

11.4 million people are in need of protection assistance, including about 7.3 million children (OCHA, 12/06/2015).

Use of explosive weapons in populated areas, attacks on civilian infrastructure, increased recruitment of children, and attacks against humanitarian workers have been reported since the conflict escalated in March (OCHA, 19/06/2015). Armed groups have detained children, carried out extrajudicial executions, and subjected detainees to general ill-treatment (Human Rights Watch, 02/09/2015).

At least seven journalists have been killed in Yemen so far this year. Media agencies are frequently raided, and journalists targeted and harassed (OCHA, 14/09/2015).

Mines and ERW

At least 13 governorates are contaminated by unexploded ordnance (UXO) and landmines due to previous insecurity and the ongoing conflict. Lack of access to contaminated areas is hampering mine action response (OCHA, 14/09/2015). Cluster munitions have been used by Saudi-led coalition forces (Cluster Munition Monitor, 03/09/2015).

Children

7.3 million children are in need of protection assistance (Save the Children, 02/09/2015). As of 2 October, 505 children have been reported killed and 702 injured (UNICEF, 02/10/2015).

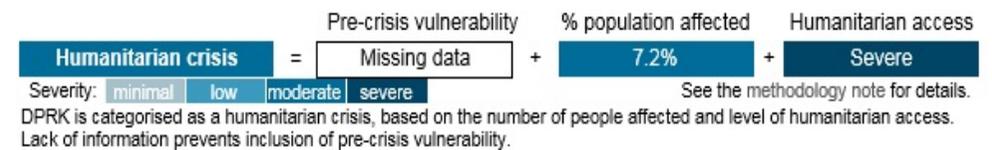
464 children have been recruited by armed groups since the escalation of the conflict (UNICEF, 22/09/2015). Houthis, Ansar al Sharia, AQAP and government forces are reported to be recruiting children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 01/10/2014).

Vulnerable groups

Due to their marginalisation, the Muhamasheen minority (about 10% of the population) have greater humanitarian needs than the average population (International Dalit Solidarity Network, 01/10/2015; UNICEF, 20/02/2015).

Updated: 26/10/2015

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA **FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC**



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 21/10/2015. Last update: 09/09/2015.

KEY CONCERNS

- Information on the food security situation remains limited. An estimated 18 million people (70% of the population) are dependent on government rations. 1.8 million people are in particular need of food assistance (UN, 01/04/2015).
- DPRK is disaster-prone, regularly experiencing intense rain, floods, and droughts.
- Humanitarian access remains extremely limited (UN, 01/04/2015).

Politics and security

Tensions between DPRK and South Korea increased in August after a landmine at the border injured two South Korean soldiers (Guardian, 04/08/2015). On 20 August, the tension resulted in a brief exchange of fire at the border – no casualties were reported. On 24 August, DPRK and South Korea agreed on a deal to reduce tensions (BBC, 25/08/2015).

Humanitarian access

Humanitarian access remains extremely limited. Humanitarian agencies do not have the ability to freely access communities, conduct assessments, or run monitoring and evaluating processes. International sanctions are further complicating assistance, in particular due to the suspension of banking channels for fund transfers (UN, 01/04/2015).

Natural disasters

Floods

In August, 22,000 people were affected by floods caused by seasonal rains and Tropical Cyclone Goni, and an estimated 14,500 people were displaced (OCHA, 07/10/2015).

Drought

A prolonged dry spell during the planting season, which lasted from April to early June, has adversely affected crops and the yield potential of 2015 food crops (FAO, 17/06/2015). So far in 2015, all provinces have experienced less rainfall than the yearly average (OCHA, 01/07/2015). The provinces of North and South Hwanghae, which contribute to the largest share of the national cereal output, have been most affected (FAO, 17/06/2015). According to South Korean officials, June rainfall has alleviated the drought in other areas (AFP, 10/07/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

1.8 million children, older people, and pregnant and lactating women are in particular need of food assistance (UN, 01/04/2015). An estimated 18 million people, of a total population of 24.6 million, are dependent on government rations and highly vulnerable to shortages in food production (OCHA, 31/08/2015). The government rations in July and August were below the three-year average, and substantially below the rations in the same period in 2013 and 2014, most likely due to the reduction in the output of early season crops (FAO, 09/09/2015).

Most households are estimated to have borderline and poor food consumption rates (FAO, 01/06/2015). Decreased production of vegetables and soybeans, a major source of protein, contributes to a lack of food diversity for the general population (UN, 01/04/2015).

The food system in DPRK remains highly vulnerable to shocks and serious shortages exist, particularly in the production of protein-rich crops. Lack of agricultural inputs, such as seeds, fertiliser and plastic sheets, is a fundamental challenge for food production (UN, 01/04/2015).

Food availability

Potato, wheat, and barley crops could be reduced by up to 40–50% in drought-affected areas, compared with normal levels. Rice planting was significantly affected by reduced rainfall in 2014, and output is forecast to be 12% lower than last year (FAO, 09/09/2015). Maize output is expected to be 15% lower than last year. Soybean production is also expected to be affected (FAO, 13/07/2015).

9% of agricultural land is unarable since the 2014 drought; in North and South Hwanghae 33% of land is considered unusable for agricultural purposes (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

Health

An estimated six million people need access to essential health services, including vaccines. Other medical products and lifesaving equipment, such as ambulances, remain limited. Health facilities often lack functioning water systems, increasing the risks of hospital infections and the spread of disease (UN, 01/04/2015).

Nutrition

According to FAO, 10.5 million people were undernourished in 2014 (FAO, 27/05/2015).

Food shortages peak during the lean season, between July and September, and households resort to coping mechanisms such as receiving support from families on cooperative farms; reducing meal sizes; gathering wild foods; and diluting meals with water (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

Chronic and acute malnutrition remains one of the major contributors to maternal and child mortality (UNICEF, 26/01/2015). In 2012, the National Nutrition Survey reported 4% acute malnutrition among under-fives (National Nutrition Survey, 03/2013). Micronutrient deficiencies are of particular concern (OCHA, 01/07/2015).

WASH

An estimated seven million people need access to clean water and sanitation. There is a notable lack of adequate sanitation in rural areas and in social care institutions and education facilities (UN, 01/04/2015).

Education

Lack of teaching/learning materials in addition to the lack of adequate sanitation facilities in school buildings remain a challenge (UNICEF, 26/01/2015).

Protection

DPRK has been found to be responsible for widespread human rights violations against its citizens, including abductions, arbitrary detention, torture, extrajudicially executions, and forced labour (UN General Assembly 08/09/2015; Human Rights Watch, 08/06/2015; UN, 17/03/2014).

Reviewed: 21/10/2015

LEBANON DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

19 October: Eight people were killed and several injured during Lebanese military operations along the border with Syria (AFP)

KEY CONCERNS

- 1,078,338 Syrians are registered as refugees in Lebanon (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).
- The government instructed the temporary suspension of refugee registration with UNHCR on 6 May 2015, leaving thousands of Syrians with uncertain status (UNHCR, 06/05/2015).

OVERVIEW

Lebanon has the highest per capita concentration of refugees worldwide. While the country struggles to deal with the refugee influx, which exceeds a quarter of the Lebanese population, tensions between host and refugee populations are increasing due to food price hikes, and pressure on health and education systems, housing, and employment. Some 3.3 million people in Lebanon, including 1.2 million children, are directly affected by the Syria crisis (UNHCR 16/12/2014). Lebanon is also hosting 270,000 long-term Palestinian refugees (UNICEF 12/12/2014).

Politics and security

The Lebanese parliament has extended its mandate until June 2017, claiming that elections would present too much of a security risk (Daily Star, 12/11/2014). Lebanon has been without a president since President Sleiman's term expired in May 2014, as Parliament has failed to elect one 24 times in the last year (Daily Star, 17/06/2015).

Hezbollah's involvement in Syria, and the alleged presence of Jabhat al Nusra (JAN) and Islamic State (IS) in Lebanon, has raised destabilisation concerns in Lebanon. The government of Syria sporadically conducts cross-border air raids (UN Security Council, 22/04/2015). Longstanding tensions between Lebanon and Israel have flared occasionally in the context of the Syrian civil war.

Fighting between the Lebanese Armed Forces and Jabat Al Nusra has been ongoing in northern Lebanon, along the border with Syria, since August 2014. Violence broke out first in the town of Aarsal, which has been a flashpoint for clashes since. **On 19 October, eight people were killed and several injured during Lebanese military operations along the border near Aarsal. Reports indicate that one of the informal Syrian refugee camps was hit (AFP, 19/10/2015).**

Civil unrest

Following the closure of Beirut's main landfill, and the subsequent build-up of solid waste in

the street, rioting broke out in Beirut in August, mainly outside government buildings. At least one protester has been killed, dozens have been wounded, and four are missing (Daily Star, 26/08/2015; Al Jazeera, 24/08/2015). Hezbollah has declared its support for the 'You Stink' movement, which is organising the protests, and both have called for the current government to resign (AFP, 25/08/2015). Protests have continued into October (Middle East Monitor, 8/10/2015).

Palestinian refugee camps: A Palestinian joint security force has been deployed to two camps (Daily Star, 24/03/2015). Tensions between Fatah and Islamist groups have been increasing in Ain al Hilweh camp, where up to four people were killed and more than 15 wounded in clashes between 22 and 27 August. This was the highest rate of casualties in a single week since May. An unconfirmed number of people, believed to be in the thousands, were displaced (UN, 25/08/2015; Daily Star, 27/08/2015).

Natural disasters

On 7 September, a heavy sandstorm hit Beirut and other part of Lebanon. Up to five people died and hundreds were hospitalised with breathing problems. Sources suggest that the size and severity of this sandstorm is unprecedented in Lebanon's recent history (UN, 14/09/2015; Daily Star, 09/09/2015).

Displacement

Refugees

On 6 May, refugee registration was suspended; refugee who registered after 5 January have also been deregistered. The number of Syrian refugees recorded has been steadily decreasing. The drop may partly be due to people obtaining work in Syria losing their status. The number of Syrians in Lebanon not registered with UNHCR is unknown. As of 30 September, 1,078,338 Syrian refugees are registered in Lebanon, a slight decrease from the peak of 1,185,250 million registered in May 2015 (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). Bekaa is hosting 373,429; Beirut 29,264; Mount Lebanon 287,752; North Lebanon 161,085; and South Lebanon and El Nabatieh Governorates 125,742 (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

26% of refugees are women, and 53% children (UNHCR 09/2014). 16% of Syrian refugee households are led by women (Equal Access Monitor, 30/06/2015).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: 43,375 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) reside in Lebanon (OCHA, 16/10/2015). PRS entry to Lebanon is now almost entirely limited to those transiting to a third country. **An estimated 85.7% of PRS remain in Lebanon illegally, and face an array of protection concerns (OCHA 16/10/2015).**

Host communities

Host communities have reported inadequate or insufficient access to water, waste water

management systems, affordable housing, and employment opportunities (OCHA 09/2014).

Humanitarian access

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Humanitarian actors are blocked from certain areas due to insecurity and entry restrictions. In Akkar governorate, access to Wadi Khaled, by the border with Syria, is limited. In Baalbek-Hermel governorate, UN agencies have been blocked from accessing Aarsal since December 2014, but have been able to get some assistance in through local partners (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

Lebanon formally decided to stop welcoming displaced people in October 2014, barring exceptional cases, and the suspension of registration raises serious protection concerns (UNHCR, AFP 24/10/2014; UNHCR 07/2014; UNHCR, 20/04/2015). Since January, Syrians wanting to enter Lebanon must apply for a visa (UNHCR, 25/01/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Refugees live across 1,750 different locations in Lebanon, making the delivery of humanitarian assistance challenging (UNHCR 10/2014). Northern Bekaa, Tripoli, and Akkar are areas of higher risk, and the UN will only carry out critical missions to parts of those areas (WFP, 03/12/2014).

Food security and livelihoods

As of 6 May, 1.5 million people are in need of food assistance (WFP, FAO, Food Security Cluster, 31/07/2015; UNHCR, 06/05/2015). In July, 24.5% of people were in moderate to severe food insecurity, compared to 12.8% in 2014 (WFP, 07/07/2015). Levels are highest in North Lebanon (Akkar) and the Bekaa Valley (WFP, 01/07/2015).

Starting in September, WFP capped assistance at five members per household because of a funding shortfall (OCHA, 21/08/2015). **Currently, WFP estimates that it is providing assistance at 80% of vulnerable households' needs (WFP, 16/10/2015).**

Livelihoods

700,000 people are in need of livelihood assistance (UNDP, 31/01/2015; UNHCR, 06/05/2015). 49% of refugee households live below the Lebanese extreme poverty line (USD 3.84/person/day) (WFP, 07/07/2015).

Reduced assistance to Syrian refugees due to funding shortfalls has caused families to

adopt negative coping strategies (WFP, 16/06/2015). 67% of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon have reported severe and crisis coping strategies, up from 28% last year (UNHCR, 31/07/2015).

Health

3.3 million people are in need of healthcare (WHO/UNHCR, 31/01/2015; 06/05/2015). In the Bekaa Valley, there was a 20% increase in summer morbidities compared to 2014. This includes respiratory tract infections, diarrhoea and dermatological problems. The rise has been attributed to a heatwave combined with poor living conditions (MSF, 20/08/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Health services are available, but costly. Short opening hours and lack of trained health personnel further limit access (WHO, 01/2015).

72% of primary health centres assessed by UNICEF in 2014 lacked sufficient essential drugs, 67% lacked sufficient medication for chronic diseases, and 49% lacked sufficient antibiotics for children (UNICEF, 08/2014).

WASH

3.3 million people are in need of WASH assistance (UNICEF/UNHCR, 05/05/2015). WASH conditions are worse for refugees in informal settlements and in difficult-to-access locations in the Bekaa Valley and the north (UNHCR, 07/2014). WASH conditions are often below standards in Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut (IFRC, 03/02/2015).

Sanitation

Informal settlements in the Bekaa valley and in the north have limited or no sanitation facilities (MSF, 20/08/2015).

Safe disposal of wastewater is a huge challenge in Lebanon, especially for the majority of locations across the country that are not connected to functioning treatment plants. This is exacerbated in Aarsal, where security concerns have prohibited the provision of services (WASH Cluster, 04/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter

1.8 million people are in need of shelter assistance (Shelter Sector, 31/07/2015). An assessment found that 50% of refugees live in poor conditions, including accommodation without adequate WASH facilities, or adequate protection against weather. An additional 18% were found to live in temporary shelters without access to basic services (NRC,

18/06/2015). Refugees are spending up to 90% of their monthly income to live in substandard housing such as garages, sheds, and in unfinished buildings (NRC, 18/06/2015).

The numerous informal tented settlements (ITS) are usually substandard. Humanitarian agencies are unable to make substantial improvements, as the sites are on private land (UNHCR, 09/06/2015).

In Beirut, many Syrian refugees have settled in Palestinian refugee camps, where shelter conditions are often substandard (IFRC, 03/02/2015).

Palestinian refugees from Syria: The Palestinian population has increased from 110,000 to 140,000 since 2011: 44,000 are Palestinian refugees from Syria (OCHA 09/2014; 01/2015). PRS households are residing in overcrowded dwellings, with an average of 4.6 people per bedroom; 8.4 people on average share one bathroom. Most households (71%) reported paying rent for shelter. Slightly over a quarter of households (27%) were hosted free of charge. The USD 100 housing assistance for more than 43,000 PRS was suspended in July 2015 (UNRWA, 22/05/2015).

Lebanese returnees: As of 6 May, 50,000 Lebanese nationals had returned from Syria since the beginning of the crisis (UNDP, UNHCR; 06/05/2015). Assessments in 2014 indicated that at least 51% of returnees are shelter insecure (IOM/OCHA 09/2014; UNHCR 07/2014).

Education

750,000 children are in need of education assistance (UNICEF, UNHCR, 31/07/2015, 06/05/2015). One in five households with school-aged children have withdrawn their children from school due to increased food insecurity (WFP, 02/06/2015).

On 21 September, the Lebanese Minister of Education announced free education up to grade nine for both Lebanese and non-Lebanese children (UNHCR, 31/09/2015).

Protection

Main protection concerns include the presence of ERW; child labour; and lack of documentation for refugees, impacting their ability to access services and move freely; and forced evictions.

Mines and ERW

Lebanon has nearly 1,400 confirmed minefields and 520 cluster munitions strike areas: 15.23 km² is contaminated by ERW. In 2015, 19 incidents of ERW-related injury or death had been recorded as of August, compared to 24 in all of 2014. The increase may be related to the presence of refugees in contaminated areas (Al Jazeera, 13/08/2015). A

significant number of landowners and workers still enter contaminated areas, stating they have no choice (Mine Advisory Group, 01/06/2015).

Children

According to ILO estimates, between 210,000 and 320,000 refugee children of school age who are not in school are involved in some form of child labour (VoA, 23/01/2015). Social exclusion, vulnerability of households, the influx of Syrian refugees, and organised crime and exploitation are all leading children to live or work on the streets (ILO et al., 16/02/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Undocumented refugees: Increasing numbers of refugees are undocumented. Rental agreements are required to obtain legal residence, however only about 15% of refugees have rental contracts (NRC, 18/06/2015). Undocumented refugees may not be able to move freely and access services, and face an increased risk of abuse and harassment (ECHO 20/06/2015; NRC, 18/06/2015).

Forced evictions: In the Bekaa, as of 1 May, 5,981 people had been evicted and relocated from 61 sites; 6,422 individuals remain at risk of eviction (UNHCR, 10/05/2015). Another 5,000 were evicted from ITS in Akaar district, in northern Lebanon, in July (UNICEF, 27/08/2015).

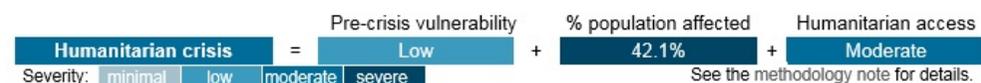
Documentation

De-registration of refugees: Refugees who entered after 5 January and have been subsequently registered should be deregistered, according to government regulations. As of 31 May, 2,626 people have fallen into this category. In May, the Ministry of Social Affairs further notified UNHCR that all new registrations must be suspended until a mechanism to deal with those who seek registration is established (OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Between March 2011 and August 2014, 34,272 Syrian refugees were born in Lebanon. An estimated 72% do not possess an official birth certificate (UNFPA 30/11/2014). Syrian Kurds who were denaturalised in Syria in 1962 are also stateless in Lebanon.

Updated: 22/10/2015

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES COMPLEX, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

20 October: 45 Palestinians and eight Israelis have been killed, and over 2,000 Palestinians and 83 Israeli civilians are reported to have been injured since 1 October (Al Jazeera, 20/10/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.9 million people need humanitarian assistance; 1.3 million in Gaza and 600,000 in the West Bank (OCHA, 31/03/2015).
- 1.45 million people, or 33% of the population, are estimated to be food insecure (WFP, 19/12/2014). 868,000 people in Gaza alone require food aid (UNRWA, 05/02/2015).
- 1.4 million people are in need of WASH assistance, particularly access to water (OCHA, 12/05/2015).
- Continuity of medical care is threatened by the financial crisis and electricity shortages in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (OCHA).
- The ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip limits access and movement of both people and goods.

Politics and security

Following an escalation of violence in October across oPt and Israel, Israeli authorities have implemented new security measures including the deployment of 300 more soldiers, additional check points, restricted access to Jerusalem, longer prison sentences for stone throwers, and accelerated demolition of housing. Some of these measures have been described as a form of collective punishment and a violation of human rights (OCHA, 12/10/2015; AFP, 20/10/15; Al Jazeera, 19/10/15). Increased levels of resistance to the implementation of these measures is likely which will result in more conflict across Israel and Palestine.

On 2 October, Mahmoud Abbas, head of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Fatah, stated that the PA was considering ending two decades of security cooperation with Israel. This would represent a severe deterioration in relations between the PA and Israel (AFP, 02/10/2015). The Palestinian unity government, made up of members of both Hamas and Fatah, never fulfilled its mandate to arrange a general election, and

resigned in June. Hamas governs the Gaza Strip and Fatah the West Bank (Al Jazeera, 17/06/2015).

There are growing tensions between actors within oPt, particularly between Hamas and various smaller armed groups or 'brigades' in Gaza (OCHA, 01/06/2015). On 30 June, Islamic State (IS) declared its intentions to replace Hamas as the main power in Gaza. No action followed, but Sinai, the Egyptian territory adjacent to Gaza, has been the site of major clashes between the Egyptian army and armed groups allied to IS. Armed groups in Egypt have allegedly been supplied by armed groups in Gaza who are sympathetic to IS (Independent, 01/07/2015; Al Jazeera, 01/07/2015).

Stakeholders

Hamas is an Islamist organisation that was established in 1987 in the first Palestinian Intifada – The Uprising (1987–1993), with the aim of resisting the Israeli occupation. It provides some social welfare programmes, and its military wing, the Izzedine al Qassam Brigades, fights Israel. In 2006 Hamas won political office in Gaza. Tensions with its secular rival Fatah erupted in 2007, when Hamas set up a rival government in the Gaza Strip. Hamas has regularly fired rockets into Israel and conducted attacks against Israeli military and civilian targets.

Fatah or the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) was founded in the late 1950s for the purpose of launching commando raids on Israel. Despite being expelled from Jordan, and then Lebanon, it eventually became the controlling power behind the Palestinian Authority (PA), which was founded in the 1990s. Fatah lost control of Gaza in 2007 to Hamas. Fatah has greatly reduced the number of violent attacks in last two decades, with the exception of the second intifada (2000–2005). It remains the dominant party in the West Bank and within the PA.

Israel has occupied the West Bank and east Jerusalem since 1967. It has been accused of pursuing a policy of illegal 'settlement construction' in the West Bank and forcibly displacing Palestinians from territory recognised by the UN as Palestinian. Israel withdrew its forces and removed its settlers from the Gaza Strip in 2005, but imposed a strict blockade in 2007 to control the flow of goods and materials. Israel and Hamas have been involved in three major conflicts in 2008, 2012 and 2014. In each, Israel has been accused of the disproportionate use of force.

Conflict developments

Incidents between Palestinians and Israeli security forces and Israeli settlers dramatically increased during the third quarter of 2015. In the West Bank, a series of stabbing of Israeli civilians and security forces, tensions inside the holy sites of Jerusalem, and settler attacks on Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, finally

erupted into widespread violence across oPt and parts of Israel. As of 20 October, the Palestinian Red Crescent and international media are reporting that 45 Palestinians and eight Israelis have been killed since October 1. Over 2,000 Palestinians and over 83 Israeli civilians are reported to have been injured (Al Jazeera, 13/10/2015; 08/10/2015; AFP, 08/10/2015).

Gaza

People are frequently injured in the Access Restricted Area (ARA), as Israeli forces open fire on people accused of entering it. Palestinian armed groups continue to fire rockets towards Israel and test-fire rockets into the sea. Rockets were most recently launched on 9 October. Israel responded with airstrikes. Two Palestinians, including a child under 10 were killed (AFP, 12/10/2015). There has been an increase in rockets fired by groups other than Hamas (UNRWA, 04/08/2015).

On 16 October, five Palestinians died and more than 100 others were injured when Israeli security forces opened fire on protesters approaching the border fence in Gaza (Al Jazeera, 16/10/2015; Telegraph, 16/10/2015).

West Bank and East Jerusalem

Clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces erupted in late September, in response to Jewish groups' repeated attempts to access the Al Aqsa Mosque compound and restrictions placed on Palestinian men under 50 entering the compound (OCHA, 08/10/2015; Al Jazeera, 29/09/2015). Violence escalated further on 1 October, after Palestinian gunmen killed two Israeli settlers and wounded two children (AFP, 01/10/2015). In the following days, protests and isolated attacks on both Palestinian and Israeli citizens have taken place across the West Bank, the Gaza strip, Jerusalem and other parts of Israel.

Settler-related violence

In 2015, there has been on average two Israeli settler attacks a week resulting in damage to Palestinian property. 143 incidents of settler-related violence have resulted in Palestinian casualties or property damage in 2015, less than in 2014 (OCHA, 14/09/2015).

As of 14 September, 449 structures have been demolished in 2015, with 514 people displaced. If the current trend continues, the demolitions will roughly match the number recorded in 2014 (OCHA, 14/09/2015).

Displacement

263,600 people were displaced in oPt as of July 2015 (IDMC). 141,500 are in the West

Bank and are mostly in protracted displacement. Up to 122,000 are in Gaza, around 100,000 of whom were displaced by the July–August 2014 conflict. Around 12,500 Palestinians were displaced between 2009 and early April 2015 after evictions, demolitions or pressure from settlers in Hebron (IDMC, 28/09/2015). In September, 139 structures were demolished, displacing 208 people in the West Bank (OCHA, 04/10/2015). The escalation of tensions and violence since October has resulted in the increased speed and use of punitive housing demolitions. This will likely result in increased displacement of Palestinians.

Many IDPs are believed to be staying within the host community, but their exact location, shelter requirements and other needs are unclear (UNRWA, 19/06/2015; IFRC, 06/03/2015; OCHA, 31/05/2015).

Humanitarian access

Egyptian authorities have flooded many of the smuggling tunnels which connect Gaza to Egypt along the border near Rafah. These tunnels have been a valuable route for supplies into Gaza. Fuel availability has been particularly affected (Al Jazeera, 20/09/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

The Palestinian Red Crescent has reported 136 attacks against the organisation since 3 October. It also said that Israeli authorities have restricted the movement of ambulances carrying wounded (PRCS, 20/10/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

Rafah Crossing was open for five days in September, allowing over 2,000 Palestinians to cross. This was mainly for pilgrimage to Mecca. 7,504 Palestinians exited the Gaza Strip in the first half of 2015 compared to 19,806 in the same time period in 2014. 32% fewer people crossed through Erez in September compared to August, but this was still 45% more than in September 2014 (OCHA, 12/10/2015; 30/09/2015).

Following attacks in the Sinai by IS-affiliated groups, Israel has closed the Kerem Shalom border with Gaza (Jerusalem 02/07/2015).

Since the escalation of violence in the West Bank and Jerusalem in October, all Palestinians, except residents and shopkeepers, have been barred entry from the Old City in Jerusalem (BBC, 06/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

1.45 million, or 33%, of Palestinians, are food insecure: 57% of the population of Gaza and 19% of the population of the West Bank (WFP, 19/12/2014). 868,000 people in Gaza require food aid (UNRWA, 01/06/2015). Electricity shortages have impacted food production and refrigeration. Delays at crossings are complicating deliveries. Destruction of tunnels bringing inexpensive goods has also impacted access to food and supplies.

Health

The infant mortality rate in Gaza has risen for the first time in more than five decades, from 20.2 per 1,000 live births in 2008 to 22.4 in 2013, the last date with available information (UN, 09/08/2015). Patients requiring medical assistance regularly have to be referred to services in either Egypt or

Israel. In August, 27% of applications to pass into Israel for medical reasons through the Erez border crossing were denied (WHO, 28/09/2015).

Mental health

There are indications that the rate of suicide has increased since Operation Protective Edge. Social stigmatisation of the surviving family members due to the religious condemnation cultural view of suicide prevents accurate reporting (AFP, 30/09/2015). Between 300,000 and 400,000 children are in need of mental health support in the Gaza Strip (UNICEF, 26/02/2015, World Vision, 13/04/2015).

WASH

1.4 million people require WASH assistance, particularly access to water (OCHA, 12/05/2015).

Water

More than 70% of households in Gaza are being supplied with piped water for 6–8 hours once every 2–4 days, due to insufficient power supply (OCHA, 06/07/2015).

Sanitation

90% of the water in Gaza fails WHO standards for safe drinking water (UNWRA, 24/03/2015). Up to 90 million litres of partially treated sewage are being discharged into the Mediterranean Sea every day, partially due to electricity and fuel shortages (OCHA, 06/07/2015). This is exacerbating the contamination of the aquifer.

Shelter

An estimated 500,000 Palestinians are in need of shelter assistance (OCHA, 31/03/2015). As of 28 September, 12,580 housing units remain totally destroyed since the 2014 war, and 13,795 families (around 82,800 individuals) remain in need of improved temporary shelter (Shelter Cluster, 28/09/2015).

NFIs

There is a 55% energy deficit in Gaza (OCHA, 06/07/2015). Rolling power cuts across Gaza are in affected between 12–16 hours per day. This has been exacerbated due to supply lines with Egypt and a lack of fuel impacting the Gaza Power Plant (OCHA, 14/09/2015).

Education

In the previous academic year, 90% of the 252 UNRWA schools in Gaza ran on a double-shift system, with some on triple shifts, affecting some 400,000 students (UNRWA, 29/01/2015; OCHA, 12/02/2015).

Protection

The Israeli authorities are accused of detaining individuals without trial, including children, forcibly displacing communities, legalising the use of force feeding of prisoners, building on and claiming Palestinian land (Al Jazeera, 30/07/2015). To date, the Israeli government has approved plans to build Jewish settlements on 26% of Area C (the areas directly controlled by occupying Israeli forces) in the West Bank (HRW 24/08/2015). Both Israeli and Palestinian armed groups have been reported as targeting civilians (HRW, 2015). Housing demolition has been recorded as a punitive measure against individuals considered to have committed a criminal act (OCHA, 12/10/2015).

It has been alleged that an increasing number of journalists are being targeted and injured by Israeli forces during clashes, due to a policy change. Rubber bullets and live ammunition have been used. Palestinian journalists have been the most affected (AFP, 08/04/2015). There is evidence that journalists have been targeted. On 6 October, a Human Rights Watch research assistant wearing a press tag was shot and wounded by Israeli forces (HRW, 06/10/2015). Palestinian rights groups report that as many as 20 journalists, including citizen journalists, have been injured in October (Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, 17/10/2015).

On 16 January 2015, the International Criminal Court (ICC) launched an examination of the events of the 50-day war in 2014 (ICC, 16/01/2015). An Amnesty International report found evidence of war crimes committed by Israel during Operation Protective Edge in the Rafah area of Gaza, and that Hamas used torture against its enemies

during the conflict (Amnesty, 29/07/2015; 27/05/2015). Investigations are ongoing.

Mines and ERW

Palestinian civilians and security forces continue to be killed and injured by explosive remnants of war (ERW). Over 5,000 UXO are estimated to remain in Gaza as a result of the 2014 hostilities (OCHA, 28/09/2015).

On 8 September, one Palestinian was injured by UXO in Gaza city (OCHA, 28/09/2015). On 6 August, an ERW exploded, killing four people and injuring more than 40 in Rafah. Ten houses were damaged (Guardian, 06/08/2015).

Children

The Israeli army continues to arrest or detain Palestinian children as young as 11 (HRW, 20/07/2015). As of December 2014, a monthly average of 185 Palestinian children were in Israeli detention (OCHA, 31/03/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Four Bedouin communities in Area C of the West Bank are threaten with forced displacement. They are part of around 7,450 Palestinian Bedouins and herders, 60% of them children, who have demolition orders pending against their homes. Over 85% are not connected to the electricity and water networks (OCHA, 06/05/2015; 30/04/2015).

18,000 Palestinians live in or near the 18% of the West Bank designated by the Israeli authorities as “firing zones”, areas of land claimed by the Israeli military for training and security purposes. Palestinians who live in these zones face severe access restrictions, recurrent demolition, and incidents of forced displacement and home demolition (OCHA, 12/01/2015).

Updated: 20/10/2015

PAKISTAN CONFLICT, DROUGHT, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 October: A 7.5 magnitude earthquake with its epicentre in Afghanistan also affected Pakistan and India: 230 people have died in Pakistan, 1,629 people have been injured,

and 2,536 houses are damaged. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was most affected (The Guardian 26/10/2015, Government 27/10/2015).

23 October: At least 24 people were killed in a suicide bombing that targeted a Shi'a mosque in Jacobabad, Sindh province (AFP, 24/10/2015).

23 October: One death caused by dengue was reported in Multan. 397 suspected and 217 confirmed cases have been recorded in the district in 2015 (Frontier Post).

22 October: A suicide attack on a mosque in Kachhi district, Balochistan, killed least ten people, and wounded 12 (Tribune Pakistan).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.2 million IDPs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA (OCHA, 08/10/2015).

- 1.5 million Afghan refugees, the majority in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (UNHCR, 08/10/2015).

- 1,781 civilians were killed in conflict-related violence in 2014; 783 civilians have been killed so far in 2015 (SATP, 18/10/2015).

OVERVIEW

Priority humanitarian needs are health, nutrition, and food assistance. IDPs and Afghan refugees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are of particular concern. The security situation remains volatile due to militant attacks in urban centres and military operations against the Taliban in the tribal areas.

Politics and security

As of 18 October, 783 civilians have been killed in conflict-related violence in 2015 (SATP, 18/10/2015). 1,781 civilians were killed in conflict-related violence in 2014, and 3,001 in 2013 (SATP, 01/01/2015).

The military offensive against the Pakistani Taliban (TTP) that began in 2014 and continued attacks by TTP have had a severe humanitarian impact. Elsewhere, sectarian violence continues, particularly in Sindh and Balochistan. Balochistan is also affected by a prolonged separatist insurgency. Pakistan's conflict with India over Kashmir continues, with violence flaring in August.

Relations with Afghanistan have long been strained and recently deteriorated. The government of Pakistan has accused Afghanistan of not doing enough to prevent militant groups using its territory to plan and organise attacks on Pakistan. The latest was a Taliban attack on a Pakistan air force base on 18 September, which killed 29 (International Crisis Group, 01/10/2015).

Punjab

On 14 October, at least seven people were killed in a suspected suicide bomb attack in the office of a local official in Taunsa town, southern Punjab. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack (AFP, 14/10/2015).

On 13 September, at least nine people were killed and 42 were injured in an explosion in Multan (AFP, 13/09/2015). On 16 August, 14 people, including Punjab's Home Minister, were killed in two suicide attacks in the village of Shadi Khan in Attock district, Punjab. No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks (AFP, 16/08/2015).

Kashmir

Indian, Pakistani, and Kashmiri insurgent groups have fought over control of the disputed region of Kashmir since the Indo-Pakistan War. While thousands have died as a result of this conflict, the situation has become less deadly in recent years. Tensions increased in August, when shelling killed at least twenty civilians on both sides of the Line of Control (AFP, 17/09/2015; 29/08/2015; 16/08/2015).

Balochistan

Several armed groups, including the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF), have been fighting for greater autonomy since 1948. 2014 saw a sharp rise in acts of violence, which has persisted in 2015. Attacks by Islamist armed groups are also increasing. Over 8,000 suspected militants have been arrested and 204 killed in 2015, according to the home secretary of the province (ICG, 01/10/2015). At least 15 police officers have been killed in targeted attacks in Quetta since June. The latest occurred on 20 October, when a police officer was killed by unknown gunmen (DAWN, 20/10/2015; 27/07/2015; 14/07/2015; 11/06/2015; 06/06/2015).

On 22 October, a suicide attack on a mosque in Kachhi district killed at least 10 people, and wounded 12 (Tribune Pakistan, 22/10/2015). On 19 October, at least 11 people were killed and 22 injured in a bomb explosion on a bus in Quetta – no one has claimed responsibility (DAWN, 19/10/2015; AFP, 19/10/2015).

Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

On 18 September, at least 29 people were killed in a Taliban attack on Badaber air

force base, outside Peshawar. According to Pakistani officials, the attack was planned from Afghanistan (CNN, 18/09/2015; Express Tribune, 18/10/2015). On 1 September, six people were killed and 56 injured in a suicide attack in Jamrud, Khyber Agency. Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack (DAWN, 01/09/2015; AFP, 01/09/2015). On 31 August, one person was killed and four injured in an improvised explosive device (IED) explosion in Bajaur Agency, the third in two weeks (DAWN, 31/08/2015; 24/08/2015; 22/08/2015).

The government carried out operations against the Taliban in North Waziristan and Khyber Agency between June 2014 and July 2015, after the Taliban vowed to start all-out war on the government (Alhasan Systems, 22/07/2015; DAWN, 30/03/2015; 23/03/2015).

Sindh

On 23 October, at least 24 people were killed in a suicide bombing that targeted a Shi'a mosque in Jacobabad, Sindh province (AFP, 24/10/2015). A report from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan indicates that the death toll from violence in Sindh fell 34% in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 (DAWN, 21/04/2015). Two media workers were killed in two separate attacks in Karachi on 9 September (Reuters, 09/09/2015; UN, 14/09/2015).

Natural disasters

Drought

Below-average rainfall in western Balochistan during the monsoon period has worsened drought conditions in the area (Al Hasan, 30/09/2015).

Earthquake

On 26 October a 7.5 magnitude earthquake with its epicentre in Afghanistan also affected Pakistan and India (The Guardian, 26/10/2015). 230 people died in Pakistan, 1,629 are reported injured, and 2,536 houses damaged. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was most affected, with 185 dead, 1,456 injured, and 2,102 houses damaged. Punjab, FATA, and Gilgit Baltistan were also affected (Government, 27/10/2015).

Floods

Between June and September, 1.6 million people were reported affected by monsoon-related floods. Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh were most affected. More than 10,000 houses were damaged in the floods, and hundreds of thousands of standing crops destroyed (OCHA, 29/09/2015; DAWN, 10/08/2015).

Displacement

1.2 million IDPs and 1.6 million Afghan refugees are registered in Pakistan. The number of unregistered Afghan refugees may be as high as one million, according to Pakistan authorities.

IDPs

As of October, around 1.2 million people remain displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA. 1% are in camps, and 99% in host communities. The largest IDP populations are located in Bannu, Peshawar, and Dera Ismail Khan (OCHA, 08/10/2015; UNHCR, 30/09/2015). An estimated 75% of the displaced are women and children (OCHA, 30/09/2015).

The phased return of IDPs in FATA started mid-March. As of 15 October, more than 730,000 people (105,385 families) have returned: 63,989 families to Khyber Agency, 28,266 to North Waziristan, 9,293 to South Waziristan, 3,041 to Kurram, and 796 to Orazkai (OCHA, 15/10/2015). Key priorities are food, water, and shelter (OCHA, 02/10/2015; 14/09/2015).

Refugees in Pakistan

1.5 million registered Afghan refugees live in Pakistan, as of 8 October (UNHCR, 08/10/2015).

The registration of undocumented Afghan refugees, which was due to begin in July, has yet to start (Pajhwok, 24/09/2015). According to Pakistani officials, about a million unregistered Afghan refugees live in Pakistan (DAWN, 20/06/2015). Many have been returning home following security incidents in Pakistan, particularly the Taliban attack on a school in Peshawar in December 2014, as Pakistani authorities have included the repatriation of refugees in a new anti-terrorism action plan (AAN, 09/03/2015). The number of reported Afghan returnees varies between 50,000 and 140,000 (OCHA, 15/07/2015; UNHCR, 30/06/2015). So far in 2015, UNHCR has assisted 50,000 registered Afghan refugees with returning to Afghanistan (UNHCR, 28/08/2015).

Pakistani refugees in neighbouring countries

As of June, Khost and Paktika provinces in Afghanistan are hosting 205,434 refugees from Pakistan (UNHCR, 11/06/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access of aid workers to affected population

Several security incidents involving aid workers have been reported so far in 2015. Four peace volunteers have been killed: one in Mohmand Agency in May, and three in Khyber Agency in February (DAWN, 11/05/2015; 03/02/2015; 06/04/2015).

35 violent incidents of resistance to polio vaccination campaigns, including 12 health personnel killed and 12 injured, were recorded between January and June 2015 (OCHA, 04/10/2015; DAWN, 08/09/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

An estimated 58% of households in Pakistan are food insecure (OCHA, 30/09/2015). As of July, four districts were facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes and 29 districts were facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes. 56 districts were facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes (Food Security Cluster, 03/09/2015).

Health

1.1 million IDPs are in need of basic health and quality maternal and child health services (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF)

Suspected CCHF caused the death of a patient in Multan, Punjab, on 16 September (AlHasan, 21/09/2015). In October, 12 cases of CCHF have been reported in Quetta. So far in 2015, 80 people have been diagnosed with CCHF in the area; 15 have died (DAWN, 08/10/2015). Six cases of CCHF have been recorded in Karachi so far in 2015, including two deaths in early October (DAWN, 14/10/2015).

Dengue

Overall, a rise in dengue cases has been recorded in several parts of Pakistan throughout 2015, including Sindh and Punjab (AlHasan, 29/09/2015). In the week up to 29 September, 155 cases of dengue were reported in Karachi, Sindh province, bringing the total caseload to 1,169 in 2015. After eight cases on 29 September in the district of Umerkot, in Sindh, residents reported a lack of adequate treatment facilities in the hospital (Al Hasan, 29/09/2015; DAWN, 01/10/2015). A steep rise in cases of dengue fever was registered in Multan district, Punjab, compared to last year. As of 23 October, in 2015 397 suspected and 217 confirmed cases of dengue have been recorded in the district, including one death (Al Hasan, 29/09/2015; Frontier Post 23/10/2015). In Rawalpindi, at least 137 new cases of dengue were recorded on 1 October, bringing the total 2015 caseload of the area to 934 (DAWN, 01/10/2015; 02/10/2015).

Polio

On 8 October a new polio case was recorded in Karachi, Sindh, and another one reported in Chakwal district, Punjab. These are the first cases recorded in the regions in 2015. The total 2015 caseload is now 38 nationwide, compared to 224 in the same period of 2014 (Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 15/10/2015; DAWN, 04/10/2015; 09/10/2015). According to government officials, the decrease in cases is explained by increased security for health personnel and improved social mobilisation in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Refusals of polio vaccinations are, however, still recorded in many provinces (DAWN, 19/10/2015; 17/09/2015).

Nutrition

In South Waziristan agency, global acute malnutrition rates among IDPs are above the WHO emergency threshold of 14% (OCHA, 17/09/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

1.1 million people are in need of emergency shelter, including 530,000 IDPs (OCHA, 31/01/2015). Inadequate shelter, overcrowding, harsh weather conditions, and high rental charges are key challenges for the displaced (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

Education

450,000 children lack access to education, including 205,000 displaced children. Educational supplies are a major gap in the education response (OCHA, 31/01/2015).

Reports indicate that at least 30% of public primary schools operate with only one teacher in the staff (DAWN, 17/09/2015).

In Balochistan, schools reportedly lack basic facilities such as drinking water and toilets. Teachers are reported to lack adequate education (DAWN, 22/06/2015). Around 33% of children in the province are out of school (DAWN, 13/03/2015; 20/02/2015).

Updated: 27/10/2015

JORDAN DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

September: Return rates to Syria for refugees living in host communities were 17% higher in September than in August (WFP).

September: The proportion of families with poor or borderline food consumption tripled in September after cuts in WFP assistance (WFP).

KEY CONCERNS

- 629,152 Syrian refugees in Jordan (UNHCR, 15/10/2015).

- As of August 2015, 85% of refugees are food insecure, compared to 48% in 2014 (NRC, 03/08/2015). In September, WFP cut support to 229,000 beneficiaries due to funding constraints (AFP, 04/09/2015).

- A growing number of Syrian refugees are entering camps to receive medical attention, straining already limited resources (ECHO, 19/08/2015).

Politics and security

Concerns over the crises in Iraq and Syria and extremist infiltration have increased since Jordan joined the US-led airstrikes against Islamic State (IS) in September 2014 (ISW, 19/02/2015; Al Jazeera, 12/02/2015).

Ramtha, a town of 120,000 located 90km north of Amman, has been hit by multiple shells resulting from unstable security conditions on the Syrian side of the border. On 7 October, one shell damaged a house. On 13 August, a shell injured six people, and on 25 June, one person was killed and another four injured (The Jordan Times, 07/10/2015).

Displacement

629,152 refugees are registered with UNHCR in Jordan (UNHCR, 15/10/2015). The average number of Syrians entering Jordan dropped considerably after an initial influx in 2013, but arrival rates have again been climbing since July 2015. The number and accessibility of entry points has been limited, and entry restrictions have increased, forcing Syrians to travel to remote informal crossing-points in the eastern desert (RRP6, 2014–2015; IOM, 2014).

Tensions between refugees and host communities are a concern, primarily due to a sense of competition over housing, jobs, and assistance (Mercy Corps, 12/2014; Chatham House, 21/09/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

Syrian refugees

As of 15 October, there are 629,152 Syrian refugees in Jordan (UNHCR, 15/10/2015). The government of Jordan claims that the actual number of Syrian refugees hosted in Jordan is around 1.5 million (AFP, 25/08/2015). Jordan's first national household census since 2004 will be conducted in November (The Jordan Times, 04/10/2015).

By mid-October, 30,821 Syrians had arrived in 2015 (UNHCR, 15/10/2015). Arrivals have been increasing since July after advocacy efforts in Syria on the availability of protection services in Jordan were stepped up. Average daily arrival rates have grown from 36 in July, to 50 in August, and 64 in September (UNHCR, 13/10/2015). NRC reported 340 arrivals in a single day in mid-September (NRC, 06/10/2015). Returns to Syria, however, outpace arrivals (UNHCR, 13/10/2015).

50.7% of registered refugees are female. 51.8% are below 18 years of age, 44.6% are between 18 and 59, and 3.5% are older than 60 years (UNHCR, 15/10/2015). About 86% of refugees in urban and rural areas outside of camps live below the Jordanian poverty line of USD 3.2 per person per day (**Inter-agency, 30/09/2015**).

519,129 refugees (82.5%) are reported to be hosted in urban areas, while 110,023 (17.5%) are in camps. 175,873 refugees live in Amman governorate, 141,717 in Irbid governorate, 76,681 in Mafraq governorate, and 49,950 in Zarqa governorate (UNHCR, 15/10/2015).

While the majority of refugees live among host communities, there has been a pattern of refugees returning to camps, mainly due to increased economic vulnerability. In August, more Syrian refugees arrived in Azraq camp, Zarqa, from host communities than from Syria (UNICEF, 31/08/2015). Some 24,396 Syrian refugees live in Azraq camp – more than double the number in January (UNHCR, 31/08/2015; 15/10/2015). There are a further 79,291 Syrian refugees in Zaatari camp, Jordan's biggest, as well as 6,336 in the Emirati Jordan Camp (UNHCR, 15/10/2015).

Returnees to Syria

Returns from Jordan to Syria have strongly increased since July. Average daily return rates are as follows: 66 in July, 129 in August, and 103 in September (UNHCR, 13/10/2015). Reasons for return include reunion with family members, increasing vulnerability given reduced aid – especially cuts to WFP food assistance – and lack of livelihood opportunities in Jordan, and a desire to continue education (UNHCR, 31/08/2015; 13/10/2015). **While returns among camp-based refugees have decreased, returns among people living in host communities were 17% higher in September than in August (WFP, 30/09/2015)**. A UNHCR intentions survey found that 66% of Syrian refugee respondents will consider spontaneous return to Syria if faced with further cuts in WFP or UNHCR assistance, or reduced earning and employment opportunities (UNHCR, 13/10/2015). **WFP argues that recent cuts to food and cash assistance represent the**

last straw, pushing people back to Syria or on to Europe (WFP, 30/09/2015).

Third-country migration

Increasing numbers of young Syrian men from Jordan's camps and host communities are reportedly selling their land in Syria to pay people smugglers to help them travel to Europe (New York Times, 22/09/2015). Departures of Syrians from Amman airport to Istanbul – a common transit point – have increased sharply in recent months (NRC, 06/10/2015). In October, 18% of survey respondents revealed plans to fly to Turkey in the next three months (UNHCR, 13/10/2015).

Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)

UNRWA has recorded 14,736 PRS who have approached the agency for support since the start of the Syrian conflict, 82% of whom are vulnerable or extremely vulnerable (UNRWA, 03/12/2014; 15/05/2015). 20,000 are forecast to be in Jordan by the end of 2015 (ECHO, 09/10/2015).

Since late 2012, the government has explicitly stated that it would not allow PRS to enter Jordan. Those who do enter are subject to a number of protection issues, including refoulement, confiscation of documents and, for those with Jordanian citizenship, de-nationalisation (HRW 05/2014, 04/07/2012). As of 15 May, 41 forced returns to Syria have been reported to UNRWA since January 2015. UNRWA reported 106 cases of PRS deported in 2014, a 40% increase on 2013, but warns the actual number of deportations is likely much higher (UNRWA, 03/12/2014; 15/05/2015).

Non-Syrian refugees

At the end of August, almost 58,000 Iraqi, Somali, Sudanese and Yemeni refugees were registered with UNHCR in Jordan (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). The majority are Iraqi, nearly 90% of whom live in Amman. As of 15 October, there are 51,105 registered Iraqi refugees in Jordan. 48.4% are female. 33.8% of refugees are below 18 years of age, 56.7% are between 18 and 59, 9.4% are over 60 years of age (UNHCR, 15/10/2015). It is widely understood that many more Iraqis are living in Jordan unregistered, often under poor conditions and in dire need of humanitarian assistance (Act Alliance, 13/08/2015).

Humanitarian access

The influx of Syrian refugees has placed significant additional stress on Jordan's already strained public services. Public health and education services are particularly affected (Government, 12/2014).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

International NGOs working in Jordan are required to get all projects approved by the Government through an online approval portal (Government, 25/08/2015). Aid agencies

assisting Syrians also need to include vulnerable Jordanians as 30% of their beneficiaries; some have faced pressure to increase this proportion to 50% (PI, 06/2014).

Food security and livelihoods

Food insecurity among refugees in the country has risen in 2015. As of August, 85% of refugees are food insecure, compared to 48% in 2014 (NRC, 03/08/2015). **Cuts to food and cash assistance in September are associated with major deteriorations in vulnerability levels – the proportion of families with poor or borderline food consumption tripled from 18% to 61% after WFP cuts (WFP, 30/09/2015).**

Within host communities, there has been a 37% increase in the number of food insecure compared to 2014, and 68% live below the poverty line, representing a 24% increase since 2014. In June, 67% of households reported using negative coping strategies, a 32% increase since 2014 (WFP, 30/06/2015). **Following September cuts to WFP assistance, 75% of families reported an increase in the frequency or severity of coping strategies: 34% have withdrawn children from school; 29% are now sending under-age children to work (WFP, 30/09/2015).**

Livelihoods

With scarce livelihood opportunities, 86% of Syrian refugees in urban areas are living below the Jordanian poverty line of USD 96 per month and 10% are below the abject poverty line of USD 37 (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Refugees in Jordan are heavily reliant on cash assistance to support their livelihoods, without which increasing numbers are resorting to begging, dropping out of school and reducing food intake. Some 20% of children have dropped out of school in order to work (UNHCR, 24/09/2015). 60% of refugee families outside camps are in debt (VAF, 15/06/2015; UNHCR, 15/06/2015). An estimated 1,750 Syrians are reported to be living in extremely poor conditions on the eastern border of Jordan (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Funding shortfalls mean that cash assistance to some 30,000 families in Jordan will have to be cut over the winter, exacerbating conditions (UNHCR, 16/09/2015).

The unemployment rate among active Syrian refugees is as high as 57%, and has increased from 15% to 22% for Jordanians since the onset of the crisis (ILO, 11/05/2015). As refugees are not officially allowed to work in Jordan, 99% of employed Syrian refugees work informally (UNICEF, 30/06/2015).

Food availability

Funding shortfalls have resulted in a series of cuts to food assistance for Syrian refugees. In September, 228,553 vulnerable refugees in communities received zero assistance due to lack of funding; 219,666 extremely vulnerable refugees in communities only received half their required assistance (UNHCR, 13/10/2015; WFP, 30/09/2015). **An initial rapid-**

assessment survey indicates that the proportion of families with poor or borderline food consumption has tripled following WFP assistance cuts, from 18% to 61%, (WFP, 30/09/2015).

Health

Healthcare availability and access

The Government decision to halt free access to health services for Syrian refugees in November 2014 led to a reduction in the number of Syrians accessing public healthcare. In response, Syrian refugees are increasingly entering camps to receive medical attention, straining already limited resources (ECHO, 19/08/2015). In mid-August, the health ministry announced that some 50,000 Iraqi refugees would no longer be eligible for subsidised healthcare, and would have to pay higher rates applied for foreigners (UNHCR, 31/08/2015).

Reports indicate that, in 2015, 58% of adults with chronic conditions in Jordan were not able to receive medicines and adequate health services, sharply up from 24% in 2014 (UNHCR, 14/09/2015).

8% of refugees suffer from conflict-related injuries (WHO, 30/06/2015). Since September 2013, over 1,850 Syrian war-wounded have required emergency treatment in Ramtha hospital, near Jordan's northern border with Syria (MSF, 14/10/2015).

Maternal health

Maternal health is of particular concern. Rates of delivery in government facilities have dropped to 44% in 2015 from 66% of 2014 (UNHCR, 14/09/2015). Half of pregnant women have been unable to afford antenatal care, and 60% of new mothers could not afford postnatal care. Refugee women in Zaatari camp are reported to be in particular need of better postnatal care (EU, 14/08/2015; UNICEF 30/06/2015).

Mental health

High needs for psychosocial support have been reported (EU, 14/08/2015; UNHCR, 02/09/2015).

WASH

Water

Reports suggest that the public water system is under significant strain in areas where there are high concentrations of Syrians (Government, 17/03/2015). Local water shortages continue to increase (Chatham House, 21/09/2015).

Sanitation

Municipal sewage and garbage removal services are under stress (REACH, 12/11/2014, Chatham House, 21/09/2015). Two out of five Syrian refugees live in poor sanitary conditions; only one in five has a functioning toilet. People in informal shelters are particularly affected (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter

Lack of adequate shelter is the main concern for Syrian refugees, especially among the 83% who live among host communities in Amman and the northwestern governorates (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). Available shelter is often inadequate, unaffordable or insecure (NRC, 17/06/2015). An assessment in northern Jordan showed that one refugee household in five lives in accommodation that does not provide basic protection from the elements. Housing is often overcrowded, and half of the families assessed share accommodation with at least one other family to save costs. Threat of eviction is another concern (NRC, 17/06/2015). A housing assessment in Zaatari camp found 185 households in need of shelter upgrades (UNCHR, 31/08/2015). **Shelter activities ahead of winter are stepping up, but as of September, only 14% of Syrians in need of winterisation assistance had received shelter support (UNHRC, 30/09/2015).**

NFIs

Refugees are also in need of NFIs, including for cooking and heating, with needs increasing as winter approaches. **UNHCR is targeting 229,400 Syrian and 29,937 Iraqi refugees with winterisation assistance (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).**

Education

66% of the 90,000 Syrians of school age are not engaged in formal education, with the other third engaged in informal education (UNHCR, 30/09/2015). Up to 30% have never attended formal education (UNHCR, 31/08/2015). Over 65% of all school-aged children in Zaatari camp attend school, while 43% of children in Azraq camp are attending school (UNICEF, 30/06/2015). 37.5% of Iraqi refugees were not enrolled in schools in 2014, with financial issues reported as the main reason for non-attendance among 40% of those enrolled (UNHCR, 31/01/2015).

Access and learning environment

Barriers to attendance and reasons for dropping out include distance; overcrowding; safety in and on the way to school; lack of resources to pay for school material; and needing to work for household income (UNHCR, 31/03/2015; REACH, 03/2015).

Protection

Protection space for refugees in Jordan has shrunk since 2014 (ECHO, 09/10/2015). Refugees report a waiting period of up to two months for registration, and lack of sufficient shelter, sanitation, and medical support (UNHCR, 31/05/2015). The most vulnerable refugees likely include those without identity documents, or with forged documents, and those who had previously returned to Syria (PI, 29/09/2014). There was increasing evidence in the second part of 2014 that the government is returning screened refugees to Syria. Jordanian officials maintain that the border is open to refugees, and that Jordan is simply instituting security measures to exclude people connected to “terrorist organisations” (Al Ghad, 14/12/2014; Jordan Times, 11/12/2014).

Gender

Many among the Syrian refugee community face domestic violence, early marriage, and sexual violence (Reuters, 01/10/2015). 32.7% of all marriages were child marriages in 2014: in 2013, 13% of marriages involved girls younger than 18. In 2014, 51% of people seeking support services for physical assault and physiological abuse report the harm was caused by a spouse or primary caregiver (UN, 02/07/2015).

Children

The prevalence of child labour, often resulting in children withdrawing from school, raises concerns (UNHCR, 28/04/2015). 8% of boys aged 9–15 are economically active and 3% are employed. In the 15–18 age group, 37% are economically active and 14% are employed (ILO, 11/05/2015). Child marriage is a concern.

Vulnerable groups

In July 2015, Jordan was reported to have suspended all the projects for the sheltering of Syrian refugees in urban areas of the country (Huffington Post, 07/07/2015). Since early 2014, the Government appeared to have been implementing a more rigorous approach to its encampment policy of Syrian refugees. Significant numbers of refugees were forcibly returned to camps in the last months of 2014 (NRC-IRC, 13/11/2014; PI, 03/12/2014, 12/11/2014). This has often resulted in separation of family members between camp and urban settings (UNHCR, 27/04/2015).

Documentation

Refugees in camps who wish to move to urban areas must obtain “bail” from the government. However, large numbers of refugees have left the camps without obtaining bail. The Government has asked UNHCR not to issue asylum-seeker certificates to Syrians in urban areas who left the camp after 14 July 2014 and who did not obtain bail (PI, 16/07/2014 R1; ECHO, 09/10/2015).

An urban verification exercise, which requires biometric registration of all Syrians outside camps, has been ongoing since February. The government has instructed humanitarian

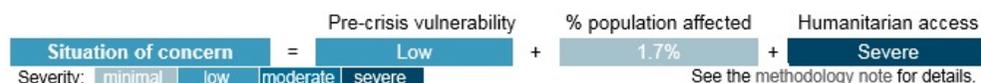
agencies not to provide assistance to Syrians who do not have Service Cards, which entitle refugees to access certain services. **As of end September, a total of 206,856 Service Cards had been issued. Approximately 30% of registered Syrian refugees have received Service Cards. Refugees now only need to provide a UNHCR statement of address for registration, rather than a certified lease agreement, removing a major barrier to registration (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).**

Many Syrians remain without personal documents after having been required to hand them over to authorities on arrival to Jordan. A document return process is underway, with a 50% increase in document returns since September 2015 (UNHCR, 30/09/2015).

Only about 10% of employed Syrians have obtained formal work permits, and almost all Syrian refugees working outside camps do not have work permits. Since the beginning of the crisis, Jordanians have faced deteriorating work conditions. However on average, Syrian workers are still paid less, work longer hours, and have poorer contracts compared to Jordanians in the same sector (ILO, 11/05/2015).

Updated: 22/10/2015

MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

16 October: Elections have been cancelled in areas across Kachin, large parts of Kayin, and in the northeastern border region of Shan state. Most of these areas also did not hold elections in 2010. The cancellations are mainly due to conflict (MIMU, 16/10/2015).

6–16 October: Fighting in Mong Hsu township, Shan state, between the Myanmar Army and Shan State Army-North, displaced over 2,700 people from six villages. An unknown number are sheltering in Mong Hsu town and nearby monasteries. They are reported in need of shelter and food assistance (Irrawaddy, 16/10/2015; 14/10/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

-Cyclone Komen-related flooding from 26 July-10 August has affected 1,615,000 people, displaced up to 385,000 households at its peak, and killed 132 people. 12 out of 14 states and regions have been affected (ECHO, 23/08/2015).

- Repeated bloodshed between Buddhists and Muslims in Rakhine state since 2012, with human rights abuses reported against the Muslim minority (UN).

- 660,000 IDPs resulting from years of internal conflict, including 140,000 mainly Rohingya Muslim IDPs in Rakhine state (OCHA, 16/06/2015; USAID, 16/06/2015).

Politics and security

Myanmar's first democratic election in 25 years will take place on 8 November 2015 (Myanmar Times, 08/07/2015). Elections have been cancelled in areas in the northeast border region of Shan state, areas across Kachin, and large parts of Kayin. The majority of these areas did not hold elections in 2010. The cancellations are mainly due to conflict (MIMU, 16/10/2015). Foreign observers will be invited to monitor the election (Reuters, 24/03/2015).

A 25 June referendum on changes to the constitution, which could have lifted Aung San Suu Kyi's ban from the presidency and reduced the military's power in parliament, did not reach the 75% majority needed to carry the motion (BBC, 25/06/2015).

Peace negotiations

On 15 October, a national ceasefire agreement was signed by eight of the 18 ethnic armed armies in Myanmar. Those not signing include the three armed groups (Ta-ang National Liberation Army, the Arakan Army, and armed ethnic groups in Kokang) still in conflict with the Government in the Kokang border area, Shan state and excluded from participating in negotiations. Their exclusion is largely attributed as the main reason other armed ethnic groups refused to sign. Groups most active against the Government are among those who did not sign (AFP, 15/10/2015; BBC, 15/10/2015; Bangkok Post, 30/09/2015).

Conflict developments

The security situation remains tense in parts of Myanmar. 41 armed clashes were recorded in September compared to 14 in August. Most were in Shan and Kachin states. The increase is likely due to the greater mobility of armed groups after heavy rains subsided, and heightened tensions due to stalled peace talks. September recorded the highest frequency of clashes since April (Myanmar Peace Monitor, 30/09/2015; 31/08/2015). Between February and May, 554 people were killed in violence between separatist groups and Myanmar forces. Shan state saw 281

fatalities in March and April (ACLED, 16/06/2015).

Kachin state: The KIO still has administrative control over several key areas of Kachin, and there are intermittent clashes between its army (the KIA) and the Myanmar army (local media, 06/10/2014). Security incidents have been reported regularly since fighting resumed in April 2014 (OCHA, 16/05/2015). On 6 September, the Myanmar army clashed with the KIA between the towns of Bhamo and Shwegu. Fighting was ongoing as of 9 September (Democratic Voice of Burma, 10/09/2015). Fighting continues around Sumpra Bum Township after intensifying in mid-July. Armed forces in the area will not grant humanitarian access to over 1,000 people displaced by the fighting (Irrawaddy, 21/08/2015).

Natural Disasters

The monsoon season continues until October, though tropical storms can be expected until November (HEWS).

Cyclone Komen

Floods linked to Cyclone Komen began on 26 July and continued until 10 August. 1.6 million people were affected, up to 385,900 households were displaced, and 132 people killed. Twelve out of 14 states and regions were affected (ECHO, 11/09/2015).

The Rohingya displaced in Rakhine are considered to be particularly vulnerable, as already inadequate shelter was damaged by the flooding (BBC, 02/08/2015; OCHA, 01/08/2015).

Other flooding

Continued heavy rains in early September have brought further flooding for Sagaing, Mandalay, and Irrawaddy. As of 13 September, nearly 9,000 people have been evacuated in Mandalay and nearly 1,500 have been displaced. On 7 September, the Government reported that 1,050 new IDPs had arrived in camps in Sagaing (Government, 16/09/2015; 08/09/2015). The dam in Ngathaingchaung Township, Irrawaddy, has reached danger levels. Reports indicate that people have also been evacuated to higher ground in parts of Irrawaddy (ECHO, 11/09/2015; New Light of Myanmar, 07/09/2015). On 3 September, the Chindwin River overflowed with heavy rains in northern Sagaing region, affecting over 100 villages. Up to 870 people were affected in Homalin township. 600 homes were submerged in Khandi township, affecting an estimated 3,000 people (New Light of Myanmar, 06/09/2015).

On 11 October, 17 people were killed and a further six are missing and presumed dead after a landslide in Hpa-saung township, Kayah state. 53 houses were destroyed

and 360 people displaced to temporary shelters at schools and Lokhalo Station Hospital. On 8 October a flash flood in Kalaywa township, Sagaing region, killed two people and left 14 missing (New Light of Myanmar, 13/10/2015; 19/10/2015). On 23 September, one person was killed and several injured in a landslide and flooding in Kanbauk, Tenasserim Division (Democratic Voice of Burma, 23/09/2015).

Displacement

1.6 million people were displaced at one point during flooding in August, mainly from Rakhine, Chin, Magway and Sagaing, but an IOM assessment shows that most have returned to their area of origin. An unconfirmed number of people remain in displacement (IOM, 09/2015). At least 10,000 people in Chin were still displaced in late September and a further 1,800 remain displaced in Myatheindan Pagoda in Sagaing (ECHO, 23/08/2015; 04/09/2015).

Prior to July and August flooding, 662,400 people were estimated to be in protracted displacement nationwide, primarily due to conflict. About 20,000 people were newly displaced in 2015, mainly in Kachin and northern Shan (OCHA, 16/06/2015). More than 500 people were displaced by conflict in September (Myanmar Peace Monitor, 30/09/2015).

IDPs

Chin: Some 10,000 are displaced by recent flooding (ECHO, 23/08/2015).

Magway: On 13 September, flooding of the Ayeyarwaddy River led to the evacuation of 830 people and the displacement of around 1,500 (Government, 16/09/2015).

Rakhine: Around 130,000–140,000 people, mainly Rohingya Muslims, are in protracted displacement in Rakhine (USAID, 16/06/2015; The Diplomat, 17/06/2015). Many live in closed camps following inter-communal violence in 2012 (OCHA, 27/02/2015). 70% of all IDPs in Rakhine, around 99,000 people, live in IDP camps in Sittwe township (USAID, 08/10/2015).

Shan and Kachin: As of September, around 100,000 people are in protracted displacement in Shan and Kachin states due to ongoing fighting (USAID, 09/10/2015).

Fighting broke out on 6 October in Mong Hsu township, Shan state, between the Myanmar Army and Shan State Army-North. Over 2,700 people have been displaced from six villages after more than a week of clashes. The exact locations of the displaced are not precisely known, with local media providing different accounts. Hundreds are reported to be in Mong Hsu town, and over a thousand are sheltering in nearby monasteries. They are reported to be in need of shelter and food

assistance (Irrawaddy, 16/10/2015; 14/10/2015).

At 28 September, reports indicate that at least 200 people are displaced by fighting that began 10 days earlier between government forces and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) around Mansi township. The majority are sheltering less than a mile away from the fighting. The elderly and disabled have been unable to flee the fighting (Irrawaddy, 21/09/2015; 28/09/2015).

Fighting intensified between the KIA and government troops on 11 July around Sumpra Bum township, Kachin state and continued as of late August. 1,400 civilians are reported displaced (Irrawaddy, 21/08/2015; 20/07/2015).

Kayin: As of 28 September, an unspecified number of people in the Hpapun area of Kayin state are displaced as they flee forced recruitment drives by the Karen National Union (KNU) (Democratic Voice of Burma, 08/10/2015).

Myanmar Refugees in neighbouring countries

According to UNHCR, as of late March, over 415,000 refugees originate from Myanmar (AFP, 30/11/2014).

China: As of 16 October, 8,000 refugees remain in China of the 60,000 who arrived between January and February 2015. Refugees move back and forth across the border to seek shelter, food, and employment, according to aid agencies (OCHA, 16/10/2015).

Bangladesh: An estimated 30,000 Rohingya refugees live in official camps and receive assistance from aid agencies (local media, 09/11/2014). An additional 300,000–500,000 Rohingya reside either in unofficial camps or villages where they get little or no humanitarian assistance and almost no protection from human rights abuses. Most Rohingya are denied refugee status (UNHCR, 12/06/2015; AFP, 06/06/2015; AFP, 29/05/2015).

Malaysia: 40,700 Rohingya registered with the UN were in Malaysia at end December 2014. Rohingya activists say a roughly equal number are unregistered. Rohingya migrants are frequently kept in smugglers' camps along the border, where they are held for ransom, tortured, and raped (AFP, 30/11/2014; international media, 30/12/2015; Reuters, 01/06/2015).

Thailand: In July, biometric verification recorded around 110,000 refugees from Myanmar in nine camps along the border in Thailand, (UNHCR, 30/06/2015). Other sources place the number as high as 150,000 (US Government, 2015). Authorities have pledged to send about 100,000 refugees back to Myanmar. Thai officials have

been accused of tugging boats carrying Rohingya out to sea, away from their coast (CNN, 20/05/2015; UNHCR, 01/2015). Rohingya are subject to human trafficking. Many are held for ransom and abused (international media, 01/06/2015; 02/06/2015).

Other

Rohingya in the Bay of Bengal: The Thai Government began a major operation to shut down human trafficking along its border with Myanmar in April, leading people smugglers to abandon migrants at sea (Reuters, 02/06/2015). 31,000 Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants have attempted to cross the Bay of Bengal in 2015. As of 6 October an estimated at least 570 have died during the journey (IOM, 06/10/2015). Over 5,300 people have arrived in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand in 2015 (IOM, 16/06/2015). Nearly 2,800 remain in detention centres (IOM, 14/09/2015). 1,000 people remain unaccounted for and may have disembarked unofficially (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Humanitarian access

In Myanmar's highland areas access is restricted by difficult terrain and poor infrastructure, and further limited during the monsoon season (May–October). Frequent conflict, predominately in Kachin and Shan states, prevents access to people in need. Access to areas affected by recent flooding and landslides is severely restricted.

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Some reports suggest armed groups are actively denying access to humanitarian groups (Irrawaddy, 21/08/2015; 20/07/2015). Fighting around Hpakant and Sumpra Bum (Kachin state) has prevented access to around 1,400 people who have reportedly been inaccessible since 11 July (Irrawaddy, 21/08/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

There has been little to no cross-line humanitarian assistance to non-government-controlled areas in Kachin. Some 50,000 IDPs have had little to no humanitarian access since September 2014 (local media, 05/12/2014; OCHA, 15/06/2015)

Security and physical constraints

Kachin state: Active conflict between the Myanmar army and Kachin Independence Army (KIA) between the towns of Bhamo and Shwegu was ongoing as of 9 September (Democratic Voice of Burma, 10/09/2015).

Kayah state: Heavy rains in October caused flooding and landslides in Mawchi, in Bawlake district, damaging bridges and affecting road movement (New Light of

Myanmar, 14/10/2015).

Shan state: In July, UN teams were able to access the Kokang region in northeastern Shan state for the first time since February due to going conflict in the area. Suspended humanitarian operations, such as WFP distributions which stopped in May, are yet to fully resume (Myanmar, 15/07/2015; WFP, 31/05/2015).

Estimates suggest that 60,000 people around Laukkai are in need of humanitarian assistance, but cannot be reached due to insecurity (OCHA, 30/04/2015). Roadblocks and border closures are restricting the movement of civilians fleeing fighting between government troops and MNDAA. Chinese government officials have increased border controls (Radio Free Asia, 25/02/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Some 200,000 people are in need of immediate food assistance due to flooding in late July and early August (WFP, 05/08/2015). Prior to flooding, 429,000 people were in need of food assistance (OCHA, 01/2015).

Food availability

At the height of the flooding (July-August), approximately 566,560 hectares of farmland was flooded across 12 affected regions and states, though the waters are now receding. At least 229,280 hectares of farmland are believed damaged or destroyed. Most negatively affected agricultural land is in the north and west (ASEAN, 18/08/2015; Democratic Voice of Burma, 18/08/2015; FAO, 10/08/2015).

Livelihoods

The harvest of some crops, including beans and pulses – some of Myanmar's biggest agricultural exports – will be delayed by at least 60 days, affecting food security and livelihoods (Irrawaddy, 04/08/2015).

Health

Access to healthcare is a major challenge in Rakhine (OCHA, 30/09/2014). Only patients in the most critical condition tend to reach hospital.

Healthcare availability and access

July and early August flooding damaged health facilities and further diminished access to healthcare nationally. 242 health facilities were damaged or destroyed in July and August and drug stocks have been lost in some areas (UNICEF, 20/08/2015; ECHO, 17/08/2015).

Dengue fever

As of 17 June, the number of dengue fever cases in 2015 has reached 8,475, causing 37 deaths – more than double the number during the same period in 2014. Incidence has been increasing since April. Mon state, Yangon, and Irrawaddy regions are the most affected (Eleven, 18/06/2015; local media, 22/06/2015).

Nutrition

In Rakhine state, GAM is above 20% in some areas (UNICEF, 01/02/2015).

WASH

Water

People from Rakhine and Chin states and Sagaing and Magway regions are reportedly without access to safe drinking water due to July and August flooding (Democratic Voice of Burma, 18/08/2015). Cases of acute diarrhoea have been reported in Rakhine, Sagaing region, and Magway region. This rise in cases is partially attributed to the lack of potable water (Democratic Voice of Burma, 18/08/2015).

Sanitation

In Pwint Phyu Township in Magway, one of the heaviest hit by flooding, 50–60% of latrines have been destroyed (Peace Winds Japan, 15/09/2015). 131,000 people need access to adequate sanitation facilities in temporary evacuation sites following July and August flooding (OCHA, 05/08/2015). The poor WASH situation in camps in Rakhine prior to flooding elevates the risk of waterborne diseases (USAID, 16/06/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

21,000–39,000 homes were completely destroyed in July and August flooding. 10,000 were in Rakhine alone. The government reports that 490,000 additional homes were damaged (ECHO, 23/08/2015; 16/08/2015; Government, 08/10/2015). Six neighbourhoods in Hakka, Chin state, need to be entirely relocated due to damage. 500–1,000 people in Hakka are still in temporary shelter (Democratic Voice of Burma, 24/09/2015).

Shelter

On 11 October, 60 houses were destroyed and 360 people were displaced to temporary shelters at schools and at Lokhalo Station Hospital after landslides hit

Hpa-saung Township, Kayah state (New Light of Myanmar, 13/10/2015).

Prior to the major flooding in August, only 52% of IDP shelters met minimum humanitarian requirements (USAID, 19/06/2015), and approximately 120,000 protracted displaced were without access to improved shelter across Myanmar (USAID, 16/06/2015).

NFIs

Displaced people and vulnerable communities in Rakhine had limited access to cooking fuel and energy prior to the flooding. The situation is particularly difficult for over 80,000 IDPs who have been in camps in Sittwe Township for over two years. Households in camps and isolated villages have been using shelter materials or unsustainable and hazardous materials as fuel, exchanging food rations for fuel, and over-exploiting surrounding forest and woodland (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

Education

In total, 250,000 children have had their academic year disrupted by the flooding in July and August, though schools have now reopened in the Ayeyarwady region (OCHA, 14/09/2015; UNICEF, 20/08/2015). 3,500 schools have been damaged, and around 600 destroyed by flooding (OCHA, 16/09/2015).

Protection

The KIA and KNU continue to forcibly recruit people from villages in Shan state and Kayah state, respectively (Democratic Voice of Burma, 08/10/2015; local media, 01/06/2015). Local media has accused government troops of rape, beatings, and shooting of unarmed civilians in the Kokang region, Shan state (RFA, 25/03/2015). The Myanmar Government has a record of arbitrary detention of people opposing the government and the violent suppression of protests, particularly student protests (Asian Human Rights Commission, 01/10/2015). The Rohingya ethnic minority continues to face discrimination from the government and is vulnerable to human trafficking.

Mines and ERW

Around five million people live in mine-contaminated areas (Mines Advisory Group, 05/2014). Eastern Bago is believed to be the most contaminated region (Norwegian People's Aid, 09/06/2015).

On 5 October, two people were injured by mines in Mohnyin township, Kachin state (New Light of Myanmar, 07/10/2015). One man was killed and another injured by mines in Kachin in two separate incidents in September (New Light of Myanmar,

23/09/2015). An assessment in Kachin and northern Shan states concluded that the majority of reported landmine victims over the second half of 2014 were male farmers, and 56% were displaced people. Most accidents happened while people travelled on foot to areas they visit often, such as fields (UNICEF, 30/11/2014).

According to local media, citing intelligence reports by the Bangladeshi border security forces, Myanmar security forces have planted mines along the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh (local media, 23/11/2014).

Gender

Rape has been used repeatedly as a weapon by armed groups, including the Myanmar army. In 2014, the Women's League of Burma released a report documenting more than 118 victims of sexual violence at the hands of the Myanmar army since Thein Sein's government took power (local media 26/11/2014).

Cross-border trafficking for the purposes of domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, and forced marriage was identified as a major protection concern by respondents during an assessment (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

Children

Between 12–17 July, 646 former child soldiers were released (UN, 20/07/2015). From 2013 to January 2015, a total of 723 cases of underage recruitment by the Myanmar Army were reported to the UN (Child Soldiers International, 01/2015). The number of children that remain within the ranks of the Myanmar army, or within other armed ethnic groups, is unclear.

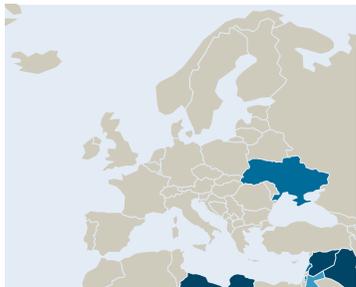
Vulnerable groups

Rohingya: Massive human rights infringements against the Rohingya minority in Rakhine state continue to be reported. Myanmar states that the Rohingya are migrants from neighbouring Bangladesh, thus excluded from citizenship under the 1982 Citizenship Law. Myanmar authorities have started the process to send Rohingya to Bangladesh (AFP, 08/06/2015). Over 400 were repatriated to Bangladesh between May and late August (New Light of Myanmar, 27/08/2015; Irrawaddy, 19/07/2015). Bangladeshi officials state that Rohingya are citizens of Myanmar and that Rohingya living in Bangladesh should be sent to Myanmar (Reuters, 02/06/2015).

Disabled and Elderly: Older and disabled people are reportedly unable to flee fighting between government forces and armed groups. Most recently, 22 people were trapped in Mansi township, Kachin, after fighting broke out between the KIA and government forces on 18 September (Irrawaddy, 24/09/2015).

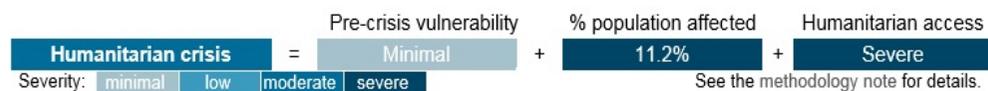
Over 800,000 people – mostly Rohingya – are estimated without citizenship in northern Rakhine (UNHCR). In early April, the Myanmar Government started taking back temporary identity cards, expired end March, from people without full citizenship, including Rohingya (international media, 18/06/2015). In June, the Government began offering two-year ‘green cards’ to some Rohingya, but they have to provide documentation, which the majority do not have, and renounce their Rohingya identity (international media, 18/06/2015). For those who refuse registration or lack adequate documents, the plan was for Rakhine authorities to construct temporary camps (local media, 12/10/2014). Rights advocates say this could put thousands of Rohingya at risk of indefinite detention. Further, the damage to shelters resulting from the flooding in July and August may have destroyed Rohingya documentation.

Updated: 21/10/2015



EUROPE

UKRAINE CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST, DISPLACEMENT



For more information, visit the [ACAPS country analysis page](#).

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

25 October: Local elections took place. Voting did not take place in Crimea, or in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Voting was cancelled in Mariupol due to problems with ballot papers (Ukraine Today, 26/10/2015; Reuters, 25/10/2015).

19 October: MSF was ordered to halt its activities in the separatist Donetsk region (MSF, 23/10/2015; The Guardian, 24/10/2015).

30 September: 43 civilian casualties, including nine deaths and 34 injured, were reported in September. 80% were caused by ERW or IEDs (Protection Cluster).

KEY CONCERNS

- 5.2 million people are affected by the crisis, including two million in non-government areas and two million along the contact line (OCHA, 07/10/2015).
- More than 1.5 million people have been displaced internally and nearly 1.1 million externally (OCHA, 05/10/2015).
- Conflict, administrative and logistical constraints are impeding access and response. Access to food, health, and WASH are also key concerns (OCHA, 17/08/2015).

Politics and security

Nearly 8,000 people have been killed and over 17,800 injured in the conflict since April 2014 (UN, 08/09/2015). Despite a ceasefire agreed in February, casualties continue to be reported, although fighting has fallen to some of the lowest levels seen in the 18-month conflict. The ceasefire was renewed on 1 September (Ukraine Today, 17/09/2015). On 8 September, government leaders and separatists began new peace talks (AFP, 07/09/2015).

Ukraine and pro-Russian separatists signed a peace roadmap on 12 February, introducing a full bilateral ceasefire and the establishment of a buffer zone along the frontline (BBC, 12/02/2015). Fighting nonetheless escalated in May, and then again in mid-August along the Donetsk–Mariupol corridor in Donetsk region, as well as in northwest Luhansk (AFP, 25/08/2015; 03/08/2015; AFP, 25/08/2015; OSCE, 17/08/2015; AFP, 17/08/2015). On 29 September, the warring sides agreed to withdraw tanks and weapons of less than 100mm calibre from the buffer zone. Full withdrawal of weapons to at least 15km from the line of demarcation should be completed within 41 days (Ukraine Today, 5/10/2015; OSCE, 29/09/2015; AFP, 3/10/2015; Radio Liberty, 3/10/2015). As of 13 October, Ukrainian tanks and artillery have been withdrawn from the contact line (Ukraine Today, 13/10/2015). The separatist Donetsk region announced that it will start withdrawing weapons of less than 100mm calibre on 21 October instead of the previously agreed 18 October (Ukraine Today, 17/10/2015).

Pro-Russian separatists control most of eastern Donetsk region, including Donetsk's airport and Debaltseve, and a small area of southern Luhansk region (Government, 13/01/2015). The government has halted budgetary payments to areas it considers to be

out of its control (OCHA, 01/05/2015; international media, 15/11/2014; UN, 15/12/2014). Separatist forces reportedly number around 35,000–40,000 (AFP, 23/03/2015).

End July, Ukraine's highest court allowed parliament to vote on constitutional amendments that would give pro-Russian insurgents in Donetsk and Luhansk three years of partial autonomy. As of September, this amendment has not been passed by parliament (BBC, 31/08/2015; AFP, 31/07/2015). The high court's decision led to the worst riots in Kiev since 2014. Three police were killed by a grenade attack, and over 140 security forces and civilians were injured in clashes between Ukrainian nationalists and security forces (AFP, 01/09/2015).

The conflict is having a significant effect on Ukraine's economy. GDP fell by 17.6% in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014, while inflation rose 61% compared to April 2014 (Les Echos, 07/05/2015). Damage to industrial plants is affecting economic output (Reuters, 24/05/2015).

Elections

Local elections took place on 25 October. Voting did not take place in Crimea, or in the separatist Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Voting was cancelled in Mariupol due to problems with ballot papers (Ukraine Today, 26/10/2015; Reuters, 25/10/2015). The leaders of the separatist Donetsk and Luhansk regions have agreed not to hold separate elections yet (AFP, 03/10/2015). The leader of Donetsk region has rescheduled elections for 20 March 2016 (Ukraine Today, 10/10/2015).

Conflict developments

One person was killed and three others wounded on 10 October in the first serious incident in Donetsk since the ceasefire was renewed on 1 September (AFP, 10/10/2015; OSCE, 11/10/2015). On 14 October, one Ukrainian soldier was killed and three injured in fighting in Avdiivka near Donetsk town (Ukraine Today, 14/10/2015; VOA, 14/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

Administrative requirements to cross the lines separating government from non-government areas are increasingly complicated. These, combined with significant logistical challenges, severely constraint both aid delivery and populations' ability to reach safety, services and reunify with their families (UNHCR, 08/06/2015; 20/03/2015; OCHA, 06/03/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Administrative requirements to cross the lines separating government from non-government areas are severely affecting aid delivery. Foreign organisations working in non-government areas of Donetsk region need to be accredited. Obligatory permits are not

easy to acquire and corruption is reported. In early September, restrictions eased, and humanitarian cargo was able to enter non-government areas (UNHCR, 07/09/2015; WFP, 15/08/2015). A dedicated entry point for humanitarian cargo and facilitated procedures to reach non-government areas will reportedly be made available in the context of the "green corridors initiative" (OCHA, 17/08/2015). Since mid-June, humanitarian convoys had only been able to conduct cross-line operations along the contact line at Horlivka and Volnovakha (OCHA, 17/08/2015).

Several aid workers and OSCE monitoring mission patrols have been caught in crossfire or directly targeted near the contact line or in non-government areas since June (OSCE, 09/08/2015; 27/07/2015; 26/07/2015; OCHA, 26/06/2015).

As of 24 September, rebels in Luhansk region ordered ten foreign aid organisations, including UN agencies and MSF, to leave. Only ICRC remains (AFP, 24/09/2015; UN, 24/09/2015). In Donetsk region, most humanitarian relief operations have been suspended since end July with no indication of when the authorities would make a final determination on agencies' accreditation status (USAID, 30/09/2015). **On 19 October, MSF was ordered to halt its activities in Donetsk region (MSF, 23/10/2015; The Guardian, 24/10/2015).**

Access of affected populations to assistance

Protocols have been established to allow individuals facing an emergency to leave non-government areas without a permit, however they are not yet institutionalised (UNICEF/Protection Cluster, 28/08/2015; OCHA, 26/06/2015). The pass system introduced in June to facilitate crossing cannot process large numbers of requests quickly; civilians wait for hours at checkpoints with no access to basic services, at risk as checkpoints have previously been targeted by shelling (UNICEF/Protection Cluster, 28/08/2015; OCHA, 14/08/2015; USAID, 12/08/2015).

Many civilians remain stranded in hard-to-reach conflict and non-government areas. As of March, 500,000 people were living in underground shelters in conflict areas, with little or no access to aid (OCHA, 16/03/2015).

Security and physical constraints

The Government has halted public transport between government and non-government areas. There are increasing reports of civilians travelling via the Russian Federation to reach government areas and facing an administrative fine when re-entering Ukraine (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 30/06/2015).

Luhansk region is difficult to access due to deteriorated roads and bridges, unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices (OSCE, 15/09/2015; OCHA, 27/02/2015). **As of 16 October, the bridges at Luhanske, Horlivka, and Rizhishne are destroyed. Rains may make bypasses impassable. Roads leading from Luhansk to Stanytsya Luhanska, Shchastya and Popasna are closed. Roads leading from Donetsk to**

Selydove, Kurakhove and Kostyantynivka are closed. The main road between Debaltseve and Artemivsk is also closed (Logistics Cluster, 16/10/2015).

Since 20 September, Tatars from the Crimea have been blockading roads connecting the peninsula to Ukraine, with the objective of raising awareness of alleged discrimination against Tatars in Crimea (Ukraine Today, 30/09/2015). As of 12 October, protestors have cut key electricity lines in the peninsula (Ukraine Today, 12/10/2015).

Displacement

More than 2.4 million Ukrainians have been displaced by the conflict, including 1.5 million IDPs. Many who have left the country are not seeking asylum and have not been registered as refugees. Registration for IDPs who do not have access to government areas is problematic. This can restrict their access to assistance and may lead to underreporting (IDMC, 07/09/2015).

IDPs

As of 6 October, an estimated 1.5 million IDPs have registered in eastern Ukraine since March 2014, including 190,000 children. 59% are elderly and 4% people with disabilities (UNHCR, 06/10/2015; OCHA, 28/08/2015). Key reception areas are areas under government control in Donetsk (539,500) and Luhansk regions (206,100), and Kharkiv (102,000), Kyiv (106,000), Zaporizhzhya (99,800), and Dnipropetrovsk regions (72,400) (UNICEF, 24/09/2015, UNHCR, 26/08/2015). 19,000 people are estimated to be displaced within Crimea (IDMC, 31/10/2014). IDPs are in need of livelihood, employment, and psychological support (UNHCR, 03/08/2015).

IDPs are required to register in government areas in order to be eligible for social payments and pensions; this is contributing to displacement and confusing overall IDP numbers (UNHCR 31/12/2014; 23/01/2015). There are concerns that military-age men are not registering as IDPs for fear of being drafted to the army (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

25.5% of IDP households in August reported having temporarily returned to their area of origin (Shelter Cluster, 31/08/2015).

Ukrainian refugees in neighbouring countries

More than 1.12 million Ukrainians are seeking asylum or other forms of legal stay in neighbouring countries, including 911,500 in Russia, 126,450 in Belarus and 71,300 in Poland; the number has almost doubled since early January (UNHCR, 07/09/2015).

Since July 2014, Russian authorities have prevented Ukrainians from obtaining refugee status in several regions, including border areas and major cities such as Moscow. Most asylum seekers have been unable to collect the required documents and access refugee status (IO, 09/12/2014).

Host communities

Social fragmentation and tensions between IDPs and host communities have increased as a result of the conflict, especially in the Donbas region (UN/World Bank/EU, 08/07/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Nearly 1.8 million people need food assistance, including 670,000 in conflict areas; 1.3 million people were in need support at the end of March (WFP, 30/06/2015; OCHA, 28/08/2015; MSNA, 30/03/2015). In a mid-2015 assessment, 40% of interviewed beneficiaries were found to be food insecure, compared to 14% in March (WFP, 31/07/2015). Food insecurity is increasing for IDPs and populations in non-government areas, mostly as a result of high food prices, limited food supply due to restricted movement of commodities, and few livelihood opportunities.

Food availability

People in non-government areas are particularly affected by limited food supply due to the restricted movement of commodities, both for humanitarian and commercial cargo (WFP, 31/07/2015).

Insecurity, damaged infrastructure, landmines, and lack of resources are delaying agricultural activities in many conflict areas (OCHA, 10/04/2015).

Food access

As a result of the ban imposed on humanitarian organisations at the end of September, 150,000 people are no longer receiving food support in Luhansk (UNICEF, 30/09/2015; OCHA, 07/10/2015).

People in non-government areas are particularly affected by high food prices due to the restricted movement of commodities: as of July, they were 70% higher than the national average (WFP, 31/07/2015). As of July, 25% of female-headed households in Luhansk are at borderline food consumption (WFP, 31/07/2015).

Livelihoods

Households' poor financial situation is the main driver of need (MSNA, 30/03/2015). 2.7 million people are in need of livelihood support (OCHA, 03/06/2015). Food expenditure is now a larger share of households' final consumption, which suggests higher incidence of poverty (UNDP, 02/07/2015). Only 20% of 38,000 IDPs registered at government employment agencies have found jobs (IRIN, 22/06/2015).

Health

Nearly 4.5 million people are in need of health support, compared to 1.5 million reported

end March, due to increasing access constraints (OCHA, 25/08/2015; MSNA, 30/03/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

There are critical shortages of medicines and medical supplies in the east, especially in conflict areas in Donetsk region, and many people in non-government areas cut off from care. More than 100 health facilities in Donetsk and Luhansk regions have been destroyed or damaged, while 30% of health workers in Donetsk and 70% in Luhansk are no longer at their posts (OCHA, 21/03/2015; WHO, 16/01/2015).

Medicine price hikes are affecting treatment for chronic illnesses (IMC, 24/07/2015; OCHA, 16/05/2015; MSF, 04/03/2015). Up to 143,000 people are at higher risk of developing severe complications from lack of cardiovascular medication. 400 people have reportedly died from diabetes due to lack of medication (OCHA, 28/08/2015).

Significant vaccine shortages are also reported; only 7–10% of required quantities are available in non-government areas of Donetsk region (OCHA, 26/06/2015; UNICEF, 01/05/2015). 500,000 children do not have access to polio vaccination and 60,000 people cannot receive medicines for chronic diseases since humanitarian organisations were banned from the region (UNICEF, 30/09/2015; OCHA, 07/10/2015).

HIV/AIDS: HIV-related needs are a concern in eastern Ukraine, with some 8,000 people on antiretroviral treatment facing a critical risk of treatment interruption if access to non-government areas does not improve. Over 14,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in non-government areas (UNICEF/Global Fund, 18/08/2015).

Mental health

At least 100,000 parents and children in conflict areas need psychological support after months of shelling (UNICEF, 11/06/2015). Older people, men, and children are at particularly high psychological risk (IMC, 10/07/2015). 30,000 people are no longer receiving psychological support in Luhans after the ban on humanitarian organisations (OCHA, 07/10/2015).

Polio

Two cases of polio among children in Zakarpatskaya region, southwest Ukraine, were confirmed 28 August. These are the first cases of polio in Europe since 2010 (OCHA, 05/10/2015). **On 20 October, Ukraine launched polio vaccination with the aim to reach 4.7 million children (AFP, 19/10/2015; Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 21/10/2015; WHO, 22/10/2015).**

Tuberculosis (TB)

At least 2,400 people in non-government areas with TB, including 530 people with

multidrug-resistant TB, lack consistent treatment provision and follow-up (HRW, 13/03/2015). Stocks of medicines for drug-resistant TB are insufficient and further shortages are expected (Global Fund, 24/07/2015).

WASH

More than 1.3 million people need WASH assistance, including nearly 1.2 million in non-government areas (OCHA, 25/08/2015). Access to safe water in non-government areas is of particular concern.

Water

Damage to water supply lines has affected access to safe water for 1.3 million people. Three million are at risk of acute water shortages if repairs are not conducted (OCHA, 05/10/2015, OCHA, 17/08/2015). More than 2,000km of pipelines have been damaged in Donbas and conflict hampers agencies' ability to conduct repairs (OCHA, 10/07/2015). ERW and mines restrict residents in some areas from accessing wells or receiving water supply by trucks (OSCE, 18/09/2015).

Populations in non-government areas of Donetsk region are significantly affected by damage to the Donbas canal: Mariupol is receiving only 10% of its normal water intake and is relying on a secondary source of water, which may be exhausted by October (OCHA, 10/07/2015).

The lack of piped water is of particular concern as winter approaches, when it will be required as a source of heat (OSCE, 18/09/2015). 60,000 have lost access to hygiene kits since humanitarian organisations were banned (UNICEF, 30/09/2015; OCHA, 07/10/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

1.4 million people are estimated to be in need of emergency shelter and NFIs, compared to 600,000 end March. Government and non-government areas in Donetsk and Luhansk, as well as high IDP reception areas, are most affected (OCHA, 25/08/2015; MSNA, 30/03/2015).

An estimated 554,800 IDPs (38%) live in inadequate or poor shelter (Shelter Cluster, 31/08/2015). The majority of IDPs are staying with host families or volunteers and are often excluded from humanitarian assistance (UNHCR, 21/05/2015). The absorption capacity within host communities is exhausted in high reception areas and in Odessa (UNHCR, 21/05/2015).

98,000–186,000 registered IDPs need winterisation assistance. They lack mainly shoes and blankets (Shelter Cluster, 28/09/2015). 30,000 people will not receive shelter and NFI kits in Luhansk as humanitarian organisations are no longer allowed access (UNICEF, 30/09/2015; OCHA, 07/10/2015).

Education

Up to 25,000 children have had their education disrupted by the conflict (UNICEF, 11/06/2015). Insecurity, overcrowding, damaged facilities and teachers having fled non-government areas are main barriers to education.

82 schools remain closed in non-government areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions (UNICEF, 11/06/2015). 523 facilities need repair in Donetsk region. Lack of transportation, mines, and overcrowding are also barriers to school attendance (OSCE, 22/04/2015; UNICEF, 20/03/2015).

50% of teachers are thought to have left non-government areas, including 35% in Luhansk (OCHA, 08/05/2015; 27/03/2015). At least 225,000 school-aged children still need access to school supplies and quality education (UNICEF, 11/06/2015).

Protection

5.1 million people are in need of protection (OCHA, 17/08/2015). Human rights violations and abuses persist in eastern Ukraine, including shelling, arbitrary and illegal detention, human trafficking, and deprivation of economic and social rights in conflict areas (UN, 01/06/2015). An increase in cases of human trafficking of women and IDPs has been reported; in previous years, the majority of victims were men for labour exploitation (OCHA, 17/08/2015). Over 40 journalists have been banned from the country (VOA, 17/09/2015).

Children

Around 1.7 million children are in need of support (local organisation, 03/08/2015). There are continued reports of minors unable to register for IDP status and receive aid as they fled violence unaccompanied (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 31/07/2015; UNHCR, 08/06/2015). There are also significant concerns over the militarisation of children in non-government areas (AFP, 24/06/2015; Protection Cluster, 04/03/2015).

Nearly 95,000 of the country's 8 million children have been abandoned. Orphanages in Ukraine are overcrowded and depend on volunteer initiatives to provide nearly 60% of their food supply (Ukraine Today, 18/10/2015).

Documentation

There are significant barriers to obtaining or replacing official documentation, including for newborns in non-government areas, as it is difficult to reach government areas where documentation is provided. Common instruction to local authorities on how to address this issue is lacking (UNHCR/Protection Cluster, 07/09/2015). **On 22 September, the government presented a draft law to improve recording of births and deaths in non-government- controlled areas (Protection Cluster, 30/09/2015).**

Ambiguity in legislation excludes minors who have fled the violence with relatives who are not their parents from registration as IDPs and therefore from financial support and protection (Protection Cluster, 18/08/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Disabled people: Support is lacking for the 54,000 disabled people in eastern Ukraine, who constitute the most vulnerable population (UNICEF, 22/06/2015; UNHCR, 21/05/2015). The conflict has deprived more than 300,000 people with disabilities of almost all their legal rights (OHCHR, 20/08/2015).

IDPs: A mechanism for verifying IDP addresses was introduced in April, raising concerns that IDPs with temporary addresses might lose their status and associated benefits (UNHCR, 10/04/2015). Unlawful refusals of registration and financial assistance, violations of employment rights, limited access to social benefits, discrimination and stigmatisation have been reported among IDPs (OCHA, 13/03/2015; IOM, 22/10/2014).

Minorities: The situation of minority communities in Crimea, including Crimean Tatars and ethnic Ukrainians, is of concern. Anti-Roma sentiment has also apparently increased (Euronews, 21/09/2015; UN, 27/01/2015). Roma report living with restricted water and electricity supply, and unequal access to healthcare (OCHA, 01/05/2015). In Crimea, intimidation and restrictive laws have been used to silence the media – including almost all Crimean Tatar media outlets. NGOs and public protests have been banned since annexation (UN, 01/06/2015; UNHCR, 31/01/2015; Amnesty, 17/03/2015; local media, 01/04/2015).

Older people: The situation for older people in Donetsk and Luhansk is worsening, and particularly alarming in remote rural areas and areas with active conflict. Access to pension income and therefore to food and medicine is almost non-existent for many who are not mobile (IRIN, 29/09/2015).

Mines and ERW

Landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) incidents continue to be reported in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, especially near conflict areas (OSCE, 19/09/2015; OCHA, 10/07/2015). 30,000 hectares of land along the frontline in Novoazovskiyi and Artemivskiyi districts in Donetsk region are reportedly contaminated (UNHCR, 10/04/2015). 310 of 575 civilian casualties between 16 February and 15 August were related to ERW or improvised explosive devices (OCHA, 05/10/2015). **43 civilian casualties, including nine deaths and 34 injured, were reported in September. 80% were caused by ERW or IEDs (Protection Cluster, 30/09/2015).**

Updated: 26/10/2015



NORTH AMERICA

HAITI FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

14 October: The governments of Haiti and Dominican Republic agreed to reopen negotiations aimed at resolving the migration crisis, as the rate of official deportations increases (AFP, IOM).

14 October: 2,833 arrivals from Dominican Republic are spread across six spontaneous sites in Anse-à-Pitres and are in urgent need of assistance. The effects of the drought are impacting farmers in Anse-à-Pitres (AlterPresse, OCHA).

KEY CONCERNS

- Erratic rains since January have led to 3 million food insecure including 180,000 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (OCHA, 31/08/2015; local media, 15/06/2015; ECHO, 27/05/2015).
- Continued cholera incidence, with 21,666 suspected cases and 192 deaths between January and September 2015 (OCHA 9/10/2015).
- 60,800 IDPs remain in 45 camps as a result of the 2010 earthquake. 40% of camps are tents and makeshift sites (IOM, 30/06/2015).

OVERVIEW

Humanitarian needs in Haiti stem from displacement, food insecurity, and malnutrition.

The situation is compounded by an extremely fragile political and economic situation, and a significant vulnerability to natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and droughts. The resilience of the population is extremely low.

Politics and security

Political instability

The political situation is tense. Parliamentary elections took place on 9 August, after having been delayed since 2011. However, 26 of 1,508 polling stations were closed due to violence, and voter turnout reached only 18% (AFP, 21/08/2015; OAS, 10/08/2015; Reuters, 10/08/2015). 16 candidates were disqualified over suspected involvement in election violence. Clashes in the days leading up to the elections killed five people and injured 34 (Reuters, 10/08/2015; AFP, 10/08/2015). Following demonstrations in several parts of the country and sharp criticism from international observers and Haitian human rights groups, the Provisional Electoral Council announced that a revote will take place in 25 of 119 constituencies (Alter Press, 11/08/2015; 12/08/2015).

Tensions persist. On 8 September, the Vérité party, one of the leading political parties, pulled out of the second round of legislative elections, claiming it was the primary target of violence during the first round of voting (NYT, 08/09/2015).

In early September, protests against a presidential decree to re-zone the communes in Arcahaie in Ouest department lasted three days (local media, 04/09/2015).

Presidential elections are due to take place on 25 October 2015. Local elections (previously scheduled to coincide with presidential ones) are now scheduled for 27 December 2015 (local media, 24/09/2015).

Natural disasters

Tropical storm

Tropical storm Erika killed four people and injured 12 on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince and in Léogâne on 29 August (AlterPresse, 29/08/2015). 18,800 people are estimated to have been affected (OCHA, 10/09/2015).

Hurricane Joaquin which passed over Haiti on 1 and 2 October affected an estimated 900 families in Artibonite, Nippes, Nord-Ouest and Sud departments. The road to Anse-Rouge was blocked (CDEMA, 09/10/2015).

Drought

Around one million Haitians have been affected by prolonged drought conditions

since the beginning of the year. The most affected departments are Sud-Est, Nord-Ouest, Artibonite, Centre, and Nord-Est (OCHA, 03/07/2015). 80% of Haiti is currently affected by El Niño conditions, with seasonal rainfall about 50% lower than average (FEWSNET 07/08/2015). The drought is expected to continue until at least December (FEWSNET, 20/07/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

As of 30 June, 60,800 IDPs remain in 45 camps following the 2010 earthquake: **47% of households are in Delmas (27,340 individuals), 17% in Croix des Bouquets (10,760), and 10% in Tabarre (5,750) in Port-au-Prince (IOM, 03/06/2015). 21 IDP sites were closed between 1 April and 30 June (IOM, 30/06/2015). Information management and service delivery in camps has been severely constrained due to lack of funding (OCHA, 31/07/2015).**

Basic services in camps have declined faster than the pace of return or relocation (OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014). Absence of a protection-sensitive approach, lack of coherent urban planning, and instability, in part due to poor rule of law, are major obstacles to durable solutions for IDPs (UNHCR, 08/05/2015).

Arrivals from Dominican Republic

29,279 Haitians and people of Haitian descent have crossed the border between 16 June and 9 October, including 389 unaccompanied minors, according to IOM. 17,531 people report that they were returning spontaneously; 7,148 claim to have been deported. 4,600 have been officially deported, in a sharp increase from 2,974 at 25 September. 20% of arrivals were born in the Dominican Republic (IOM, 09/10/2015). 5,570 people were repatriated from the Dominican Republic in the whole of 2014 (Alter Press, 08/05/2015).

Some of the deportees and returnees are thought to be settling with relatives or in places of origin, but many are in spontaneous camps in the south of the country. The majority are in Ouanaminthe (Nord-Est) and Belladère (Centre) communes (GARR, 20/08/2015; IOM, 11/08/2015; Alter Press, 26/06/2015). **2,833 people in six spontaneous sites in Anse-à-Pitres are in urgent need of food, WASH, and shelter assistance (OCHA, 30/09/2015).**

On 14 October, the governments of Haiti and the Dominican Republic agreed to reopen negotiations to resolve the migration crisis (AFP, 14/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

The number of humanitarian actors has continued to decrease, from 512 in 2010 to 146 by March 2015, and government capacity has not always improved, creating

critical sectoral gaps (UN, 28/03/2015; OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014).

Food security and livelihoods

As a result of below-average rainfall in 2015, 3 million Haitians are food insecure, including 180,000 people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, compared to 605,000 and 165,000 in 2014 (OCHA, 31/08/2015; ECHO, 27/05/2015; OCHA/UN, 31/12/2014).

Poor households in Sud, Sud-Est, Nord-Ouest, Nord-Est and Artibonite are expected to face Crisis through January 2016, due to the combined effect of food prices, erratic rains, poor harvest prospects, and lack of investment in the agricultural sector. The situation for some others will worsen to either Crisis or Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015, 17/08/2015).

Food availability

Overall agricultural production for this year is estimated to be 50% lower than last year (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015, 17/08/2015). 60–80% of the main local crops and vegetables have been lost in parts of the country. Sud-Est (Grand Gosier, Anse-à-Pitres and Belle-Anse communes), Nord-Ouest, Artibonite (Gonaïves), Plateau central, Nord-Est, and Ouest (Grand-Gôave) are most affected (FEWSNET, 17/08/2015; FAO, 27/05/2015). Prolonged dryness until December is likely to lead to a second below-average output for the August–December harvest (FEWSNET, 01/09/2015).

Food access

Basic food prices have increased 30–40% compared to 2014, as a result of lower supply from the spring harvest (OCHA, 27/07/2015). An alert was raised for Jeremie and Port-au-Prince communes in June (WFP, 30/07/2015). An estimated 600,000 Haitians rely on international food aid to survive (Reuters, 26/08/2015).

Livelihoods

Extended dry spells have reduced the jobs available in the agricultural sector, which is estimated to provide 50% of all employment in Haiti (Reuters, 26/08/2015; OCHA, 27/07/2015). Livestock has been severely affected by the drought and fishing was also impacted in May and June due to unusually rough seas (Haitilibre, 11/09/2015; ECHO, 27/05/2015). **In Anse-à-Pitres, farmers have launched an appeal to state authorities to help them cope with the substantial seed loss (AlterPresse, 14/10/2015).**

Health

Five million Haitians (half of the total population) lack access to basic health services (UN, 27/10/2014). Cholera continues to affect Haiti, driven mainly by poor WASH conditions. The total number of cases in the first half of 2015 was triple that of the same period in

2014.

Healthcare availability and access

The 2010 earthquake destroyed an estimated 60% of Haiti's health system and a number of hospitals have still not been fully rehabilitated. Others lack staff and essential medical equipment (MSF, 08/01/2015).

Haitian migrants are returning from the Dominican Republic to poor living conditions, especially in Anse-à-Pitres; cases of bacterial conjunctivitis and skin diseases have been reported (Alter Press, 24/06/2015).

Cholera

As of 9 October, 21,666 suspected cholera cases and 192 deaths have been reported in 2015, up nearly 150% from the same period in 2014. Most cases are from Ouest, Centre, and Artibonite departments. The persistence of cholera can be attributed to weak water and sanitation infrastructure and limited health access (OCHA, 09/10/2015).

Nearly 744,698 suspected cholera cases and 8,826 deaths have been reported since the start of the epidemic in October 2010 (PAHO, 12/08/2015).

Nutrition

At March, 85,000 children suffered from acute malnutrition, including 17,000 requiring immediate assistance (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

WASH

Water

Populations in Belladere and Fonds-Verrets in Centre and Ouest departments, and in several areas of Port-au-Prince, lacked access to safe drinking water for the first six months of 2015, mainly due to drought. This has caused children to miss school and increased social tensions (Alter Press, 01/07/2015; local media, 22/05/2015).

As of late 2014, more than 3.4 million Haitians lacked access to safe water (a third of the total population; 47% of the rural population) (UN, 30/09/2014). 40% of schools do not have drinking water (local media, 31/08/2015).

Sanitation

69% of Haiti's population lack access to improved sanitation (World Bank, 30/09/2014). 60% of schools have no toilets (HRW, 08/10/2014).

Shelter and NFIs

The majority of Haiti's 45 IDP sites are in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, including 12 in Delmas, four in Croix des Bouquets, and 11 in **Léogâne**. 40% of IDP sites are tents and makeshift shelters, while 47% are transitional shelters (IOM, 30/06/2015). Conditions in the camps are deteriorating as humanitarian actors withdraw due to lack of continued funding (IOM).

In total, 3.5 million Haitians (a third of the total population) live in precarious neighbourhoods and informal settlements in urban areas where they suffer from socio-economic deprivation, elevated risk of disaster impact, and forced eviction (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

Education

An estimated 400,000 children do not attend school, 10% of the total population of school-aged children in Haiti (AFP, 07/09/2015).

Protection

Children

Many children still show signs of emotional and psychological stress since the earthquake, and remain in need of protection; minors in camps are particularly at risk of exploitation, with sexual violence commonplace (Save the Children, 08/01/2015).

Documentation

Around a third of people relocated outside camps after the 2010 earthquake do not have legitimate status/rights for the land they occupy. Land disputes and tensions are common and have been accompanied by coercion, violence, and forced eviction (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).

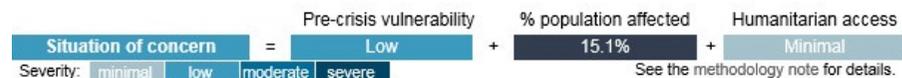
Vulnerable groups

Arrivals from the Dominican Republic

Many people arriving from the Dominican Republic are at risk of statelessness, as the Haitian government has indicated it will refuse to accept non-national deportees onto its territory (AlterPresse, 19/08/2015). Arbitrary deportations and racial profiling have been reported by the Haitian Government, but denied by Dominican authorities (UN HRC, 28/07/2015; OCHA, 21/07/2015). Violence against Haitians and people of Haitian descent has been reported in Monte Cristi province of the Dominican Republic and raids targeting Haitians have been reported in Santiago de los Caballeros (AlterPresse, 24/08/2015; local media, 25/08/2015). Up to 200,000 Haitians and people of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic are at risk of forced expulsion as a regularisation process ended on 16 June (AFP, 21/06/2015).

Updated 15/10/2015

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DROUGHT, EPIDEMIC



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

30 September: 5,222 cases of dengue fever have been reported since January 2015, 95 people have died (RedHum).

13 October: The Presidents of the Dominican Republic and Haiti agreed to reopen negotiations as tensions have grown since the Dominican Republic's decision to remove all undocumented migrants from its territory (Groupe d'Appui aux Rapatriés & Réfugiés, 20/10/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.6 million people affected by drought (RedHum, 02/09/2015).
- 5,222 cases of dengue in 2015, including 57 deaths (RedHum, 19/09/2015).

Politics and security

The Haitian Government has decided to ban some Dominican farm and agricultural products, starting on 1 October. This is a reaction to the Dominican decision to remove all undocumented migrants from its territory, which includes many Haitian nationals. The tensions between the two countries are reported to be growing (Atlanta Black Star, 27/09/2015). **On 13 October, the Presidents of the Dominican Republic and Haiti agreed to reopen negotiations (AFP, 14/10/2015). Between 11 and 20 October, commercial activities between the two countries were suspended (Groupe d'Appui aux Rapatriés & Réfugiés, 20/10/2015).**

Natural disasters

Drought

At least 1.6 million people in Dominican Republic have been affected by persistent drought conditions since 2014 (REDLAC, 02/09/2015). The drought is expected to last up to December 2015 (RedHum, 02/09/2015).

The ongoing drought is reported to be the worst in the last 15 years. As of 23 July, it has caused a severe deficit in the country's water production, reducing it to 75 million gallons daily, from the average 325–400 million (Dominican Today, 23/07/2015). National authorities are regulating distributions by water trucks to ensure the prioritisation of affected neighbourhoods (OCHA, 27/07/2015). On 10 September, the prolonged dryness is still negatively impacting ground conditions, especially in the north, and in the south of the country, despite the rains brought by the Tropical Storm Erika in the beginning of the month. The Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI), and Vegetation indices remain generally very poor (NOAA, 10/09/2015). The severe shortage of water is reported to particularly affect the Jigüey and Valdesia dams in San Cristobal province and consequently is reducing water provision to Santo Domingo, San Cristobal, and Bani. Authorities were forced to start rationing the water for irrigation (Dominican Today, 23/07/2015). Rice production in Montecristi has been severely affected by the ongoing drought. Over 8,614 hectares of rice-cultivated land have been lost, causing economic damage worth tens of millions of dollars, and affecting hundreds of people (RedHum, 22/08/2015).

Floods

Santiago and Cibao were struck by floods from heavy rain that fell in the week up to 24 September. Around 50 households were affected (RedHum, 26/09/2015). Urban floods were also recorded in Hoya del Calmito (Red Hum 28/09/2015).

Tropical Storm

Displacement

As of August, 524,000 foreigners, including 450,000 Haitians, were reported to be living in Dominican Republic (PanamPost, 25/08/2015; US News, 10/07/2015). The government of Dominican Republic has said it will deport all those who failed to meet the 17 June deadline for a new "regularization plan", or PNRE (CNN, 21/06/2015). Over 100,000 people are expected to be affected (NPR, 17/06/2015). On 17 August, 66,000 Haitians are reported to have spontaneously left Dominican Republic since the beginning of the deportations (REDLAC, 17/08/2015). On 16 September, 86 migrants were officially repatriated by the Dominican Republic (Alterpresse, 23/09/2015).

Deportations were interrupted on 10 June, because of growing international pressure over concerns of possible infringements of human rights, but resumed on 25 August (US News, 10/07/2015; PanamPost, 25/08/2015).

As of 1 September, 84,000 Haitian migrants in the Dominican Republic had reportedly

received work permits, and another 110,000 were ready to be claimed throughout the country. An additional 78,000 people applied but did not meet the requirements for the PNRE and did not qualify. They are now at risk of deportation (CWSGlobal, 19/09/2015).

In 2013, the article that guaranteed citizenship to those born in the Dominican Republic was removed from the Constitution, and applied retroactively to all those born after 1929 (US News, 10/07/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Livelihoods

Drought is affecting crop production, causing death of livestock, and affecting the livelihoods of many people. Rainfall deficits remain severe in coastal areas of the country, particularly on the eastern and northern sides (FEWSNET, 18/09/2015).

Health

Dengue

On 25 September, 34 new cases of dengue were reported at the Robert Reid Cabral Children's Hospital, including three severe cases and one person admitted to intensive care (RedHum, 26/09/2015).

On 19 September, national health authorities issued an epidemiologic alert for dengue. **The number of deaths from dengue in 2015 has reached 95, which is 55 more than in all 2014.** In the four weeks up to 19 September, 1,172 new suspected dengue cases were registered, bringing the 2015 total to 5,222. There were 4,428 cases of dengue in all of 2014 (RedHum, 19/09/2015; **30/09/2015**).

Protection

Haitian migrants

Around 288,500 unregistered migrants in the country have registered for a residency permit, following the decision of the Dominican government to deport illegal immigrants after the deadline for applications to the "regularization plan" (PanamPost, 25/08/2015; US News, 10/07/2015). Certification of citizenship and employment are necessary to apply for regularisation, but 96% of those who have applied do not have passports, and many employers are refusing to produce employment certificates (CNN, 21/06/2015).

Additionally, deportations put those born in the Dominican Republic to Haitian parents at risk of statelessness, due to the widespread lack of documentation (PanamPost, 25/08/2015). Reports indicate that in the last weeks violent incidents involving young Haitians and Dominican soldiers occurred on the border, but no casualties have been

registered so far (NPR, 31/08/2015).

Arbitrary arrests and denial of human rights for Haitians nationals within Dominican Republic have been reported in 13 communes (Human Rights Watch, 01/07/2015).

Updated: 22/10/2015

EL SALVADOR DROUGHT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

16 October: Heavy rainfall caused floods and landslides across the country, killing four people and damaging more than 200 houses (AFP, 19/10/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

-156,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes (FEWSNET, 08/2015).

Natural disasters

Drought

A prolonged dry spell associated with the El Niño phenomenon has resulted in significant crop losses during the May-September *primera* season (FAO, 14/09/2015). An estimated 800,000 people are affected by the drought, including 192,000 people in urgent need of food assistance (OCHA, 06/10/2015). 57 municipalities have been affected: San Miguel, Morazán, La Unión, La Paz, and San Vicente are the most affected departments (WFP, 26/09/2015).

El Niño conditions are expected to last until March 2016, and it is therefore unlikely that the crop losses can be recovered during the August-December *postrera* season (FAO, 14/09/2015).

Floods

On 16 October, heavy rainfall caused floods and landslides across the country. Four people were killed in the floods; more than 200 houses were damaged (AFP, 19/10/2015; Diario El Mundo, 19/10/2015). 200 people were temporarily evacuated, the majority pre-emptively (La Prensa Gráfica, 19/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

Insecurity, in particular the presence of Maras (criminal groups), hampers the delivery of humanitarian assistance (WFP, 30/06/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

An estimated 156,000 people (39,000 households), mainly in the eastern and western regions, are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, due to the prolonged dry spell (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). With the exception of the southern fishing region and San Salvador and La Libertad departments, which are less dependent on crop production, the rest of El Salvador's departments are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes resulting from crop losses, lack of food reserves after two consecutive crop failures, and limited rural labour opportunities (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food availability

88,000 hectares of maize crops were affected during the *primera* season, affected areas have lost more than 60% (FAO, 14/09/2015). Of the 3,000 hectares planted to beans, more than 80% of the crop is forecast to be lost. At least 102,000 farmers are estimated to be affected by crop loss (FAO, 14/09/2015). The availability of seeds will be significantly reduced in the *postrera* season due to the *primera* season losses. FAO forecasts an 18% reduction in maize production for 2015 compared to 2014 (FAO, 14/09/2015).

Food access

Seasonal maize prices are above-average due to the prolonged dry spell and the second consecutive year of adversely affected harvest. Maize prizes across the region are 14–20% higher than this time last year (FEWSNET, 08/2015). Due to limited opportunities for seasonal work, crop losses, and high prices, poor households are struggling to afford food (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Livelihoods

The coffee rust epidemic (a fungus that attacks the leaves of coffee plants) means that day labourers can no longer depend on seasonal labour opportunities in coffee production (Reuters, 14/08/2015). The livelihoods of small-scale coffee growers have also been affected (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015). Coffee production is expected to be 35-40% lower than last year, due to a combination of coffee rust and drought (Diario El Mundo, 26/09/2015).

More than 50% of affected households are resorting to negative coping mechanisms, including selling productive assets, reducing number and portion sizes of meals, and spending their savings (WFP, 26/09/2015).

Health

Dengue

Dengue cases have increased by 82% compared to the same period last year; 5,607 cases have been confirmed so far this year compared to 3,087 this time last year (Diario El Mundo, 25/09/2015).

Nutrition

The acute malnutrition rate is at 2%, and has increased due to the coffee rust epidemic and prolonged dry spell (WFP, 30/06/2015).

Updated: 21/10/2015

GUATEMALA DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant development this week, 20/10/2015. Last update: 13/10/2015

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.3 million people affected by drought (OCHA, 06/10/2015)
- 720,000 people are moderately or severely food insecure due to drought (WFP, 24/09/2015).
- Severe acute malnutrition in children under five is between 3.3% and 5.7% country-wide (OCHA, 06/10/2015). Chronic malnutrition is reportedly increasing due to several years of below-average harvest and food insecurity (Reuters, 14/08/2015).

Natural disasters

Drought

The El Niño phenomenon is causing severe drought in Central America's "dry corridor", which runs through Guatemala (Reuters, 14/08/2015). As of 6 October, 1.3 million people are affected (OCHA, 06/10/2015). This year has seen more consecutive days without rain than 2014 and smaller amounts of cumulative rainfall. In August, rainfall was 95% below average in the departments of El Progreso, Zacapa, Baja Verapaz, and some areas of Chiquimula and Jalapa (FEWSNET, 08/2015). Areas in the dry corridor also saw long

periods without rain in May and June, (OCHA, 25/08/2015).

On 1 October, Guatemala declared a state of emergency due to drought and food insecurity (Oxfam, 01/10/2015). The most affected departments are Baja Verapaz, El Progreso, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Jalapa, Quiche, Huehuetenango, Totonicapán, Retalhuleu, Santa Rosa and Escuintla (WFP, 24/09/2015).

According to forecasts, the drought will continue until the end of the *postrera* season in November (FEWSNET, 08/2015). The dry spell is expected to continue through March 2016, drastically reducing harvests as staple crops are destroyed (Reuters, 14/08/2015; FEWSNET, 08/2015).

Guatemala is reported to be the most affected by the regional drought, followed by Honduras and El Salvador (OCHA, 25/08/2015).

Floods

As of 29 September, 16 municipalities in Sonora had declared a natural disaster after heavy rains on 20 and 21 September (Redhum, 29/09/2015). Heavy rains in the departments of Sololá, Guatemala, Alta Verapaz, Escuintla, Izabal, and Sacatepéquez have also caused landslides, mudslides, and floods, affecting 921 people (Redhum, 02/10/2015). On 1 October, a landslide hit El Cambray II, village on the outskirts of Guatemala City. **At least 274 people are reported dead, and the search for 353 missing has been called off (OCHA, 13/10/2015; AFP, 13/10/2015).**

Food security and livelihoods

720,000 people are moderately or severely food insecure, as drought has led to a third consecutive year of decreased harvest (WFP, 24/09/2015). Food insecurity will continue to deteriorate until December/January when the *postrera* harvest should alleviate the lack of access to food (WFP, 24/09/2015). As of October, households in the western plateau are in Crisis phase of food insecurity (IPC 3) due to drought (FEWSNET, 31/09/2015). 500,000 people across the dry corridor in Central America are facing severe food insecurity, in addition to 1.3 million people facing moderate food insecurity (OCHA, 07/09/2015).

Food availability

900,000 people have no food reserves left (Reuters, 14/08/2015). The unusually long dry spell has caused a 75–100% loss of subsistence production in the dry corridor (FEWSNET, 08/2015).

Food access

Thousands of families cannot afford food due to a lack of income from seasonal work (Reuters, 14/08/2015). Households in poor, rural communities have resorted to eating only

one or two meals a day (Reuters, 14/08/2015).

Livelihoods

An ongoing fungus epidemic that affects coffee plants is leading to a reduction in seasonal employment and lower wages (Reuters, 14/08/2015). An estimated 154,000 families (677,000 individuals) are impacted by crop losses due to the drought. Crop production shortfalls of up to 20% are expected this year (WFP, 01/09/2015). Between 50% and 100% losses are expected for maize and beans (WFP, 26/09/2015; Oxfam 1/10/2015). **Eastern and western Guatemala are the most affected (FEWSNET, 16/10/2015).** It is unlikely that maize and bean losses will be compensated by good output in the second harvest season, as unfavourable weather conditions are predicted (FAO, 14/09/2015).

Nutrition

There are indications that the nutrition situation is deteriorating in areas affected by a rain deficit. SAM in children under five is between 3.3% and 5.7% country-wide (OCHA, 06/10/2015). In some communities in the dry corridor, GAM reaches 13%. Health systems in rural areas have limited resources and might not be able to deal with the increasing malnutrition (OCHA, 07/09/2015).

Chronic malnutrition is reportedly increasing due to consecutive years of extended dry spells (Reuters, 14/08/2015).

Updated: 20/10/2015

HONDURAS DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

17 October: Almost 3,000 people were affected by floods and mudslides that killed eight and caused the temporary displacement of 1,250 people (OCHA, 20/10/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 1.4 million affected by drought in 146 municipalities (OCHA, 06/10/2015).
- 250,000 people are in urgent need of food assistance (OCHA, 14/09/2015).

OVERVIEW

Yearly droughts have deteriorated the food security situation in Honduras, affecting crop production, livelihoods, and food availability. Consecutive droughts do not give households sufficient time to build up food stocks or adapt, creating a need for humanitarian assistance.

Natural Disasters

Drought

1.4 million people are affected by drought in Honduras, in 146 municipalities - 81 of the municipalities are considered severely affected (OCHA, 06/10/2015). 91% of municipalities in the 'Dry Corridor' in the southeast of the country are affected. La Paz, Lempira, Intibucá, Choluteca, Valle, Francisco Morazán, and El Paraíso are the most-affected departments (WFP, 26/09/2015).

As of 14 September, 250,000 people are reported to be in immediate need of food assistance. Priorities are food security, WASH, and nutrition (OCHA, 14/09/2015). A state of emergency has been declared in twelve departments. El Niño, which has decreased the amount of precipitation, is expected to continue until early 2016 (OCHA, 04/07/2015; El Heraldo, 03/07/2015).

In 2014, 930,000 people in 165 departments were affected by drought (Government, 13/01/2015). Choluteca, Valle, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán, Intibuca, and Lempira departments were most affected (ECHO, 20/08/2014).

Floods

On 17 October, heavy rainfall caused floods and mudslides across the country, affecting almost 3,000 people. Eight people were killed in the floods, while 1,250 people had to move to temporary shelters. Damage to infrastructure is reported (OCHA, 20/10/2015; Government, 19/10/2015).

Food Security and Livelihoods

The poorest households who were severely affected by drought-related crop losses in the *primera* season, are expected to facing Stressed (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes from September. The absence of food stocks, lack of labour opportunities, and an increase in the seasonal grain prices have also led to a deterioration in the food security situation (FEWSNET, 31/08/2015).

Food availability

The ongoing drought is expected to result in damage or complete loss of crops in the *primera*, *postrera*, and *apante* harvests (FEWSNET, 06/2015). A 96% loss in maize,

87% loss in beans, and a 19% decrease in the amount of sorghum were recorded in the Dry Corridor in the southeast of Honduras in the *primera* season. At a national level these correspond to a 15% loss for maize, 12% for beans, and 50% for sorghum (WFP, 26/09/2015).

Food access

Maize prices have increased by 20% in some areas, compared to 2014 levels (FAO, 14/09/2015).

Livelihoods

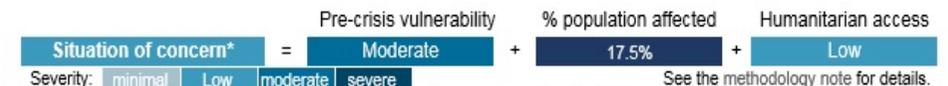
Farmers are reporting that low levels of rainfall and lack of seeds are the two main challenges for the *postrera* planting season. The drought may cause increased migration to urban areas, as labour opportunities in rural areas are affected (El Heraldo, 13/08/2015). 99% of households are reported to use emergency coping mechanisms, such as consuming seed stocks that were being conserved for next year, and selling farming animals (WFP, 26/09/2015).

Updated: 21/10/2015



OCEANIA

PAPUA NEW GUINEA DROUGHT



*Papua New Guinea has been categorised a Situation of concern even though a high number of the population is affected, due to the nature of the disaster and inconclusive figures regarding the number of affected.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

15 October: Food garden crops have been destroyed by the drought and affected families can no longer depend on income from selling surplus food. Negative coping

mechanisms are reported in all drought-affected areas (CARE).

OVERVIEW

Prolonged drought has affected 2.4 million people across the country; 1.3 million are living in areas considered severely affected. Food and WASH are reported as priority needs.

Politics and security

Inter-communal violence displaces thousands of people every year. Between May and August 2015, nine people were killed in incidents of inter-communal conflict in the Eastern Highlands province. According to the local police, about 30 conflicts are ongoing in the province (Inter Press Service, 14/08/2015). Tribes in Western Highlands have been engaged in armed conflict for more than 30 years (Radio New Zealand, 17/07/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

An estimated 22,500 people are internally displaced as a result of inter-communal violence or natural disasters. 1,200 were estimated displaced in 2014, although the real number is most likely higher. The majority of the displaced live in Madang and Morobe provinces in northern Papua New Guinea. Around 85% of the displaced live in government-run camps (IDMC, 11/12/2014).

Refugees, asylum seekers and detainees

Papua New Guinea hosts an estimated 10,000 refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR, 12/2014). About 1,000 people seeking asylum in Australia are detained in an Australian-run transit centre on Manus Island. Overcrowding, inadequate WASH facilities, and health concerns including outbreaks of malaria and typhoid have been reported; however, conditions have reportedly improved in the last year (The Sydney Morning Herald, 10/09/2015; The Guardian, 08/09/2015; 18/02/2015).

Humanitarian access

Only 3% of roads in Papua New Guinea are paved; travel between provinces is mostly by air or boat (WFP, 07/09/2015). Travelling by inland rivers has become difficult due to reduced water levels (Government, 30/09/2015).

Access of affected population to assistance

Inter-communal tension is reportedly preventing the drought-affected population in the Highlands from migrating to lower altitudes (Radio New Zealand, 15/09/2015).

Natural disasters

Frost and drought

The impact of several months of drought and frost over recent weeks has reached 2.4 million people across the country: 1.3 million are living in the most severely affected areas in the Highlands region (Government, 30/09/2015; 24/08/2015). As of 2 September, 24 people have reportedly died from related causes (Radio New Zealand, 02/09/2015). The most affected provinces include Chimbu, Southern Highlands, Enga, Eastern Highlands, and Western Highlands (OCHA, 24/08/2015). Drought conditions are expected to last for another eight–ten months (IFRC, 15/09/2015).

Enga and Southern Highlands provinces have declared a state of emergency (WFP, 07/09/2015). Some people in the Highlands region have reportedly moved to lower altitudes to live with relatives (ABC, 19/08/2015). An increase in bushfires has been reported in several drought-affected areas (Radio New Zealand, 25/09/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Frost and drought have destroyed crops, in particular sweet potato – the staple food of the affected areas. Livelihoods have been affected, and food prices have increased.

Food availability

Frost has destroyed crops in the most affected areas, and food is reported as a priority need (AFP, 24/08/2015). Provinces where sweet potato is the staple crop are expected to be severely affected, while provinces which mainly depend on sago and banana are likely to be less affected in terms of food availability (Government, 24/08/2015). Livestock such as pigs and fish are at risk (The Pacific Islands News Association, 19/08/2015). Frost in Tambul, the main agricultural district in the Highlands, has damaged sweet potato and potato gardens (CARE, 31/08/2015). Fish ponds have dried up, reducing the availability of an important source of protein (ECHO, 14/09/2015).

Food access

Market access is extremely limited in rural areas in the Highlands, and the rural population is therefore expected to be the most vulnerable to the impact of the drought (WFP, 07/09/2015). Food prices have increased in areas where the population has access to markets, as vegetable supply has decreased (ECHO, 14/09/2015).

Livelihoods

Livelihoods have been affected by damage to coffee plantations, one of the main cash crops in the Highlands (IOM, 04/09/2015). Inland fisheries have also been affected (IOM,

04/09/2015). Food for livestock is limited (ECHO, 14/09/2015). **Damage to food gardens means families cannot rely on selling their surplus to purchase food or essential NFIs (CARE, 15/10/2015).**

Affected families are resorting to negative coping mechanisms, including limiting number of meals (CARE, 15/10/2015).

Health

Water shortages have caused hospitals and health centres in the affected provinces to scale down operations (ECHO, 14/09/2015; UNDP, 26/08/2015). Inadequate hygiene practices are a result of attempts to limit water usage, and an increase in diarrhoea, dysentery, typhoid, and skin disease cases have been reported across the country (CARE, 15/10/2015; Government, 30/09/2015).

Rural health centres lack the capacity to deal with any potential large disease outbreaks (IOM, 04/09/2015).

WASH

Water

With water sources drying up, the population has resorted to using less reliable water sources, including potentially contaminated rivers (CHO, 14/09/2015; ABC, 18/08/2015). Water sources traditionally used for washing and bathing are now also being used for drinking water (IFRC, 15/09/2015). **Distances to collect water have increased, and the time spent collecting water has doubled in many affected areas (CARE, 15/10/2015; ECHO, 14/09/2015).**

Education

Water shortages have caused several schools in the affected provinces to close or keep shorter hours (CARE, 15/10/2015; ECHO, 14/09/2015; OCHA, 24/08/2015).

Updates: 21/10/2015



SOUTH AMERICA

COLOMBIA CONFLICT, DROUGHT, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

13 October: 1,483 people affected by flooding in Tierralta, Córdoba, need are food, nutrition support, WASH, and shelter (OCHA, 13/10/2015).

KEY CONCERNS

- 4.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 10/05/2015).
- 6.3 million IDPs, including 224,300 newly displaced in 2014 (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).
- In the first half of 2015, around 2 million people suffered limitations in humanitarian access or mobility, due to conflicts, disasters due to natural hazards, or mass protests (OCHA, 03/08/2015).
- Approximately 1.3 million people are affected by natural disasters (floods, heat wave, droughts) every year (OCHA, 24/02/2015).

OVERVIEW

4.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Colombia. Five decades of armed violence coupled with the country's frequent natural disasters have had serious humanitarian consequences. Forced displacement and landmine contamination are among the major concerns. For rural communities, restricted movement due to armed group activity limits access to basic health services, crops and labour markets, especially in the Pacific region. On 1 October, Colombia declared a state of emergency due to drought, which is expected to affect the country until March 2016.

Politics and security

Colombia's armed conflict has spanned five decades, pitting the central government against armed groups such as the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia – People's Army (FARC-EP) and the National Liberation Army (ELN).

The latest FARC-EP–Government peace negotiations began in November 2012 in Havana, Cuba, with the newest round beginning on 20 August (Reuters, 18/08/2015). On 23 September, FARC-EP and the Colombian government agreed on a six-month deadline for a peace deal, which means it must be signed before 23 March 2016 (BBC, 24/09/2015). On 10 October, the head of FARC ordered a halt to recruitment (El Espectador, 10/10/2015). Attempts at peace negotiations in the 1980s and 1998–2000 failed.

The intensity of the armed conflict has decreased substantially since the peace negotiations began. The FARC-EP's unilateral ceasefire began on 20 July, with the government suspension of air raids thereafter, and military activity between the two parties has almost completely ceased (Colombia Reports, 22/09/2015).

The ELN has been involved in informal peace talks with the government since June 2014, and in late August 2015 the parties are reportedly close to reaching an agreement on formal talks (Colombia Reports, 25/08/2015).

Venezuela–Colombia relations

On 19 August, Venezuela closed its border to Colombia after an attack at the border injured four Venezuelan border guards (AFP, 22/08/2015). The Colombian and Venezuelan Presidents met on 20 September, and agreed to restore diplomatic ties (Colombia Reports, 24/09/2015; AFP, 22/09/2015). On 29 September, the Venezuelan government agreed to let more than 1,600 deported Colombians return to Venezuela and legalise their status (Voice of America, 29/09/2015).

Stakeholders

FARC-EP: The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (FARC-EP) is the oldest left-wing militant group in Colombia. It was formed in 1964 by the Colombian Communist Party, as fighting between the liberal and conservative parties led to rural unrest. Approximately 7,000 fighters make up the FARC-EP today, which allegedly makes USD 500–600 million profit from the illicit drug trade (UNRIC 2013; BBC 29/08/2013). FARC-EP has been active throughout the country, but especially in Arauca, Meta, Norte de Santander, Cauca, and Antioquia.

ELN: The National Liberation Army is a left-wing militant group formed in 1965 and composed of an estimated 2,000 fighters. On 7 January, it stated that it intended to join the peace talks and would consider disarmament (AFP, 07/01/2015; BBC, 07/01/2015). The ELN has been active in Arauca, Norte de Santander, Nariño and Cauca departments

(Kienyke, 2013).

Government forces: The government's strategies to combat non-state armed groups have been closely linked to eliminating the cultivation of illicit crops in the country, which finance the armed groups.

BACRIM and post-demobilised armed groups: Criminal gangs (*bandas criminales*, or bacrim) under the names Black Eagles, and Erpac, among others, are generally made up of former paramilitary fighters and another former armed group, the United Armed Forces of Colombia (AUC). They are involved in drug trafficking and extortion throughout the country and in Venezuela and Panama. These groups are particularly active in Antioquia department, as well as the Pacific and Caribbean regions (BBC 29/08/2013).

Conflict developments

70% fewer security incidents were registered after the ceasefire than in the previous month (OCHA, 31/08/2015). FARC-EP has allegedly violated the ceasefire on three occasions since 20 July, and the group admitted to the killing of a community leader in Nariño in early August (Colombia Reports, 24/08/2015). FARC-EP has claimed that the military has carried out airstrikes, however this has not been verified by observers (Colombia Reports, 17/08/2015).

Since the FARC-EP ceasefire, the military has reportedly mainly focused its operations on other armed groups, including the Popular Liberation Army (EPL) in the northeast, and a drug trafficking paramilitary group called the Urabeños (Colombia Reports, 21/08/2015). Clashes between ELN and security forces continue in the southwest; 12 ELN members were killed in a military operation on 17 September (Colombia Reports, 17/09/2015).

Natural disasters

The El Niño phenomenon is considered the strongest in 18 years and due to last through December, causing both drought and flooding (ECHO, 08/08/2015).

Drought and wildfires

On 1 October, Colombia declared a state of emergency due to drought, which is expected to affect the country until March 2016 (Oxfam, 01/10/2015; OCHA, 21/09/2015). Caused by El Niño, river levels across the country are well below average (Colombia Reports, 22/09/2015). The most drought-affected departments include La Guajira, Bolivar, and Magdalena in the north, Valle del Cauca on the Pacific coast, Boyacá and Cundinamarca in the centre, and Tolima and Quindío in the west (Colombia Reports, 22/09/2015).

More than 77,000 hectares of agricultural land have been destroyed in wildfires, including in Boyacá and Cundinamarca (RCN Radio, 16/09/2015). On the average, 70 wildfires per

day were reported in Colombia in September (El Espectador, 05/10/2015).

Floods

As of 29 September, 1,100 people have been affected by floods in Cauca (Pan American Health Organization, 30/09/2015).

Floods since 4 October, have affected 1,483 people in Tierralta, Córdoba, who mainly need food, nutrition support, WASH, and shelter (OCHA, 13/10/2015).

Displacement

IDPs

224,300 IDPs were displaced in 2014; 79,989 were under 18 years of age. 39% of the IDP caseload between 2012 and June 2014 was concentrated in the Pacific region (OCHA, 01/05/2015; OCHA, 20/01/2015). Estimates indicate that around 190,000 people will be displaced in 2015 (OCHA, 03/08/2015).

As a result of clashes between armed groups and security forces, or as an anticipatory measure due to fear of potential clashes, communities in regions affected by armed conflict are frequently temporarily or permanently displaced. This particularly affects indigenous groups in Antioquia, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, and Norte de Santander departments (OCHA, 28/08/2015; 21/08/2015; 13/08/2015; 14/07/2015). 1,843 people were displaced in August due to insecurity, the majority in the Catatumbo region in Norte de Santander (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

Returnees

1,950 Colombians were deported from Venezuela between 21 August and 15 October, following tension at the Colombia–Venezuela border (OCHA, 15/10/2015). More than 22,000 Colombians are believed to have returned voluntarily during the same period, due to fear of persecution by Venezuelan security forces (OCHA, 15/10/2015). An estimated 7,750 children are believed to be among the returnees (UNICEF, 15/09/2015).

90% of returnees are staying in Norte de Santander, while the departments of La Guajira, Arauca, and Vichada are also hosting returnees (OCHA, 15/09/2015). Immediate needs include shelter, protection, and education support for children no longer able to attend school in Venezuela (OCHA, 15/09/2015). More than 70% of the returnees in Norte de Santander are staying outside official displacement sites, and risk not being reached by assistance (OCHA, 11/09/2015).

Colombian refugees in neighbouring countries

360,000 Colombians have sought refuge in neighbouring countries (Colombia Reports, 22/06/2015). Costa Rica: 16,620 refugees and 210 asylum seekers; Panama: 15,550

refugees and 800 asylum seekers; Venezuela: 5,000 refugees, 168,500 unregistered refugees and 250 asylum seekers; and Ecuador 121,320 refugees and 11,580 asylum seekers. 800–900 Colombians arrive in Ecuador each month (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Most refugees come from Norte de Santander, Chocó, Valle del Cauca, Cauca, and Nariño (UNHCR, 30/06/2015).

Humanitarian access

Between January and June 2015, conflicts, natural disasters, and mass protests restricted humanitarian access for around 2 million people (OCHA, 03/08/2015). In August, an estimated 22,000 people across Colombia suffered restrictions of movement due to insecurity (OCHA, 31/08/2015).

On 21 August, Venezuela closed several border crossings on the Colombia-Venezuela border after an attack at the border injured three Venezuelan guards (AFP, 22/08/2015). Indigenous groups in La Guajira are particularly vulnerable to the border closures, as many live and work on both sides of the border. While Venezuelan officials have allowed them to cross the border, further restrictions may impact their food security and livelihood situation (OCHA, 15/09/2015). Fuel shortages are reported in the border departments as almost all fuel in the region is imported from Venezuela (Colombia Reports, 24/09/2015). As of October, Venezuela stated it will keep the border closed indefinitely because it has resulted in the decrease of violent attacks along the border (Colombia Reports, 13/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

1.2 million people are food insecure, due to in part to low food production, poverty, and internal displacement (OCHA, 20/01/2015). 557,000 require food assistance. Indigenous communities in Nariño are among the most affected (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

WASH

1.1 million people are in need of WASH (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

Water

Only 35.5% of the population consumes safe drinking water, with only 15% of rural areas consuming treated water (OCHA, 20/01/2015).

238 of 1,100 municipalities are without water. 60 districts in Facatativá municipality, Cundinamarca, have had no water supply since mid-September. 85% of water sources in Cundinamarca are in critical condition (Pan American Health Organization, 02/10/2015; El Espectador, 05/10/2015).

Water sources have dried up due to wildfire, affecting 4,800 people in the municipalities of

Dichó, Boyacá department, and San Martín, Meta department (Pan American Health Organization, 30/09/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

916,000 people needed shelter in early 2015 (OCHA, 20/01/2015). Many of those displaced by armed conflict come from rural areas and have difficulty re-obtaining rights to their homes when they return. A legal process is in place in the departments of Atlántico and Magdalena in the north, though some claimants have received threats from paramilitary groups (Amnesty, 23/01/2015).

Protection

Torture and ill-treatment in various forms are reportedly common in Colombia, and measures for protection and compensation are either very limited or ineffective. As of June 2015, 72,544 people have been reported missing (Red Cross, 04/06/2015).

Mines and ERW

Over November 2012–March 2015, there were 789 victims of anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance, an average of 27 people per month (OCHA, 17/05/2015). In March, the Colombian government and FARC-EP agreed to remove landmines and explosives, aiming to complete demining by 2025 (Reuters, 09/03/2015). Landmines have been planted in at least half (550) of Colombia's municipalities (La Prensa, 18/01/2015).

There have been frequent reports of landmine explosions involving both civilians and security personnel in Cauca and Caquetá (BBC, 17/06/2015; Government, 03/06/2015).

Gender

52% of displaced women have suffered some type of sexual violence after displacement, according to a study by OHCHR. Women in the Pacific region are particularly affected (NRC, 09/2014).

Children

There are approximately 2,000 underage fighters in FARC (Reuters, 15/04/2015). By 2014, reports showed that 76% of children fighting with FARC-EP and 18% with ELN had been reintegrated into society (UNICEF, 2014).

Vulnerable groups

Afro-Colombians and indigenous peoples are highly vulnerable groups, as they are minorities and generally live in areas more likely to be cut off by conflict (NRC, 09/2014). Nearly 2,900 people from 11 Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities in Chocó are experiencing restricted movement and at risk of displacement due to clashes between

armed groups (OCHA, 08/09/2015).

Colombia has reported a significant increase in the number of attacks against human rights activists in 2015. 399 attacks were reported in the first half of the year, compared to the 194 attacks reported in the same period in 2014. This equates two attacks per day and one murder every five days. The vast majority of attacks are carried out by paramilitaries (ABColumbia, 01/09/2015).

Updated: 20/10/2015

Introduction to the Global Emergency Overview

The Global Emergency Overview (GEO) is a weekly update that provides a snapshot of current humanitarian priorities and recent events. Its primary objective is to rapidly inform humanitarian decision makers by presenting a summary of major humanitarian crises, both recent and protracted. It collates information from a wide range of sources, including Reliefweb and media, and displays this information to enable quick comparison of different humanitarian crises. It is designed to provide answers to four questions:

1. Which humanitarian crises currently exist? (World map)
2. What has happened in the last seven days? (Snapshot and Latest Developments)
3. What is the situation in the country affected by a crisis? (Latest Developments and Narrative)
4. Which countries could be prioritised in terms of humanitarian response? (Prioritisation)

The **world map and the table** provide an overview of how the countries are prioritised. The countries are subdivided by four **priority levels**: "watch list", "situation of concern", "humanitarian crisis", and "severe humanitarian crisis".

The priority levels are assigned on the basis of:

- the number of people affected by recent disasters
- the level of access to the affected population
- the under-5 mortality rate
- the level of development of the country
- the number of protracted IDPs and refugees.

If a country experienced a disaster in the seven days prior to an update or witnessed an escalation of an on-going crisis, a country is **highlighted** by a yellow dot on the map.

The **snapshot** briefly describes major events in the seven days to the date of publication.

Narratives for each country in the GEO reflect major developments and underlying vulnerabilities of the country over recent months. They are based on secondary data. The **latest developments** for each country cover the incidents over the past seven days, and **key concerns** highlight humanitarian priorities.

More information on the Global Emergency Overview Methodology can be found in the [Global Overview Methodology Brief](#) and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

The Global Emergency Overview is a mobile application.

To download the mobile application for Android phones [click here](#).

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>

Updates

The Global Emergency Overview prioritisation will be updated once a week and the results will be available every Tuesday. In case of major new humanitarian events or an escalation of an ongoing crisis which triggers a change of prioritisation, the Global Overview will be updated on an ad hoc basis.

Disclaimer

While ACAPS has defined a methodology striving to ensure accuracy, the information provided is indicative and should not be used in isolation from alternative sources of information for any decision making. ACAPS is not responsible for any damage or loss resulting from the use of the information presented on this website.